



# Cayce United Methodist Courier



APRIL 2024

**Cayce United Methodist Church**  
1600 12th Street, Cayce, SC  
29033-3104

[www.cayceumc.com](http://www.cayceumc.com)

Phone: (803)794-3200

Fax (803)794-6191

Email : [office@cayceumc.com](mailto:office@cayceumc.com)

[www.facebook.com/cayceumc](https://www.facebook.com/cayceumc)

Instagram: [cayceumchurch](https://www.instagram.com/cayceumchurch)

### Worship Service

10:30 a.m.

### Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

### Staff

Pastor Meg Cook

Senior Pastor

[pastor@cayceumc.com](mailto:pastor@cayceumc.com)

Mrs. Debbie McDonald

Pastoral Assistant

Mrs. Cynthia Hutchison

Office Administrator

[office@cayceumc.com](mailto:office@cayceumc.com)

Ms. Camille Jones

Director of Music Ministries

[caboose6426@gmail.com](mailto:caboose6426@gmail.com)

Ms. Kathryn Williams

Hand Bell Choir Director

[kwmsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:kwmsmusic@gmail.com)

Melissa Brookshire

Nursery Coordinator

Rev. Sam Harmon

Pastor Emeritus

## Pastor Reflections:

It's Easter! Christ is Risen! And that's no April Fools!

To conclude our Lenten journey, I wanted to share the last reflection from our Foolish Love Bible Study guide. The following is an excerpt from "Foolish Love is the Hope of Easter."

"If there was ever a story that was hard to explain, it is Easter. It defies everything we know. People do not die and then raise up three days later. We are talking nonsense. What kind of story are we trying to tell here anyway? It feels like an April Fools joke.

It had to be a hard sell. The Gospels themselves speak of the tensions in sharing the Easter message. In the original ending of Mark, no one does tell! The women hear the words of the angel, and they run away terrified and tell no one. Luke includes the story of the travelers to Emmaus, both at a loss for what they have experienced, but then a helpful stranger calls them to understanding by unfolding the Scriptures. And then that stranger reveals himself as the Risen Christ!

The story we call central to our faith is a beautiful, powerful, transformative story. But it is also a foolish one. It is a foolish one because it defies regular explanation. And it is not just the resurrection that makes no sense. It is also foolish to follow a man who was condemned to death for crimes against the state and against the religious status quo.

Can you imagine how absurd it was to live through that story? To be the disciples and have the fear of all they went through leading up to the crucifixion, then having to face the devastating loss of their friend and the man they thought was the Messiah, only to have the uncanny surprise of Easter morning? It is no wonder that Peter, even after encountering Christ resurrected, decided to go back to fishing – at least at first."

Sometimes I do have people ask me, "If it all turns out to just be a story, if it isn't true that Jesus rose from the grave, how will you feel about your life then? Will you have lived your life as a fool because you gave your life to this Gospel?" Usually this question comes from a practicing atheist who insists their way is correct. The way I see it, the result is the same whether atheism or Christianity is true. Either way I have lived as a fool, but as a follower of Christ my foolishness is that I have loved people. Imperfect people. Selfish people. Hurting people. Angry people. Gifted people. Poor people. Rich people. Different people. People like me. What a foolish thing to do with my time?!?! And what an incredible life it will have been. And all of it is inspired by the story of Jesus Christ.

So, bring on the foolishness, whether it is April 1 or not! May you and I always love as foolishly as Jesus loved, and may we always have each other along as companions in this life of Foolish Love!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

At Cayce, we practice a faith-based budget. What this means is the finance committee begins looking at the new year with prayer. What are the ministries and missions of the church? What is God calling us to in this new year? The committee also looks at last year's spending and budget and with great prayer sets a plan. This means that our budget is not finalized before January 1, in fact it is mid-March as I write this, and we do not have a finalized budget yet. I know, that's a big leap of faith to operate without a set budget, yet this is the way of faith and tradition at Cayce UMC. We have no guarantees except God. God has promised to be with us and we promise to listen and be faithful, frugal stewards.

