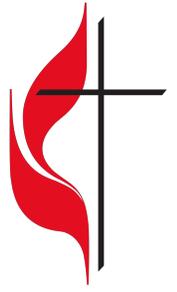




# LOCUST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



# NEWSLETTER

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

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 February, 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

### Joe Peabody Jr

#### The Work of Christmas Continues

On Sunday (1/20), we took up the second task identified by Howard Thurman in his memorable poem, The Work Of Christmas: "to heal the broken." The focus of the sermon was not healing itself: our NEED for it or God's ability and willingness to PROVIDE it. We spent several weeks at the end of the summer focused on miracles, including healing, in our series "**Honest Answers to Honest (Hard) Questions.**" The focus of yesterday's sermon was the privilege and responsibility we have to be a part of God's healing work in the lives of others. And, in the end, the message emphasized the reminder that -- sometimes -- doing our part carries with it a cost. There is a price to pay to love as God loves! As you think about how God might want to use you in His work of healing the broken, consider these three invitations:

#### (#1) Explore Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry exists in thousands of congregations across the US. Stephen Ministers receive, here at our church, 50 hours of training in listening and care-giving skills for ministry. Stephen Ministry is not counseling. It is not therapy. It is training for congregational care: Christ caring for people through people.

On February 23, I will be attending a introductory workshop for churches interested in possibly starting Stephen Ministry in their congregations. I have twice been on staff at churches with effective Stephen Ministries in place and have started it one at a church where I was serving as pastor. I'm planning to attend this introductory workshop again because I hope some of you will go with me! If you are interested, please call me (404-408-7422) or email me [joepeabody@yahoo.com](mailto:joepeabody@yahoo.com) or the  
 (continued on page 2, column 1)

### "DID YOU KNOW Dee Elkins

#### NO TIME

I knelt to pray, but not for long. I had too much to do - must hurry off and get to work; bills will soon be due.

And so I said a hurried prayer, jumped up from off my knees, my Christian duty now was done; my soul could be at ease.

All through the day I had no time to speak a word of cheer, no time to speak of Christ to friends; they'd laugh at me, I feared.

No time, no time, too much to do - that was my constant cry. No time to give to those in need at last was time to die.

And when I came before the Lord, I stood with downcast eyes, within His hands He held a Book; it was the "Book of Life" God looked into His Book and said, "your name I cannot find, I once was going to write it down, but never found the time".

What if God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take  
 (continued on page 2, column 2)

Inspiration from Our Pastor (continued from page 1)  
church office (770-957-9605).

**The workshop will take in Macon  
at the Vineville United Methodist Church  
(2045 Vineville Ave.)**

The workshop begins at 9:00 and will  
conclude at 1:00.

**(#2) Join our Nurture Team**

This church is blessed to have some wonderful people who, of their own initiative, do a fabulous job of checking on and caring for others in our church family. Sunday school classes and Bible study groups also serve a vital function in caring for this congregation. Even so, there are needs that sometimes go unmet. I would like to create a Nurture Team that would take responsibility for providing, in addition to what the pastor and staff can do, ongoing care for members of our church family who are homebound, in care facilities of one kind or another, or may require special attention for a time. The goal would be to remember our friends on birthdays and at holidays, to visit them monthly, and call them weekly (or whatever works for this congregation and those individuals). We already have a team from the church that seeks to provide an evening meal on Wednesday for a number of these people! Would you be willing to help me build a team from our congregation to enhance the care we can provide? I hope some of you might see this as a valuable place for you to be in ministry. If you are willing, or just curious, please contact me.

**(#3) Help Reach-Out to Our Shut-ins**

I would like to reach to our homebound members, those in care facilities, and those temporarily in the hospital at specific times in specific ways. During Holy Week and on World Communion Sunday I'd like to extend communion to those unable to be with us in worship. I'd also like to go caroling at Christmas time, as we did this year, to those same people. Knowing you are not forgotten by those you no longer get to see can make a significant difference in the life of someone who is feeling isolated, lonely, and even forgotten. If you are willing to help coordinate or execute these efforts, I'd love to know of your willingness! Consider the possibilities. Help when and where you can. The work of Christmas includes the healing of the broken. And we can help.

**Grace & peace, Joe**

**Did You Know (continued from page 1) the time to thank Him yesterday?**

What if God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow Him today?

