



*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,

NEWNESS. The word “new” itself is by nature exciting. Important synonyms include: fresh, novel, original, modern, and innovative. I noticed that the Alpha Restaurant is now under a new name, “Jalapeno.” One can speculate that the presumable new owners have realized that they are next door to the ever popular (and delicious) Colombian eatery the Pereira Bakery. They may also realize that the American palate is ever changing with a desire for new taste sensations. Did you know that salsa has outsold ketchup in the U.S. since 1992? Tortillas are now more popular than white bread in many parts of the U.S. and you have a pastor who loves tamales so much that he and his wife served *turkey tamales* for Thanksgiving.

What’s the point? We have to open our hearts and minds to embrace new possibilities. In 1964, Bob Dylan wrote a song called “The Times They Are A-Changin.” (That song is more true today than ever before.) Next Dylan revolutionized the folk music world by playing an electric guitar. He was denounced by some as betraying folk music, but well over half a century later, music fans and critics agree that Dylan was ahead of his time. He preserved the essence of folk music – always strong on common people’s situations in life – while expressing it in new ways. Miles Davis did the same for jazz. Salvador Dali for art: Just look at the clean-shaven Jesus in the modernist Last Supper.

Our church is embarking on a new campaign for blended services each week starting June 7. I want each of us in the intervening two months to “embark” on a journey of prayer. Ask the Good Lord what he could have you to do to enlarge the witness, efficacy, and power of the Gospel message at Lee Road. God is on the move here. I feel His Presence in our services, and I am excited to see the new things in store for us as we seek to worship Him in our newly unified services.

In Christ,
Rusty

WE CAN



Let them
praise
HIS name
with
dancing
Psalms 149:3



Our Lee Road liturgical dance team will have a rehearsal this Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 6 PM in the Sanctuary.

You do **NOT** need previous dance experience and **ALL** ages are welcome!

Please contact Susan Ford at (803) 586-1615 for further information.

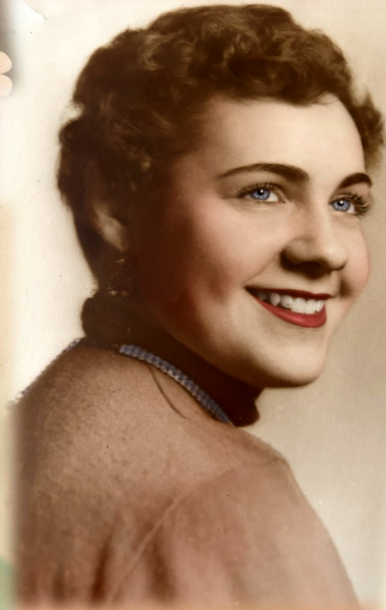
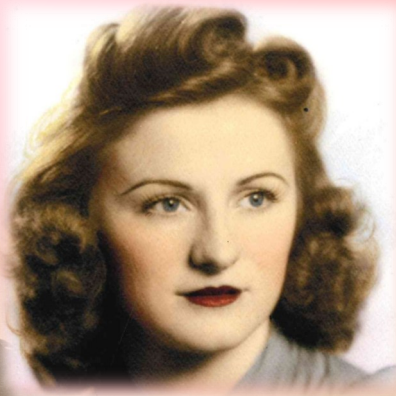
Revitalization of Lee Road UMC – Background and Progress Report

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!



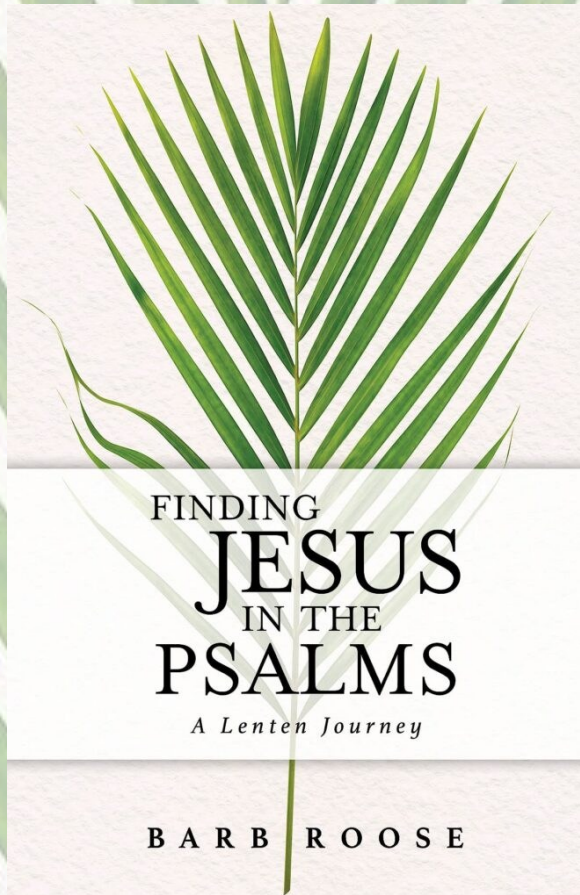
We are currently collecting photos for our annual Mother's Day slideshow. If you are new to Lee Road and have not yet submitted a photo of your mother (living or deceased), please email it to office@leeroadumc.com by May 3, 2026. When submitting, please include her full name and ensure the image is in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

APRIL

22

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: Salad Buffet Please sign up by NOON on Monday so our wonderful volunteer cook(s) can prepare accordingly!



