



# Laurel Lantern

## May 2026 Edition



LAUREL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*Hi Folks,*

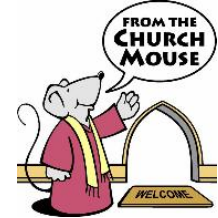
Well, we've gotten through all the Easter activities with soup suppers and all. Now we're ready for spring and summer activities. Don't forget SOW and feeding kids through the summer. And don't forget our shut-ins; they enjoy visits and need to know they are still a part of our congregation. Above all enjoy the warm weather and get out in nature to feel God's goodness and peace surrounding us all. My relatives are planning a visit so be on the watch for them as the spring progresses. Some people don't like mice and are afraid of us. So keep watch for my family. And most important of all keep attending Sunday worship throughout the summer. You are needed and loved by our church family!

Love you all,

Muffy, the church mouse

PS What has 4 four wheels and gives milk? A cow on a skateboard!

You might be a United Methodist if you don't take a Roloids when your heart is strongly warmed.



## SPRC NEWS

### STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

*Thanks for a great potluck!* In appreciation of Rebecca Stewart – Children's Ministry, Marcia Polston – administrator, Travis Kuehn – accompanist, Greg "Woody" Wood – janitorial, and all our volunteers too!

**Instead of just news from SPRC, how about we give a big shout out! They are the ones who oversee our employees, and recently awarded staff with thank you gifts, and acknowledged volunteer services. We should know thank them for their ongoing support and helping church services run smoothly! Thank you to:**

**Linda Shelton, Rosemary Kisling, Gail Richardson and Frankie Jansma!**

**Give them a hug or handshake next time you see them!**

## Finance Committee – March 2026

HELLO ALL! ME AGAIN!

AS OF 3/31/2026, OUR FUND SUMMARY IS AS FOLLOWS:

OPERATING CASH ON HAND: 26,662.76  
OPERATING IN STOCKS: 3783.52  
DESIGNATED FUNDS BY DONORS:  
14,345.07  
PARSONAGE COVENANT BALANCE:  
1789.80  
TRUSTEE FUNDS: 15,656.45

FINANCE



THE CURRENT FORMULA FOR OUR MHM FUND AS SET BY THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:

40% GUARDING THE FUTURE

30% INTERNAL SUPPORT

30% MISSIONS

*MHM ENDOWMENT (MAINTENANCE, NURSERY ATTENDANT, LAWN CARE): 2882.51*

*INTERNAL SUPPORT (MUSIC SUPPORT): 2921.70*

*MISSIONS: 2971.70*

MHM ENDOWMENT:

BOOK VALUE: 130,812.33

*MARKETVALUE: 161,979.46*

AVAILABLE TO ACCESS AT THIS TIME: 11853.69

***WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON A TEAM GATHERING TO EXPLORE GRANTS FROM THE UMC.***

UPCOMING UNUSUAL EXPENSES NOT INCLUDED IN THE BASIC BUDGET:

*ELEVATOR INSPECTION AND ANY REPAIRS NEEDED*

*FIRE EXTINGUISHER INSPECTIONS*

*GRAVEL MOVED BY SNOW REMOVAL*

*SPRINKLER MAINTENANCE FOR THE SPRING/SUMMER.*

THE BUDGET HAS HELD UP WELL. THE 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER AND YTD WE ALMOST BROKE EVEN (WITHIN \$50)!

*SUPPORT FOR THE MUSIC PROGRAM AND SOW PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE SUMMER IN THE ENVELOPES IN THE PEWS.*

AS ALWAYS, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN KEEPING OUR BUILDING AND MINISTRIES ACTIVE AND ALIVE. ANY QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO MYSELF, PEGGY AROLD OR LEROY HAACK.

LIBBY ERB, FINANCE



# Missions



We will be serving S.O.W. lunches again on Wednesdays this summer, beginning June 10th and ending August 19<sup>th</sup>.

## HELPING HANDS:

We will serve at site 11:30 - 12:15. We will meet to prepare from 9:30-11:00 then head out to set up.

Need drivers, servers, prep team . If anyone is interested in working on the menu or buying the food contact Linda Shelton.



