

# LIME|LIGHT

WHAT'S CENTER STAGE AT LIMESTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • GAFFNEY, SC

April 18, 2024



## Not Quite Right for the Bulletin, but...

This Sunday's lectionary readings are shepherd heavy - Psalm 23, Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The image for the bulletin cover is always chosen with those texts in mind. Ultimately a different piece of art was chosen for the bulletin cover, but this is an image that illustrates the gospel reading, for the most part (there's no wolf here). It's William Holman Hunt's **The Hiring Shepherd** (1851, Manchester City Galleries, Manchester, England, UK).

The Gospel reading (John 10:11-18) includes the good, the bad and the ugly of shepherding. It includes the familiar assertion by Jesus that he is the good shepherd who would and does lay down his life for the sheep. But artists aren't always drawn to the good. Sometimes the bad and/or the ugly are more interesting to draw.

Hunt has shown a shepherd whose mind is clearly not on his sheep. He is fully engaged with the young woman who has wandered by, and slung on his back is a keg for beer or cider, so no doubt he has or will offer to share that with her. But even as he pursues her, he foreshadows the results of his neglect. In his left hand he has a death's head moth with which he is trying to impress her. The moth, whose very name is a reminder of mortality should cast a shadow over the composition. For death is surely what will happen to the sheep.

In the right background, a sheep is about to wander into a wheatfield. Sheep normally forage for green pasture plants like clover and grass. They can (and do) eat grain, but eating too much too quickly can lead to digestive and other problems. An unattended sheep, like a kid turned loose in a candy store, will no doubt eat both too much and too quickly. The farmer raising the wheat will probably not be thrilled to have his crop trampled by one (or more) sheep. The shepherd does not seem to care.

Closer to the shepherd, at least physically, is the lamb in the lap of the "shepherdess". Less than an arm's length away from the one(s) who should care for it, the lamb is being supplied with a "feast" of green apples. The apples, judging by their size in relation to the shepherd's hands, seem to be unripe. These green, sour apples will not be good for the young creature.

Hunt claimed that the main source for the picture was Shakespeare (*King Lear*, III.6). But it is hard to discount the gospels as well. As you hear the text read on Sunday, you can keep this image in your mind as well.



## Company is Coming Cleaning Day

We will have around 100 friends from across the Presbytery joining us on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, for the Stated Presbytery Meeting. It's time for us to start cleaning in preparation for our "company." We have scheduled Saturday, **April 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 am** as a Church Work Day. We will wash the inside of windows, clean the kitchen, polish furniture, and pressure wash sidewalks. Please come help us get our church ready for company! If you have any questions, please contact Renee Wiseman.

## Church Finances: Are You Aware?

Each of us gives to the church on a regular basis, but ever wonder where and how our money is being spent? We have a finance committee that oversees where the money goes and how it is distributed. However, as a member of the church, we should be aware of just how it is distributed. Obviously, salaries, utilities and maintenance are a few things that must be taken care of as well as expenses for our ministry teams. There are also obligations to the Presbytery.

But do you know about the benevolences? Just to keep you informed, the first quarter of 2024 LPC gave \$1000 each to Meals on Wheels and the Salvation Army. The second quarter is yet to be determined, but will be carefully reviewed before any funds are distributed.

--Jeff Cavender, member, Finance Committee



## Wednesday Nights in April-May: PCUSA 101

Why are we called *Presbyterians*? What does it mean to say we are *elected*? Why do we have communion after the sermon? Why do we celebrate infant baptism?

What does *ordination* do to/for a person? Why do we say we are a *connectional* church? Why do we work through committees?

On **April 24**, Sy Hughes, PCUSA ministry engagement specialist for the Southeast region (which includes the synods of the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic), will present **A Connectional Church: It's amazing what happens when we join together**. Sy, a native of Greer, SC, now working out of Columbia, will share with us the things that we do as a denomination that connect us to the world and to each other.

## Grab & Go Meals

Don't forget that there are two meals in the freezer that are available when you need a quick meal. One is a cheese manicotti and the other a spinach and tomato quiche. Each will feed a family of four. If you need one of these meals or know someone who does, please just come by the church and take it. Congregational Care is monitoring the freezer so that when these are gone, others will take their place.

## Calendar

### Sunday, April 21

9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
10:30 AM Worship - Sanctuary & via Facebook Live  
11:45 AM Session Meeting

### Monday, April 22

5:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal

### Wednesday, April 24

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper - Family Life Center

### Saturday, April 27

9:00 AM "Company's Coming" Clean Up Day  
10:30 AM Serving at the Soup Kitchen

### Sunday, April 28

9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
10:30 AM Worship - Sanctuary & via Facebook Live  
4:00 PM Yoga - Family Life Center

## We Are Praying For...

Liz C.; J.T. Spires; Lib Allen; Mary Fleming; Sara Setzer; Butch & Barbara Jarman; Barbara Grinter; Patsy Spires; Kathy Miller Evans; Trish Tong; Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Buck Jolley; Justina Eddy.

## Summer Plans from the Christian Education Committee...

Mark your calendars now for these summer CE events for our children (but with necessary participation by our non-children)...



## Vacation Bible School

Dates: July 14-16, 6 to 8 PM

We'll be exploring the story of Jonah



## Ready! Set! Go!

Will begin June 12 with a pool party at the Wyatt home, where we will also tie-dye t-shirts. We'll meet every week to do outreach trips in the community including...

- Working at Valkyrie Supply on the campus of Converse University
- Helping prepare FoodShare boxes
- Meals on Wheels
- CHAPS
- Bingo with Veterans

The summer activities will end on July 31 with another pool party. Come be Jesus' hands and feet in the world!

The Fellowship/Congregational Care and CE Committees will soon have additional information on summer Wednesday night dinners and CE programs. Stay tuned...but consider how you can support **VBS** and **Ready! Set! Go!**

CONNECT WITH US: [limestone-presbyterian.com/](http://limestone-presbyterian.com/) 864-489-6079  
Facebook: /limestonepresbyterian Instagram: @limestone\_pres\_gaffney  
109 SOUTH LIMESTONE STREET • GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA