



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

Dear Church Family,

Today in my daily reading of the One Year Chronological Bible I started the Book of James. James is really a beautiful book. It makes some important distinctions about following Christ that the early Christian Church needed to hear and put into practice. And guess what? The church today 100% needs to hear these things as well. Many times we think of religion as a formal set of rules or worship practices, but our faith is *and should be* so much more! James 1:27 gives us what the Father expects:

***Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.***

James delves deeply into how our faith should be expressed in actions and not just in words.

***What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:14-17)***

This verse is twisted by some into James saying that our works save us. No. That's not at all what he is saying. Faith in Christ alone saves us. James isn't arguing with that. He is saying that if we follow Jesus, we need to truly care for others (those whom Jesus called our "neighbor") with actions. Allow me to tweak a popular kids' song to say what I think James meant:

***If you're a Christian, and you know it  
Then your actions oughta show it  
If you're a Christian, and you know it  
Do good deeds.***

Rev. John Wesley called these "works of mercy" (offering comfort to others, visiting the sick and prisoners, and working to change systems that hurt and victimize people). Pray to God to help you identify the ways that you can perform works of mercy.

In Christ,  
Pastor Rusty

# Church Growth

Task Force

UPDATE



**Thank you everyone for your feedback during our focus group sessions. This feedback has been very valuable and is being seriously considered as the Task Force seeks changes in our programming and activities which we feel will facilitate growth at Lee Road.**

**Based on your feedback the Task Force determined that it would not recommend moving to a combined blended service at this time and that we place our efforts on accelerating several other growth initiatives. In addition, based on what you find most meaningful in our services, Pastor Rusty will be introducing some changes in the Order of Worship in our services.**

**Our Task Force efforts will be focused on overhauling our social media platforms, seeking a Director of Youth Activities, planning some church wide social gatherings, and revitalizing our United Methodist Men organization. We encourage you to provide your full support behind these initiatives.**

# FALL 2025 Wednesday Kids Programming 5-6 PM

| WED. DATE | ACTIVITY   | COORDINATORS                           | SAFE SANCTUARY PERSON   | BIBLE LESSON           |
|-----------|--|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 11/19     | Angel Craft and Pine Cone Craft                        | Debbie Gantt                           | Sandy Davis             | Jesus & Judas Iscariot |
| 12/3      | Christmas Pageant Rehearsal                            | Pilar and Felicity Turner              | Chris & Gerri Trabookis | Pageant Rehearsal      |
| 12/10     | Christmas Pageant Rehearsal<br>** pizza/drink provided | Pilar and Felicity Turner, Laurie Fite | Chris & Gerri Trabookis | Pageant Rehearsal      |

12/17 — 6 PM pizza dinner and 6:30 Christmas Pageant Performance in the Sanctuary

Dec. 3

Menu: Pizza!

**LAST ONE**

# Wonderful WEDNESDAY

🍴 Dinner starts at **6:00 p.m.**, and **program at 6:45 p.m.** The best part? For just **\$7 per adult**, you'll enjoy a hearty meal and a night full of fun, fellowship, and inspiration. **First-time visitors and children eat FREE!** It's a deal you won't find anywhere else!

The background of the entire image is a rustic wooden surface with a prominent grain. At the top, there is a cluster of autumn leaves in various shades of orange, yellow, and red. The text is overlaid on the wood.

**Tuesday, November 25, 2025**  
**@ LCOS at 6:30 PM with meal to follow.**  
**2600 Wade Hampton Blvd. (Across from Denny's)**

*Thanksgiving  
Service*



# Prospective Members Classes

Are you new to Lee Road United Methodist Church? Interested in becoming part of our church family? (We are a friendly bunch after all!) Have you been with us “for a while now”, and would like to explore the option of formally becoming a member? Do you have questions about our local church, missions, our denominational beliefs, UMC news, etc., that you would like to get answers to in a small friendly group setting? Well, we have a proposal for you.

Join us for our fall cycle of prospective new member classes! It is absolutely not necessary to take this class to become a member, but we believe that this class is very helpful to help folks make the decision that is right for themselves as led by the Holy Spirit. The classes are designed to be 45-60 minutes in length. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. Kids are welcome to stay and learn, or play board games, etc. The dates and topics are as follows:

December 7 “Get Committed” Class — Pastor’s Office at 9:30 AM

At the conclusion of these classes, the Pastor will discuss if people would like to formally join the church in membership during morning worship on Sunday, December 14, 2025 (Third Sunday of Advent = “Joy Sunday” / Gaudete Sunday). This step is not a requirement, but rather an option for those who feel they are ready. Any further questions, please contact Pastor Rusty.

Please RSVP the Pastor if you plan to attend the class. Thank you. My email is [revrustyg@gmail.com](mailto:revrustyg@gmail.com) and you may also text me at my cellphone 864-214-5815.



### Christmas Flower Fund

The congregation is invited to make contributions to the "Christmas Flower Fund" which will be used to purchase poinsettias. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please make your checks payable to Lee Road UMC and designate the checks for the "Christmas Flower Fund." Please include any requests for memorials or dedications with your contribution. A memorial/dedication list will be published in the church bulletin on Sunday, December 14th. Individual poinsettia plants will be available for **\$15.00** each.

# of Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUS DONATIONS

*Spread the Joy!*

Please plan ahead now to make a generous gift to our staff. We will collect your gifts until Monday, 15 December 2025. We are so blessed with such wonderful staff members of our Lee Road Family. So, be grateful for the many ways they serve us. Thank you.

Staff Parish Relations Committee



# Lee Road UMC Annual Christmas Pageant

2025

**Directors: Pastor, Pilar Turner, Laurie Fite, Chelsea Brilliantt**

**13 Roles Needed: Mary, Joseph, 4 Shepherds, 4 angels (Archangel Gabriel + three others), 3 Wise Men. We can “scale down” the number of angels and shepherds if we need to.**

## **2 Required Rehearsals\***

- ⇒ **Rehearsal 1: Wednesday, 12/3 at 5:00 PM in sanctuary  
(Wonderful Wednesday kids meal available in social hall)**
- ⇒ **Rehearsal 2: Wednesday, 12/10 at 5:00 PM in sanctuary  
(practice and then have pizza and drink for pageant people in social hall)**
- ⇒ **Actual Pageant Performance\* Wednesday, 12/17 at 6:45 PM in sanctuary  
(6 PM pizza and drink in the social hall for entire church)**

**\*Involves commitment of adults and kids to make this the priority for these 3 dates and times.**

# INTRODUCING THE NEW STEWARDSHIP TEAM

This committee is a part of our new administrative structure that starts on January 1, 2026. The committee is comprised of Gene Turner (chairperson), Steve Frantz, Peggy Briggs, and Denise Wilson. The team will meet **every-other-month** on the **third Mondays at 6 PM in the board room** (the chair may need to call additional meetings as necessary). Starting in February, the **scheduled dates in 2026 are Feb. 16, Apr. 20, June 15, Aug. 17, Oct. 19, and Dec. 21.**

All meetings are **OPEN to anyone in the church** who has an interest in the core functions of the committee, which are as follows:

- To create a budget for the church
- To manage all fiduciary aspects of the church
- To be good stewards of church monies
- To encourage faithful giving

Have any questions? Please contact Gene Turner.



**Everything** we Have is a Gift from God  
that we Are to Use to Help Others.

# INTRODUCING THE NEW WITNESS TEAM

This committee is a part of our new administrative structure that starts on January 1, 2026. The committee is comprised of Laurie Fite (chairperson), Joan Davis, Cindy Stewart, and Prudy Cook. Starting in February, the team will meet every-other-month on the third Mondays at 7 PM in the board room (the chair may need to call additional meetings as necessary). Therefore, the **scheduled dates in 2026 are Feb. 16, Apr. 20, June 15, Aug. 17, Oct. 19, and Dec. 21.**

All meetings are **OPEN to anyone in the church** who has an interest in the core functions of the committee, which are as follows:

- To facilitate missions for the church
- To greet and welcome visitors and follow-up
- To plan evangelistic activities and outreach for the church
- To help care for members

Have any questions? Please contact Laurie Fite.



