



*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/)
<https://www.leeroadumc.com/>

Dear Church Family,

There is a lot of excitement about the beautiful new mural being finished this week by the artist Nick Burns (aka "Ninja Picasso"). We are dedicating this work of art to God with prayer this Sunday, March 30, 2025 in a **COMBINED SERVICE** outdoors at 10 AM. The kids are working on a special song (to sing and to play instruments). We will have two special surprise presentations. Afterwards, there is a baby shower for Adelaide and Jacob Kiser to celebrate the little one on her way. This is ALL to GOD'S GLORY.

Art touches the human soul as it is an expression of who we were made by our Creator to be. God is a Creator, and humans have a "divine spark" to also create. Lions, tigers, and fish do not paint, compose symphonies, write novels and essays, etc. (I once witnessed a Barnum and Bailey elephant put paint on a canvas with a brush held by its trunk. The multi-colored work was then auctioned off by the circus to the highest bidder. As interesting as this was to watch, you won't find that painting in the Louvre.) The creative instinct of humanity is a part of what theologians call the "Imago Dei."

What makes our mural so special? For me, it is primarily that it provides colorful "snapshots" of Jesus in action: laughing with the children, healing the blind man, praying with eyes open looking upward towards heaven, and carrying his cross to Calvary. The empty tomb is there to prominently remind us that because He lives, so shall we who believe in Him and confess Him as Lord and Savior!

This is an historic Lee Road UMC moment. Let's all do our part to be in prayer for it and maximize it with our attendance and invitation to others to join us in our celebration!

In Christ,

Pastor Rusty





Baby in Bloom

Baby Shower for

Adelaide and Jacob Kiser

Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 11:15 AM in The Bridge

After our 10 AM Combined 5th Sunday
Mural Dedication Outside Worship Service

Online Registry <https://my.babylist.com/adelaide-kiser>

TOGETHER

— AT —

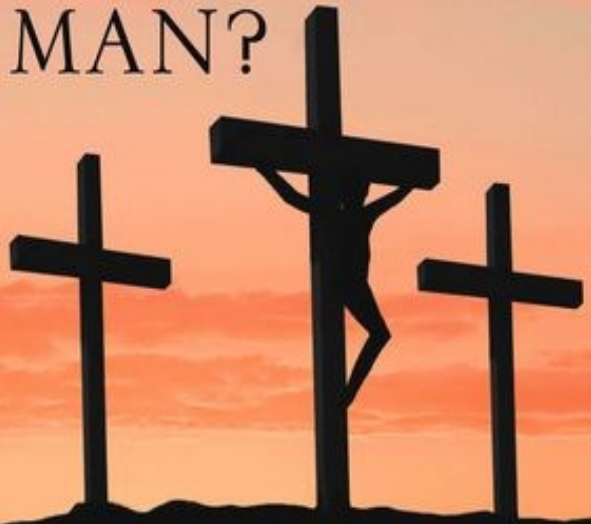
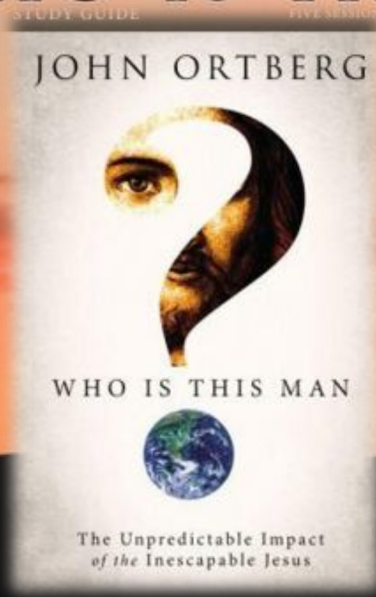
Wednesday Night
DINNER

\$7 (ADULTS) KIDS EAT FREE!

4/2/25 Chicken alfredo over pasta, vegetable, salad and dessert

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY KIDS PROGRAM 5PM / DINNER 6PM / BIBLE STUDY 6:45PM

WHO IS THIS MAN?



