



LOCUST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



*KEEPING THE CHURCH COMMUNITY INFORMED, INVESTED AND INVOLVED IN THE MANY
ACTIVITIES OF CHURCH LIFE*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 JANUARY, 2019

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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Joe Peabody, Jr - Pastor
Darcy Whitfield - Administrator
Angel Jones - Preschool Program Director
Jenifer Polk - Children's Director
Dana Murphy - Children's Director
Courtney Wallace - Youth Director
David Williamson - Music Director
Beth Massengale - Accompanist
Darcy Whitfield - Nursery Director
Jamie Mobley - Custodian



Inspiration From Our Pastor

Rev. Joe Peabody, Jr.

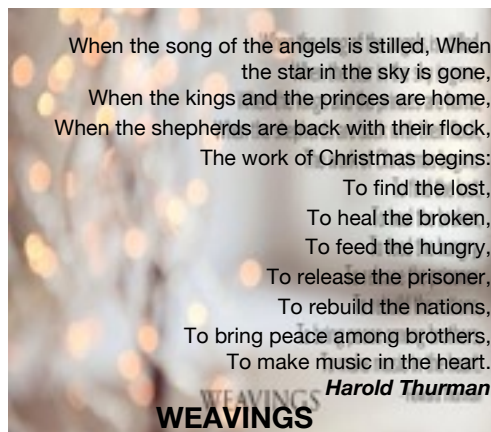
The new year can be a time for new beginnings, and sometimes that's exactly what we need. T.S. Eliot wrote:

*"For last year's words belong to last
year's language
and next year's words await another
voice."*

What word or words will be yours in the coming year? I have a couple of preacher friends, familiar with that line from TS Eliot, who have been asking that question on Facebook this time of year for the last couple of years. What will your **WORD** be? What will your **WORDS** be?

Yes! No! Patience, Perseverance, Persistence. I'm Sorry. Forgive Me. You Are Forgiven. "... with God's help ..."

The word I've chosen for this Sunday morning and for the coming year ... is **WORK**. On Sunday, I will be sharing a line from Howard Thurman. He said:



That work has begun..... but it is not finished.

We still have work to do!

"DID YOU KNOW" How it got its start

Dee Elkins

Rev. Doug Burrell, Sec. Darcy Whitfield and I had invitations to the Preschool Thanksgiving Feast in November 2016. It was the last day of school before the Holidays began.

We shared a table decorated with seasonal placemats made by the students. It was a festive meal; all the food was prepared by the teachers, parents and grandparents of the children. I've never had a more delicious holiday meal - not even my Mom's.

Rev. Doug had been assigned to LGUMC in June 2016 and Darcy had been hired just a few weeks before this particular occasion. They were questioning me, a long-time member of the church about some of the history and programs our church has tried in the past. I had just stepped down as
(continued on page 2)

("Did You Know" - continued)

Historian of the church after serving several consecutive terms. Thus I was able to do a brief explanation of past ideas. I told them about all the albums of pictures, articles and information about important events and happenings in the church that I had compiled. These albums still fill several shelves in the workroom next to the Secretary's office. Very few of our members have ever cracked the cover of any of them but they contain years of our church history.

Only a few long-time members remember when our present church building was constructed. When we old-timers are gone, who can tell new-comers that this building at 211 Peeksville Road is the fifth location where Methodists have worshipped in Locust Grove?

Rev. Doug asked if we had tried a monthly mail-out newsletter. Yes, I replied for a number of years, but it was discontinued a few years ago due to the high cost of postage and technology had taken first place in most family's lives. It was not being read as it once was and it got harder to get people to submit information. Why? Most answered that they had already read it on the internet. Even our long-time prayer chain died out.

Some of us however, especially me, did not take advantage of all the new-fangled technology, such as Facebook or tweet or twitter or texting, so we are out of the loop.

