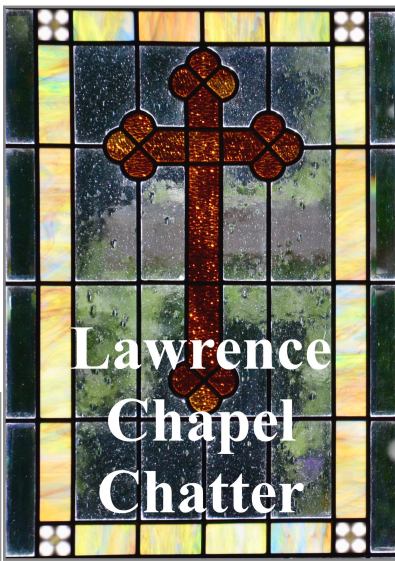


December 2025

Message from Justin!



Our Mission

Make Disciples for Jesus
Christ for the transformation
of the world.

Our Vision

Lawrence Chapel United
Methodist Church practices
the Love and Teachings of
Jesus.

PO Box 117
Central, SC 29630
(864) 653-4461

Church Office Hours
Mon-Tue-Thu
9:00am-1:00pm
Wed
9am-Noon

Pastor Justin Ritter



Support
your church
ministry.

What is your favorite Christmas song? This is a difficult question for many because there are so many great songs. Christmas music has been playing over the radio for the last month. If you are like me, we have been singing with much glee. I love hearing Jingle Bells and Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer and I even find myself adding extra phrases between the regular lyrics.

But for me, I do have a favorite Christmas song. It was recorded in 1977 and wasn't released until 1982 (before my time). The name is Peace on Earth/The Little Drummer Boy by David Bowie and Bing Crosby. I was exposed to this song in High School when I sang with one of my friends Malik. The two of us sang this song all over Walterboro for many years, spreading the peace the song offers. Even though this song is all of 2 minutes and 32 seconds, it still brings joy to my heart and sometimes even a tear to my eye.

I know the past few years have been tough getting into the Christmas Season. But this year I hope that you will. The Children will have their Christmas program on the 3rd. Two or More will gather for "The Chosen" Christmas movie on the 18th. Also on the 18th, we will have a special service with Mt. Zion UMC. This will be a Blue Christmas Service, a service of hope. We will gather on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of Christ. We will hear the stories of that baby who was born in the stable, and we will sing the songs of Angels singing and of Shepherds watching over their flocks. We will find ways to be with our families. But I ask you this season to find a place again in your heart for the joy of the Christ Child. Christmas isn't about "boxes and bags" or even about how many gifts you receive. It is about how we can serve that Child lying in the manger. I pray that all of you find Joy in the season ahead. Love you all, Justin

December Senior Lunch



Senior Lunch will be on Wednesday, December 10th at noon. Lunch is being provided since it's our Christmas meal so remember bring no food! It will be a fun time to celebrate the Christmas season!

Wreaths Across America



The LCUMC Cemetery Foundation's Wreaths Across America ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 14th right after church in the Fellowship Hall. A light lunch will be provided for everyone to enjoy. The Foundation appreciates so much the support the church family has given us. We hope everyone will join us to honor the veterans in our cemetery by helping to place wreaths on our veterans' graves.



**2 David Blakely
3 Anne Lee
4 William Brackett
8 Lou Robinson
11 Linda Ferry
13 Sandra Morgan
16 Karon Donald
18 Keith Madden
Charles Peterson
Lori Simpson
19 Georgia Reagan
22 Channing Phifer
31 Alex Foster**

**17 Tim and Sharon Match
18 Jordan and Jennifer Harmon
27 Ronny and Viky Thompkins**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00am Coffee with Justin	2	3 12:00pm Hooks and Needles 6:15pm Children Play and dinner	4 10am The Chosen	5	6
7	8 10:00am Coffee with Justin 6pm Leadership Council Meeting	9	10 12pm Senior Lunch 1:00pm Hooks and Needles	11 10am Unveiling Mary Magdalene	12	13
14 11:30am Wreaths Across America Ceremony and lunch	15 10am Coffee with Justin	16	17 12pm Hooks and Needles	18 10am The Chosen Christmas Movie and lunch 6pm Blue Christmas Service at LCUMC	19 Newsletter articles are due to Elizabeth 10-9pm Fellowship Hall Reserved	20
21	22 10:00am Coffee with Justin	23	24 Church Office Closed 5pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed	26	27
28	29	30	31	1 Happy New Year! Church Office Closed		Each Sunday 9am Sunday School 9:15am Choir Practice



