



MIDWAY MESSENGER

3238 Midway Road, Anderson, SC 29621



Friends in Christ,

Preparing for Christmas for many begins the day after Christmas with 'black Friday sales'. With much to do, the sales flyers used to urge us into the stores as the sun was rising. Now, the rush begins even earlier with 'pre-black Friday' sales in stores and online.

The church prepares for Christmas a bit differently, with the Season of Advent, which begins Sunday, December 1st. During Advent, we remember and celebrate Jesus' birth, his coming into the world to live among us. We also look forward to the time of his return. Scripture tells us that people waited in anticipation of the coming of a savior for a very long time. The prophet Isaiah anticipated his coming saying, "And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Jesus is referred to as Prince of Peace and the word peace is used a good bit during this season. Biblically, the word peace has great depth of meaning. Peace does mean only an absence of war or conflict. Used as a greeting, it means harmony between individuals and is also an expression of hope that the other person experiences a feeling of tranquility, freedom from fear, and inner turmoil. Peace means wholeness, health and harmony in body, mind, and spirit.

Justice is an important aspect to the understanding of peace. Until there is justice for all, until all are fed, safe, housed, have access to health care, are free from fear and oppression, there is no peace.

As we enter this season of peace, we are aware of how desperately this is needed in our world. World conflicts, national conflicts, gun violence in our schools and neighborhoods, natural disasters both far and near weigh heavy on us. Yet, this is an important time for us. It is time to be people of peace and hope and to share that wherever we can. We can fill food boxes and purchase gifts for those in need. Offer comfort to those who are grieving or ill, even a cheerful greeting to someone can change a day. It is also time to enjoy the beauty of the season, the opportunities to gather with friends, family, even take time to slow down, step away from the urge to busyness and find some inner peace, the peace that can come only from Christ. In taking time to recharge and reflect we can move into the world in the coming new year as peacemakers.

Jesus comes to us as Prince of Peace and invites us into that work as well. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God." With joy and hope, let us be about that work.



Peace,
Peggy



2025

The time of Advent and Christmas will be quickly followed by celebration of the New Year. A new year always seems to offer possibilities. As you think about the coming year, consider what gifts, skills, and time you might have to share with your church. Everyone has something to offer, and nothing is too small to make a difference. Is it time to participate in a new ministry, fellowship opportunity, Sunday school class?

Happy New Year, Midway!



Decorate Church for Christmas

Everyone is invited to decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 30, at 10:00 a.m.



Annual Congregational Meeting

The Session has called for a Congregational Meeting to be held December 8, 2024. The purpose of the meeting is to hear and act upon a report from the Nominating Committee to nominate and elect John Dodwell to the Session for a 3-year term, and also hear the 2024 Annual Report. The 2025 Budget will be presented.

On Sunday, November 3, Roz Rozakos was elected to serve as elder for the Class of 2026 and Chrissie Saunders for the Class of 2027.

Installation/Ordination of Elders

On December 29, we will have the ordination and installation of our new elders.

Bingo



On November 13, 2024 we had 26 in attendance for Bingo fun. We will not have a bingo day in December; our next bingo day will be Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will not meet in December, so watch your bulletin for our next outing in January.



Christmas Party

Midway's Christmas get-together will be at our Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 13th, with the catered buffet being served at 5:30. Terry Waddell has secured Redwood Catering for this year's holiday feast. The menu includes fried chicken, sliced ham, dressing and gravy, mac & cheese, yams and green beans, with strawberry shortcake and banana pudding for dessert. Tea and coffee will be provided by the church. Since there are budgeted funds for the party, the per person cost will be only \$5. LeNelle will be providing a brief form to be included with your payment. If you are a single member and would like to pay for a guest to join you, please feel free to do that.

We're going to have a Santa Swap at the party, which no one is obliged to participate in. But if you would like to participate, please bring a \$10 wrapped gift with you. Suggestions would be for gift cards, candy, fun or practical items. Besides the Santa Swap, we'll collect food items for Good Neighbor Cupboard. Please limit these items to any of the following: boxed Rice-a-Roni or mac & cheese; stuffing mixes; muffin mixes; or Bear Creek soup mixes. Let's share some Christmas joy with our Anderson neighbors who might be struggling financially.

Great thanks to Terry for once again arranging for our Christmas party. We hope to see everyone there.

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight/Communion Service**



Our Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Service will be held on Tuesday evening, December 24, at 5:00 p.m. The annual Christmas Joy Offering will be received. Bring your family and friends.

Undecorate Church

Everyone is invited to undecorate the church on Saturday, January 4, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.



**Financial Report as of
November 22 2024**

Budget Needs to Date	\$138,690.00
Budget Receipts to Date	\$132,812.47
Spent to Date	\$138,902.44
Special Offerings	\$ 6,784.85

*"Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the first fruits of all your crops."
~Proverbs 3:9*



Our Jar Offering for the first four Sundays in December will go to Under His Wings Women’s Ministry, a division of Haven of Rest. This is a Bible-based discipleship program and ministry that is designed to rescue, restore, and release women facing life-dominating problems related to addiction and homelessness. Their goal is to see every program participant will have immediate needs met, find freedom from addictions, and hope in a new life with Christ.

The Fifth Sunday Jar Offering will go to Blue Dragonfly whose mission is to help juvenile victims of human trafficking via advocacy, education, outreach, awareness and resources.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received December 24, during our Christmas Eve Communion/Candlelight Service. This offering is used to honor the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in a time of need and equally supports future church leaders of color at Presbytery-related schools and colleges. If you cannot be there that evening, you may contribute Sunday, December 29.