Darcy suggested a little paragraph in the Sunday bulletin, when space permitted, with some history, some current or future events or some special events in a member's life.

Now you know why and when "Did You Know" came to be. Keep watching for more of these revelations.



Party Time!

We are hosting a New Year Party for A Friend's House Residents and our Youth on Saturday, January 27th 12-3 in the Fellowship Hall. We have been having this party for many years and both groups enjoy the fun and fellowship!!

If you would like to donate pizza, snacks or drinks, or would like to help out let Laura Farr know.

Laura.Farr@eagleslanding.org

Music Notes

**David Williamson
Music Director**

If you are involved in church music ministry, planning and preparation for Christmas starts early each year, like in May and June. Sometimes you start thinking about next year before the current year is over. I think that might be a little obsessive.

The choir actually starts rehearsing in September. Increasing each week the amount of time required to be ready for the presentation. We have always had a devoted group of singers for Christmas and this year was no exception. We have also enjoyed having new people join in and sing each year. Their contributions are wonderful. At the conclusion of the music there came one voice from the back row that summed it up "we did it". Yes we did and we did a good job.

Well, 2019 is coming. Which means Christmas music must be selected. But before we worry about that we have Easter to celebrate. Sure would be good to have a few more people take advantage of the opportunities to hang out with a fun group of singers each week. The choir meets at 6:45 p.m. each Wednesday. Child care can be arranged if you need it.

Visit and try it once. You might have a good time!



WHAT ARE THEY UP TO NOW?

News from the Children's Program

**Jenifer Polk and Dana Murphy,
Directors**

It was that time of year again -- when the rushing begins and the lists never end and somewhere in all that hurry and scurry, we try to help our children remember (and sometimes ourselves!) what Christmas is truly all about.

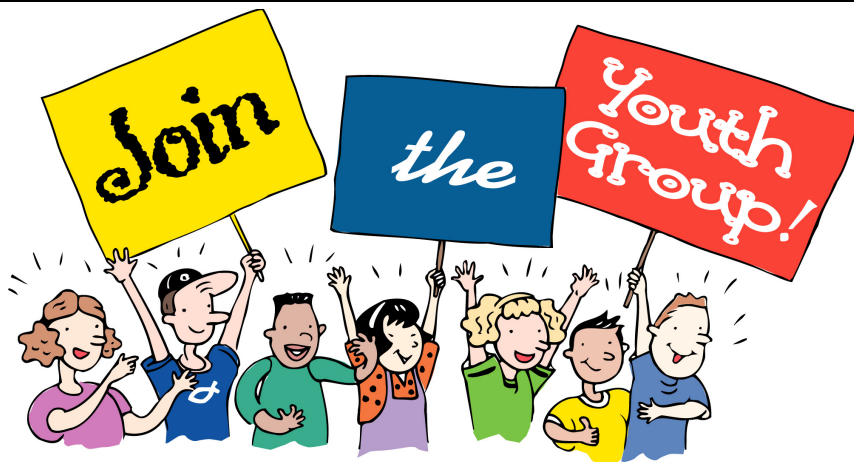
The kids have been learning some great stories that lead us up to the birth of Jesus. They had the opportunity to act out the birth of Jesus story for our congregation during our 11:00 service on the December 16 and then again for the "Coming Home for Christmas" with Pastor Joe. Our breakfast with Santa on December 8 was a huge success this year. Everyone that came enjoyed a great breakfast that prepared by some really awesome men in our church. Parents had the opportunity to take pictures with Santa. The children could visit our Santa Gift Shop to purchase small gifts for their family.

Starting on Sundays, the children are introduced to the theme of the week and learn how great God is. Then on Wednesday nights, we continue learning the theme through fun games, journaling and projects. The children learn how they can use their gifts God gave them to make a difference.

In January, we will start talking about Jesus as he grew up and learning why he was sent to us by God.

Parents

We look forward to seeing your children on Sundays during the 11:00 service and then again on Wednesday nights (beginning January 9th) from 6:30 to 7:45.



