



*A note
from the pastor*

REFLECTIONS



Lee Road United Methodist Church
1377 East Lee Road, Taylors, SC 29687
Church Office (864) 244-6427
[LRUMC Facebook](#)
<https://www.leeroadumc.com/>

Dear Congregation,

This week I would like to begin a 2-part letter on my favorite verse from the Psalms.

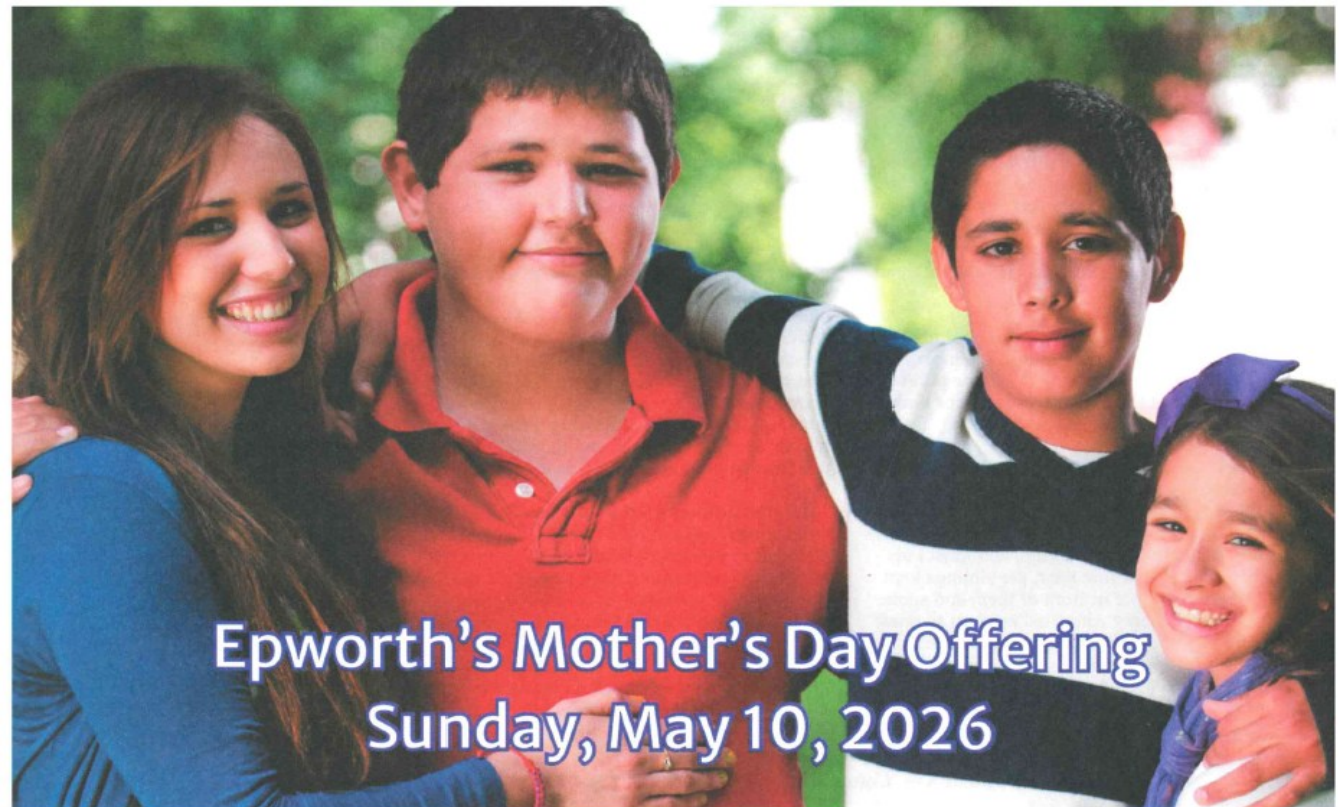
**"For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favor is life:
weeping may endure for a night, but Joy cometh in the morning."
(Psalm 30:5)**

Part 1: For his anger endureth for a moment God loves us unconditionally. Unlike us, He doesn't hold grudges. Like any parent, you can bet that our Heavenly Father gets mad, really mad, sometimes at the things that we do! As his children, we make some very poor decisions at times. We screw things up, and I believe God has righteous anger in those moments. Luckily for us, God's anger is like a sudden gale that blows in from the sea. It passes quickly. God remembers his profound love for us. It was that love who sent us a savior in Christ Jesus.

Part 2: In his favor is life Never forget that God is the author of life. All human life is precious to God. He desires much more for us than just being clinically alive (having a pulse and breathing). God desires a life of abundance for us, not in terms of worldly possessions, but expressed in spiritual fullness and completeness through his Son Jesus. The wages of sin are death (as Paul states in Romans) but in Christ Jesus we have eternal life, plus a life on Earth with all the hope, assurance, peace, and comfort that come with knowing Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior. In Deuteronomy, God says "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life." We need to choose life by following Jesus!

