



# Leesville UMC

2023 MARCH NEWSLETTER

## What is God Saying to Us Through the Asbury Revival?

There was nothing unusual about the 10 a.m. chapel service held at Asbury University on Wednesday, Feb. 8. Guest speaker Zach Meerkreebs shared a message from Romans 12 about demonstrating God's love, and the last thing he said in his closing prayer was, "Revive us by Your love."

Eyewitnesses say students began going to the altar to confess their sins after the sermon. Then, students who left the 1,500-seat Hughes Auditorium came back in to worship. The praise team kept singing. More students arrived. By the evening it became obvious that something out of the ordinary was happening.

Continuous prayer, worship and testimonies marked the next few days. There were no famous speakers and no celebrity worship bands. There's nothing fancy about the building itself—it has outdated wooden seats and stained-glass windows. Yet so many people began to flock to the Asbury campus, located in Wilmore, Kentucky, that the school had to open two additional overflow auditoriums.

By Saturday, students from 21 campuses had visited the meetings because they hope to take the revival spirit back to their schools. "This is revival. It isn't hype," a young man said. "It's ordinary people crying out for a move of God in our generation! Revival is real! It's not just a story we've heard about. It's come...and it's about to spread out to the nations."

What is God saying to us through this unusual movement? So far the Holy Spirit has stressed three things to me: **The Lord is calling His church back to humility and brokenness. Something huge is about to take place on college campuses. Every church needs to break stale traditions that quench the Holy Spirit.**

J. Lee Grandy, 2.15.23 (Portion of his Blog), Charisma Magazine

## Church Events

- 3.5  
First Sunday Food Drive
- 3.6  
United Women in Faith      7pm
- 3.12  
Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Youth      5:30-6:30pm
- 3.16  
Church Council      7pm
- 3.18  
B-L Town Spring Clean      9am
- 3.20  
Spring Begins  
UMM in the F. Hall      7pm
- 3.23  
Red Cross Blood Drive 12-4pm
- 3.26  
UWF Soup Luncheon  
Fundraiser

# Hand Bell Reunion



Hand Bell Choir playing for the 9am service



Brad Dunbar, Christy Dunbar, CP Dunbar, Alan Whitman, and Tim Jones



Cissy Terlizzi, Ruth Brigham, Brad Dunbar, Christy Dunbar, and CP Dunbar



Jan Jones, Julianne Rawls, Nancy Hare, and Miriam Leech

On January 29, 2023, the Original Hand Bell Choir came together again to perform during both services under the direction of Dr. Joel Scaper. They beautifully played "Carol of the Bells" and "Now the Green Blade Rises". Their dedication in giving life to the Hand Bell Choir lives on in this important music ministry of Leesville UMC today.

# M&M's Soup Luncheon & Bingo



Eleven Crockpots of a Variety of Soups and Chilies



Something delicious for everyone's sweet tooth



The Challengers Sunday school class hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Soup and Bingo" for our M&M group (Mature & Methodist). Over thirty enjoyed a variety of delicious soups and desserts. Afterward, a rousing afternoon of fun was had as everyone enjoyed the Winter Bingo Riddles with Daylene Pitts as the caller. Participants came away with several prizes and big smiles!



The Youth enjoying a fun evening at Nick & Ellen Rikard's home on February 19, 2023.

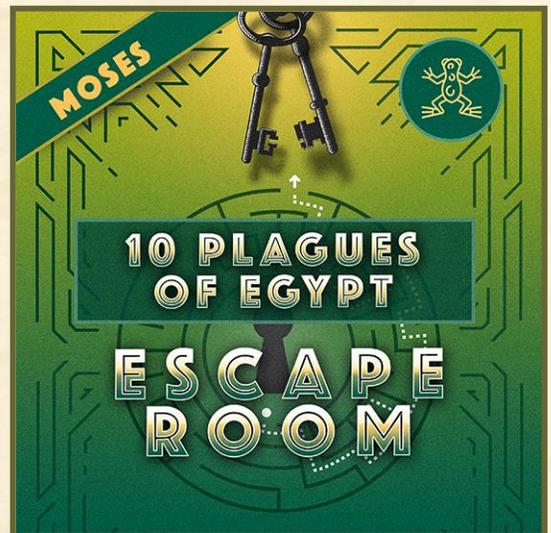


Youth meetings have been well-attended and are going well! If you would like to lead a meeting, there are slots still available! Leaders can choose to hold the meetings at the church or at another location such as a home or restaurant. Meetings only last 1 hour, which is just enough time for food, a short lesson, and fellowship. You will surely be blessed by sharing some time with our LUMC young people. If interested in helping with this service opportunity, please contact the church office. Volunteers are needed for May & June.

