

Leesville *Methodist*

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT

If the fight's just beginning or it's the end of the bout,
Remember, God said, "Everything will work out."
Your problems may be tiny or great big and stout,
Still, remember God said, "Everything will work out."
Now Satan's been jeering and demons they tout,
"There's no way!

There's no way all of this will work out."
Just reply with a whisper or yell loud and shout
Don't give in for a second to the fear or the doubt.
Say, "I'm not gonna worry, I refuse to pout
Cause God said it, I believe it,
'Everything will work out!'"

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to
those who love God, to those who are the called
according to His purpose.

-My Morning Walks with God

Church Events

- | | | |
|------|---|-------------|
| 3.2 | First Sunday Food Drive-Wittenberg
Relay for Life Luminary Sales Begin | |
| 3.3 | Vera Goldman Circle | 7pm |
| 3.4 | SPPRC Meeting | 7pm |
| 3.5 | Ash Wednesday Service | 6:30pm |
| 3.9 | Lenten Bible Study Begins
Daylight Savings Begins | 7pm |
| 3.10 | Lenten Bible Study
Methodist Men | 10am
7pm |
| 3.12 | m&m March event | 11:30am |
| 3.20 | Church Council
Newsletter Deadline
First Day of Spring | 7pm |
| 3.30 | 5 th Sunday: Regular Worship | |

Children and Youth Valentine's Activity

Love...love...love...that's what the Vera Goldman Circle shared as they hosted the children and youth in a Valentine Card making fun evening on January 26, 2025. That's what was in the hearts of the card markers for our homebound members...love, love, God's love!



Youth Super Bowl Party

LMC Youth and friends enjoyed a night of fun on Super Bowl Sunday. After a lesson about how to represent Jesus' team well, everyone enjoyed food, games, and time together. It was wonderful to see our church so alive!

-Ellen Rikard



Sunday School Class 3's-K5



February's Acolytes



Walker Buzhardt & Heath Pierce

m&ms' February Luncheon and Activities

M&Ms: Valentine's Gathering hosted by Challengers

The m&m's met in the fellowship hall on Sunday, February 9th. There were twenty-seven in attendance, with fifteen from the Challengers Sunday School helping. After a welcome by Paula Edwards, we enjoyed a potluck luncheon including Shealy's cube steak with gravy and lots of desserts. Following lunch, we participated in Valentine games and trivia.

The m&m's next meeting is planned for Wednesday, March 12th at 11:30 am in the fellowship hall. We are looking forward to a stained glass presentation by Nancy Hare and a meal. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer and outside the sanctuary. Please sign-up by Sunday, March 9th.

-Mike & Paula Edwards



Community Youth Movie Night

What a great turnout to see the movie “The Forge” shown on Sunday, February 23, 2025 with fifty-five in attendance... over thirty youth! The youth were from LMC, Wittenberg, Faith Lutheran, Calvary Chapel Lexington, and beyond.

The Challengers Class and Special Events Committee served up corndogs, chips, freshly popped popcorn, pizza bread, cookies, Blow Pops, and drinks. LMCer Caleigh Watson, welcomed everyone to the movie night, and closed the evening with a prayer. David Giesen shared Gideon testaments and a “Romans Road to Salvation” bookmark was given out to each movie goer.

There were many takeaways from the movie. Here are three driving questions to ponder.

- In what ways do you want to grow this year?
- What kind of person do you want to be?
- What do you want people to think when they see you coming?

~Be A FOUNTAIN, NOT A DRAIN~



Ash Wednesday

You may be wondering, “What is Lent and why do we at LMC observe this season before Easter?”

Lent is a period of forty days of fasting and prayer leading up to Easter. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Saturday, just before Easter Sunday.

During Lent, Christians engage in various traditional rituals and practices as a way of preparing spiritually for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. Fasting during Lent often involves giving up certain foods, activities, or habits as a form of self-discipline and spiritual reflection. Many Christians also attend special worship services, reflect on the significance of Jesus' sacrifice, and seek to grow in their relationship with God during this period. The Lenten season serves as a time of repentance, self-examination, and spiritual renewal in preparation for the joyous celebration of Easter.

-christianity.com

Join us as we observe the beginning of Lent for our Ash Wednesday service on March 5, 2025 in the sanctuary at 6:30pm.

The Lenten Bible Study begins on Sunday, March 9th at 7pm and is also available on Mondays beginning March 10th at 10am for those who've signed up.



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
- 3.10- 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 Aycok
- 3.25-Amy Bedenbaugh, John Matthews
- 3.28-Sandra Gosnell, Walter Wessinger
- 3.30-Keller Shealy

March's Pastoral Care

John Kneece
kneeceje@aol.com
(803)429-5271

March's Pulpit Supply

- 3.2 Jan Giesen
- 3.9 Faye Folker
- 3.16 Faye Folker
- 3.23 John Kneece
- 3.30 John Kneece



Audio Assist Devices will be available for the 11am worship service

Missions and Ministries

First Sunday Food Drive

In February, Leesville Methodist Church delivered 9 tote bins of food as well as 4 trash bags full of grocery bags and egg cartons to the Christian Ministry Center. This does not include all the personal hygiene and cleaning items that were collected separately as the monthly Mission Project. Thank you for having such big hearts that you are willing to share generously with those in need. Also thanks to those who are volunteering at our mission partners.