Next week we shall look to the second part of this verse and what it says about human suffering and what believers in Jesus have to look forward to.

In Christ,
Rusty



Epworth's Mother's Day Offering Sunday, May 10, 2026

A Miracle Born of Love and Support

Over time, a supportive, nurturing environment can help heal the traumatized hearts and minds of children and teens who have been neglected or abused. The four Anderson* siblings, who range in age from 11 to 16, are a good example. The two girls and two boys were removed from their Lowcountry home in 2024 to protect them from physical and emotional abuse from a parent who was addicted to alcohol. Social workers brought them to Epworth.

None of the children had attended school regularly in years. Their father's unpredictable temper kept them in a constant state of anxiety to the point that they found it hard to talk with outsiders or look anyone in the eyes.

Their fear was palpable to all who attended a 2024 Christmas party thrown each year by Lady Gamecock Coach Dawn Staley and the Richland County Sheriff's Department. The party showers Epworth residents with attention and gifts, and most kids have a blast. But that first year, the siblings kept their eyes on the table in front of them and spoke to no one. One deputy who tried her best to draw them out, said she could see that they'd been through something awful.

For months, Epworth counselors, tutors, faith and activities staff and cottage parents worked closely

with each sibling to build their trust and help them catch up with their age group in school. It was slow going, with many setbacks. But by the end-of-school party Epworth holds each summer, a blossoming could be seen. The siblings laughed, played in the water slide, and joked with several other kids. As summer progressed, they opened up more and more. They enjoyed participating in Epworth's volunteer opportunities like working at the local animal shelter. By mid-semester last fall, all four were making As and Bs in school. At the 2025 Christmas Party, the children hugged the deputy who had shown interest in them the year before. The deputy teared up and in a presentation she made to a community group the following weekend she told them about Epworth and the children's transformation, describing it as a miracle.

After the children's father was convicted of child abuse and jailed this winter, the Andersons were cleared to return home. While happy to reunite with their mom, they expressed gratitude for the safety, guidance, love, and stability Epworth staff had provided that pivotal year.

Your support helps many children like the Andersons find a way through daunting challenges. Thank you, and may God bless you!

**Children's names and photos changed for confidentiality.*

Epworth

Serving Children & Families

Did you know?

1,293
Number of children served through our residential, foster care, and kinship programs in 2025

2,230
Number of children and families served by all Epworth programs in 2025

100%
Of your Mother's Day offering provides comprehensive care for the children at Epworth.

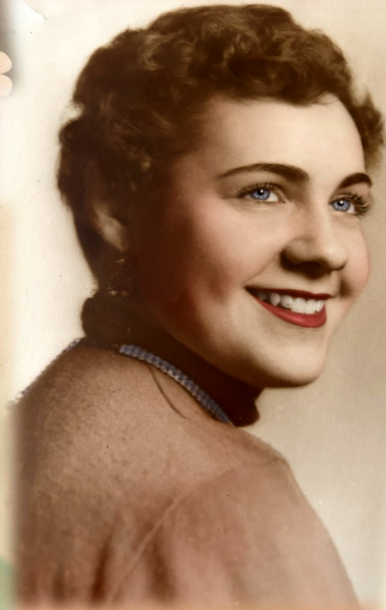
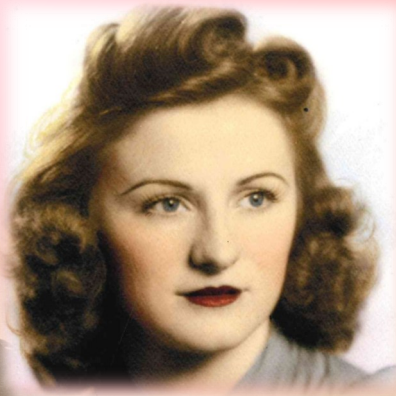




Steve W. Frantz
3/24/1951 - 4/26/2026

Saturday, May 2, 2026
1PM - 2:45 PM Receiving of Friends
3 PM Celebration of Life

Missed here on earth!
In God's Holy presence in Heaven!



We are currently collecting photos for our annual Mother's Day slideshow. If you are new to Lee Road and have not yet submitted a photo of your mother (living or deceased), please email it to office@leeroadumc.com by May 3, 2026. When submitting, please include her full name and ensure the image is in a .jpg, .jpeg, or .png format. Questions? Call the church office at (864) 244-6427.