January's Perfect Attendance



February's Acolytes: Chandler Bouknight & Graham Pierce



Youth Group: March 12<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall Hosted by The Challengers



Rhonda Bullard, UWF Speaker

The Mamie Leaphart and Vera Goldman Circles joined for their annual meeting together on February 6th with Rhonda Bullard speaking to the group on Women's Wellness. As a delightful and enthusiastic speaker, Ms. Bullard, offered tips for possessing good physical, spiritual, and mental health. She encouraged the ladies to follow her on Facebook as she shares healthy recipes almost daily. She left the group with this powerful statement, "If you do not make time for your wellness, you will be forced to make time for your illness."

At the completion of the program, refreshments and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

The United Women in Faith will host a Soup and Chili Fundraiser Luncheon on Sunday, March 26, 2023.

## March Birthdays

- 3.1-Amanda Giesen Derrick
- 3.2-Evelyn Hayden
- 3.5-Earl Brown
- 3.6-Sam Stacey
- 3.7-MarthaAnn Lake, Camdin Clamp
- 3.8-Marcia G. Gunter, Nina Shealy
- 3.9-Christy Dunbar
- 3.10- Craig Shealy
- 3.12-Jacob Meetze
- 3.13-Robin Kinard, Katie Beth Covington
- 3.15-Shelton Shealy
- 3.17- Angela Willis, Arlee Dowda
- 3.18-Frances Meetze
- 3.21-Stephanie Sawyer
- 3.23-Pam Aycock
- 3.25-Amy Bedenbaugh, John Matthews
- 3.28-Sandra Gosnell, Walter Wessinger
- 3.29-Bruce Sayre
- 3.30-Keller Shealy

*Congratulations to Clay and Sarah Burgess on the birth of their son, Henry Fletcher Burgess on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Henry weighed 7lbs, 8 oz. and was 20.5 inches long. He was welcomed home by his big sister, Eleanor. Henry's proud grandparents are Craig and Kathy Boykin, Fletcher and Nancy Beth Burgess and Steve and Wendy Zwart.*

### Soup and Chili Luncheon

Sunday, March 26, 2023

11:15 a.m. (after Sunday School) and

Noon (after 11 a.m. service)

Sponsored by United Women in Faith



Chili



Soup

Crackers, cornbread, and dessert  
Donations Used for Missions



## UMM

The United Methodist Men met at the home of Ed Bouknight on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-two were in attendance to enjoy a delicious fish fry.

The UMM are will be hosting their annual fishing tournament on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more details!

## Challengers Sunday School Class

February was a month of lending a hand to our schools and those who in need in the community. The Challengers met the needs BLPS students by purchasing size 4 boys' underwear. They also purchased over 10 book bags for the students of BLMS to support February's Mission.

They rounded out the month by sponsoring the "Soup-er Bowl of Caring" to benefit Wittenberg's Food Pantry and The Christian Ministry Center. With the help of the youth manning the kettles and your generous donations, LUMC collected \$543.56!



## The Bill Jones Class

The Bill Jones Class enjoyed making handmade Valentine's on February 12<sup>th</sup>. 1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.



# March First Sunday Food Drive

Leesville UMC had another very successful food drive in February. We donated 7 tote bins of food and hygiene items to the Christian Ministry Center. They are very appreciative of all we are doing to help them assist our neighbors.

On Sunday, March 5, we will be taking up donations for the Wittenberg Food Pantry. Their typical needs are non-perishable items like 2 lb. bags of grits, rice, and dried beans, canned vegetables and fruit, spaghetti sauce and pasta, and peanut butter. An e-mail blitz will be sent out the week before the collection for any special needs they have.