Youth Ministry Program

Courtney Wallace, Youth Director

The youth ministry is busy this season! **December 15** we combined caroling to shut-ins and a trip to Stone Mountain to look at the Christmas lights and enjoy the festivities.

On **Sunday, December 16**, we had our Christmas party at Eagle's Brook Country Club!

Immediately following the worship services on **Sunday, December 23**, we went on our annual mall shopping trip! We went to the Mall of Georgia. we had lunch on the way, shopped and had dinner at the Mall before returning home. shopping spree!

We are having fun while learning and worshipping! In January, we have a day with A Friend's House (**Sunday, January 27**).

Our youth fundraiser dinner will take place on **Wednesday, January 16**. The menu will be fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, green beans, rolls, and dessert.

Our Wednesday night **FUSE** times will be a unit of "Questions from YOU!" As youth ask questions about things in life, we build special times to look at those concerns through the lens of biblical advice. On schedule for this unit are topics like how to have confidence in yourself, family difficulties, peer pressure,

and how to be in control of our social media (instead of it being in control of us).

A ski trip is planned to Winterplace, WV in February,

We have a new **Remind ID**! If you have not gotten a Remind text in the month of December, please visit <http://rmd.me/b?rid=108449581> to connect, or leave a message for Courtney with your name and phone number. You can leave a note on the Youth/Children's Ministry desk, text 912-388-0737, or e-mail courtney.ministry@gmail.com.

Congratulations

To

Ellen Cook for the most exciting December ever!

First, receiving her **RN Certification** and then getting a Christmas Day marriage proposal.

Life can't get much fuller than that!
We're so proud of you!



If you are looking for a place to make a contribution, our youth are a wonderful group of people to invest in this New Year! These are some of the greatest youth I've ever been blessed to work with. Thank you all for your support, love, and prayers!

Congratulations

To

Gavin & Samantha Phillips on the birth of their first child.

Virginia Nicole Phillips was born December 13th @ 5:13 AM. She weighs 7 lbs., 11 oz, and is 19 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great! Daddy is anxious to get home from his deployment in Afghanistan to meet his little princess. What a precious addition to the LGUMC Family!! Welcome sweet Virginia!



Calling All Youth

This Newsletter is not an Adults Only Publication. It is your news also and an opportunity for you to become involved in telling your experiences in your journey to seek your place in God's Kingdom here on earth. Sunday School, Youth activities and even your everyday school experiences are important to the congregation of adults who have committed to nurture in your Christian growth. So write your comments and ideas and send them to the Newsletter.

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2 All events cancelled except Meals to shut-ins and motel	3	4 8:00 - 10:00 pm AA	5 7:00 am UMM Breakfast
6 Traditional Services 8:30 & 11:00 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 & 11:00 am	7 Girl Scouts 6:00 - 8:30 pm Missions Meeting 7:15pm	8 Saints Alive Bible Study 11:00 am Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Lyn and Pat Garland Bible Study 7:00 pm	9 Dinner* 5:30 FUSE, Kidz 4 Christ, JAM 6:30 pm Choir Practice 6:45 pm	10 T.O.P.S. 8:30am	11 8:00-10:00 pm AA	12
13 Traditional Services 8:30 & 11:00 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 & 11:00 am	14 Girl Scouts 6:00-8:30 pm	15 Saints Alive Bible Study 11:00 am Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Lyn and Pat Garland Bible Study 7:00 pm	16 Dinner * YF 5:30 FUSE, Kidz 4 Christ, JAM 6:30 pm Choir Practice 6:45 pm	17 T.O.P.S. 8:30am	18 8:00-10:00 pm AA	19 10:00 am - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall Reserved
20 Traditional Services 8:30 & 11:00 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 & 11:00 am	21 Girl Scouts 6:00-8:30 pm	22 Saints Alive Bible Study 11:00 am Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Lyn and Pat Garland Bible Study 7:00 pm	23 Dinner* 5:30 FUSE, Kidz 4 Christ, JAM 6:30 pm Choir Practice 6:45 pm	24 T.O.P.S. 8:30am	25 8:00-10:00 pm AA	26
27 Traditional Services 8:30 & 11:00 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 & 11:00 am AFH Gathering 12 - 3 pm	28 Girl Scouts 6:00 - 8:30 pm	29 Saints Alive Bible Study 11:00 am Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Lyn and Pat Garland Bible Study 7:00 pm	30 Dinner* 5:30 FUSE, Kidz 4 Christ, JAM 6:30 pm Choir Practice 6:45 pm	31 T.O.P.S. 8:30am	*YF youth fundraiser	

