

It is a new year,

but the pandemic

persists...

Join with others for a fresh, Biblical, thoughtful, and helpful perspective from noted scholar, N. T. Wright, in his book "God and the Pandemic, A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and Its Aftermath."

GOD AND THE PANDEMIC

A CHRISTIAN REFLECTION ON THE CORONAVIRUS AND ITS AFTERMATH

WRIGHT

N. T.

Please join Rev. Herrin for a 4-week discussion by either of these options:

Thursday, January 21st, in person at 6:30pm in the parlor (following all safety protocols)

Thursday, January 21st, by zoom at 4pm

Please contact Christy to participate in either group at lpcoffice1@hargray.com Participants can purchase their own books, or contact **Christy by noon on January 11**th to be included in an order from the church. Cost will be \$10.

If neither option works for you, e-mail Christy at the office, and given enough interest, we will attempt to create another group of either kind.

N. T. Wright is professor of New Testament and early Christianity at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland and senior research fellow at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. He is a widely read and respected scholar and author of over 80 books.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury writes, "This is a classic N.T. Wright. It is accessible to almost anyone asking questions, and yet manages to be demanding for those who think they know answers. It is superbly written, utterly Bible based, and leaves on satisfied at having learned and yet wanting to know more."

If you can't join, read the book and talk with someone about it.

A Lenten Prayer Group

Join Pastor Stephanie through the Lenten season on Thursdays at 8:00am via Zoom for a brief time of prayer and reflection on scripture using *lectio divina*, **beginning February 18th**. *Lectio divina* means "Divine Reading" in Latin and is an ancient form of meditation, prayer, and scripture reading based on hearing scripture read aloud. Come when you can and as you are! No preparation required, only a willingness to listen. Please arrive and exit quietly. These gatherings will last approximately 15-20 minutes so be sure to arrive on time. Coffee is permitted. A Zoom link will be sent via e-blast on Tuesdays.

More Lenten Opportunities to Come!

A lenten devotional will be available for pickup mid-February and other lenten studies and worship opportunities for lent are on the horizon. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th and we hope you will join us for this 40-day reflective season as we draw near to God together.

The Peace of Christ to You!

We've just celebrated the arrival of the Prince of Peace, and perhaps we feel that peace, at times, but it's certainly a challenge right now. I ran across these words of Bonhoeffer and thought they might be helpful as we begin this year.

With the birth of Jesus, the great kingdom of peace has begun. Is it not a miracle that where Jesus has really become Lord over people, peace reigns? That there is one Christendom on the whole earth, in which there is peace in the midst of the

world? Only where Jesus is not allowed to reign-where human stubbornness, defiance, hate, and avarice are allowed to live on unbroken-can there be no peace. Jesus does not want to set up his kingdom of peace by force, but where people willingly submit themselves to him and let him rule over them, he will give them his wonderful peace.

I also offer to you this ancient celtic blessing: "Deep peace of the running wave to you

Deep peace of the running wave to you Deep peace of the flowing air to you Deep peace of the quiet earth to you Deep peace of the shining stars to you Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you."

In 2021 may we be people who seek and receive Christ's peace and share it in a world that is desperate for it.

In Christ, Chris







LPC ROOF AND GABLE REPAIR IS COMPLETE

Next time you are near LPC, check out the roof repair which has been competed with the gables also being repaired. We were very fortunate during the recent hurricane season not only because we weren't hit, but also because we eventually got a company that completed the job very satisfactorily. The work started November 2, 2020 with four workers who accumulated 635 man-hours. The total cost for the project at \$59,160. With a project of this magnitude we are indebted to Tom Bloom for his financial guidance throughout the entire life of this project.

The people involved in making this happen goes back 3-4 years while John Preston was the Elder for Building and Grounds. He found BDR construction and consulting company in Hickory SC who repaired one leaky gable and worked up a quote for the roof repair using a drone camera detailing the work to be completed. The Session approved the project and a substantial down payment was made this March with a scheduled mid-summer 2020 start.

John had completed his Session term and Stuart Kimble was the new leader for B&G. Sadly, Stuart's untimely death left a vacuum. Bob Lowry agreed to step in and was faced with a company, who could not live up to the agreement. They recommended HB Construction and forwarded

agreed to step in and was faced with a company, who could not live up to the agreement. They recommended HB Construction and forwarded their information to that company. Herman Burger the founder and President of HB Construction specializing in steel buildings, agreed to come to Bluffton and discuss the project with Wim Tekelenburg. After the meeting, Wim felt confident HB was a good choice. We had the original down payment returned and the Session unanimously approved the project.