Thank you for all your continued support of this very important mission within our community.  
Wayne Eastman



# March's Mission Project

Our March mission will be with the Lexington County Sheriff's Dept. to provide "Personal Care Bags" for both men and women. These bags will be given to victims of crimes and also to homeless people of whom the department has contact.

Suggested Bag Items (all travel size)

Toothpaste, tooth brush, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, washcloth, deodorant, and Bible

Items should be put in a zip lock bag. Please do not include candy or any other perishable items.

Collection baskets will be placed in the fellowship hall foyer and on the table behind the sanctuary beneath the steps.

Thank you all for supporting this, and other missions of the church.

-Phylis Bouknight

Give hope this spring.  
Give blood.



**Leesville United Methodist Blood Drive**

Fellowship Hall  
510 E. Columbia Ave  
Leesville, SC 29070

March 23, 2023  
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Schedule your appointment today!  
1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org

Blood Donor App | Sponsor Code: [LeesvilleUMC](#)  
Or scan the QR code below



Give in March for a \$10 Visa Prepaid Card by email plus a chance to win a \$3K prize: [rcblood.org/help](#)

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



LEXINGTON, BATESBURG-LEESVILLE, COLUMBIA, CHAPIN-IRMO & NEWBERRY  
RELAY FOR LIFE OF THE MIDLANDS PRESENTS

# ADIOS CANCER



CELEBRATE THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER WITH US  
FRIDAY MAY 5TH | 6:00-11:00 PM

PLEASANT HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL 660 RAWL RD LEXINGTON, SC 29072

PIÑATA CONTEST | KID ZONE | MARIACHI BAND | VENDORS | THEME LAPS  
CAREGIVER & SURVIVOR LAP (6:30) | LUMINARY CEREMONY (9:30) | AND SO MUCH MORE

LUMC's Relay for Life Team will be selling luminaries in honor or memory of your loved ones for \$10 during the month of April.

Blood Drive: March 23, 2023

# Grief Ministry

## Blame

Humans seem to have a natural tendency to want to place blame, as if that would help resolve the feelings of distress and pain. But blame is a black hole that will suck you down further and further.

"As a pastor, I've seen people respond to grief in every way," says Dr. Jack Hayford. "I think of the beauty of recent events in my own congregation. There was a young couple who were instantly separated by the intervention of death while they were at a national park. He fell into a rushing river and was trapped beneath a log where he could not get out. There was no way to attempt rescue because of the force of the stream. His wife was standing right there, not ten feet away, watching him drown, seeing it happen.

"To watch that family move into an openness to the comfort of the Spirit of God, to not blame God, to recognize an accident for what it is, to believe that God didn't design it, but He did foresee it and that His comfort and presence would be with them is a tremendously thrilling thing to witness."

Jesus urges you not to be troubled by blame, but to move forward in the peace and comfort of the Holy Spirit of God.

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:26—27).

## Grief Ministry Team

Della Copper	803.397.4674
Mike Edwards	803.530.6944
Bonnie Hall	803.429.2035
Pam Hawfield	803.960.3481
Kathy McNeill	803.640.1195
Betsy Pierce	803.760.0897
Paul Quattlebaum	803.603.4600
Kaye Shaw	803.622.4114
Deborah Ward	803.687.0484

## March Pastor's Corner

**Scripture Reference:** Psalm 85 *“You, Lord, showed favor to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. 2) You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins. 3) You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger. 4) Restore us again, God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us. 5) Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations? 6) Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? 7) Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation. 8) I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people; his faithful servants – but let them not turn to folly. 9) Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. 10) Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. 11) Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. 12) The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. 13) Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.” (NIV)*

Throughout history, there have been several notable revivals. The first major revival in this country occurred between 1730-1740 and was known as the First Great Awakening. Many attributed this revival to the faithful and unyielding preaching boldly offering the Word with authority coupled with deep conviction. These messages offered a personal faith which would make a mark on Christian history forever. Individual guilt and responsibility for one's sins along with a promise of forgiveness and a close relationship with Jesus Christ were, for the first time, offered to the people. For the first time, many people were able to hear that God is not just “out there”, but has manifested His deep and abiding love for us in the incarnation of His Son, Jesus Christ, who walked among us and shed his blood for our salvation.

