



*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,

What do you think of when you hear the word “blended”? I immediately think of certain food products like Starbucks “Christmas Blend” coffee and “Pumpkin Spice.” I also make a mean multi-spice seasoning for the turkey chili for our family taco nights. Combining elements to make a unique flavor profile is exciting in the culinary sense.

In the visual arts, mixed media is a concept with which many are familiar. Remember the Lenten project we did last year as a congregation with words, cut images, and other visuals arranged as a collage around a central image of Jesus by Denise Wilson? This innovative creation warranted an article in the *SC Methodist Advocate newspaper*. What we produced was hands-on and cutting edge in nature.

In music, many innovative artists have experimented with fusion creating a mixture of different genres. Trumpeter Miles Davis even blended jazz, electronic instrumentation, funk, and rhythm and blues. Miles wanted to stay up-to-date and relevant with his music. He knew that the audiences of the 1960s, 70s, and 80s were changing rapidly with new generations.

So what about worship arts? Recently I held a meeting with the worship leaders and staff about elements of our new blended service that will start Sunday, June 7, 2026. We discussed which of the best elements to retain from each style of worship (contemporary and traditional). What will be created is a truly blended service in which we worship together as one church family on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM. This will occur in a freshly, updated interior with a more inclusive, welcoming vibe, but within the historical sanctuary with its beautiful stained glass windows and glorious light.

What does our Lord require of us in worship? Not specific styles or even specific music. Not labels or categories. God wants authenticity (purity of the heart) and a singularity of purpose: that everything we do is done for the “Audience of One” (the Triune God).

In Christ,  
Rusty

**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. Celebration luncheon will follow with members  
bringing a pot-luck salad and church grilling meat for the event.

# Revitalization of Lee Road UMC – Background and Progress Report

Revitalization is technical defined as: the strategic process of updating and improving a brand to enhance its relevance, appeal and market presence in response to changing consumer needs and market dynamics. Your Lee Road UMC leaders are now very actively engaged in planning the revitalization of our church to enhance our relevance and appeal to prospective new members of today and tomorrow.

- On 8 March the Growth Task Force met and prepared a recommendation that we move to a single “blended” service in our sanctuary beginning on 7 June.
- On 12 March the Leadership Team overwhelmingly approved this recommendation and designated a Revitalization Team to provide recommendations to the Campus Team on how we can make our sanctuary more relevant and inviting to newcomers.
- On 22 March Pastor Rusty met with worship leaders to design an Order of Worship which will be appealing to a blended membership who prefer both our traditional and contemporary worship.
- On Sunday 12 April the Trustees Revitalization Team met with our professional consultant to define essential changes to revitalize our sanctuary worship area.
- On Monday 13 April the Human Relations Team met and discussed staffing adjustments, and encouraged full and open transparency of the process.
- On Monday 13 April the Campus Team met and approved initial recommendations of the Revitalization Team including:
  - Opening of the narthex area and establishment of a hospitality area.
  - Replacing our pews with movable cushioned chairs from the Bridge to allow flexibility and comfort
  - Opening the chancel area to accommodate the Collective band and relocating furnishings while preserving the sanctity of area.
- On Thursday, 16 April the Revitalization Team will meet to finalize our initial plan and schedule initial work.

Physical changes will begin in the sanctuary in the near future. Your feedback and input to this process is welcome. Please reach out to any of our church leaders with any recommendations or concerns.

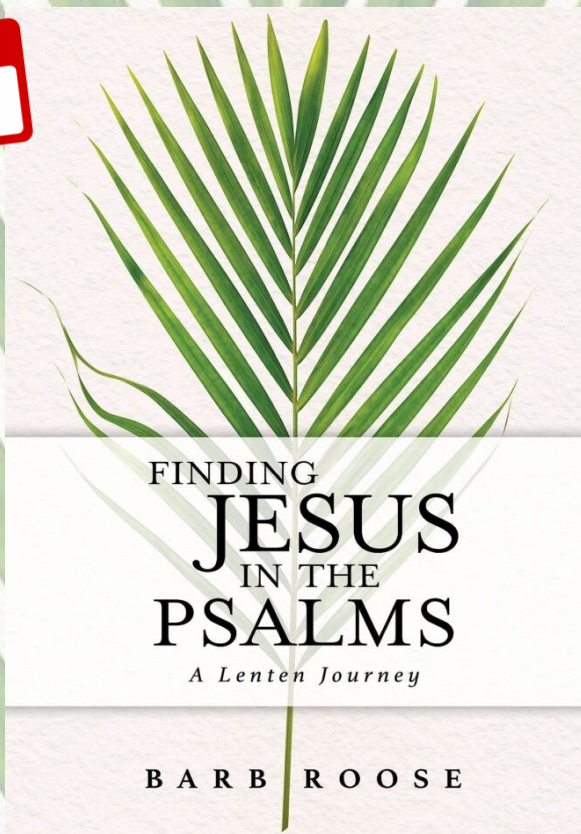
**Change = Relevance = Growth!**

# 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: Country Dinner (baked cured ham, buttered cabbage, creamed potatoes & green beans

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





# Let's Go to the **HONOR TOWER**

Join us on Saturday, April 25th  
from 1-3pm for a visit to the Honor  
Tower!