Taught by Laurie Fite



UPDATES FROM PASTOR RUSTY FOR LEE ROAD UMC PEOPLE

- † The Unity Team will be coordinating the Lee Road Kairos Cookies Bake-Off for next month! **If you wish to schedule a small group** (like Sunday School classes) of 3-5 persons in the church kitchen, please tell Sandy Davis your date, team members, and number of cookies you will bake. **If you wish to bake a few dozen cookies yourself**, please bring them to the church in a ziplock freezer bag by **Sunday, April 20, 2025**. You may bake them anytime at home next month and put in the freezer when cooled. Additionally, while homemade cookies are preferred by the inmates, you may also buy cookies (chocolate chip, sugar, peanut butter) and bring these in.
- † Pastor will be presenting a talk in the prison on Saturday, April 5, 2025 called "What Are the Results of Trusting God."
- † The link to Kairos Tiger River #33 for prayer sign-ups at [TR #33 Prayer Vigil](#) is now available for you to sign up for 1/2 hour slots to be praying for the men during the weekend of our walk in May. Please sign up and pray for us.
- † Pastor has sold the required \$200 for meal tickets for the long weekend in May (T.R. #33). Thank you to those who donated to this worthy effort to show God's love!
- † Lee Road UMC has hosted thus far four Tyger River (TR) Kairos Chapter meetings on Saturdays from 8 AM - 1 PM. It is expected from each team member to attend 80% of the 36 hour training and discipleship sessions in preparation for each long weekend ("walks").
- † Sandy Davis has submitted an approved application with the SC Department of Corrections so he can join the food prep logistical team that provides the meals for the May "walk."
- † Kairos does two 4-day "walks" in the prisons per calendar year. The next 4-day "walk" at Tyger River is "T.R.#33" from May 1-4, 2025 (Thursday through Sunday).

LRUMC Lenten Calendar

† April 12th—Easter Egg Hunt from 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

† April 13th—Palm Sunday “March Into Worship”

10AM—Contemporary Service (Line up outside The Bridge)

11AM—Traditional Service (Line up outside the front of the sanctuary
* choir on the front porch)

† April 17th @ 6:30PM—Maundy Thursday Service (soup afterward)
(St. Matthew UMC, Taylors will join LRUMC for this service)

† April 18th @ 12PM—Good Friday Service at St. Matthew UMC, Taylors
(2507 Rutherford Rd, Greenville, SC 29609)

† April 20th—Easter Sunday

7AM—Easter Sunrise Service

10AM—Contemporary Easter Service

11AM—Traditional Easter Service

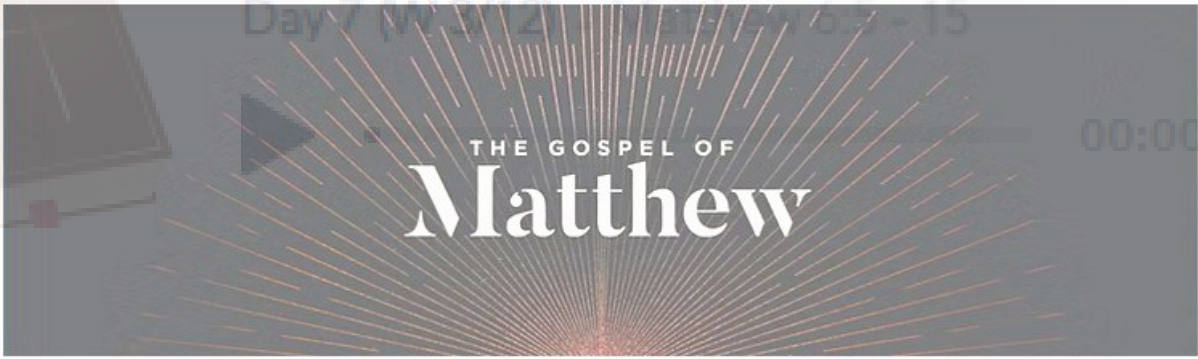
LENTEN REFLECTION BOARD

SUNDAY IN LENT DATE	GUIDING QUESTIONS	ITEM TO BRING TO WORSHIP
March 30	What word drains you the most of spiritual energy?	Word Index card size (either 3x5" or 4x6")
April 6	What thing of beauty brings you joy?	Image Index card size (either 3x5" or 4x6")
April 13	What do you think of when you consider the Lordship of Jesus?	Word Index card size (either 3x5" or 4x6")



LENT

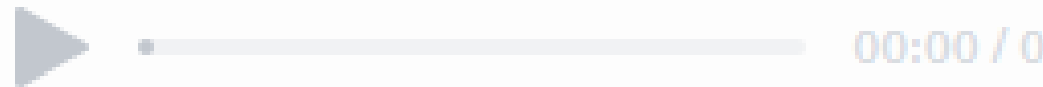
A SEASON OF RENEWAL



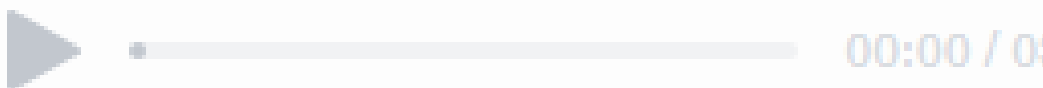
Lent: Daily Readings in the Gospel of Matthew

The last 2 years I've served as pastor, we have done "synchronous readings" of the Gospels of Mark and Luke. This Lent, we are taking a 40 day journey through Lent with the Gospel of Matthew. I have 6 different readers who have recorded Matthew in 36 portions (Sundays are off). I have posted the first 10 daily readings at our church website. I hope that you will journey with us!