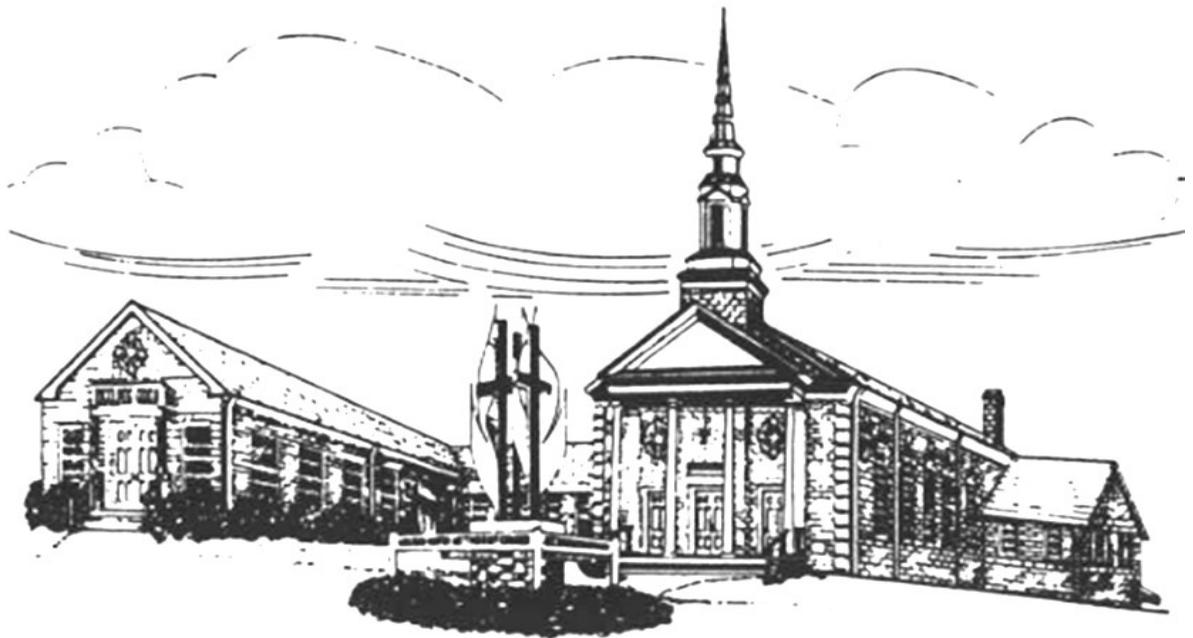
# INTRODUCING THE NEW CAMPUS TEAM

This committee is a part of our new administrative structure that starts on January 1, 2026. The committee is comprised of Trace Silvers (chairperson), Greg Strong, Geno Cope, and Debbie Gantt. The team will meet every-other-month on the second Mondays at 7 PM in the board room (the chair may need to call additional meetings as necessary). Starting in February, the **scheduled dates in 2026 are Feb. 9, Apr. 13, June 8, Aug. 10, Oct. 12, and Dec. 14.**

All meetings are **OPEN to anyone in the church** who has an interest in the core functions of the committee, which are as follows:

- To care for the physical plant of the church
- To ensure “safe sanctuary” policies and the safety of everyone
- To make LRUMC an attractive and up-to-date facility for worship

