



LSUMC

Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church

August 2021 Newsletter

Our Mission:
To help establish God's
Kingdom on Earth as it is in
Heaven through Nurture,
Outreach, & Witness.

Bishop Gary Rivas
Senior Pastor
glrivas@umcsc.org

Rev. William Smith
Associate Pastor
jwsmith@umcsc.org

Mary Abbott
Director of Children & Youth
mary@lsumc.net

Cameron Lambert
Director of Music
cglambertmusic@gmail.com

The Pastor's Pulse



*Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" is one of my favorite hymns. There is so much about the lyrics of that great hymn that speak to me. I love the fact that the hymn writer needed to make that proclamation, not once, but twice. He was so moved by the faithfulness of God that he had to repeat it.

As part of the Lyttleton Street community, we too can proclaim Gods faithfulness. He has shown his faithfulness to us in so many ways, as a church family, as well as individuals.

In my short time here at LSUMC, I have also become acutely aware of the faithfulness of this community, it's faithfulness to the Lord, the church, and to each other. It is felt in the warmth of the people, the excitement to gather, whether it be on a Sunday in person, or via social media, it's seen in the vibrancy of the children and youth, it's evident in Sunday schools and mission outreach.

Being part of LSUMC is a true gift to me, and I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone that has made me feel so welcome. I look forward to serving the Lord with you, as we continue to be recipients of His faithfulness and as we remain faithful to Him, His commands, and His great commission.

Yours faithfully,
Gary
glrivas@umcsc.org



Pack 303 is hosting a **Game Night/Open House**

for kids K5-5th Grade interested in joining!

Meet with us on **Monday, August 9 | 6:30-7:30pm**

here at Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church.

A Word from William

"Faith in" or "Faithfulness of"



I would like to begin by saying how thankful and thrilled I am to be joining you all at Lyttleton Street UMC. Your faithfulness as a church is encouraging. I am excited to be a part of the faith filled journey that Lyttleton Street UMC is taking.

With that, there is an argument among biblical scholars about whether the apostle Paul spoke about "faith in Christ" or the "faithfulness of Christ." For all of my life I have read the apostle to say, "faith in Christ."

"But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" - Romans 3:21-23(NIV)

If you look at your NIV bible you will notice, there is a footnote attached to verse 22. It speaks to the *faithfulness* of Jesus. While I do not think that there is a right or wrong, it was quite eye opening to me to read these verses as, "this righteousness is given through the *faithfulness* of Jesus Christ to all who believe." If you are like me, you rarely think about the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. It is through the faithfulness of Christ that we might be called righteous.

There were so many times in Christ's life that he could have thrown in the towel. We must remember that Christ was both fully God and fully human; something that is hard for us to wrap our head around. It was only Christ's faithfulness that allowed him to continue the journey and not allow his humanness to give up.

There was plenty of opportunity for Christ to give up. My mind immediately goes to just before Christ began his ministry, when the Holy Spirit led him to the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil. It is only because he was faithful that he did not give in to the devil's temptation.

My mind then goes to Christ having to put up with all of the people he encountered. It seems that he was always having to explain the same thing in different ways to his disciples. For me, my faith would have faltered because my patients ran out. Or all of the doubt the pharisees and leaders had in him. There is only so much criticism that I can take before I begin to wither.

Christ's faithfulness to liberate his people, those who believed in him and believe in him, would ultimately lead him to the cross. Christ was faithful even to the point of death. This is a faith that is hard to imagine, though many have had. It is in times of death that faith seems to be the hardest. It is when we often wrestle with God the most. In death Christ was faithful so that we may live.

As you go through this month, I hope that you think often about the faithfulness of Christ. Our faith in Christ should model Christ's faith. When you face temptation, or your patience begins to wane, or you receive criticism, or even deal with the pangs of death, be encouraged by the faith of Christ. Because Christ was faithful, we should be too.

In Christ's love,

William Smith | Associate Pastor

jwsmith@umcsc.org



Prayer Points



Praying the Psalms to learn that God is faithful.

One of the hardest things about being a Christian is reconciling the reality of a broken world with what we know about its Creator. God is good. God is love. God is all powerful. How can his world be so screwed up? This may seem like a question that isn't very reverent, but if we are using the Psalms to help us pray we will find some very hard to answer questions.