In 2024, we are continuing to be faithful, frugal stewards. Our phenomenal staff continue to operate ministry on minimal budgets. And we continue to do good, meaningful and expansive ministry and missions. We fundraise to support ministries like children's and youth ministry. We ask for lunch money for the Senior luncheons. The office is no longer printing in color. We did fundraising for the music ministry Christmas cantata. We, as a church family, are taking on more cleaning duties and policing our own trash and footprint on the building. We have the most amazing volunteers who tend to the yard and maintenance of the church building. We look for grants, last week we got a \$500 grant for children's ministry. Lastly, the trustees are working, with church council's approval, to sell the church bus.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and Finance have made adjustments to several positions in the church. With Cal retiring, the church hired a payroll company and Cynthia Hutchison, office administrator will take on much of the financial record keeping of the church. For our audio-visual needs on Sunday, we had a 2 year grant that helped us update the sound and video system and hire a staff. Sadly, the grant is completed and we are shifting to a more volunteer-based model for Sunday mornings. Volunteers needed, no experience required! The new model will empower and equip volunteers to run the ministry and outreach that is our Sunday morning livestream. We must acknowledge and thank Lisa for her devoted, faithful work in her time as our Audio-visual media specialist. Thank you Lisa.

So, what does this mean for the church? As it always has, tithing matters, giving to the general budget matters. And, giving of one's time and talents matters. Supporting fundraising matters. Your finance committee, SPRC committee and staff team are prayerfully working hard to ensure that every single penny squeaks and every dollar stretches. We are dreaming about ways to missionize or monetize our building. We are seeking grants and gifts. We are praying and listening.

In 2024, we will be regularly sharing on all platforms about money to show what mighty things God continues to do with our financial faithfulness. It was said at our last church council meeting that our future at Cayce UMC is bright. It is.

Pastor Meg



APRIL 23 - MAY 3, 2024

# GENERAL CONFERENCE



## S.C. bishop, delegation call for season of prayer leading up to General Conference

By Dan O'Mara (printed with permission from author, March Advocate)

In April, United Methodists from around the world will gather in Charlotte, North Carolina, for the postponed 2020 General Conference. Much has gone into the preparations for this global assembly, and significant work is before delegates and church leaders when they meet April 23-May 3.

As we journey through Lent toward the cross and the promise of resurrection, South Carolina Resident Bishop L. Jonathan Holston and the South Carolina Conference Delegation to General Conference are inviting all South Carolina United Methodists to join them each evening for "24 for '24," a season of focused, daily prayer for the 24 days leading up to the General Conference held in 2024.

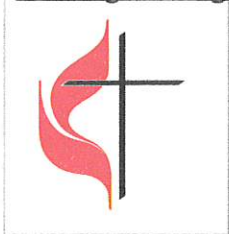
When we join together in prayer each day, we remember who we are and whose we are as disciples of Jesus Christ," Holston said. "Each day we have the opportunity to be for someone the Gospel that they may never otherwise hear. We cannot avoid uncertainty, but we can respond with faith rather than fear. "Together each day, let us come together in prayer, trusting that God hears every word."

Beginning March 30, Holston and delegation members will share a video prayer at 8:24 p.m. (a.k.a., 20:24) praying for the church and specifically for groups of people who have been preparing for General Conference and who will participate and attend.

"I can tell you from experience, intentional prayer matters to those of us who attend General Conference," said Jackie Jenkins, lay delegate and head of the South Carolina Delegation. "We know you are lifting us up, and we are grateful that you keep us in your prayers without ceasing. "Please know that you and all South Carolina United Methodists are in our prayers, as well."

South Carolina's delegates are preparing for General Conference by praying and studying the voluminous legislation that will come before them when they meet in Charlotte. "Our delegates have been diligent in their preparations," said the Rev. Ken Nelson, clergy delegate and superintendent of the Orangeburg District. "We have been conversing with other delegates from across the connection, really thinking through the implications of the legislation so we will be better prepared to make the best decisions for the future of our beloved United Methodist Church during General Conference. As we have patiently waited these four years for General Conference, much of the public spotlight has been cast on the issue of human sexuality, and rightly so. But there are a great number of other important matters that need our prayerful attention, and it also is our responsibility to be as prepared to tend to those."

The daily evening prayers will be shared via Facebook (@scumc), Instagram (@umcsc) and X (@umcsc), and by email to all who are signed up to receive conference news emails (<https://umcsc.org/ mailing-list-signup>). They also will be posted at <https://umcsc.org/24for24>.



If you would like to learn more about General Conference please visit:

[www.UMNews.org](http://www.UMNews.org)

This is a good non-partisan resource and where, in addition to learning more about the conference and issues, you can find links to watch General Conference.