However, even before the Great Awakening, passages like Psalm 85, echo believers' plea for God to bring revival for His people, especially during times of ambiguity. In Matthew 24:12, God says, “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” This “loss of love” is evident in our world today, and in fact, is the very reason why revival is so necessary for our postmodern society. This “loss of love” results in a loss of hope for the future, a loss of joy, a loss of spiritual effectiveness, and a loss of expectation for an eternity with Christ in heaven.

Of course, when we refer to love we are talking about Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is to have first place in our lives. We should be mindful to cultivate our relationship with Him first. Matthew 6:33 advises us, “33) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.” “Love loss” is even mentioned in the book of Revelation 2:4-6. The Lord speaks to the Church at Ephesus saying, “4) Yet this I hold against you; you have forsaken the love you had at first. 5) Consider how far you have fallen and repent and do the things you did first.” When Jesus isn't our guiding light, we lose focus and spiritual direction.

Through the years, I have often mused over the varying definitions for ‘revival.’ For example, googling the term “revival” yields definitions such as:

An improvement in condition or strength

To become popular again

A restoration of force

Renewed religious interest.

A highly emotional evangelistic meeting (I love that one)

My main point in sharing this is to emphasize that the Christian community often misunderstands true revival. Revival is not something that we just plan to increase church attendance or gain new members. Revival happens when believers gain a greater understanding of the awesomeness of God. Psalm 85 points out that guilt for our own personal sins leads to a gradual pulling away from the Lord. The restoration of our close relationship with God must begin with an acknowledgement of that sin and repentance. As a result, God grants us His grace. However, God not only forgives us of our sins, but He also frees us from slavery to sin and death through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit who pours His love upon our hearts and grants us assurance of our eternal inheritance in Christ Jesus.

The prophet Isaiah once had a powerful awakening experience. In Isaiah 6:5, we read, “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among people with unclean lips and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.” In verse 7, the Lord touches the prophet’s lips saying “Your guilt is taken away and your sin is atoned for.” Isaiah’s awareness of his own inadequacy in the sight of the Lord resulted in a fear of the Lord. This sparked his cry of repentance and resulted in his spiritual renewal. Awakenings also have consequences in that they call us to something more, as seen in verse 8. The Lord said, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” The prophet replies, “Here am I. Send me!” What a beautiful illustration of soul revival leading to a greater calling.

We are amid a great revival in our country. God is calling us to repent and return to Him. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, the Lord issues his requirements for such a revival, “If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

My prayer is that in our lifetime, we will witness the fullness of this great revival in our country, and additionally, that we will gain a deeper appreciation for the revival that we are currently experiencing in our own churches. Come Holy Spirit come! Blow in like fresh wind and revive our hearts and souls. Fill us with your love, acceptance, forgiveness, and grace. As Always, I Remain,

Your Sincerely,  
Rev. Dr. Shawn Armstrong, Pastor



# February 2023 Church Council Meeting Highlights

The Church Council of Leesville United Methodist Church met on Thursday, February 16, 2023. Below are the highlights of the meeting:

SPPRC: The SPPRC met on February 13. They looked at our church profile, including our leadership, beliefs, demographics, goals for ministry and concerns going forward with the direction of the church.

Finance: Giving in January was outstanding. Thanks to everyone for their faithful support of the church.

United Methodist Men: The men will meet next on February 20 and discuss the upcoming fishing tournament scheduled for April 29.

United Women in Faith: There was a joint circle meeting on February 6. The speaker was Rhonda Bullard and she spoke on fitness. She said to remember that “if you do not make time for your wellness, you will be forced to make time for your illness.” There will be a Soup Luncheon Fundraiser on March 26 from 11:15 am to 1:00 pm. On May 14 the women will have a bake sale with the proceeds going to a charity to honor the mothers and a charity to honor the fathers of the church.

Communications: Items for the March newsletter are due by February 20.