What if we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent the rain?

What if God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?

What if God took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today?

What if God took away His message because we failed to listen to the messenger?

What if God didn't send His only begotten son because He wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for our sins?

What if the doors of the church were close because we did not open the doors of our hearts?

What if God Stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?

What if God answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service?

What if God met our needs the way we give Him our lives.

Author unknown - copied from a sister church's newsletter.

**Scarey, isn't it?**



**Do You Have an Inquiring  
Mind?**

**We have books in our library that cover just about every aspect of Christian Life and some great reference materials that will make your spiritual journey in the Bible a little easier. Visit the library shelves in the copy room beside Darcy's office. Feed your mind and soul today.**



**SAINTS ALIVE**

What are you doing on Tuesday mornings? If you find yourself lonely or bored or both, join this lively group fellowship and become a member of the family of Saints Alive. Bible Study, Prayers, news of members and of course, some funny stories all go into developing a caring, nurturing group. Join us on Tuesday at 11:00 for an hour or so. You will get food for the soul.



**Easter and spring are just a few weeks away. Can't wait!**

This year the choir will be singing *Amazing Love How Can it Be*. This music will help us remember that no matter what life brings Jesus remains victorious. **NO MATTER WHAT LIFE BRINGS.**

This work really has songs that helps bridge contemporary and traditional. Some of the selections include **How Can it Be, Because He Lives Amen, All Hail the Power and The Old Rugged Cross**. We will be singing with a DVD accompaniment. Which will be fun!

If you can sing along with the radio and no one tells you to stop singing you can do this. We need you and you will feel better after rehearsing. Yes you will. Hope to see you. Wednesday at 6:45.





Each Month we will spotlight members of our Youth Group

## Youth Ministry Program

**Courtney Wallace, Youth Director**

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

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](mailto:courtney.ministry@gmail.com).

### 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.

Exchange ideas, ask questions and express your feelings. We would love to know you better.



Meet Three of Our Youth Group  
Ashley, Alexis and Timmy



### Favorite Musicians and Favorite Music

**Mercy Me "I Can Only Imagine"**  
Timmy Holder

**New Song "I Am A Christian"**  
Desiree E.

**New Song "On My Way Back Home"** Ashley Howard

**Casting Crowns "Control"**  
Joey Carpenter

**Matt Maher "Hold Us Together"**  
Luke Smith

**Lauren Daigle "You Say"**  
Allison Cook

**Elevation Worship "Reckless Love"** Olivia Smith

**for King and Country "God's Not Dead"** John Holder

**Crowder "I AM"** Katelyn Polk

**Hollyn "My Feet Are On The Rock"** Jordan Cotten

**Skillet, NewSong, Building 429**  
"On My Way Back Home" Lexi

If you are looking for a place to make a contribution, invest in the church's future, help our young people in their walk with the Lord. They need your financial support, your love, and your daily prayers!



