



Saint Paul United Methodist Church
1320 Fernwood-Glendale Road
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Spartanburg, SC
Permit No. 33

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voice (864) 582-4040
Sunday Service at 10:00 A.M.

The Epistle

News For The Weeks Of July 18, & 25, and
August 1, 8, & 15, 2022

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(864) 583-0850 **fax**

Return Services Requested

The Pastor's Pen

Hello. I am your new pastor. I am excited to be here and am looking forward to getting to know each of you, but let me tell you that I will probably forget your name a few times. Something to do with age, or so my doctor says. So please forgive me and keep reminding of who you are. In order for you to know me a little better, here is some background information...

One of the questions I am frequently asked and have the greatest difficulty answering is: "Jeremy, where are you from?" My usual answer is: "All over the Southeast." To give you a quick overview: I was born in Orangeburg, SC, and spent the first 9 months of my life in Cameron. Then we moved to Lynchburg, Virginia, which I enjoyed greatly because it snowed at Christmas. Of course, I really didn't appreciate that fact until we moved further south (you never know what you have until it's gone). After 7 years in Lynchburg, we moved to Bessemer, Alabama, which is part of the metropolitan area of Birmingham. After 7 years in Bessemer, we journeyed to Albany, Georgia. Here I went to high school (Albany High), and then went on to college at Georgia Southern College, now Georgia Southern University. Then I was off to Durham, North Carolina, where I attended Duke Divinity School. Following that, I moved to Columbia where I held several jobs, the longest was working as a chemist for Lindau Chemicals, Inc.

When I first moved to Columbia, I was on staff at Shandon UMC. But I was feeling a little unsettled about my call to ministry, so I resigned. I started attending Washington Street UMC and really enjoyed being a pew sitter. I needed to be ministered to. I slowly involved myself in its ministries. Eventually, I became a liturgist at its contemporary worship service held once a month on Friday nights. After one of those services, Rev. John Stapleton, the Senior Minister, asked me, "Jeremy, when are you going to get back into ministry?" (John was aware of my history.) I had no answer. I was used to saying that it wasn't time yet, but this time I didn't feel that way. I resumed the process toward ordination and in 1997 was appointed to serve Cherokee Place UMC in North Charleston.

Since then, I have started a new church in Mount Pleasant, served a three point charge outside of Hemingway, pastored at First UMC, Harleyville, Bethel UMC in Oswego, which is just outside Sumter, and most recently was at Moncks Corner UMC.

Looking back, I am glad for the 5+ year hiatus from ministry. I really wasn't ready to be a pastor. I needed to struggle through unemployment, to learn what it is like to have a "regular" job, and to be an adult member of a congregation. Like many of you, I discovered I am not fond of committee meetings.

About my family...18 years ago I married Brenda, a widow, with three children. Brenda and her children were raised in the North Charleston area. Craig is doing his surgical residency (urology) in Portland, Oregon. Chelsea is a chiropractor in Greenville, SC. Katie is a 5th Grade teacher at Cane Bay Middle School outside of Summerville. In 2018, Leland moved in with us at the age of 6, having been in foster care since he was 3. His adoption was final in 2019. Brenda met Leland while she was the Assistant Principal at Whitesville Elementary (outside of Moncks Corner), but when Leland came to us, she went back to the classroom at Boulder Bluff Elementary School outside of Goose Creek. There were two reasons for this. One was to have more time with Leland over the summer. Two, Leland's life before us was pretty rough and left him with some scars. Brenda knew the staff well at Boulder Bluff, as she had been the Assistant Principal there and knew they could provide a nurturing and supportive environment for his special needs.

When we first learned that we would be moving (before we knew where we were going) we were a little disappointed as a family. Leland has just one more year in elementary school and as I said, Boulder Bluff has been very helpful in his growth and helping him overcome some of his issues. Brenda has just one more year before she can retire and transferring to another district means going through formal evaluation. Brenda's mother, who lives in Hanahan, is aging and recently beginning to experience some real difficulties. In recent months, Brenda's brother's condo has become available so we have made the difficult decision to live apart while Leland finishes his last year of elementary school and Brenda her last year of teaching. However, you will see them several weekends a month, I'm sure.

I'm sure that you will learn more about me through our visits together and through sermon stories.

I look forward to getting to know you. Just remember, there is only one of me and so many of you! Please be patient and remind me often of your name.

May God bless our time together!



Jeremy

Altar & Narthex Flowers

Altar Flowers are given on July 17th for the Glory of God by Page Candler in memory of Peter Ransom Candler.

Altar Flowers are given on July 24th for the Glory of God by Rick and Donna Harward in celebration of their granddaughter, Margot's, 2nd birthday.

Altar Flowers are given on July 31st for the Glory of God by Chip and Wanda Steele in honor of the birthdays of their sons, John and Greg and their grandsons, Tristan, Pacey and Colby.

Altar Flowers are given on August 14th for the Glory of God by the Schumann Family in loving memory of Paul and Joan Schumann, and June, Charles and Denise Kollman.