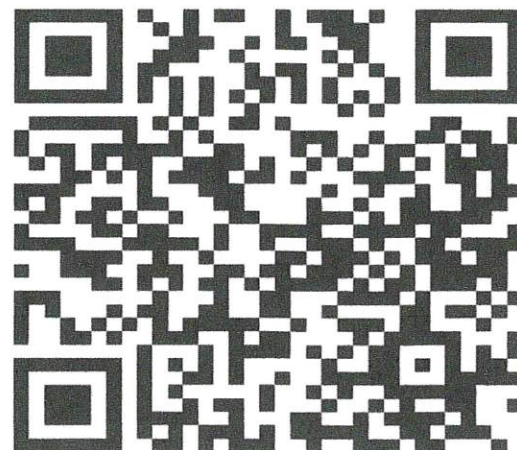
## CONTRIBUTIONS

Week of 3/10/2024

Weekly Budget Needs	\$6,730.77
Received 6/18/23	\$2,633.00
Surplus/Deficit	\$(4,097.77)
Year to Date Prorated Budget	\$76,923.10
Year to Date Budget Giving	\$59,064.52
Surplus/(Deficit)	<b>\$(17,858.58)</b>
Actual Received to Date	\$59,064.52
Actual Expenses to Date	\$53,587.62
Surplus/Deficit	\$5,476.90

## ONLINE GIVING

We are pleased to inform you that our church now offers a convenient QR code option. By simply scanning this code using your phone's camera, you will be directed to our church giving website.



## *Prayer List*

**At Home Members:** Elisa Williams, Nettie Livingston, Lavern Shull, Larry Mitchell, Cindy Davis, Lula Sturkie, David Hill, Ray Meetze, Deryl & BJ Williams, Gayle Byrd.



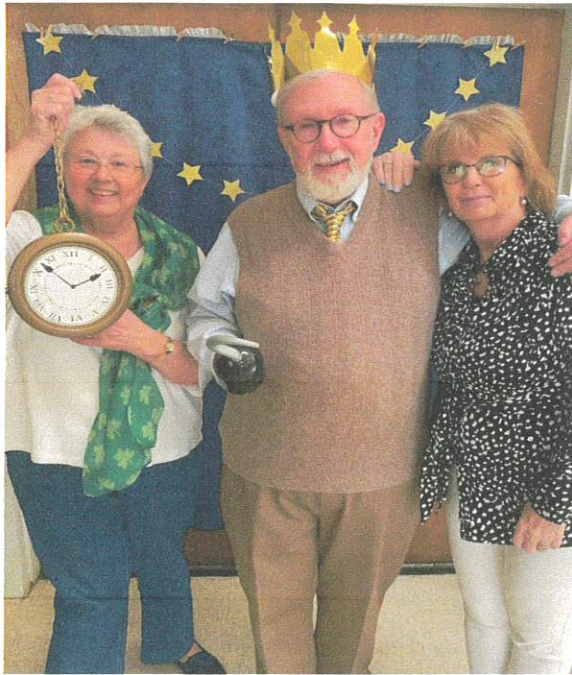
**Members in Care Facilities:** Pat Flowers, Kitty Bonner, Betty McLellan, Bob Nelson, Evelyn Coggins, Jackie Smith.

**Other Members and Friends who need our prayers:** Charles Beason (Lindy Garrick's nephew), June Touma (friend of Cindy Davis), Ashley (Sandra McElveen's daughter), Jackie McLendon (friend of Gerry & Jan Bonnette), Conner Violette (nephew of Nancy Boan), Eddie Bingham, Andy Tevepough, Edith Siniard, Emily Smoak (Jeremy Smoak's wife), Dixie Dugan (Susan Dugan's mother), Jeff Hutchison, Rick Grounsell (Debbie McDonald's brother), Melanie Stewart, Amanda Renee Gordan (Kitty Bonner's granddaughter, Andy Gambrell (Janis Ouellette's dad), Jerry & Velma Cobb (friend of Betty Moore), Bucky Hudson, JoAnne Culler (friend of Linda Edmonds), Kandi Pietrowitz Perry (daughter of Bill & Arleen Pietrowitz).