PRAYER LIST

Our Family

Margaret Jones
Ardy Chase
Larry and Ida Foster
Mary and Bill Kincaid
Janis Smith

In Places of Care

Daisy Atkinson
Anne Henley
David Hodgkin

Family

Bess Lyle, Mother of Angel Jones



Psalm 46:1 *God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

There are many others on our prayer list that should be included here. There just was not enough room.

When you pray, ask God to comfort and provide healing for the bodies, hearts and souls of the friends and family members of each member of the congregation.

We all have people in our lives who need our prayers. The Lord listens to our pleas. We need to listen for His answer.

Men and Women in Armed Services

Gavin Phillips - Afghanistan
Christopher Buttemeier - Tacoma
Washington
Jake Dorris - Okinawa, Japan
Gray Gardner - South Korea
Justin Giannace - Cherry Point, N.C.
Philip Gibby - Tacoma, Washington
Rachel & T.J. Tiu - Alaska
Todd Wilkerson - Utah

OUTREACH

1 PETER 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

OUR MISSION TEAM

Ted Decker, Co-Chairman

Barry Summey chair, Ann Decker, Richard Farr, Laura Farr, Judy Varner, Marianne Morfoot, Kathy Engeman, Susan Triggs. Bruce Howard, Brenda Howard, Cathy Gillespie, Tina Grall.

The Mission team has had a good year working in our community. This year we have accomplished:

1. Every week we feed our church shut-ins, about 10 members.
2. Every week we have been able to feed 35 to 40 people at the local Motel.
3. We were able to get two families out of the hotels and into houses.
4. We gave two families cars donated by Church families.
5. We did our yearly mission week work at a family's house in Locust Grove.
6. We cut up and removed a tree for a lady in Locust Grove.
7. We repaired a lady's front porch roof.
8. We built a wheel chair ramp for a disabled man.
9. We had several clothes give-aways at our church.
10. We gave school supplies to several schools.
11. We had two Yard Sale give-aways.
12. One of our mission teams fed A Friend's House children breakfast once a month. And we fed them at both the Spring and Fall Bar-B-Q.
13. The Food Pantry and Backpack buddies were very busy every month. See articles on this page.
14. We donated toys to several local families.
15. We have a team that takes food to several people at Skyland every week.
16. We have several other tasks that are too many to list.

So why am I telling you about all these things that our Mission team does? Our Mission team has left the building and we would like everyone in our church to join us. You can help by donating to the Mission Fund, the HA HA Fund, the

Food pantry (either bring food or monetary fund) or help at one of our events.

Pray for us and get involved; it's the greatest feeling you can have. Jesus loves a cheerful Worker!

BACKPACK BUDDIES

The HA HA Program

Bruce Howard

404-987-1999

This program helps feed "homeless children right here in "The Grove".

Currently there are 21 elementary school children that we furnish with weekend snack packs.

Our team consists of Brenda Howard, Tom and Linda McCullough, Cathy Gillespie, Susan Triggs, and myself. But everyone has an open invitation to join us in the "packing process" at my house as this is another opportunity for Christian fellowship. The backpacks are given to Ann Decker who makes sure the packs get to the school Counselor's office.