Wonderful WEDNESDAY

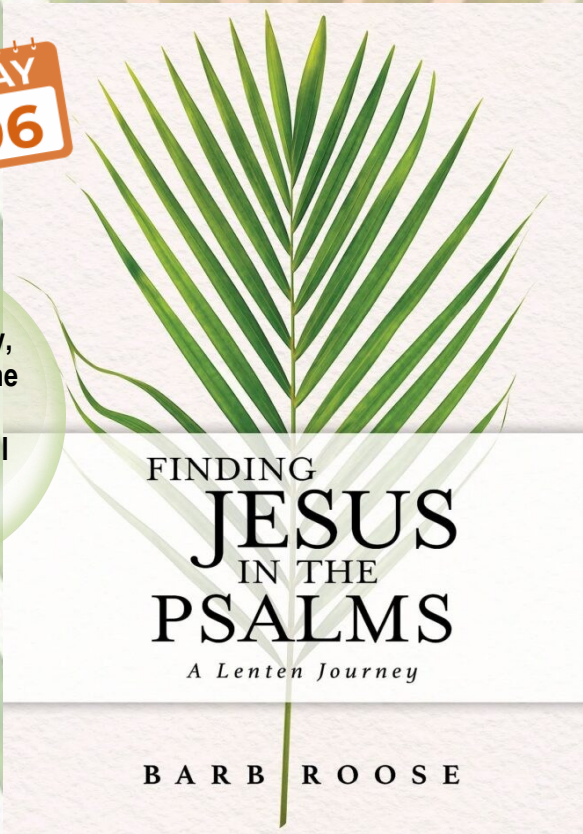
🍴 Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m., and program at 6:45 p.m. for just \$7 per adult! First-time visitors and children eat FREE!

menu: Baked Ziti, Salad & Dessert

Please sign up by NOON on Monday so our Wonderful cooks can prepare accordingly!



Next Wednesday,
May 13, will be the
last Wonderful
Wednesday until
September.

The book cover features a large, detailed illustration of a green palm frond against a light background. The title "FINDING JESUS IN THE PSALMS" is centered in a serif font, with "FINDING" in a smaller size above "JESUS". Below the title is the subtitle "A Lenten Journey" in a smaller, italicized font. At the bottom, the author's name "BARB ROOSE" is written in a spaced-out, all-caps serif font.

FINDING
JESUS
IN THE
PSALMS

A Lenten Journey

BARB ROOSE

Lee Road UMC Youth

PARK CLEAN-UP VOLUNTEERING!

Let's Connect

Greenville is a beautiful city, let's give back and keep it clean!

**Join us on Saturday May
9th from 9-11am
at North Main Rotary Park**



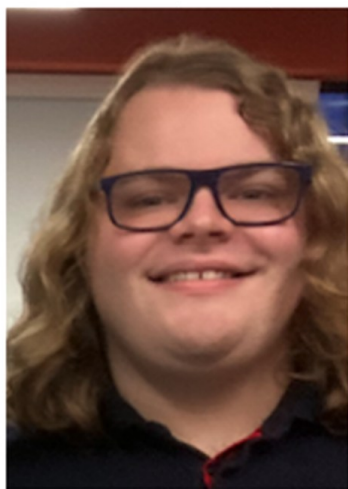
RSVP by Wednesday, May 6th

**Adelaide Kiser
864.631.9252**



**CLASS OF
2026**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LEE ROAD GRADUATES



**Louis Armstrong
Godfrey**

Bachelor of Science,
Computer Science
Clemson University



**Madison De La Cruz
Turcotte**

Master of Architecture,
Georgia Institute of
Technology

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION IN THE SOCIAL HALL
SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026 AT 12 NOON
(Baskets will be put out to collect cards.)**

COMBINED
Family
WORSHIP SERVICE



Communion Sunday, May 3 (Sanctuary, 11 AM)
Celebration of communion as one family of God.

Pentecost Sunday, May 24 (Bridge, 9:30 AM)
Celebration of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church with a special liturgical dance and special visual art pieces designed for this service.

Sunday, May 31 (Bridge, 9:30 AM)
Celebration of the accomplishments and key moments of the Connect Church and the Bridge.

Communion Sunday, June 7 (Sanctuary, 10:30 AM)
Start of our new, blended services at the new time in the updated sanctuary. Catered Celebration Luncheon will follow.

Great time at Unity Park /
Southernside Brewing Company
Saturday, April 25th!



2026 Surround the Cross

Purchase brick pavers in memory or in honor of family members and friends. The pavers will be added to the existing pavers in the courtyard surrounding the cross and will be dedicated on Homecoming Sunday. Order forms can be found in the Narthex and The Bridge Foyer. If you have questions, please call Marsha Wilson (864) 238-0052.