Our 2-Cents-a-Meal Offering for the 4th Quarter will go to Presbytery’s Cents Ability. Cents-Ability is one way that families, congregations, and presbyteries can support the battle against hunger and poverty. Every member is invited to contribute a few cents at every meal. Funds are then used to support local hunger ministries, including South Main Street Chapel & Mercy Center in Anderson and Faith Presbyterian Church’s food Bank in Williamston, as well as national and international projects through the Presbyterian Hunger Program.



Gratitude Corner: Notes we received from:

Meals on Wheels

“Dear Midway Presbyterian Church, Your commitment to caring for others reflects the true spirit of service, and we are beyond thankful for the difference you continue to make in our community. The compassion and love shown by your congregation, truly exemplifies what it means to be a neighbor helping neighbors. With heart felt appreciation, Meals on Wheels, Anderson.”

SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Pulpit

- Dec. 1 Tom Waddell
- 8 Dee Ashworth
- 15 Bob Bone
- 22 Kent Saunders
- 29 Tom Waddell

Head Usher

- Dec. 1 Keith Wentzky
- 8 Marilyn Martin
- 15 Amy Morris
- 22 Tom Waddell
- 29 Keith Wentzky

Sunday School Secretaries

- Dec. 1 Bob Bone
- 8 Amy Morris
- 15 Linda Mylod
- 22 Sammy Stevenson
- 29 Bob Bone



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Dec. 5 Kathy Gilmore
- 11 Linda Hawkins
- 19 John Dodwell



Lovely Communion Table November 3, 2024



Bingo November 13, 2024

Thanksgiving Dinner November 10, 2024





Meet our Gal (Monday thru') Friday/Go-To Person, LeNelle Chastain

This investigative reporter had difficulty finding a term to describe Midway's Office Manager; she's obviously the above, and so much more. But how did she get here and what's her story?

LeNelle grew up in Danielsville, GA on a farm that raised crops, cotton and beef cattle. The youngest of 5, with just her brother Pat being close in age to her, she thought of her other siblings as extra Moms and Dads throughout her youth. Her name, just like herself, is unique; her Dad was Lee, hence the first half of her name. And, according to Pat, they had an old mule named Nellie...but we don't know if that part's true or not. ☺ But there were mules along with the cattle, plus free-range chickens, pigs, and one milking cow on the farm; however, LeNelle wasn't fond of any of them. (I believe "terrified" is the actual term she used.) She said the roosters would chase her down the outhouse path, and she never got the hang of milking the cow. But she did pick up driving easily; her father taught her to drive when she was 11. At that precocious age, she once backed the car down an entire stretch of road because she kept stalling out, trying to make the crest of a hill. LeNelle was obviously resourceful even then.

In Latin class as a HS Freshman, she met Tommy, who was a Junior and they were together from her Sophomore year on. Tommy headed to UGA, and the day after her graduation, LeNelle took a job in the university's Data Processing department. They married the next year and rented a fully furnished home until 1968 when Tommy's job transferred him to Anderson. Thus, they arrived here with nothing more than a TV since they never had to buy furnishings before. Without knowing it, LeNelle was connected with Midway as soon as she and Tommy bought their first house on Waccamaw Trail. A neighbor said they had moved into a neighborhood of the KKK. They didn't know what to expect from that comment but soon learned that the KKK were the Kings, the Kays and the Kowalskis, who all became special friends. embracing them as family. LeNelle worked in Data Processing for several years at Singer and True Temper, but when they were blessed with Amy, she became a stay-at-home Mom. LeNelle's connection with Midway solidified in April of 1992 when she was ready to consider outside employment again. One April morning at breakfast with Tommy, she saw a newspaper Help Wanted ad for a part-time church secretary. There was just a phone number listed, so she using her investigative reporter skills and the phone book, she discovered the posting was from Midway Church. Later that day, she stopped at the church office and met with Rev. Mickey Rice who asked her to bring in a resume and meet with the Personnel Committee, which at that time included Tommy Alewine. Frank Wentzky already knew LeNelle from other local activities, so when he heard she had applied here, he put in a good word for her. Of course, to this day, Tommy and Frank both take credit for bringing the blessing of LeNelle to us at Midway. (But most of us see God's hand in this, and give Him the thanks and glory for sending her our way!) A number of pastors came and went: after Rev. Rice came Rob Butler, Mel Davis, and John McCallum, with Interims that included Dr. Roger Kvam, Dr. Marty Harkey, John Fastenau, Preston Sattelle and Rick Baggett, and the occasional stretch of elders filling the pastoral gap. But the constant for our congregation has been LeNelle Chastain. She shared many sweet and humorous moments with this reporter about past goings-on at Midway, but 32 years of exploits can't fit into the limitations of one newsletter, so you'll have to ask her to share those memories with you individually. What I'll share here, on behalf of our members, is the love and appreciation that we all have for the dedication, attention, and generosity of spirit that LeNelle has brought to us for over three decades. Many of us aren't joking when we say that we'll have to close the doors if LeNelle decides to retire. After losing the love of her life five years ago, we grieved with LeNelle and prayed that God would send her the strength to stay on here. Prayers were answered, and, in faithful step with our blessed Lord, she's the Rock that keeps our bills paid, our congregation informed, our elders in line, and our doors open.

When asked what gets her up in the morning, she replied, "my alarm clock"; but when pressed for a more inspirational response, she said that the grace of God sustains her and that her favorite hymn reminds her that her life is in His hands. So, as God sustains our spiritual life, the practical life of our congregation is in LeNelle's greatly competent and loving hands, for which we are incredibly grateful. May God bless her – and therefore us – with a long and healthy life. ☺