Have any questions? Please **contact Trace Silvers.**



# INTRODUCING THE NEW HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM

This committee is a part of our new administrative structure that starts on January 1, 2026. The committee is comprised of Marty Cook (chairperson), Sidney Skardon, Pat Youngblood, and Smitty Ervin. Starting in February, the team will meet **every-other-month** on the **second Mondays at 6 PM in the board room** (the chair may need to call additional meetings as necessary). Therefore, the **scheduled dates in 2026 are Feb. 9, Apr. 13, June 8, Aug. 10, Oct. 12, and Dec. 14.**

Due to the sensitive nature of this committee's work, the committee may close its meetings in executive session. The core functions of the committee are as follows:

- To care for the staff persons of the church
- To maintain church harmony and unity between the clergy and laity
- To facilitate communication amongst all sectors of the church
- To complete annual pastor evaluation and advisory forms
- To nominate people to fill offices (when this occurs, Pastor chairs meeting)

Have any questions? Please contact Marty Cook.



# INTRODUCING THE NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

This committee is a part of our new administrative structure that starts on January 1, 2026. The committee is comprised of Jimmy Gaddy (chairperson), the Lay Leader, Pastor, and the 4 members of each subteam (Witness, Campus, Stewardship, and HR). Starting in January, the team will meet **every-other-month** on the **second Mondays at 6 PM in the board room** (the chair may need to call additional meetings as necessary). Therefore, the **scheduled dates in 2026 are Jan. 12, March 9, May 11, July 13, Sept. 14, and Nov 8.**

All meetings are OPEN to anyone in the church who has an interest in the core functions of the committee, which are as follows:

- To make important church-wide decisions
- To charter a course for the future of our church
- To maintain our church mission and vision

## **Vision Statement**

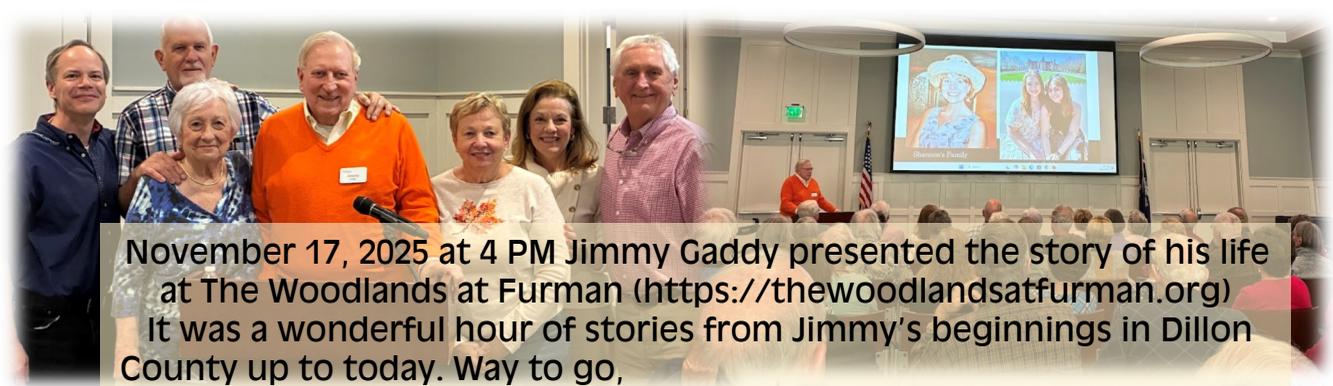
*"Our vision is to create an environment that enables people to experience a relationship with God and to connect with fellow believers."*

## **Mission Statement**

*"Our mission is to be the Servant Church that leads people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ."*

Have any questions? Please contact Jimmy Gaddy.





November 17, 2025 at 4 PM Jimmy Gaddy presented the story of his life at The Woodlands at Furman (<https://thewoodlandsatfurman.org>) It was a wonderful hour of stories from Jimmy's beginnings in Dillon County up to today. Way to go,





**United Ministries**

Transforming Lives Together

***NEED FOOD? WE CAN HELP***

We are in need of volunteers to help load food in and out of the pantry, set up food for distribution, and greet and help residents fill their bags with needed food items of their choice for their family. To volunteer, please sign up at the link below.