This activity is free, full of fun and full  
of history, so all you will need is some  
sunscreen and a water bottle!

**Located in Unity Park  
in Downtown  
Greenville**

RSVP by Wednesday, April 22nd  
(864)631-9252

*Let's Connect*

Lee Road UMC Youth

## **PARK CLEAN-UP VOLUNTEERING!**



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

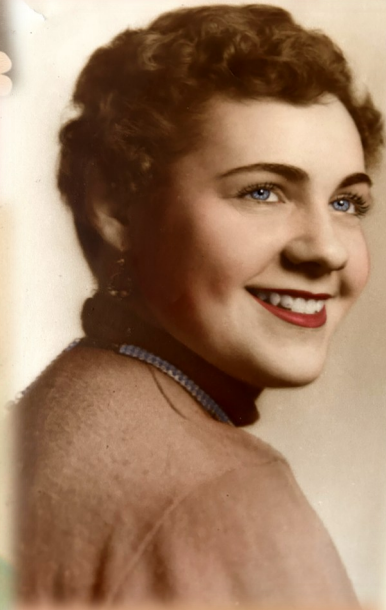
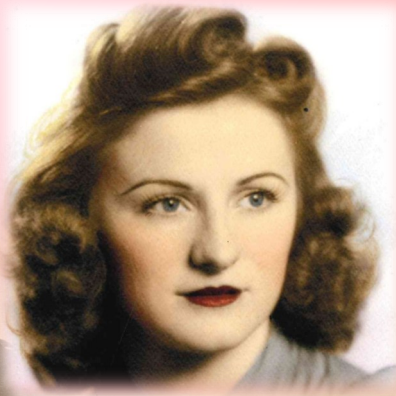
**2026**