Wim bird dogged the roof project from beginning to the end. During the repair, it became apparent the four dormers also required repair and Wim and Bob were given a ride in the boom bucket lift to see. As a result we requested a proposal to repair the dormers while we had the company on site. The Session approved the dormers and HB, after completing the roof, fixed the dormers. We also had them power wash the roof and it looks like a new roof!

Since then the sanctuary chandelier has been repaired as we are now confident the roof and dormers won't leak. Thank you to all involved and to you the congregation for your faithful giving which has made this repair possible.

Dave Tanner, Elder for Buildings and Grounds



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY



Grow with us.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Christian Education Ministry educates, inspires and grows disciples in Christ.

Join us from 4:00-5:00 via Zoom Wednesdays in January for a series of classes from *The Bible Project*. Each week the link to The Bible Project topic will be sent out in an e-blast so that participants can listen to the short audio and read the scripture passages. During each class, we will watch a short video and discuss that week's topic.

January 6 Covenants January 13 Water of Life January 20 Joy January 27 Witness Leader: Carol Bogle Leader: Joe Franklin Leader: Pastor Stephanie Leader: Pastor Stephanie





Bible 101 Class

Want to brush up on your Bible knowledge? Want to learn Bible basics for the first time?

Ever wonder how our Bible came to be?

Then Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30pm in front of your computer or Tablet is the place to be. Starting **February 3-March 10**, we will be offering Course 1 from *Exploring The Bible: The Dickinson Series* (Massachusetts Bible Society) via Zoom. Course 1 is a broad overview of the Bible touching on how the Bible is organized, how certain texts were chosen to be included, various ways to interpret those texts and the archaeological settings of some of the Bible stories.

There is some reading involved by the participants, but don't be concerned because the chapters are relatively short. The cost of the book *What is the Bible* is \$11.00 and can be purchased through Amazon, or order one through the office for \$12 by January 22nd at noon.

After we have completed the overview of the Bible course, we will then be offering overview courses on the Old and New Testaments. These classes will also be on Wednesdays at 4:00pm. Can't make it but want to attend? Contact Stephanie who is willing to offer another class!

<u>Book Discussion</u>: **Same Kind of Different as Me** Thursday Feb. 4th and 11th at 4pm or 7pm via Zoom

Join Pastor Stephanie for a two-part discussion on the novel based on a true story: *Same Kind of Different as Me*. An unlikely story about a modern-day slave, an international art dealer, and the unlikely woman who bound them together. Read the book ahead of time and join for a discussion on prejudice, suffering, forgiveness and faith. Purchase the book on your own (You can find it on Amazon, pick it up at Barnes and Noble, or listen to it on



Audible), or buy a book through the church office for \$16.00. If you need to purchase a book through the church (call or email the office), please do so by January 25th at noon. Be sure you are making your request with enough time to read the book.

You may join at 4pm or 7pm via Zoom on both Thursday, Feb. 4th and 11th. A Zoom link will be sent closer to the scheduled date. Pick the time that works best for you!

Movie Discussion: Same Kind of Different as Me

Tuesday, Feb. 16th at 4pm or Thursday, Feb. 18th at 6:30pm

Not much of a reader? Join Pastor Stephanie for a one time movie discussion on the movie adaptation of the book! The discussion will take place via Zoom on both dates listed above. The movie can be found on YouTube and Amazon Prime to rent for \$2.99.

Mark Stauffer is Confirmed!



Mark Stauffer was confirmed on December 13th! We hope you will join us in congratulating him on joining the church and making a profession of faith in Christ!

Ella Barry will be joining the church by profession of faith at a later date when she can more safely be in person. We are excited to welcome her into the life of the church as well!

FAMILY ADVENT WREATH DECORATING

Families picked up advent wreath kits from the church to decorate at home. Shown is the Stauffer family's personally decorated wreath!





"LPC Reads"

For All of the LPC Book Enthusiasts ...

We would like to know if you have read any good books lately. The books can be on any subject. Please email the title of the book, the author and brief description (one or two lines) of the book and why you liked it to Carol Bogle at carolbogle21@gmail.com.

For the golfers in the congregation:

From Bill Bogle: A Course CALLED SCOTLAND by Tom Coyne. The author follows up his trip around Ireland playing golf courses by going to Scotland. From a small 9 hole golf courses in off the beaten path towns to St. Andrews and other well known courses. He writes about the weather, the courses, the golf and most importantly the people he meets along the way and who follow him on his journey.