***"How long, O Lord? Will you hide yourself forever?
How long will your wrath burn like fire?
Remember how short my time is
for what vanity you have created all mortals!
Who can live and never see death?***

***Who can escape the power of Sheol? Selah"**—Psalm 89:46-48*

Here we see that the Psalmist doesn't hesitate to express his pain, doubt and even anger. I am sure I have said this before in this column, but it is important to remember, God knows how we feel. We can't really shock or surprise him. This is not the only place in the Psalms that doubts are expressed and definitely not the darkest! But the psalmist would not ask where God is if he didn't think God was listening. In fact he urges God to remember him, to remember his time is short. Time is important to us and it is important to God. Bible scholar N. T. Wright has said that Psalms ask us to stand at the intersection of God's time and ours. This seems to me an interesting way to consider God's faithfulness, because really faithfulness is all about time. It is God continuing to be good to us after all our mess ups and through many generations.

So, N. T. Wright tells us we must look back at God's works to remember his true character, look forward to what he has promised believing that it will be fulfilled. He says we must take all that and sit in this time when we know his work has begun but not yet finished. He says when we read and pray and sing the Psalms we sit in our current reality and hold all of this together and that is how we let God remake who we are and continue his work. When we pray and read and sing the Psalms in this way remembering his faithfulness, God can really begin powerful works in us.

***"All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power,
to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds."** - Psalm 145:10-13*

See how the works and deeds that God has done in the past point forward to the enduring dominion in the future? See how we can participate in it now by speaking of his glory?

So God's faithfulness is all over the Psalms. We his people can remember what he has done, look forward to what he will do, and participate in what he has for us now if we pray the Psalms. I encourage you to find someone with whom to pray the Psalms and if you want more information on the Psalms check out our "Reading the Bible Together" series on Facebook. Let's see what we can learn about God's faithfulness this month.

Your Partner in Prayer,

Katianne Rickwood



**BE JOYFUL IN HOPE, PATIENT
IN AFFLICTION, FAITHFUL IN
PRAYER.
ROMANS 12:12**



As I write this month's article, it is the week before Vacation Bible School and STAYahatchie (our Summer 2021 version of Salkehatchie). Things are busy! There is decorating to do and phone calls and appointments to be made, crafts to prep, music to learn, and so much more, but I know that everything will come together as it should through the hard work of our church family. This church is *faithful* to its ministries!

In the early stages of planning STAYahatchie, I pitched the idea to Frank Laney, then to Joel Peacock. After a lengthy discussion they asked me where I thought we could come up with the money needed to make the home repairs. Honestly, that was the least of my worries. I knew the money would not be an issue. As it turns out, we have plenty of funding because of generous donations. This church is *faithful* in its giving!

This church has demonstrated faithfulness time and time again to me and to each other. I look back over the 25+ years my family has been members of Lyttleton Street and I vividly remember the meals, cards and visits made to us during times of celebration and grief. I know that many of you have had the same experiences as fellow church members offered comfort to you in your times of need. This church is *faithful* to each other!

We have been through recent storms with Covid and staffing changes, but as a new chapter begins, we see that God has been incredibly faithful to us. As church attendance increases and committees meet and plan for our future, I feel hopeful and excited. This church is *faithful* in the midst of change!

It would be impossible for me to choose a favorite hymn, but at the top of my list is "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," a beautiful hymn we enjoy singing. Read the words, being reminded that we have been called to be faithful to God, to each other, and to our church.

God Bless,

Mary Abbott
Director of Children and Youth
mary@lsumc.net | (803) 518-7315



AUGUST FEST

08/28/2021

Come join us at Lyttleton St UMC for our church fest. We will feature an impressive tag sale, plant sale, UMYF car wash, bake sale, and FISH FRY LUNCH. Come see all the treasures that await. Shop, have your car washed, and have a great lunch. It's a great way to spend a Saturday.



8am – 1pm in the
Family Life Center

Holiday Decor

Fish Fry Lunch
11M - 1pm

Plant Sale

Adult & Kids
Clothing

Youth car wash
9 – 11 am

Furniture &
Framed Art

LYTTLETON ST UMC
FAMILY LIFE CENTER
1206 LYTTLETON ST
CAMDEN, SC 29020
803-432-3191
LSUMC.NET
8AM – 1PM

Pitts' Points



A few weeks ago, Gary's sermon told us that the world needs more kindness. I can be kind, but what's in it for me? A selfish question, for sure, but are people really like that?