On Sunday, March 2, we will be taking up donations for Wittenberg's Food Pantry. As a reminder, they need the typical non-perishable food items like 2 lb. bags of grits, rice, and pinto beans; canned vegetables, canned fruit, and canned meat; spaghetti sauce and pasta; peanut butter; mac and cheese; and boxes of instant mash potatoes. They also are in need of egg cartons as they have a supplier of eggs. An e-mail blast will be sent out the week before the collection to highlight their special needs and requests.

Please continue your great support of this outreach to our community.
Wayne Eastman



Wayne Eastman
Faithfully delivering our First
Sunday Food Drive Donations



January's Ministry Focus
This is Lexington District 3 Social Worker, Marret Bishop, taking our Bookbag food donations. They are now serving 208 students.



March's Ministry Focus RFL Luminaries

During the month of March, you may purchase luminaries in honor or memories of your loved ones for \$10 in the fellowship hall foyer.



February's Monthly Ministry Focus

In February, our church collected personal hygiene and cleaning supplies for the Christian Ministry Center. During the month, we collected 9 large totes of supplies for the Center. Our members continue to serve at Wittenberg's Food Pantry on Saturday mornings and at the Christian Ministry Center on Mondays and Fridays. If you are interested in serving, please contact Mike Edwards. Thank you so much for supporting our community needs. The March ministry focus will be to support Relay for Life.

-Mike Edwards



Jan Jones



Betsy Pierce



Braeden McCormick



Faye Folker



Mack & Deanna Jacobs



Tim and Jan Jones



Brett and Mary Clare Price



The Open Door Class

The Open Door Class girls enjoyed their first quarter birthday celebrations at Angelo's.

LMC's Annual Fishing Tournament

Leesville Methodist Men will host the annual fishing tournament on Saturday, April 12th with a fish fry to follow. Watch for more details to participate.

The proceeds from this fund raiser will be given to Teen Challenge: Men's Rehab Center in Leesville.



4TH ANNUAL SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

Thursday, April 24, 2025
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Leesville Methodist Church
510 E. Columbia Ave.
Leesville, SC 29070

Silent Auction will take place from 6-7
\$5 admission



Church Center
App



Home

Welcome
to Leesville Methodist Church

LIVE STREAMING

SERVE THROUGH GIVING
GIVING BACK TO GOD

Home Signups Calen... Groups More

Prayer Garden



What excitement to have a dusting of snow on January 22nd. The fountain took on a new look with her icy covering. Our thanks to Pat and Bennett Barr for the pictures to remember!

But never fear...spring is near. Our thanks to Fletcher, Nancy Beth, Eleanor, and Henry Burgess for the gorgeous pansies and violets they planted in the planters in the prayer garden.

Grief Ministry: Suggestions for Helping Children Cope with Grief

- Be available - physically and emotionally.
- Listen...with your ears, eyes and heart.
- Answer ALL of the child's questions as directly and as honestly as you can even if the answer is, "I don't know." This expresses your respect toward the child and the very real feelings they are experiencing. Children tend to know when they aren't being told the whole truth; sometimes the answers they will come up with in their own minds are much more frightening than the truth.
- Face your own feelings of loss and grief. Sharing these feelings makes you vulnerable and in turn helps the child to feel more at ease becoming vulnerable in expressing their feelings. Children need to see the adults in their lives expressing their grief. This gives the child "permission" to grieve as well.
- Encourage and define appropriate expressions of grief (talking, drawing, writing, yelling, running, etc.). Provide appropriate and "safe" places for grief expression.
- Acknowledge the reality that the loss HURTS! Do not attempt to "rescue" the child (or yourself) from the hurt; allow the hurt to exist as it is. (This isn't easy!)
- Encourage the child to establish their own quiet, private place to go to whenever they need to be alone.
- Do not isolate or insulate children from death or from grief.
- Try not to single out the grieving child for special privileges or compensations. The child needs to feel a part of their peer group and should be expected to function accordingly.
- Maintain a daily routine if at all possible. Continuity provides children with a sense of security and stability during a time full of uncertainty.
- Try not to expect too much from yourself or from the child. Temper your expectations with kindness and understanding.
- Grief is a life long journey and children will continue to grieve at different development milestones. Your caring presence can help assist them all along the way.

- Sasha J. Mudlaff, M.A.

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

Church Council Highlights

SPRC: The pastoral search is ongoing with multiple resumes from across the globe. Resumes are also being accepted for a Youth Director. We appreciate those who are volunteering their time and talent to keep the office running smoothly.

FINANCE: January 2025 offerings were positive and included generous donations made to the Christmas Fund in honor or memory of loved ones.