From Doug Dixon: The author is Steven Konkoly. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He served in the Marines and U.S. Navy. There are a series of books with the main character, *Ryan Decker*. If you like books by the late Vince Flynn, then you will like these books.

From Margie Dixon: *The Obituary Writer* by Ann Hood. It is a "sophisticated and suspenseful novel about the poignant lives of 2 women in different eras". The time frames are 1963 and 1919.

THE BOOK OF TWO WAYS by Jodi Picoult. This is the author's most recent novel. The central theme is about the choices we make that can alter the course of our lives.

A BIG THANK YOU to **Joe Crowley** for donating a set of Word Biblical commentaries to the church library (located in the parlor). These books are available to use for personal use during office hours or can be borrowed and returned.





MEN OF PURPOSE (MOP) on Saturday mornings, 9am

Men of Purpose meets Saturdays at 9:00am. They are discussing the book *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis (great discussions and always some laughs!). THEY ARE NOW MEETING IN THE PARLOR, wearing masks, social distancing

and following church protocol.

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis has created some deep thinking and excellent discussions. Give a visit and find out why. All Men are welcome. Come and bring a friend. To start 2021 our first meeting will be Jan. 9th. Contact Bill Walker: <u>billwalker42@gmail.com</u> with questions.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Happy New Year: 2021! May this new year bring blessings of health and happiness to everyone at LPC. Thank you to all the musicians

who have added so much to the services during the

quarantine of the past nine months. We appreciate the incredible weekly musical offerings of Karen Ball, members of the Chancel Choir, and the Jubilate Ringers. Thank you to Jerry Anderson and Dale Nordby who contributed so much to the special music each month. We would also like to thank Pastor Stephanie, Bob Lowry and Chuck Thomas for all of their dedication and work video taping and live-streaming the services.



You kept us going when the virus shut things down. We continue to remember Stuart Kimble who we lost to the virus back in March. He and his family will always have a place in our hearts.

I found this prayer **"For hope after a hard year"** and would like to share it with you as we say good bye to 2020 and look to a new year.

Prayer for 2021: Heavenly Father, help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favor as with a shield, and we are safe in your care.

We choose to press in close to you today, and keep you first in our hearts and lives. Without you we would surely fail, but with you, there is great hope. Thank you for your healing power, thank you for bringing us into this new season up ahead. We look forward to all that You still have in store. In Jesus' name, Amen.



NOTE: Chancel Choir and Jubilate Ringers will not meet during the month of January, just to be on the safe side. We hope to start up again in February if the virus starts to get under control again, although we will continue to mask and stay safely distanced.



Change Can Make A Change for January is Red Cedar Teacher Appreciation



At Red Cedar Elementary School their vision is "We will do whatever it takes to ensure all students find success." The teachers have continued with their mission to educate in spite



of the pandemic against some formidable obstacles.

We are requesting donations again this year to purchase gift cards to help give back to the teachers. For Valentine's Day we will present each Red Cedar teacher with a \$20 gift card as a thank you for their efforts. To support this endeavor, please write checks payable to LPC with "Red Cedar" in the memo

line and either mail it to LPC or drop it off at the church office. Please be a part of this heartfelt effort to support our Red Cedar teachers! Thank you from the Mission and Outreach Committees.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED GIFT CARDS AND MONEY TO OUR ANGEL TREE THIS YEAR. While we operated our Christmas tradition this year in a very different way due to the pandemic, you really stepped up to the challenge and were absolutely amazing! We were able to donate to Agape enough to provide the parents of 140 children a \$25 gift card per child to use for gifts or food if needed. We also provided each family with a bag of oranges and apples. Their drive through distribution event for registered families happened on Saturday, December 19 and also included a toy per child from Toys for Tots. Any money that we collected from CCMAC throughout December (after Angel Tree gift card purchase) will be sent to Agape in early January for their emergency fund for families. The CCMAC plus donated gift cards equals over \$4,000! We received the following from Dr. Ponchitta Young at Agape when she received our cards and fruit:

"Oh my God! What a blessing to so many children and families. We appreciate Lowcountry Presbyterian Church more than you know, thank you so much for everything!"

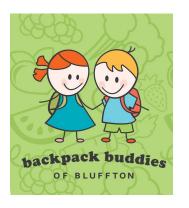


MISSIONS

Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, THANK YOU!!