"But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him." - Luke 10:33-34

Today, I feel like that story would be a little different: "But [somewhat] a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, **then took a selfie and posted it to social media for the world to see.**" Yes, people ARE like that. Recording yourself giving a coat to a homeless person not only turns a good act into a performance of a good act, it also dehumanizes the person receiving what you offer and turns them into nothing but the recipient of your charity. Luckily, there's a verse for that:

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the street, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." - Matthew 6:1-4



About 2 summers ago, I went into Camden House of Pizza with my wife and children. Financially speaking we probably shouldn't have eaten out, but we felt like we owed ourselves a good meal. I was not in a good mood that night especially because I knew I couldn't go into CHOPS and eat light! I became even grumpier after the hefty price tag that came with our meal. I went to pay and spoke with Georgia Megadrosos, the owner. Georgia is family to us. She has been there for us through it ALL. When approaching the register, Georgia told us our entire meal had been paid for. I asked her who paid for our meal. Georgia, who never misses an opportunity to spout words of wisdom whenever I need to hear them [even if I'm not in the mood to hear them!] responded with something that still rings in my ears: "Why does it matter who it was? Someone used their kindness in a way to take care of you. They loved you enough to pay for your meal and hopefully that kindness will spread to you. I saw how you were when you walked in!" I teared up and she hugged me.

I try to "pay it forward" as much as I can. If I'm in the Starbucks drive-thru, if I notice the person behind me at a grocery store has only a few items, I try to take care of them like someone did for me. Your goal this month and the next is to do something for someone, without expecting something in return.

I can be kind, but what's in it for me? Nah. How about this: **Pay it forward, and watch God at work.**

Ike Pitts | Organist
ikepittsmusic@gmail.com



If someone were to ask you to sing a hymn about faithfulness, I'm willing to bet the first one that comes to mind is "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" as that's exactly the hymn that comes to my mind when posed with that question. If there is

one thing this past year has taught us, it is the importance of faithfulness. It's sad that many have lost their faith in God through these troublesome

times. I'm sure we have all witnessed this recently or have maybe even dealt with it personally, but we must remember that God is with us at all times, through good and bad. It is our duty as Christians to not only reinforce our own faith, but to help others do the same through conversation, works, and evangelism/witnessing.

As I write this article, we are currently in the midst of VBS and one of the stories being taught is the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. King Nebuchadnezzar ordered these three men to bow down and worship him or be faced with a fiery, painful death in a blazing furnace. These men stood firm in their faith to the one true God and refused to bow down to the king. Because they remained faithful, God was there and protected them in the fiery furnace. As the hymn states, God gives us the *"strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow."* He will not tempt you beyond what you yourself cannot handle. God clearly states *"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."* - 1 Corinthians 10:13 It is my prayer for you, myself, and those in our community that we continue to be faithful to God, so that in the end when we reach those pearly gates we hear, *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"*

Cameron Lambert | Music Director

cglambertmusic@gmail.com



August 8 @ 6pm 208th Army Band "Wild Cat Jazz Combo"

Open-air community-wide **Free** concert. Bring your lawn chairs. There will be food available for donation provided by our UMYF and Girls of Grace groups to benefit Youth Missions.



- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Aug 22 @ 5:30pm | Wonderful Wednesday Parent Intro Meeting |
| Aug 25 @ 2:30pm | Wonderful Wednesday Begins |
| Aug 29 @ 6pm | UMYF Info Meeting |
| Sep 12 @ 5pm | UMYF & Youth Bells Begin |
| Sep 26 @ 11:15pm | Homecoming with one worship service |

Let's Celebrate the August Birthdays and Anniversaries of our LSUMC family! Say a prayer for them and call, text , send a card or email to let them know they are important and loved!