[Saturday Volunteers: Community Food Distribution](#)

Questions, Please contact Quiwana L James at 864-233-6602

or feel free to email me at [gjames@united-ministries.org](mailto:gjames@united-ministries.org)

# **FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | 10AM - 12PM**

**UNITED MINISTRIES PARKING LOT**  
**606 PENDLETON STREET, GREENVILLE, SC 29601**

### **COME AND GET FREE GROCERIES FOR YOUR FAMILY**

- **SERVING ANYONE IN GREENVILLE COUNTY**
- **NO PROOF OF INCOME OR ID REQUIRED**
- **FIRST COME FIRST SERVE, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**
- **ALL ARE WELCOME**

### **ARE YOU CARING FOR A HOMEBOUND NEIGHBOR?**

**WE WELCOME YOU TO ACCEPT GROCERIES ON THEIR BEHALF**

**UNITED-MINISTRIES.ORG**

# Joella's Charms the Gospel Musical

Joella's Charms the Gospel Musical Tickets, Fri, Dec 5, 2025 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite



Dec 5 from 7pm to 10pm  
911 Saint Mark Road  
Taylors, SC 29687



## Overview

Join us for Joella's Charms: The Gospel Musical — a one-night-only event filled with soul-stirring songs, heartfelt storytelling, and unforgettable performances. Set in both Jamaica and the American South, this powerful modern retelling of the story of Joseph and his brothers will take you on a journey of betrayal, forgiveness, and the unshakable grace of God. With a cast of dynamic voices, original music, and dramatic stage moments, Joella's Charms promises to move your spirit and captivate your heart.



## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, November 20, 2025**

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

**Friday, November 21, 2025**

**Saturday, November 22, 2025**

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

**Sunday, November 23, 2025**

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, November 24, 2025**

**Tuesday, November 25, 2025**

6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Service at LCOS

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

**Wednesday, November 26, 2025**

Church office closed!

8:30 a.m. **NO** Men's Sharing Group (S.H.)

9:45 p.m.—10:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, November 27, 2025**

Church office closed!

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

**Friday, November 28, 2025**

**Saturday, November 29, 2025**

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

**Sunday, November 30, 2025**

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)

# Happy Thanksgiving



**Combined Sundays in December 2025  
(Communion Sundays + Special Sundays)**

**Advent 2 / Consecration Sunday  
December 7 (Sanctuary at 11 AM)**

**Advent 3 / Communion Sunday / Membership Sun.  
December 14 (Bridge at 9:30 AM)**

**Christmas Eve Service  
Wednesday, December 24 (Bridge at 6:00 PM)**



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

**Special Prayer Requests**

- Nancy Johnson
- Joan Davis
- Geno Cope
- Jimmy Gaddy
- Jim Crain
- Linda Black
- Max & Susan Cromer
- Mary Jo Gay
- Mel Casby

Residential Care

Linda Black, Bob & Ellen Elson,  
Jim Crain, Annette Hunter,  
Natalie Smith, Gene Johnson &  
Sadie Murphy

At Home

Ann Huntley (with daughter)

Extended Family

Mother of: Tammy Brown

Father of: Marc Turcotte, Karen  
Turner

Brother of: Vicky Williams

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

Niece of: Laurie Fite, Gene  
Turner

Family of: Don Sandor, 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



**November 16, 2025**

Contemporary Service — 32  
Traditional Service—38

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 2025 Tithes & Offerings<br>Thank you for giving toward<br>the budget. Your faithfulness<br>is much appreciated. |                    |
| 11/02/25  | \$4,074.00         |
| 11/09/25  | \$12,330.00        |
| 11/16/25  | \$3,688.00         |
| 11/23/25  | \$                 |
| 11/30/25  | \$                 |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$20,092.00</b> |

**Prefer to pay your tithe online?**



SCAN ME