Agape Family Life Center's "Feed The Hungry" event held on Saturday Dec. 21, 2020 was a huge success. Many families received toys, gift items, and food. Special thanks to Lowcountry Presbyterian Church (LPC), more than a hundred children received a gift card and more than three hundred individuals received food. What a pleasant way to enjoy the Holiday Season after having such a long and challenging year. Agape Family Life Center is so grateful for the partnership with LPC. Your partnership with Agape provides that added relief to so many Jasper and Beaufort County South Carolina families and children who are often overwhelmed with the uncertainties of having even to meet a few basic needs. Thank you LPC for your actions of love, support, and commitment to help eradicate barriers that so many families face. LPC, Agape Family Life Center thank you for answering the call to help us serve our Jasper and Beaufort County families. THANK YOU! Dr. Deloris M. Young Executive Director **Agape Family Life Center**





We will be packing food bags for *Backpack Buddies* on **Tuesday**, January 5th, 12:00 p.m. at St. Andrews by the Sea United Methodist Church, 39 Persimmon Street. Please let Sandy Benninger, <u>sbenninger@sc.rr.com</u>, know by email if you plan to help. Food shipments have been delayed in the past which necessitated a time change and Sandy needs to be able to notify everyone about any changes that might arise.



"Bringing in the New Year" Drive-Thru Food Collection at LPC Sunday, January 17th - 11:30 am –1:00 pm

The Mission team is planning another drive-thru food collection for Agape Family Center. We had great results from the collection in November and are hoping to surpass what we collected with your help! The need for food is ongoing so please bring your donations to LPC January 17th between 11:30 and 1:00 and we will happily unload your vehicle. You won't even have to get out of your car! Please drive through under the covering on the US 278 side of the church.



Most requested and needed items:

Apples and oranges Sweet and white potatoes Onions Mascea (flour to make tortillas) Beans and rice, *dry and canned* Canned fruit and vegetables Peanut butter and jelly Canned chicken and tuna Baby food Cereal Soup Pasta and Pasta sauce

Thank you for helping us support Agape! We hope to see you on January 17th! If you have any questions, please contact Jan Catanese (248)766-0402. The Mission Team



IMPORTANT!

The Session has called the **2021 Annual Congregational Meeting** to follow the 10:30 am worship service on **January 24th**. Business to be conducted includes the presentation of the Annual Report, a vote on revised Terms of Call for Rev. Herrin and Rev. Dion and election of the at-large members of the 2021 Elder Nominating Committee.

CHRISTIAN CARING MINISTRY

Prayerful Stitches has donated 17 shawls and lap robes to our next door neighbors at *Bloom Retirement Community*. This was done two weeks before Christmas so the recipients could share in the love and warmth of the Christmas season.

We have had a most generous outpouring of beautiful knitted shawls and robes and are very grateful to all of our skilled needle artists. And, of course, we always welcome more as there will always be a need.

A Helping Hand Ministry

The Christian Caring ministry wants to help with our new Helping Hands Ministry. The goal of this ministry is to offer support and care to those needing assistance with ordinary activities. Some of these might include: helping with groceries, blowing yard leaves, changing smoke detector batteries, or going to the pharmacy, hair salon, or a doctor's appointment. If you need assistance inn any way, we want to help! Volunteers are required to observe COVID-19 protocols.

If you could use assistance in any way or , if you are willing to help please contact Carolyn Welch at <u>Carolyndobbingwelch@gmail.com</u> or (201) 650-4617.



COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

Membership Directories Delivery

We will be delivering the directories that have not been picked up by mid-January. You may still pick them up at the church office or request delivery to your home or

by mail before mid-January, by contacting Janit Maguire at janitmaguire@gmail.com or 845-527-6409, or contacting Christy James at the church office, lpcoffice1@hargray.com or 843-815-6570.

We will be delivering them by neighborhood and could use additional volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Janit or Christy (listed above). We will be in touch with you first to confirm that you are not away and will ask if you would prefer us to leave it in your lower mailbox or at your front door.

Thank you and may you have a New Year filled with love, faith, hope, and peace.