# MISSIONS

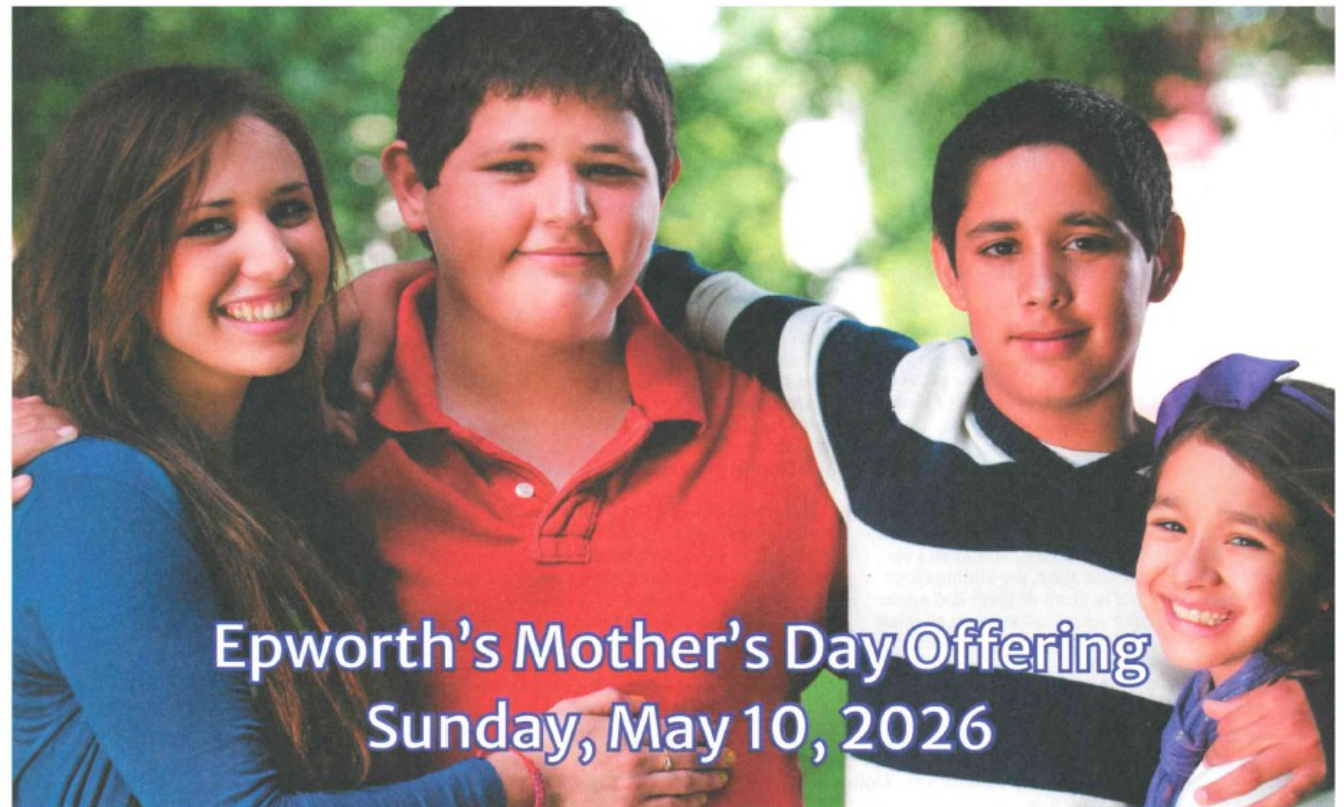
...at home and around the world



- + **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.**



**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](mailto: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.**



## 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.



Lee Road would like to recognize our  
2026 high school and college graduates.  
Please submit your name, school, and  
degree to the church office.

FOR I KNOW *the plans*  
I HAVE FOR YOU  
DECLARES

*the Lord*

PLANS TO *prosper you*  
AND NOT TO *harm you*  
PLANS TO  
GIVE YOU *Hope*

*Future* AND A

JEREMIAH 29:11

There will be a reception to congratulate  
our graduates on Sunday, May 10, 2026,  
at 12:00 PM in the Social Hall.

SENIOR  
2026  
OR



**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.)**



*Let's Connect*

**LEE ROAD UMC DROP-IN  
SOUTHERNSIDE BREWERY**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25 from 3-4:30 PM**

**Come & join us for a fun time of off campus fellowship**

**Address:**

**25 Delano Dr Unit D, Greenville, SC 29601**

**(In Unity Park in downtown Greenville.)**

**Event sponsored by the HR Team & Marty Cook.**



**Bowling: Girls vs. Boys = Fun times!**



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# Foothills Piecemakers Quilting Guild



## QUILTING Greenville Style



April 24 – April 25, 2026 | 10-6 Friday | 10-4 Saturday

Shriners Hejaz Greenville Event Center  
119 Beverly Rd, Greenville, SC  
Cost \$8.00 per person

Raffle Quilt Featuring  
Greenville Landmarks  
Local Vendors  
Children's Activities  
Quilt Demos  
Mystery Bags

Food & Beverages  
(available for purchase)  
Raffle Baskets  
Silent Auction  
Free Parking  
ATM

Quilts of Valor presentation - 11 am | Saturday | April 25



## Upcoming Events

### **Thursday, April 23, 2026**

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

### **Friday, April 24, 2026**

### **Saturday, April 25, 2026**

1:00 p.m. —3:00 p.m. Youth Group Outing

3:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m. Southernside Brewery Event

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

### **Sunday, April 26, 2026**

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)

### **Monday, April 27, 2026**

### **Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

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

### **Wednesday, April 29, 2026**

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, 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)



April showers  
bring May flowers

### Church Staff

Pastor, Rev. Rusty Godfrey

(864) 214-5815 / [revrustygodfrey@gmail.com](mailto:revrustygodfrey@gmail.com)

Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Jim Gilliam

Administrative Assistant, Mitzi Heaton

Office (864)244-6427 / [office@leeroadumc.com](mailto:office@leeroadumc.com)

Financial Secretary, Carol Hyde /

[finance@leeroadumc.com](mailto:finance@leeroadumc.com)

Laurie Fite, Traditional Music Coordinator

Adelaide Kiser, Contemporary Music Coord. &

Youth Director [adelaide.mcmillen01@gmail.com](mailto:adelaide.mcmillen01@gmail.com) /

(864) 631-9252

Organist, Mary Berry

Media Specialist, Chance Youngblood

Custodian, Gene Turner



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

**Special Prayer Requests**

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

*Thank you*

Thank you, Lee Road, for the lovely plant, all the cards, and the support during this difficult time for myself and our family. Even though he had not been able to attend church regularly in recent months, Vince loved Lee Road and the many friends we've made in our 35 years here.  
 In Christ's Love,  
 Jennifer McNeese

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

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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,447.40</b>

**ATTENDANCE**

Sunday, April 19, 2026  
 Contemporary Service—34  
 Traditional Service—36

Prefer to pay your tithe online?



SCAN ME