### Special Bible Verses

#### Phillipians 3:14

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus

Jordan Cotten

#### Psalm 62:6

Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

Luke Smith

John Holder

#### Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Joey Carpenter

#### John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Katelyn Polk

Ashton

Autumn Davis

# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>  AA 8:00 - 10:00 pm	<b>2</b>  UMM BREAKFAST 7:30 am FH
<b>3</b> Traditional Services 8:30 & 11:00 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 & 11:00 am 12:30 - 5:00 FH Use 5:00-7:00 Youth	<b>4</b>  Girl Scouts 6:00-8:30pm  Missions Meeting 7:15pm	<b>5</b> Saints Alive Bible Study 11:00 am Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Lyn and Pat Garland Bible Study 7:00 pm	<b>6</b> Dinner* 5:30 FUSE, Kidz 4 Christ, JAM 6:30 pm Choir Practice 6:45 pm	<b>7</b>  T.O.P.S. 8:30am   7:00 pm Outreach	<b>8</b>  AA 8:00 - 10:00 pm	<b>9</b>  6:00 pm Valentine Dinner FH
<b>10</b> Scout Sunday Traditional Services 8:30 & 11:00 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 & 11:00 am 5:00-7:00 Youth	<b>11</b>  Girl Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	<b>12</b> Saints Alive Bible Study 11:00 am **Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Lyn and Pat Garland Bible Study 7:00 pm	<b>13</b> Dinner* 5:30 FUSE, Kidz 4 Christ, JAM 6:30 pm Choir Practice 6:45 pm	<b>14</b>  T.O.P.S. 8:30am   7:00 pm Outreach	<b>15</b>  AA 8:00 - 10:00 pm	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Traditional Services 8:30 & 11:00 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 & 11:00 am 12:30 - 5:00 FH Use 5:00-7:00 Youth	<b>18</b> Ski Trip Week on Bus  Girl Scouts 6:00-8:30pm	<b>19</b> Saints Alive Bible Study 11:00 am  Lyn and Pat Garland Bible Study 7:00 pm	<b>20</b>  School Holiday  Choir Practice 6:45 pm	<b>21</b>  T.O.P.S. 8:30am   7:00 pm Outreach	<b>22</b> Dress rehearsal 8:00 - 1:00pm FH  AA 8:00 - 10:00 pm	<b>23</b>  3:00 - 9:00 pm Play FH
<b>24</b> Traditional Services 8:30 & 11:00 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 & 11:00 am 5:00-7:00 Youth	<b>25</b>  Girl Scouts 6:00 - 8:30 pm	<b>26</b> Saints Alive Bible Study 11:00 am Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Lyn and Pat Garland Bible Study 7:00 pm	<b>27</b> Dinner* 5:30 FUSE, Kidz 4 Christ, JAM 6:30 pm Choir Practice 6:45 pm	<b>28</b>  T.O.P.S. 8:30am   7:00 pm Outreach	**NOTES: ** Boy Scouts in FH ** Pinewood	

## PRAYER LIST

### Our Family

Margaret Jones  
Ardy Chase  
Larry and Ida Foster  
Mary Kincade  
Janis Smith

### In Places of Care

Daisy Atkinson  
Anne Henley  
David Hodgkin

### Family

Bess Lyle, Mother of Angel Jones



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.

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

### 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



**Laura Farr, President**

**The mission statement of the United Methodist Women is, in part, “to show others our love for God by turning our faith and hope into action that will benefit others”. Here are a few of our accomplishments for 2018.**

- Donated 211 handmade baby blankets to Rachel’s Gift.
- Volunteered monthly at Rachel’s Gift to prepare keepsake boxes and grief support info for families who experienced infant loss.
- Assisted the LGUMC Mission Team in giveaways such as clothes giveaway and yard sale.
- Provided monetary support for an orphan in Albania through Hope for the World. This is an ongoing mission for the UMW.
- Assisted Kids for Christ in the preparation for VBS.
- Volunteered during VBS week.
- Provided monetary support and helped package 10,000 meals to benefit Rise against Hunger.
- Provided monetary support and assisted with LGUMC Music Camp.
- Assisted with parking and handing out water during the county wide 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks celebration.
- Provided beginning of the school year breakfast for LGUMC Preschool teachers.
- Provided monetary support for family who lost home due to fire.
- Member(s) prepared meal(s) for shut-ins during the summer when church did not have Wednesday night supper.
- Provided monetary support along with LGUMC Mission Team for Rachel’s Gifts Angel Dash. Also, volunteered at the event.
- Provided/served ice cream and toppings as refreshment for the Music and Ice Cream Social to benefit the Back Pack Buddies.
- Collected new pajamas for A Friend’s House as Christmas
- Monetary gifts were given to the United Methodist Women Griffin District for the mission work of The United Methodist Church in memory of those who passed away.

Several members of the UMW are also on the Mission Team. These members have provided services through the mission team such as

delivering meals weekly to shut-ins and providing breakfast monthly to A Friends House.

The UMW had a successful year. We reached beyond the walls of our Church to touch others with Christian Love.