<https://www.leeroadumc.com/lent>



Day 10: (Sa 3/15) - Matthew 8: 1-22



2025 Wednesday Kids Programming

WED. DATE	ACTIVITY	COORDINATORS	SAFE SANCTUARY PERSON
3/26	Singing Lesson	Adelaide Kiser	Pastor
4/2	Mulching Beds	Sandy Davis	Kisers
4/30	Craft	Pilar Turner	Kisers
5/7	Gardening	Adelaide Kiser & Sandy Davis	Nona Walser
5/14	Gardening	Adelaide Kiser & Sandy Davis	Nona Walser

1. Plan for at least 45 minutes of instruction / hands-on activities. Begin no later than 5:05 PM. Any late “scholars” will be folded in as best they can be.
2. Plan to eliminate any downtime (such as cooking time).
3. Plan for at least 12 children to attend your session (ages 8-14 years old).
4. Try to foster teamwork and no competition or contests.
5. Begin the lesson by having a short kid-appropriate devotion (aim for 5th grade level) followed by a prayer. Next, inform them what the activity is and go over rules (cell phones must be in the basket, no talking when the presenter is speaking, raise your hand if you have any questions).
6. End your lesson at ten minutes until 6 PM and get the kids to clean up the space. Then walk them up to the social hall for the church dinner. Get them to sit at the kids’ table. (Some will be picked up by their parents at 6 PM and taken home.)
7. Any consumable materials that you need for your lesson that you wish to be reimbursed for please save receipts (with no personal items on them) and staple them to the disbursement authorization form (next page). Turn the form with receipts into the church office.
8. Pastor will get a “safe sanctuary” person assigned to each Wednesday.



The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Upstate SC will take place on Friday, April 25, 2025 at Gibbs Cancer Center and Research Institute 2759 SC-14 Greer, SC.

The Survivor's Dinner will begin at 5 pm (must register to attend) with the remaining activities taking place from 6-10 pm.

Although each Relay For Life event embraces the uniqueness of the home community, every event does have the same four signature elements:

- † a celebration of cancer survivors
- † a celebration of caregivers
- † a luminaria ceremony to honor and remember loved ones
- † the opportunity to fight back against cancer

To register, make a donation or purchase a luminary, look for the display table in the Social Hall or contact Linda Schinck at 864-414-7268



Hi, I'm Joshua I want to tell you about my activities during January, apart from school activities and church activities, I also often practice music at home and also help my parents clean the house. And at the end of January I went to Nganjuk, East Java to celebrate Chinese New Year with my extended family. That's my activity in January. May we all remain healthy and blessed by God always.



No matter where you live in the world, chances are you're familiar with the tradition of playing practical jokes on friends and family on April 1. But have you ever wondered how April Fools' Day got started? Legends have it that April Fools' Day began in France in 1564. Prior to 1564, April 1st used to be celebrated as New Year's Day. Those who insisted on celebrating the "old" New Year's became known as April fools and it became common to play jokes on one another. Some also say that it has to do with Mother Nature fooling us. Sometimes, a late March/early April storm brings snow, fooling us, since the calendar says it is spring. The truth is, no one really knows for certain what the origin of April Fools' Day is, though it's been celebrated in many varied cultures for hundreds — maybe even thousands — of years. One popular story posits that the tradition began during the 16th Century after Pope Gregory XIII decreed the switch from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. Prior to that time, the first day of April marked the start of the New Year, but the new calendar moved the start of the year to January. According to this particular origin story, an "April fool" was someone who could be tricked into receiving visitors on April 1 for a "New Year" celebration. But other evidence seems to indicate that April Fools' Day existed, in some form or other, long before Pope Gregory's day. Roughly 200 years before the calendar changed, English poet Geoffrey Chaucer seemed to reference April Fools' Day in his Canterbury Tales, when the characters of a rooster and a fox each trick one another. Chaucer notes that the date of the events described is March 32 (also known as April 1). One of the oldest known prank traditions at this time of year is Sizdah Bedar, the Persian New Year. Residents of the area that became modern-day Iran have played jokes on one another during this holiday — which always falls on either April 1 or 2 — since at least 536 B.C. This tradition is still practiced today. Whatever the origin of April Fools' Day, different traditions have developed in different countries over the years. Here are just a few:

