

KEEPING UP WITH THE CREEK

LAUREL
CREEK UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH



Pastor's Corner

Fostering a culture of love and support among members of the church is essential for building a strong and united community. By demonstrating care and compassion towards one another, we can create a welcoming and inclusive environment where all individuals feel valued and supported. Let us strive to cultivate genuine relationships based on love and respect, as we work together to spread positivity and kindness within our church community and family.

Reverend Keyla P. Edwards

Mission: Making Disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.

Vision: Love in Action through service and inclusiveness.

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 1:00 - 5:00pm

Office Phone: 864 297-8463

Cell Phone: 804 591-6083

Email: kpedwards@umcsc.org



Spotlight

This month we spotlight Meriam Franklin. Meriam's family has been a part of the Laurel Creek UMC for three generations. Meriam is the mother of three adult daughters and has one granddaughter. She lost her husband, Fred eleven years ago.

As a young girl around 11, she recalls joining the church when an older friend decided to join one Sunday. Meriam retired from Union Carbide/Kemet after 30 years of service. She also earned a

Cosmology License, but never pursued the profession because she really didn't like it.

She starts her morning with devotion. She enjoys listening to music, especially gospels and hymns, reading, watching T.V. doing 1000 piece puzzles, crocheting, and sewing. She credits her grandmother with teaching her how to bake. In retirement, some of her days are filled with reaching out to friends and members who are sick and visiting Nursing Homes on her good days.

At LCUMC she serves as the church treasurer, a member of the United Women in Faith, Nominations Committee, and Usher board. She describes herself "as someone who really likes people, want to reach out to people, do for others and not try to advertise to everybody what you did". Meriam's favorite song is "Peace Be Still" and her favorite scripture is Proverb Chapter 3: 5-6.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

I'm sharing my story in honor of all the women who came before me and fought the good fight and for the ones of us who are still fighting.

In August 2021, "I felt a growth in my armpit". My OBGYN doctor felt it too and scheduled me for a mammogram and biopsy of the growth. My mammogram was negative, but the biopsy of the growth was positive for cancer. My doctor then sent me for a breast MRI that was negative also. The goal was to find the origin of the cancer, Finally I was referred for a Pet Scan of my body with special attention to my lungs, breast, ovaries and kidneys . Pet scan was positive for the growth in my armpit, but no evidence of cancer anywhere else in my body. My Lab work (bio-markers) to find the origin of this cancerous growth in my armpit didn't lend any clues to the origin of the cancer. The Prisma Team had not ever treated what was diagnosed as "Cancer of unknown primary source", but knew that identifying the origin was key to determining what type of treatment I needed. So I left for Houston, TX. the first week in October 2021 to get a 2nd opinion at MDAnderson, the leading cancer treatment facility in the US. My second opinion from MD Anderson took a month, since we were in the height of COVID. They performed more bio markers, reviewed my scans from SC, performed upper and lower GI procedures and a colonoscopy looking for the cancer origin, but found nothing, except the growth in my armpit which was cancerous. They had only had a few cases of Cancer of unknown primary site patients and the prognosis was poor. When I asked what happened to the original cancer site, they provided an explanation, "maybe your body absorbed or killed the cancer" in it's original site. The thought was that the cancer had originated in my breast and spread to my lymph node in my arm pit. So the hypothesis was that the mass in my armpit was breast cancer that had metastized to my lymph node. I had decided to have a double mastectomy until the MD Anderson doctor asked me " why would you want to remove two healthy breast if cancer is not there"? And the medical opinion was that once the entire growth was removed it would give some idea of where it originated.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

In December 2021, I had surgery to remove the growth in my armpit. The surgeon shared that during surgery they found another mass underneath the original mass which alarmed him, so instead of removing 6 to 7 lymph nodes, they removed 17 to test for cancer. Test revealed that only the one that I originally felt - was positive for cancer. In January 2022, I had a port placed in my chest area and I started chemotherapy. The day after my first chemotherapy infusion, driving home on I-385, I had a rare reaction to my immune booster shot and passed out while driving. Before I passed out I said "lord please take care of me and don't let me hurt anybody else". My car stopped on the side of the road with two blown out tires and a missing rear view mirror. There was a white man running to me and told me he had already called EMS because he knew I was having a medical emergency and stayed with my car going down the interstate because he knew he could not let me come into traffic. He left before I could get his name, I call him "my angel". From then on I felt I was gonna be alright and I kept repeating, "I'm the Lord's child". All my hair fell out and I received chemotherapy infusions every two weeks, then weekly infusions for the last 12 weeks (a total of six months). After successfully completing Chemotherapy, I received radiation Monday through Friday for 5 more weeks. As of August, 2022 I remain cancer free. "Now Ain't God Good!"