MISSIONS and MINISTRIES: February's ministry focus has been collecting and sending food and personal hygiene and cleaning supplies to the Christian Ministry Center. The focus in March will be Relay for Life. LMC members continue to serve at the Wittenberg Food Pantry and the Christian Ministry Center.

TRUSTEES: The committee continues to monitor and address routine maintenance at the church and the church parking lot. Trustees will meet at the parsonage to assess needed repairs and upgrades.

LMM: LMC will have its annual fishing tournament on April 12th. Church members are invited to the weigh in afterwards and a delicious fish fry! Donations will go to Teen Challenge.

LMW: Both the Mamie Leaphart and Vera Goldman circles met in January with a total of 25 in attendance.

COMMUNICATIONS: LMC has a full subscription to the "Church Center App" which will allow users to see a calendar of events, access sermons, give, access the Bible and join groups. One can use the resource tab to find the list of those serving: i.e. ushers, readers, greeters, children's moments, flowers, etc. Updated business cards for LMC are now available.

CHILDREN/YOUTH: The Souper Bowl of Caring raised \$800 to tackle hunger through our local food pantries. Thanks to the Challengers and the SERVE 2025 Special Events group for upcoming events such as Movie Nights.

TECH/SOUND: The technology team is supporting all church services and events and is exploring the cost of material for the hearing impaired.

WORSHIP: Volunteers are needed to take communion to those who are homebound. Regular services will be observed on the 5th Sunday in March. Holy Week services will include Maundy Thursday communion, a Community Good Friday service at Celebrations Church from 11a.m. to 1 p.m., and Easter services at LMC with a Sunrise service at 7am, and Easter services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. David Giesen will lead the Ash Wednesday service. A Lenten Bible study, called The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus, will be led by Mike Edwards and John Kneece and will be held March 9 – April 13.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: LMC's Disaster Preparedness Plan has been updated. The disaster preparedness plan will serve as a guideline for key services, contact information and critical steps to take in the event of a local disaster. The plan will serve as a supplemental plan to protect church property and critical assets and to assist in providing essential services and basic support to the members of LMC and the immediate community.

M&MS: The senior adults met on February 9 to enjoy a luncheon, Valentine games and trivia. The next meeting will be on March 12 at 11:30 a.m.

Pastoral Support: John Kneece will provide pastoral support in March.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be held on March 20 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaye Shaw
Church Council Chair

Leesville Methodist Church
PASTOR VACANCY

Leesville Methodist Church, an independent church in the Wesleyan tradition, is seeking a like-minded professional for a full-time pastoral position.

Interested individuals should send a résumé to
thesearch@leesvillemethodist.com

(803)532-3817 510 E. Columbia Ave. Leesville, SC 29070



WWW.LEESVILLEUMC.COM

SPRC Pastor Search Committee

Billy Berry, Chair
Rob Bouknight
Susan Clubb
Faye Folker
John Kneece
Nick Rikard
Jana Shealy
Steve Zwart



9am Service

Greeters/Ushers

3.2 Duane and Deborah Ward
3.9 Debra Fowler and Kaye Shaw
3.16 John Sawyer & Karsen Lucas
3.23 Mack and Deanna Jacobs
3.30 David and Jan Giesen

Children's Moments

3.2 Caleigh Watson
3.9 Jessica McCormick
3.16 John Kneece
3.23 David Giesen
3.30 Peg Worthy

Lay Readers

3.2 David Giesen
3.9 Wendy Zwart
3.16 JoAnn Kneece
3.23 Alice Graham
3.30 Mike Edwards

Refreshments

3.2 Mack and Deanna Jacobs
3.9 John and Pam Aycok
3.16 Rodger and Beth Williamson
3.23 Lauren Watson
3.30 Doug and Della Copper

Flowers

3.2 Wayne and Bonnie Hall
3.9 Bob and Cathie Hartzog
3.16 Doug and Della Copper
3.23 Mack and Deanna Jacobs
3.30 Faye Folker

11am Service

Ushers: Nick Rikard, Tanner Rikard,
& Pace Rikard

Acolytes: Conner Rikard & Jesse McDaniel

Children's Moments

3.2 Troy Buzhardt
3.9 Cissy Terlizzi
3.16 John Kneece
3.23 David Giesen
3.30 TBA

Lay Readers

3.2 John Matthews
3.9 Troy Buzhardt
3.16 Scott Buzhardt
3.23 Cissy Terlizzi
3.30 Ryan McDaniel

Nursery

3.2 Andy and Amy Bedenbaugh
3.9 Ty Bouknight and Betsy Pierce
3.16 Wayne and Linda Eastman
3.23 Linda Eastman and Dee Dee Swygert
3.30 Billy and Beth Berry

Crib Room

3.2 Brantley Buzhardt and Mary Clare Price
3.9 Wayne and Linda Eastman
3.16 Pat Barr and Betsy Pierce
3.23 Nick and Ellen Rikard
3.30 Wayne and Linda Eastman