**Members in Military:** Adam Harrington, Ryan Vassey, Brett Brazell, Sarah Taylor

**Names will remain on our Prayer List for one month.  
Please notify the church office at 803-794-3200 if your loved one's name  
should remain on our Prayer List for a longer period. Thank you.**

# CAL'S RETIREMENT RECEPTION



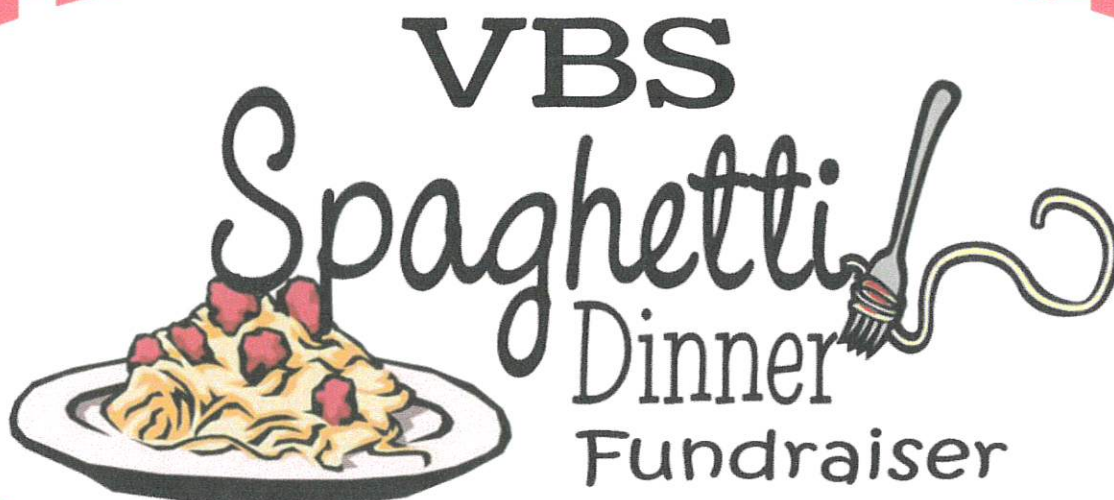
**Thank you to the SPRC, UWF and all who helped make this a great party!**



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful reception celebrating my retirement as CUMC Financial Administrator. It has been my privilege to serve God and Cayce UMC in this capacity, I appreciate the cards and well wishes given to me and the honorariums given to CUMC. Thanks again.

Yours in Christ,  
Cal



**Sunday, April 14th**  
**Following Worship**



To all at CUMC:

Jane and I would like to express our appreciation for all of the support, prayers and cards that were sent our way, both before and after the passing of my mother last week. She was 100 in January and had a wonderfully long and full life. We will be eternally grateful for the Christian life she lived and the Christian influence she had on all who knew her.

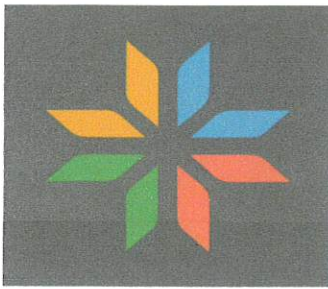
It is true that you can never really be prepared to lose someone so close to you, but all of your thoughts and prayers have helped to ease the sorrow.

CUMC family, we thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Hubert and Jane Smoak





## Cayce United Women in Faith News

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

### Upcoming Events - Newswatch

**April** Columbia Bethlehem Community Center Special Emphasis Month

**April 9** Cayce UWF meeting 5:00 pm

### Looking Ahead

**September** Killingsworth Home Special Emphasis Month

### Ongoing Missions

- Drink tabs for Ronald McDonald House.
- Feed the Yellow Piggy bank with change for Nancy K. Perry Children's Shelter.

\*\* Note: Both are collected by the drinking fountain outside Chambers Hall.

### **Want to stay up to date on UWF events & projects?**

Visit the UWF Bulletin Boards! You'll find lots of great information there.

### **CARD CONNECTION!**

Please remember our Senior Saints with a card and a note! A big Thank You to those of you who have sent cards. Thanks for adding a note of cheer to someone's day. It makes their day to receive these cards and notes.







## CHURCH OFFICE

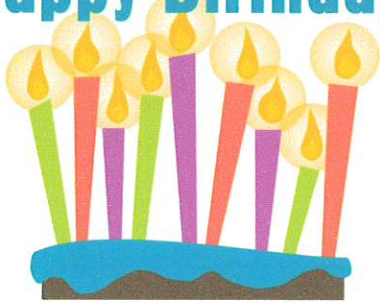
The church office will be closed the week of April 1st -April 4th. We will open back up on Monday, April 8th. In case of an emergency, you may contact Pastor Meg at 828-442-6032.

## ATTENTION GRADUATES

Graduation Sunday will be **May 19th**, when our graduates will be recognized during our worship service. If you are a **2024 graduate**, please notify the church office with your name and graduating school.