Petra Clay-Jones

**She believed she could,
so she did**

Racial and Ethnic Differences in Breast Cancer in the U.S.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. Among women in the U.S., rates of breast cancer incidence and mortality vary by race and ethnicity.


Overall, black women in the U.S. have a slightly lower rate of breast cancer than white women. However, for women under 40 the rate of new cases is higher in black women than white women.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among black women. The breast cancer rate in black women is about 40 percent higher in black women than in white women. This may be due to

- Differences in tumors (more likely to have triple negative breast cancer).
 - Later stage of breast cancer at diagnosis.
- Barriers to high -quality care (such as not having health insurance).
 - Risk Factors (such as being overweight or obese).
- Health behaviors (such as not completing treatment).

Resources

Susan G. Komen®
1-877 GO KOMEN
(1-877-465-6636)
komen.org



Food for the Soul
Sue Hallums Kitchen

Creamy Parmesan Chicken

- 2 bags of Success Rice
- 4 skinless Chicken breast
- 1 1/2 Cup of heavy whipping cream (or milk)
- 1/2 Cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 (4.5) oz. Jar sliced mushrooms - drained
- 1/3 Cup Sliced Sun-Dried tomatoes (optional)

Prepare rice and set aside.

In a medium oiled skillet, over medium heat, brown chicken breast for 2 minutes on each side. Add remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer for 5 to 7 minutes. Serve over bed of hot rice.

White House Cheese Ring

- 1 pound grated sharp cheese
- 1 Cup finely chopped nuts
- 1 Cup Mayonaise
- 1 Small onion, Finely grated
- Black pepper
- Dash of cayenne pepper

Combine all ingredients and season to taste with pepper. Mix well and place in a 5 or 6 cup lightly greased mold. Unmold and serve with crackers.

INSPIRATION

You'll only find what you left behind,
For there's nothing really new.
It's a knock at yourself when you knock your church;
It isn't the church - it's you.

When everything seems to be going wrong,
And trouble seems everything brewing;
When prayer meeting, Young People's meeting, and all,
Seem simmering slowly - stewing,
Just take a look at yourself and say,
"What's the use of being blue?"
Are you doing your "bit" to make things "hit"? It isn't the church - it's you.

It's really strange sometimes, don't you know,
That things go as well as they do,
When we think of the little - the very small mite --
We add to the work of the few.
We sit, and stand round, and complain of what's done,
And do very little but fuss.
Are we bearing our share of the burdens to bear?
It isn't the church - it's us.

So, if you want the kind of a church
Like the kind of a church you like,
Put off your guile, and put on your best smile,
And hike, my brother, just hike,
To the work in hand that has to be done --
the work of saving a few.
It isn't the church that is wrong, my boy;
It isn't the church - it's you.

-Unknown

Submitted by Banner Ramsey

GET HELP

UMCS Disaster Response Hotline # 803 726-3106
Email - disasterresponse@umcsc.org

Apply for FEMA Assistance

- [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov)
 - FEMA mobile app
- Hotline 800 621-3362

Order free COVID test kits at

- www.COVIDtests.gov

For those who have difficulty accessing the internet or need additional support placing an order, you can call 1-800-232-0233 to get help. Test will be mailed through the U.S. Postal Service starting January.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Golden Glows Meeting 10/2
Bible Study TBA @ 6:00pm
Food Pantry 10/09th and 23rd @9:30am
UM Men Meeting 10/19 @10:30am
Fun Day 10/19
Finance/Administrative Council Mtg
10/22
Senior Appreciation 10/27

Intercessory Prayer Every
Tuesday@7:00pm
Dial: (617) 691-8941

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 Election Dates
Tuesday, November 5, 2024-
Statewide General Election

Early Voting
Beginning Monday October 21 -
November 2, 2024

Monday- Saturday
8:30am - 6:00pm

Birthday Month Donation

Each member is asked to donate \$1.00 per day in the month of your birthday. Example: if the BD month has 31 days, then you would make a one time donation of \$31.00 in your birthday month..



Laurel Creek United Methodist Church
3598 Laurens Road
Greenville SC 29607
Mailing Address: PO Box 843 Mauldin SC 29662

Newsletter submission can be made to
Petra Clay-Jones 864 346-4481 or petracjmed@bellsouth.net

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