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



SPARE TIME BOWLING

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 FROM 1-3 PM

**COME JOIN US! EVENT OPEN TO BOWLERS
(IN PREPAID RESERVED LANE WITH SHOES)**

PLUS SPECTATORS / CHEERLEADERS!

ADDRESS:

822 CONGAREE RD, GREENVILLE, SC 29607

**EVENT SPONSORED BY THE UNITED
METHODIST MEN & GARY DODSON**



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

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 from 3-4:30 PM

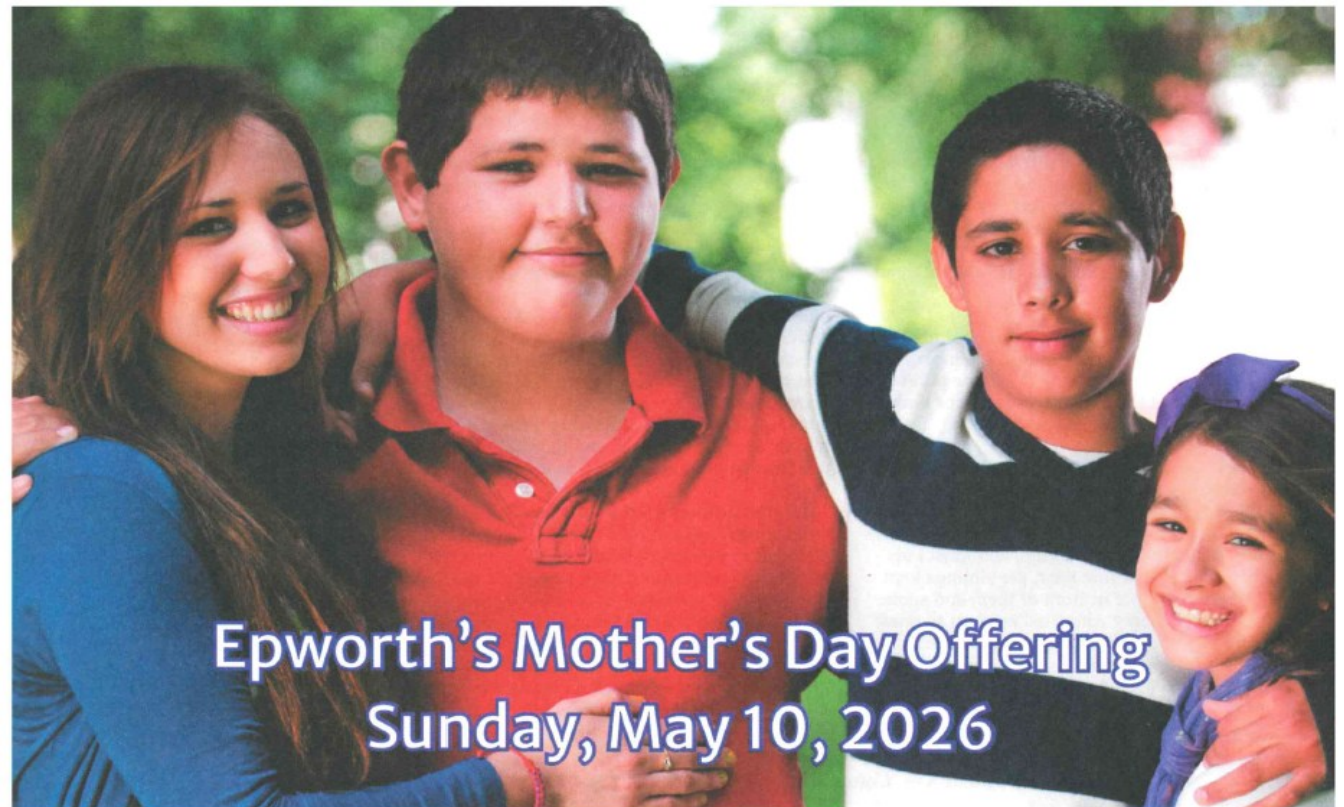
Come & join us for a fun time of off campus fellowship

Address:

25 Delano Dr Unit D, Greenville, SC 29601

(In Unity Park in downtown Greenville.)

Event sponsored by the HR Team & Marty Cook.



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.





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

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

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

A globe showing the continents of North and South America, surrounded by a ring of colorful human figures in various colors (red, yellow, green, purple, orange) holding hands, symbolizing global unity.

- + **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 16, 2026

6:00 p.m. Liturgical Dance Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

6:00 p.m. Revitalization Team Meeting (Conf.)

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

Friday, April 17, 2026

Saturday, April 18, 2026

1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Event

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

Sunday, April 19, 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 20, 2026

6:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting (Conf. Room)

7:00 p.m. Witness Team Meeting (Conf. Room)

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

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

Wednesday, April 22, 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 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)



We'll be removing the pews from the church so if anyone would like to buy one, they can have one for \$100. The long pews are divided in the middle so they can be made half-length easily. We will detach from the floor but they will be responsible for transport. They are welcome to contact me if interested.

- Greg Strong



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

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

Custodian, Gene Turner



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

Special Prayer Requests

- 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



There will be a celebration of life service for Vince McNeese on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at Lee Road UMC (a couple of months from now). The family will receive friends from 10-11:30 AM at the church, memorial celebration of life service at 11:30 AM in the sanctuary, followed by a meal for the family in the social hall.

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

Cousin of: Alida Weber

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	
April 26	
Total	\$11,110.00

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, April 12, 2026
 Contemporary Service—46
 Traditional Service—45

Prefer to pay your tithe online?



SCAN ME