## *Sunday School News*

ANOTHER SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR IS READY TO COME TO A CLOSE! OUR LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE 2025-'26 SCHOOL YEAR IS MAY 10. IT'S ALSO MOTHER'S DAY, BUT WE HOPE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO STICK AROUND AND GRAB AN ICE CREAM FLOAT AFTER CHURCH ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup>. (MY MAMA ALWAYS SAYS DESSERT FIRST IS THE WAY TO GO, AND ON MOTHER'S DAY, WE DEFINITELY TAKE SUCH SAGE ADVICE.)

Thanks so much to our families for sharing their kiddos with us throughout the school year; we so enjoy watching them grow! And a BIG thank you to Libby and Leann for their faithful service to our children's ministries; we're so lucky to have you! Thank you for sharing your love, faith, and creativity with our littles week after week, year after year.

## Nursery Update:

We're FINALLY going to tackle the painting of the Nursery this summer! If prep and painting is something that gives you joy, we would gladly accept your help in transforming this space. But first a survey- if you're interested in helping, which option would work best for your schedule?

1. A Saturday in June
2. A Sunday after church during June
3. 1 or 2 evenings after work the week of June 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>

Shoot Becca a text at 406-672-0207 if you're interested in helping!

## 2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

*Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS* is having our kids beat the heat with an “exciting winter sports event, where they become Challengers, gearing up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith!” This year’s theme verse (Mountain Motto) comes from Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

**DATES:** Monday, July 20-Thursdays, July 23 at 6-8pm

**AGES:** Preschool (potty trained) – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**VOLUNTEERS:** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Adult

**REGISTRATION** will go live on the website June 1!

### Early notables:

- We're hoping to host “family dinner” on the 4<sup>th</sup> night, July 23, but we'll need extra support to make that hope a reality. Please be thinking on that and let us know if you'd be interested in lending extra hands and supplies for that evening.
- Be on the lookout for lists of VBS needs coming out late May/early June!
- **VOLUNTEERS!!! PLEASE LET BECCA KNOW IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT AT VBS THIS YEAR. IT TAKES A VILLAGE!**
  - HUMAN NEEDS: KITCHEN HELP, GROUP LEADERS, CRAFT LEADERS AND HELPERS, RECREATION HELPERS, MUSIC LEADERS, DECORATORS
  - KNOW TEENS? VOLUNTEERING AT VBS LOOKS GREAT ON APPLICATIONS!

*Thank you, in advance, for supporting this most wonderful week that always has the church bursting with joy!*



# trustees

**The north door has been replaced and is usable!  
Again, our thanks to Kevin Deis and Bob Fife for their  
efforts!**

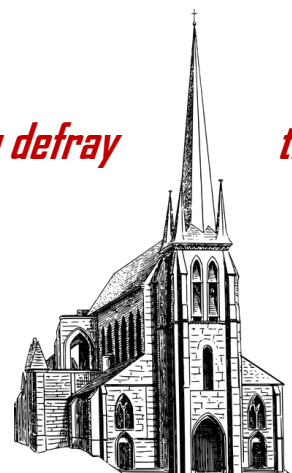
**We are collecting estimates for making the east entrance  
curb handicap accessible. Signage will show this to be a  
drop-off area *only*, as parking in the spot prohibits others  
from using it.**

**Terry Hart answered the call to fixed an issue in the  
parsonage apartment, and mowed the lawn!**



**As always, there are still many items to be marked  
off our to-do list, but we are working away at it and  
seeing progress! Thanks to all of you for your on-  
going support!**

***Always, thanks to Bridger United Methodist Church for helping defray  
the  
parsonage expenses!***



## And on the other hand...

Just a reminder that by setting up electronic giving you don't have to remember to fill out checks and prepare envelopes! It is a convenient way for you to give and provides a much needed consistency of donation for our church! Just contact Marcia in the office to get set up.



For just the week of 4/19-25, the elementary school collected 212 cans – in very large part due to LUMC contributors!



Richard Klose is very active with the American Legion organization.

He wants to provide information and service to any veteran or veteran's family that might need assistance or information. He is also associated through the AM Legion with their suicide prevention service.