Thanks to the Threads of Agape for the beautiful shawl you made for me. It showed me how much my Church Family loves me and how much I love you. Thanks again, Laurie Wilson

Thank You! I wanted to thank each person who helped, prayed, and took time to come to make VBS so successful! Each of you are so appreciated for all of your dedication to the wonderful children! Also, I wanted to thank the Lindsey family for a wonderful meal from Wades! The children raised \$474 for our BackPack Buddies' ministry and it was great to see them so excited to do so and to be at VBS. It made it all worth every second! Continue to pray for the Children's ministry going forward!! Sincere Thanks, Kaci Roberts

The Anne Ratliff Circle is meeting at 11:30am on July 20th at Boston Pizzeria. Guests are also welcome!

Wofford College awarded our own Diane Farley the Philip Covington Award for Excellence in the Teaching of the Humanities and Social Sciences! What an achievement, Diane! Congratulations!

Habitat For Humanity Of Spartanburg is looking for Construction Volunteers each Tues., Thurs., Fri., and Sat.*! One-time individual volunteers and group volunteers are welcome. No construction experience needed. For further info. and details, please contact BJ Camp, Volunteer Coordinator, at 707-0230, 431-4964 or bj.camp@habitatspartanburg.org. *Volunteers must be 16 years of age. Anyone under 18 years of age is required to have a parent/guardian present with them.

Upcoming Events

Every Wednesday	Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Every Sunday	UMYF 4:30pm (unless otherwise noted)
2nd Sunday of Each Month	Blood Pressure Checks ~11:15
2nd Monday of Each Month (not July & August)	Elsie Greer Circle 12:00pm-2pm
3rd Monday of Each Month (not July & August)	Blanche Greer Circle 10:00am-12pm
3rd Wednesday of Each Month	Anne Ratliff Circle 10:00am-11:30am
1st & 3rd Friday of Each Month	Threads of Agape 10:00am-12:00pm
July 12	Board of Trustees Meeting 6:00pm
July 14	SPRC Meeting 6:30pm
July 19	Board of Stewards Meeting 6:00pm

Financials & Attendance

	<u>June 19</u>	<u>June 26</u>
Received	\$5,095	\$9,428
Non-Contributed	\$300	\$200,300
Restricted	\$0	\$586.68
Total	\$5,395	\$210,314.68
Sunday School	51	41
Worship Service	131	168
	<u>July 3</u>	<u>July 10</u>
Received	\$14,029	\$6,248
Non-Contributed	\$5,968.69	\$0
Restricted	\$345	\$0
Total	\$20,342.69	\$6,248
Sunday School	10	42
Worship Service	125	91

Children & Youth Birthdays

July 17	Sydney Metts
July 26	Presh Gentry
August 28	Liam Cooke
August 31	David Lee Gentry

Volunteers for July 17, 24, & 31, and August 7, & 14, 2022

Communion Assistants	08/07	Henry Calhoun Ashley Cooksey
Worship Greeters	07/17	Lillian Hudson, Judy Lamb
	07/24	Jim & Marian Hampton
	07/31	Peter & Linda Hamel
	08/07	Dan & Linda Cooke
Liturgists	08/14	Connie Muzzy, Bob McFarland
	07/17	Deb Schumann
	07/24	Roland Smith
	07/31	Zach Davis
Ushers	08/07	Lee Owens
	08/14	Chris Boyett
	07/17	Bob McFarland, Sherrill Bland
	07/24	Fern Powell, Kay McBee
Sound System	07/31	Ben Graham, Austin Birch
	08/07	Bill & Bobbi Duncan
	08/14	Rick Harward, Peter Hamel
	07/17	Don Wasness
Offering Depositors	07/24	Phil Womble
	07/31	Jim Hampton
	08/07	Guy Davis
	08/14	A.D. Page, Jr.
	07/17	Delton Vereen
	07/24	Peter Hamel
	07/31	Rebecca Parrish
	08/07	Guy Davis
	08/14	Chris Boyett

Altar Guild - July: Suzanne Seager, Mary Parker, Laurie Wilson, Sherrill Bland; **August:** Connie Muzzy-Chair; Kay McBee, Caroline Greer, Susan Owens, Pat Campbell

Birthdays

July 15	Marsha Milford
July 17	A.D. Page, Jr.
July 19	Veneal Williams
July 20	Larry Owens
July 21	Amy Birch
July 22	Allen Long, Mike Harpe
July 23	Marion Pittman, Tiffany Hampton
July 25	Gary Homer
July 27	Rhonda Hatchette
July 29	Johnette Smith, Remsen Parrish
July 30	Ballenger Cooksey
August 1	JoAnn Seastrunk, Jane Fore
August 2	Susan Owens
August 3	Peter Hamel
August 5	Shirley Lee, JoAnn Brown
August 7	Walter Sunderlin
August 8	Cyndi Hutchens, Peyton Ravan
August 9	Vernon Brown
August 10	Shawn Wilson
August 11	Mark Gentry
August 12	Nancy Bane
August 14	Judy Lamb
August 17	Don Wasness, Allen Lassiter
August 18	Jason Traxler
August 20	Mike Byers, Brenda Ethington
August 21	Gregory Koller
August 22	Jody Stewart, Sam Foster, Audra Omer
August 23	Nell Davis
August 27	Suzanne Metts
August 29	Marilyn Sunderlin
August 30	Jean Ogden