LOWCOUNTRY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Phone: 843-815-6570 E-mail: lpcoffice1@hargray.com

> We're on the Web! www.lowcountrypres.org

Session Members:

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Session Highlights - December, 2020

At its December Stated Meeting, conducted via Zoom video conferencing, the Session:

- Noted that with the addition of Ella Barry and Mark Stauffer, LPC's membership is now 368 active members and 20 affiliate members.
- Examined the newly elected Session members: Donald Allison (Class of 2021) and Diane Mikkelson and Larry Tremitiere (Class of 2023) and confirmed their membership on the Session effective with their installation, planned for January 10th during the 10:30 AM worship service. Given the continuing concerns about the coronavirus pandemic, Donald and Larry's ordination as elders will be delayed until it can be performed in a safe manner.
- Recognized and thanked the retiring elders of the Class of 2020: Margaret Hartley, Lynne Burns and Ernest Bush.
- **†** Adopted the 2021 Budget.
- **†** Celebrated the completion of the repairs to the roof of the Sanctuary.
- Set the 2021 schedule for both the observance of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and the monthly Stated Session meetings.
- Approved the request by the Hilton Head International Piano
 Competition to use our Sanctuary for its June 4, 2021 "BravoPiano"
 Festival Concert. Permission was granted contingent upon and
 subject to the coronavirus protocols that might then be in effect.
- Approved the request by Temple Oseh Shalom to use our Sanctuary and our live streaming equipment to record their worship services. Approval included the requirement that the Temple follow LPC's coronavirus protective protocols. Further it was noted that only LPC technicians may operate the church's video equipment but that the technicians could provide that service for a fee, subject to their confirmation and availability.
- Called the Annual Congregational Meeting to follow the 10:30 AM worship service on January 24th. Business to be conducted shall include provision of the Annual Report, approval of changes in the Terms of Call for Pastor Herrin and Associate Pastor Dion and the election of at-large members for the 2021 Church Officer Nominating Committee.
- Received a report from Elder Adamson reflecting on his attendance as LPC's Commissioner at the December 8th Charleston Atlantic Presbytery's fall meeting.

The next Stated Session meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 18, 2021. If you have any questions please contact Ernest Bush, Clerk of Session at 843-290-3218 or <u>elbush@mac.com</u>.



Birthday!

- 2 Judy Barry
- 6 Ernest Bush
- 7 Matt Hale
- 7 Barbara Hunchar
- 7 John Preston
- 7 Vera Toulmin
- 8 Evelyn Baker
- 8 Fran Casperson
- 8 Betsy MacDougal

- 9 Lori Higgins
- 10 Beth Bleile
- 12 Harriet Bender
- 15 Edith Rea
- 16 Bebe Blount
- 16 Karen Couser
- 16 Daniel Herrin
- 17 Rip Powell
- 18 Earline Nichols

- 18 Walt Stein
- 18 Ann Tekelenburg
- 20 Debi Franklin
- 22 Carl Smith
- 23 Joan Keene
- 24 Dulcie Knoll
- 25 Carol Hissom
- 30 Mark Stauffer



Member Prayer List

Marilyn Gemme Reid Holland Dave Tanner



Christian sympathy is extended

To the family of Joe Ramach;

To **Cristi Rozea** on the death of her aunt, *Joan Nestrogel;* To **Joy Watson** on the death of her husband *David* and To **Kathy Walters** on the death of her brother, Jim O'Neil

thank you

Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, I want to say thank you for the call from Pastor Herrin, the beautiful shawl that was crocheted, flowers and the prayers. It has really given me a lift to know I am being thought of. Thank you again. Peace and Love, Barbara DiSauro Dear LPC Family, Our sincere thanks to you for the prayers, cards, phone calls, meals, and kind thoughts for both of us during the past several months. We sincerely appreciate your support and concern. Merry Christmas and blessings to all. Chad & Anne Grayson



SUN	Mon	TUE	WED	THU	Fri	SAT
					1 Office is Closed	2
3 Communion Worship, 10:30am	4	5 Outreach 5pm	6 Zoom Bible Study, 4pm	7 Building & Grounds— 9am	8	9 Men of Purpose, 9am
10 INSTALLATION OF ELDERS Worship ONLINE ONLY Available at 8:30am	11	12 CE Ministry meeting, 2pm Communication 4pm– Zoom	13 Zoom Bible Study, 4pm	14	15	16 Men of Purpose, 9am
17 Worship, 10:30am Drive-Thru Food Collection, 11:30-1	18 Session Meeting, 7pm	19	20 Zoom Bible Study, 4pm	21 Book Study 4pm—Zoom 6:30pm— In-person	22	23 Men of Purpose, 9am
24 Worship, 10:30am <i>Annual</i> <i>Congregation Mtg.</i> , 11:30am	25	26	27 Zoom Bible Study, 4pm	28 Book Study 4pm—Zoom 6:30pm— In-person	29	30 Men of Purpose, 9am
31 Worship, 10:30am						