April Fools' Day Pranks Around The World

In some countries, all April Fools' Day pranks must be completed by noon. Anyone playing a joke after that deadline is called an "April Fool." In North America, this tradition is generally followed in Canada, but not in the United States. In Italy, France, and French-speaking areas of Canada, one popular tradition is to attempt to stick a paper fish on someone's back without their noticing. This practice is known as *poisson d'avril*, or "April's fish," a phrase that can sometimes refer to April Fools' pranks in general. In Belgium, children often lock parents or teachers out of a room or building, only agreeing to let them in exchange for a treat. In Poland, large-scale hoaxes by the media, and even the government are so widespread that people often avoid engaging in serious activities for the day. At least one important historic event — the signing of the anti-Turkish alliance by Emperor Leopold I in 1683 — was backdated from April 1 to March 31. In Scotland, April Fools' Day used to be called "Hunt the Gowk Day." "Gowk" is an old Scottish word for a foolish person. A traditional prank involved sending the "gowk" to deliver a sealed message. The message instructed the recipient, "Dinna laugh, dinna smile. Hunt the gowk another mile." The recipient would then send the victim onward to another person, bearing an identical sealed message. The joke went on until either the "gowk" got wise to what was going on, or someone took pity on him.

Source: <http://farmersalmanac.com/april-fools-day>



Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 27, 2025

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

Friday, March 28, 2025

Saturday, March 29, 2025

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

Sunday, March 30, 2025

10:00 a.m. Combined Contemporary Service
(Bridge Mural Dedication)

11:15 a.m. Baby Shower for Adelaide Kiser (in
The Bridge)

4:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice

Monday, March 31, 2025

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Faith Montessori (Bridge)

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous (S.H)

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

9:00 a.m. Men's Sharing Group (S.H.)

5:00 p.m. Bridge Kids Program

6:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday Meal

6:45 p.m. Lenten Study

Thursday, April 3, 2025

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

Friday, April 4, 2025

Saturday, April 5, 2025

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

Sunday, April 6, 2025

9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Service (Bridge)

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

4:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice

1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. Confirmation Class



Legends of April Fool's Day

Church Staff

Pastor, Rev. Rusty Godfrey

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

Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Jim Gilliam

Administrative Assistant, Mitzi Heaton

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

(Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.)

Financial Secretary, Carol Hyde

finance@leeroadumc.com

Adelaide Kiser, Contemporary Worship Coord.

864-631-9252

Organist, Mary Berry

Media Specialist, Chaunce Youngblood

Custodian, Gene Turner



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

Special Prayer Requests

- Peggy Briggs
- Laurie Fite
- Karen Turner
- Janet West
- Debbie Gantt
- Mel Casby
- Julie Ross
- Geno Cope
- Phil Whitlock
- Nona Walser
- Susan and Max Cromer
- Steve Frantz
- Patricia Gordon

Residential Care

Linda Black, Bob & Ellen Elson,
Jim & Jean Crain, Annette
Hunter, Natalie Smith

At Home

Sadie Murphy
Ann Huntley (with daughter)

Extended Family

Mother of: Dusty Ross, Tammy
Brown

Father of: Marc Turcotte, Karen
Turner

Daughter of: Laurie Fite

Brother of: Vicky Williams

Sister of: Jane Pingley

Son-in-Law of: Carl & Beth
Kohlhepp

Nephew of: Linda Black

Niece of: Laurie Fite, Gene
Turner

Nephew of: Sandy & Joan Davis

Family of: Don Sandor, Mike
Lewis, Patsy Kleman, Carol Hyde

Friends of:

Sandy & Joan Davis, Debbie
Gantt, Jane Pingley, Elizabeth
Lowrey, Gail Bachman, Wayne &
Denise Dorr, Alida Weber, Mike
Martin, Trace Silvers



Sunday, March 23, 2025
Contemporary Service—40
Traditional Service—46

2025 Tithes & Offerings
\$7,200 (needed weekly to
meet budget)

March 2	\$17,345.00
March 9	\$2,650.00
March 16	\$3,754.00
March 23	\$5,634.00
March 30	
Total	\$29,383.00

Explanation for higher than
usual deposit: A member
paid their annual tithe.

Prefer to pay your tithe online?



TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

- March—Greg Strong
- April—Trace Silvers
- May—Tim Briggs
- June—
- July—Trace Silvers
- August—Marcy Durham
- September—Tim Briggs
- October—Trace Silvers
- November—Greg Strong
- December—Robin Duncan



Watch Services Live!
Contemporary Service at 10AM
Traditional Service at 11AM