**The United Methodist Men meet for a full breakfast on the first Saturday of every month. This is a great opportunity for them to fellowship, pray and discuss the many needs of the church and community. The men of the church look after many of the physical maintenance aspects of church life.**

**All men of the church are invited to join them at 7:30 am on February 2**



**CELEBRATION OF LOVE DINNER**

**February 9 - 6:00pm**

**Tickets: \$15.00**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Menu</b></p> <p><b>Shrimp Cocktail</b></p> <p><b>Chicken Cordon Bleu</b></p> <p><b>Roasted Vegetables</b></p> <p><b>Garlic Mashed Potatoes</b></p> <p><b>Secret Surprise Dessert</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sponsored by the UMM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hosted by</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mrs Kathy Combs</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
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**Tickets will be available from Ted Decker, Keith Knapp, and in the Church Office from Darcy**

**The Youth will be serving the food and providing the entertainment. Your generous tips for this service and fun will help to fund their projects and trips.**

# OUTREACH

**Matthew 25:40** I tell you the truth, when you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me.

## OUR MISSION TEAM

**Barry Summey, Chairman**

**Ted Decker Co-Chairman,**

**Ann Decker, Richard Farr, Lara Farr, Judy Varner, Marianne Morfoot, Kathy Engeman, Susan Triggs, Bruce Howard, Brenda Howard, Cathy Gillespie, Tina Grahl, Theresa Summey**

### January results:

Every week we fed the shut-ins about 10 members.

We continue to feed 35 to 40 people in a local motel each Wednesday.

We provided breakfast for **A Friend's House** one weekend during the month.

We provided food for 21 backpack buddies during each weekend of the month.

We provided perishable foodstuffs for 10 families each week.

We kicked off our Community Outreach Program for 2019.

We still need volunteers to help with these and other activities. If you feel you have something to offer please contact one of the mission team members to help or offer suggestions.

**Keep us in your prayers. Get involved.**



**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 give to monetary fund) or help at one of our events.**



## BACKPACK BUDDIES

**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 Gillespie at church or home.

**My telephone is above - call me!**



**A toast (with Hershey's Kisses) to a job well done!**

**Grace Baptist Church recently visited and has now joined the Backpack Buddies program and will be furnishing them 2 weekends each month**

# 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](mailto:KathyEngeman@Protonmail.com)



## Faith In Action Outreach



**Richard Farr**

[farrrichard@att.net](mailto:farrrichard@att.net)

770-402-7925

In conflicting times, one way to live above the fray is to continue working to perfect your love. Our instructions are simple and clear:

### Love God & Love Others.

Please visit the new **Faith In Action Board** on the back hallway of our Church. You will find need cards for prayer, donations or volunteer work opportunities for our Church and Community. Take any cards you feel called to complete.

Join us any Thursday evening at 7:00pm in the Choir Room where we take a few minutes to pray and focus on our Outreach Efforts. If you know of needs and opportunities, please come and share them with us.

### Upcoming Big Events

**February 7 & 9** Personal Care Packs & Nursing Home Staff Appreciation Events

**March 23** Visit the Community Event

**April 13** Spring Church Wide Yard Sale and Give Away Event

## 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](http://www.locustgroveumc.org)

[lgumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:lgumc@bellsouth.net)

### Comments and Suggestions

I'm always open to suggestions, concerns and comments about the newsletter. Address these to [KathyEngeman@Protonmail.com](mailto: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. Photos taken of church events and activities are very much appreciated.

## Darcy's Notes

*From the Administrator's Desk*

Darcy Whitfield

We are now in the second month of 2019! Charge Conference reports are completed, end of year statements have been sent, and Lent is near! We have an Ash Wednesday service planned on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March and then...it's Spring Forward time!

The month of January was a welcoming time for us here in the administration wing! After Christmas events, parties and services, a bit of a "laid back" schedule was just what we needed! Planning, reflecting and organizing new ways for LGUMC to make an impact on others in our community and abroad have been underway. We have been praying for and with those who come in seeking help whether it be for assistance or just a listening ear. What a wonderful place God has placed me! I am so thankful for him placing you all here too!

Don't forget to check out our church website at [www.locustgroveumc.org](http://www.locustgroveumc.org) and visit the "Members Area" tab! There you will find information regarding our Wednesday Night Dinners, Prayer Concern Forms, Church Calendar, Did You Know....and drumroll...our Newsletters! I am always updating, adding and designing our church website to be easily accessible, so please let me know if you need help navigating and I would be happy to assist you! Thank you all for your constant help and support. I pray you have an awesome February full of Christ's love and wisdom.

Blessings,  
Darcy



**Circle the Date!**  
**February 10, 2019**

There will be a Griffin District Wide Revival on Sunday, February 10 at 3:00 pm at Griffin First UMC. All clergy and laity are invited to attend. Please circle this date on your calendar.