Many other people (behind the scenes) help with periodic donations of different food products, of which we are extremely grateful. For more information please feel free to contact me or Cathy G. at church or home.

My telephone is above - call me!

OUR FOOD PANTRY

Marianne Morfoot

The LGUMC Food Pantry is most grateful for the generosity of our congregation who provide cans and boxes of food for our outreach mission. We are also thankful for the LGUMC Preschool students and our Girl Scout troop who brought donations of food for the hungry families in our community.

The past month we have provided at least 23 grocery bags, motel boxes, and homeless bags to those in need.

If you are wondering what is needed, we can always use jars of pasta sauce, spaghetti noodles, cans of fruit, chicken, and tuna, and boxes of crackers. Those are just a few of the staples that go into the grocery bags.

MEMBERS BULLETIN BOARD

This is an area dedicated to allowing members to express their thoughts and ideas along with announcements of appropriate events of interest to the congregation. Please feel free to send in your information by the 15th to KathyEngeman@Protonmail.com

Traditional or Contemporary? It's not about Worship Style Preference.

Richard Farr

Traditional, contemporary, conservative, liberal, progressive, old school ----- titles that society has used to segregate people. Ever thought that it is by design to drive a wedge between each of us to keep us from focusing on something else other than Christ, our model for living, the only source of our salvation and the Lord of All.

Do you feel called by the Holy Spirit in these directions: believing the Holy Scripture as the Word of God, called by God to be holy or to grow in Christ's likeness every day, to work toward perfection in Love (not only in actions but intentions). If so, you are aligned with the traditional beliefs of the Church, not a contemporary belief where the Word and standards change to fit with societal norms. It's not about preferences in worship style, it's about the intentions of our hearts and the actions that follow.

If you feel led in this direction, please join me on January 17th at 7:00pm in the Choir Room to discuss a new idea and approach for our Community Outreach Programs for 2019. Be United In Christ.

Interested? Have questions? Contact me at 770-402-7925 or farrichard@att.net

Serving Our Veterans

Joe Peck

Whether you're presently serving in the military or have already served, this is YOUR column.

Husband, wife, mom, dad, son, daughter, presently deployed? This is YOUR column.

Child or children of a military person or veteran? This is YOUR column.

Holidays. Birthdays. Special Days. There's a lot we can do to together - send a note occasionally; an email, or even a package or two.

Thoughts? Ideas? Suggestions? Comments? Serving is more than a word.

You can contact me here at church or email: inthetrenches@charter.net

'Til next issue... God bless

Comments and Suggestions

Always open to suggestions, concerns and comments about the newsletter. Address these to KathyEngeman@Protonmail.com or drop them by the church office in an envelope addressed to Kathy Engeman. The deadline for the next month is the 15th of the current month. Please make sure you include all dates and times. Photos taken of church events and activities are very much appreciated.

KEEP IN TOUCH

LOCUST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

P.O. BOX 277

211 PEEKSVILLE ROAD

LOCUST GROVE, GA 30248

PHONE: 770-957-9605

FAX: 770-957-2470

www.locustgroveumc.org

lgumc@bellsouth.net

Darcy's Notes

From the Administrator's Desk

Darcy Whitfield

Happy New Year!! Thank you all for hanging in there with me through a VERY busy Christmas!!

The events and services that LGUMC held were all so enjoyable and well attended - we hope you all had a chance to attend a few!

Along with being busy with Advent and Christmas events, I was also busy with many calls and drop-ins seeking help with food, clothes, toys for Christmas, homeless in need of shelter and many more requests.

I am relieved to announce that not one family or person that came to LGUMC for assistance was turned away!! It is all because of our fabulous and generous members, the missions team, and those who have donated to our missions and discretionary accounts that make this possible! Thank you all so much for helping us help others! I pray you all have a very happy and blessed new year!