Birthdays

1st Drew West, Angela Allman, Molly Hazelwood
Casey Robinson
2nd Sam White, Addison Gates
3rd Kara Clyburn, Katianne Rickwood, Tim Brockman
D. J. Creed
4th Johnny Fellers
5th Pam Stroud, Teri Luther
7th Dumpy Gibson, Sharon Guffy, Jay Gates,
Amber Pitts, Jessica Geiger
8th Wendy Ziemke
10th Brantley Padgett, Henry Walker
11th Aaron Gilland, Tod Zimmerman, William Rushing
12th Trey Funderburk, Trey Fitts, Sloane Neal
Christian Zamora
13th Justin Dill, Annette Wertz, Ginger Shuler
Dennis Reedy
14th Art Graham, Douglas Rogers, Paul Spitzer
Kinsley Shuler, Shelly Sloan
16th Kevin Shaw, Phillip Partin
17th Michael Horton, Jr., Meredith Williams,
Eddie Schoolfield, Delaney Beckley,
Parker Robinson, Barney Willens
18th Adam Lostetter, Elizabeth West, Jane Webster
19th Fred Ogburn, Wendy Sperry, Kate Kirkley
20th Kevin Culp, Dona Brand, E. J. Edgerton,
Lola Olney
21st Meg Henderson, Daniel Wilhelm, William Hill
Lowell Hall
22nd John Boykin, Ronnie Stroud, Colin Williams
23rd Amber Rider, Vernon Williams, Lynn Shuler,
Bill Brewer
24th Robbie Lackey, Rusty Major, Emory Gunter
Brian Knapko
25th Sally Shaw
26th Nancy Carlson, Bryce Lail, Kris Elliott
27th Nell Marshall, Daniel Miller, Greenly Truesdale
28th Brenda Gardner, Lynn Looney, Linda Josey
29th Etta Wilhelm
30th Jonathan Ham, Jimmy Wilson, Sherry Padgett
Jennifer Wladischkin
31st Linda Bradley, Denny Beckley, William Downey,
Mary Bradley Kirkland, Raymond Garcia

Anniversaries

1st Clark & Kathy Rast
3rd Frank & Jean Broom, Grayson & Susan Shaw
Carl & Rhonda Horton
4th Mike & Carolyn Horton
6th Ken & Nancy Carlson, John & Beth Collins
Raymond & Nichola Garcia
7th Ronnie & Nancy Ward, Max & Debbie Bonek
8th Carl & Kathryn Kearse
9th Jim & Pam Bradshaw
10th Vernon & Jeanette Williams
11th Drew & Terri Carter, Joe & Lucy Mazurek
12th Davis & G. G. Green
19th Donnie & Pam Wilson, Dennis & Mary Turner
20th Gordie & Martha Moore
23rd Brian & Torill Nelson, Mike & Dixie Gilbert
Gibson & Anna Tucker
24th Johnny & Beverly Fellers
26th David & Jane Weaver
27th Buster & Kathy Beckham
28th Fred & Susan White
29th Sid & Virginia Isler

TREASURE
QUOTES

**WORDS ARE EASY,
LIKE THE WIND; FAITHFUL
FRIENDS ARE HARD TO FIND.**

-William Shakespeare



Lyttleton Street UMC
1206 Lyttleton Street
Camden, SC 29020

lsumc.net

Phone: (803) 432-3191

Fax: (803) 888-4099

E-mail: church@lsumc.net

Ike Pitts

Organist

ikepittsmusic@gmail.com

Joey Williams

Media Specialist

joeywilliamsmedia@gmail.com

Kathi Hunter

LLP Director

llp@lsumc.net

LLP (803) 425-4874

Anita Crowley

Office Manager

anita@lsumc.net

Christa DeMare

Admin. Assistant

christa@lsumc.net

NON-PROFIT ORG.
CAMDEN, SC 29020
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 70

Address Label



Thoughts from Joey

When I think about faithfulness, I think about my Heavenly Father. I immediately think, "I am *not* faithful, but God *is*!" Now of course, I don't mean that I'm not a faithful person. I strive to be as much like Jesus as possible: loving others in spite of differences, being patient when frustrated, being a good steward of all God has entrusted to me, the list goes on and on. And most of the time, I succeed! Most of the time.

Guess what God does *EVERY TIME*. That's right, italics and all caps! I'm that serious. God never fails. He never forsakes us. He never stops loving us. Don't take my word for it, read it for yourselves, Hebrews 13:5-6, Romans 8:35, Joshua 1:9, Numbers 23:19, Lamentations 3:22-23.

As a human being that is alive only by the grace of my Lord and Savior, I am not remotely capable of His faithfulness. I can only barely comprehend the idea of unconditional love, and that is only since I've become a father myself. Still, I cannot begin to approach the glory of God and His unimaginable love for us. God is love defined. He is the very essence of the word LOVE. Thank you, Father.

Brothers and sisters of LSUMC, thank you for inviting me into your family with open arms, for reminding me that Jesus' love is still in this world and that a church in Camden, South Carolina can make a BIG difference in the lives of people from anywhere. I dare say that's even enough love for a guy from Orangeburg of all places! I am so grateful to be a part of your faithful family.

God bless each of you,

Joey T. Williams | Media Coordinator

joeywilliamsmedia@gmail.com