He can be contacted directly on his cell phone, 406.671.1814



**The Fellowship Committee has a two-part request. If you use the kitchen, please clean off the counters and the kitchen “stuff” when you are done. Also *please* put things away – keep the counters clear and uncluttered. Your consideration is appreciated!**

*On a related note...*

If you have brought dishes for potlucks, please check in the back corner of the kitchen opposite the refrigerator for orphaned dishes looking for homes! If not claimed by the end of June they will be adopted into the church's dishes!





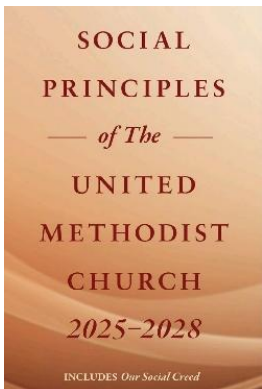
## From Pastor Logan

Spring is here hallelujah! Rain is falling and flowers are beginning their bloom! It is nature's way of reminding us of its Creator: one who brings life, even after death. One who brings growth from blight, decay, and mistakes! About a year ago, Leigh and I got to go to the Johnson Space Center and Museum in Houston. Inside and through tram tours, you follow NASA's contribution to space flight all over the world, from the first tanker-car-size rockets all the way to the SpaceX, Starliner, and Artemis programs that are in service or development for service! This trip, I was particularly struck by a bronze statue depicting the astronauts who survived the Apollo 13 mission. For those unaware, on April 11, 1970, three astronauts were launched with plans to land on the moon, until there was a complication leading to an explosion of several oxygen tanks. While enroute to the moon, miles from Earth's oxygen, NASA and three brave scientists (now enshrined in bronze) patched together an emergency return home. When the statue commemorating their return was made, Jim Lovell, the mission's commander, advised the sculptor not to depict them in their space suits. Instead, Jim suggested Hawaiian shirts and shorts, the outfits they wore when they first reached safe harbor after being retrieved from the South Pacific. In front of the statue is a plaque, where NASA calls the Apollo 13 mission a massive success, despite the obvious catastrophic malfunction. Why might they call this a success? Because they saved the scientists, yes, but also because they learned so much about how to orchestrate a rescue—in space! Just as the Apollo 1 module fire helped develop safer crew modules, the Apollo 13 mission helped develop hours of guidelines, emergency responses, and technical updates. In other words, since the catastrophe taught so much, NASA values it highly. This is a meditation on

grace, I think. God doesn't look at our failures as the end of the story, nor its defining trait. Rather, to God, what defines us is how we grow in the face of this failure. If NASA had not made the crew module safer after the Apollo 1 fire, it is likely that three more men would have died from the same mistake. While our decisions usually don't involve lives, they do involve a life; ours, as a gift, to do good and seek God. Thus, when we make mistakes and we grow from them, God revels in it, making heavenly plaques in our lives, remembering the catastrophes we avoided by learning from the mistakes of the past.



## Methodist Minute!



Okay, I must admit, I'm not through reading the Social Principles, so I don't have any theological piece for you today. Instead, I'll tell you the wildest piece of Methodist history! Specifically, how John and Charles Wesley were the messiest, soap-opera figures of history. That's right; soap opera. See, Charles and John both thought the other shouldn't be married. John thought Charles should be more devoted to the Church; Charles thought John was too devoted to the Church to give a lady the attention and care she deserved. Well, the story goes that one day, John Wesley was interested in a lady, went out with her a few times, and invited her to church. Charles decided this was his time to stick up for the lady; he encouraged her to go with a different fella. And that is how, on a Sunday morning, this lady and her new man walked into John Wesley's church in Savannah, Georgia. John Wesley—the founder of Methodism and theologian of grace—refused to give her or her guy Communion. COULD YOU IMAGINE????? Just flat out refused them the bread and cup! John got into quite a bit of trouble for this with his English peers and it ultimately was the beginning of the end of his ministry in Savannah. Who could've guessed that the guy who started all this could've been so...messy? Petty? Human? It's good that we have these stories so that we don't deify the human founders of this human church. So, now that you have this knowledge, go meet your other humans with as much grace and love as you can!