## Happy Birthday!



04/03	David Fleming Jr.	04/14	Judy Adams	04/18	Judy Hutchinson
04/05	Alice Brooks	04/14	Greg Pinner	04/18	Katy Tevepaugh
04/05	Jacob Ramsey	04/14	Alston Brooks	04/19	Melissa Purvis
04/07	Courtney Hudson	04/15	Holly Morales	04/21	Will Glenn
04/10	Patrick Chambers	04/15	Anderson Hall	04/22	Charles Hite
04/11	Catherine Taylor	04/16	Ellyn Nester	04/23	Elsie Schaeffer
04/11	Cathy Coker	04/17	Imogene Rivers	04/27	Drew Nester
04/13	Blake Adams	04/17	Marlene Gearon		



04/16	Scott & Amy Ashley	04/26	Allan & Becky Rish
04/17	Tommy & Imogene Rivers	04/21	Ben & Brandi Taylor
04/20	Robbie & Rachel Scurry	04/27	Andy & Brittany Tevepaugh
04/20	Rich & Holli Adams	04/29	Jeff & Cynthia Hutchison

# APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office Closed	2 Church Office Closed	3 Church Office Closed	4 Church Office Closed	5 Church Office Closed	6
7 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	8 6:00 SPRC	9 5:00 Cayce UWF 6:00 Trustees	10 6:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir	11	12 Church Office Closed	13
14 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship <b>11:30 VBS Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser</b>	15	16	17 6:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir  <b>**Newsletter Deadline**</b>	18	19 Church Office Closed	20
21 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	22	23 7:00 Church Council	24 6:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir  Church Office Closed	25	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12-2 pm Cayce Kidz Picnic at Caraway Park	29	30	31 6:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir			

This calendar can also be found on our website @ [cayceumc.com](http://cayceumc.com)



## USHERS

**April 7**

Judy Hutchinson  
Barney Lindley

**April 14**

Diane Rollison  
Ben Taylor

**April 21**

Cal Atwood  
John Whitaker

**April 28**

John Tjaarda  
Allyson Tjaarda  
Debbie McDonald

## ACOLYTES

**April 7**

Jaxon Cobb

**April 14**

Mary Wallace Puhlasky

**April 21**

Ari LaRosa

**April 28**

Ramsey Schafer

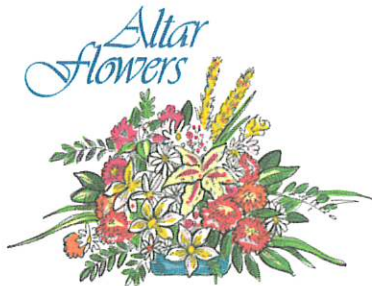
## TRUSTEES OF THE MONTH

**April**

John Whitaker



Volunteers are needed to assist with the sound system. No experience needed. Training will be provided. If you are interested please let the church office know.



**ALTAR FLOWERS**  
Altar flowers are available for Sundays in

**April 2024**

**April 7 - one vases**

**April 14 - one vase**

**April 21 - both vases**

**April 28 - one vase**



If you would like to donate flowers, you may enter your name on the Flower Calendar posted across from the church office, call us at 794-3200 or email us at [cayceumcfice@gmail.com](mailto:cayceumcfice@gmail.com).

## NEEDED FOR GOD'S HELPING HANDS

**April**

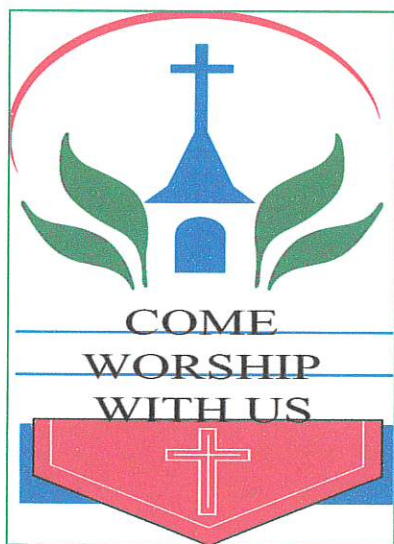
Box Cereal, Saltines Crackers,

Cookies

CAYCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1600 TWELFTH STREET  
CAYCE, SC 29033  
PHONE (803) 794-3200 \*\* FAX (803) 794-6191  
Email address [cayceumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cayceumcoffice@gmail.com)  
Web address: [www.cayceumc.com](http://www.cayceumc.com)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
COLUMBIA, SC  
PERMIT NO.1011



### SUNDAY MORNING

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

Online at [CayceUMC.com](http://CayceUMC.com)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday

8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.



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[www.cayceumc.com](http://www.cayceumc.com)



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