Missions: The collection of backpacks for the February mission is going well. In addition, 7 large totes of food were collected in February. The BL Ministerial Alliance will be collecting items through February 26 for a Winter Teacher Appreciation in Lexington School District 3. BL Elementary School is asking for monetary donations to support their efforts to send food bags home with needy students over the weekend. The BL Spring Clean will be March 18 from 9 am – 12 pm. Watch for information on how you can help. Looking ahead, Relay for Life luminary sales will begin in April.

Trustees: The committee wants to thank Grig Sawyer for repairing the shelves in the church library. Dominion Energy has completed the final phase of the lighting project at the church.

Youth: The youth will meet at the home of Nick and Ellen Rikard on February 19.

Children: NR

**Worship Committee:** The committee met on February 9. Information was shared about in-person and online worship attendance. For last year, the 9 am service had an average attendance of 93 with an additional 12% watching online. For the 11 am service, the average attendance was approximately 68 with an additional 7% watching online. With the current cost and supply issues, the 9 am service has started using a one-page bulletin. Many people like the new bulletin format. Stories by LUMC members will be used to create a Lenten devotional. Submissions are due by February 19. The Ash Wednesday service will be February 22 at 6:30 pm. Palm Sunday will be April 2 and a Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 6 with 4 or 5 volunteers needed to help strip the altar at the end of the service. Easter will be April 9 with a sunrise service, 9 am service, 10 am Sunday School, and 11 am service planned for that day. To help our church worship as a combined congregation, activities are being planned for the remaining 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays in 2023. The first will be on April 30 to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the song “Amazing Grace.” Look for more details in the coming weeks.

**Pastor’s Report:** The pastor was away at a celebration of her mother’s birthday. She submitted a list of all the many activities she is involved in at church, in the community, and in the Greenwood District.

**Old Business:** The minutes from the called February 2 Church Council meeting were shared. Members were asked to review the minutes and bring additional questions to the March monthly meeting. The subcommittee shared that they met and were looking at the creation of educational materials to help the church better understand the complex issues going on in The United Methodist Church.

**New Business:** The Soup-er Bowl of Caring raised \$543.56 to be split between our two local food pantries. Thank you for your continued support of this worthy cause. A two-day workshop entitled “Lead Like Jesus” is being sponsored by the UMC Greenwood District on March 10 – 11. Registration deadline is March 3.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Edwards, Council Chairperson



**Serving at 9am**

**Greeters/Ushers**

**3.5 Debra Fowler & Kaye Shaw  
3.12 Grig & Stephanie Sawyer  
3.19 Mack & Deanna Jacobs  
3.26 Robert Mabus  
& Terry Armstrong**

**Children's Moments**

**3.5 Paula Edwards  
3.12 Jan Giesen  
3.19 John Kneece  
3.26 Jessica McCormick**

**Lay Readers**

**3.5 JoAnn Kneece  
3.12 Wendy Zwart  
3.19 Kaye Shaw  
3.26 Terry Armstrong**

**Nursery**

**3.5 Jessica & Braeden McCormick  
3.12 Pat Barr & Rebecca Sauls  
3.19 Debra Fowler  
& Caleigh Watson  
3.26 Mack Jacobs  
& Samantha Armstrong**

**Flowers**

**3.5 Debra Fowler  
3.12 Nancy Hare  
3.19 Mickey Hite  
3.26 David & Miriam Leech**

**Serving at 11am**

**Ushers**

**Nick & Tanner Rikard**

**Acolytes**

**Mac Pierce & Tanner Rikard**

**Children's Moments**

**3.5 Betsy Pierce  
3.12 Cissy Terlizzi  
3.19 John Kneece  
3.26 David Giesen**

**Lay Readers**

**3.5 Troy Buzhardt  
3.12 Cissy Terlizzi  
3.19 Ed Bouknight  
3.26 John Matthews**

**Nursery**

**3.5 Ty Bouknight & Ellen Rikard  
3.12 Wayne & Linda Eastman  
3.19 Brantley Buzhardt  
& Mary Clare Price  
3.26 Nick & Ellen Rikard**

**Crib Room**

**3.5 Betsy Pierce & Linda Eastman  
3.12 Amy & Andy Bedenbaugh  
3.19 Pat Barr & Trudy Matthews  
3.26 Linda Eastman  
& Dee Dee Swygert**