Paver Order Form

Name _____ Contact Number _____

No. of Pavers Ordered (\$100 ea.) _____ Total Given _____

What do you want your pavers to say? You are limited to 4 lines of 17 characters each line. The brick company will automatically center your message from right to left. Please put your letters on the line you want them to appear on. Enclose payment and Order Form in an envelope and turn in to the church office or offering plate.

Paver 1

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Line 4 _____

Paver 2

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Line 4 _____

2026

MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



- + **Lenten Mission (March) – Break The Cycle Global, Rapha House, Kenya. Brooklyn Cole (Richard Hamilton’s niece) will be invited to speak to our church.**
- + **May – Kairos Cookies baked by UMM for Tyger River Long Weekend (May 7-10)**
- + **Mother’s Day (May 10) – Annual Epworth Mother’s Day Offering - to support our conference children’s home in Columbia**
- + **June – Charis Scholarships / Indonesian Mission Trip**
- + **July – Collect school supplies for Hollis Academy**
- + **August 16 - Homecoming: Celebration of Missions of the Church**
- + **September – Epworth Workday Offering**
- + **November 4-17: Indonesian Mission Trip: Solo, Indonesia (Pastor, Laurie, Cindy, Susan)**
- + **November – Kairos Cookies baked for Tyger River Long Weekend (Nov. 12-15)**
- + **December – Choose your own personal charity such as Toys for Tots, etc.**



Upcoming Events

Thursday, April 30, 2026

6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, May 1, 2026

Saturday, May 2, 2026

7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, May 3, 2026

9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Combined Service (Sanctuary)

Monday, May 4, 2026

Tuesday, May 5, 2026—National Teacher Day

6:15 a.m.—9:15 p.m. Quilters Guild (S.H.)

6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous



Wednesday, May 6, 2026—National Nurses Day

8:30 a.m. Men's Sharing Group (S.H.)

9:45 p.m.—10:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal



5:00 p.m. Kids Program (Bridge)

6:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday Meal (S.H.)

6:45 p.m. "Finding Jesus in the Psalms" Study

Thursday, May 7, 2026

6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, May 8, 2026

Saturday, May 9, 2026

7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, May 10, 2026—Mother's Day

Epworth Offering

9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service (Bridge)

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Refreshments (Bridge)

11:00 a.m. Traditional Service (Sanctuary)



Epworth's Annual Mother's Day Offering • May 10

Church Staff

Pastor, Rev. Rusty Godfrey

(864) 214-5815 / revrusty@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Jim Gilliam

Administrative Assistant, Mitzi Heaton

Office (864)244-6427 / office@leeroadumc.com

Financial Secretary, Carol Hyde /

finance@leeroadumc.com

Laurie Fite, Traditional Music Coordinator

Adelaide Kiser, Contemporary Music Coord. &

Youth Director adelaide.mcmillen01@gmail.com /

(864) 631-9252

Organist, Mary Berry

Media Specialist, Chaunce Youngblood



To add to or delete from the list, please call the church office.

Special Prayer Requests

- Vicky Williams
- Peggy Briggs
- Cindy Jones
- Linda Hand
- Geno Cope
- Ann Huntley
- Rev. Jim & Carolyn Gilliam
- Gail Bachman
- Don Sandor
- Harry & Betty Johansen
- Monica Frantz
- Gene & Nancy Johnson
- Max & Susan Cromer
- Mary Jo Gay



2026 Tithes & Offerings
Thank you for giving toward the budget. Your faithfulness is much appreciated.

April 5	\$4,455.00
April 12	\$6,655.00
April 19	\$3,337.40
April 26	\$2,649.00
Total	\$17,096.40

Residential Care

Linda Black, Bob Elson, Jim Crain, Annette Hunter, Natalie Smith, Gene & Nancy Johnson, Sadie Murphy, Max & Susan Cromer, Catherine Hamill, Jim & Carolyn Gilliam

At Home

Ann Huntley (Hospice)
Mary Jo Gay (Hospice)
Father of: Marc Turcotte, Karen Turner

Brother of: Vicky Williams

Nephew of: Linda Black, Mckelvie Wilder, Sandy & Joan Davis

Niece of: Gene Turner, Richard & Stephanie Hamilton

Family of: Don Sandor, Patsy Kleman

Friends of:

Sandy & Joan Davis, Debbie Gantt, Jane Pingley, Elizabeth Lowrey, Gail Bachman, Alida Weber, Trace Silvers, Susan Ford, Pastor Rusty Godfrey

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Contemporary Service—32

Traditional Service—47



Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement and texts of well wishes! I am healing at NHC. Continued thanks for your thoughts and prayers!
Vicky Williams

To my Lee Road Family, Thank you all so much for the prayers, cards and flowers during my recent illness. I sure miss seeing everyone and being remembered by such a wonderful group of people.
Means so much!
Love, Peggy Briggs

Prefer to pay your tithe online?