Marie Karns(Geehreng), Cheryl Kelly(Sandra and Lou), Sam(Glenns), Duane and Norma Barton, Rylan and Family(Heather Beam), Barbara Ochoa, Brenda Hammond(Connie), Drew Meyers, and Gunther Nocht(Kris Ellenburg), Jim Brackett(Donna Glenn), Betty Ambrose, Rev. Bruce and Ann Sayre, Jenny Harmon, Braelyn Hollensbe, Joann Holmes(Walter Hadden), Jean Thomas, Julie Wardlaw, Bob and Josie Geehreng, Pat and Skip Fenton, Zach, Morgan and Cameron Martin, David and Betsy McJunkin, Jimmy Goodnight(Gwen's Dad), Liam Pickens(Catie Pickens), Stephen and Diane Singleton.

Nursing Care

Assisted Living



The Downs Skilled Nursing 500 Downs Blvd Room 31 - Betty Ambrose
Pruitt - Nan Davis - 163 Love and Care Rd., Room 3, Six Mile, SC 29682
Dominion - Ken George
Duane and Norma Barton - 515 Benton St. Apt. 110, Seneca, SC 29672

Tanner Files(Army), Cayden Bell(Marines), Matt Sanders (Air Force), Noble Swick(Air Force)(Singleton's), Jeremy Cassell (US Army), Logan and Stephanie Redding (US Coast Guard) (Colby Blakely).

Signup online to
bring Altar Flowers



<https://bit.ly/3Tkph7E>



Lawrence Chapel United Methodist Church
PO Box 117
Central, SC 29630

(864) 653-4461

office@lawrencechapel.church

Ministry Staff
Congregation, Ministers

Reverend Justin Ritter, Pastor
Elizabeth Bowman, Financial Secretary
Dr. Amy Ahui, Music Director/Pianist
Deanna Phifer, Director of Children's Ministry
Ken Glenn, Treasurer
Suzi Harmon, Nursery
Penny Hall and Donna Glenn, Lay Leaders
Stephen Singleton, Lay Member to Annual Conference
Reverend Steven Patterson, District Superintendent

<https://lawrencechapel.church>

Church WiFi ID - LCMGuest
Password - PeaceBeWithYou!

Lawrence Chapel UMC Practices the Love and Teachings of Jesus

YTD Income/Expense Summary Thru October 2025

Budget YTD	Expenses Paid YTD	Giving YTD	Variance Expenses to Giving
\$206,558.00	\$199,535.01	\$187,933.29	(\$11,601.73)

Year to Date 2025 General Fund gifts, tithes and offerings (YTD January-October 2025) lagged YTD General Fund expenses by **\$11,601.72**. With September lagging expenses by **\$11,601.72** we are trending down. Your financial contributions to Lawrence Chapel make ministry happen and are greatly appreciated. You make so many things possible in service to Jesus Christ. God bless you.

Christmas Meal Baskets for the Goodness Grocery

Please consider donating the following items:

Jarred gravy, cranberry sauce, mac and cheese, evaporated milk, boxed stuffing, large cans of green beans, cream of mushroom soup, quarts of chicken broth, cake mix, frosting, salt and pepper, baking potatoes, sweet potatoes and corn break mix.



Congratulations Erin!

Erin Beam will be graduating from Tri-County Tech on December 15th. She has been accepted to Coastal Carolina's online program. We'll recognize Erin on Sunday, December 14th during worship.



Care Committee Update

The Nature Committee thanks all of you who have added the homemade soups, small casseroles and desserts to the freezer in the fellowship hall. These have been delivered to members with health issues. We so appreciate your effort.

The youth enjoyed preparing freezer meals on Wednesday, Nov. 19th. They learned how to make a white chicken chili, and a traditional chili, egg casserole and chicken and rice casserole. We had a chili cook-off! The winners are Scott Leatherbery, Andrew and Robert Harmon. Congratulations! Julie Drakes white chicken chili was delicious as well.



There will be a Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24th at 5:00pm. We hope everyone will be there to participate in the Holy Service to honor the birth of our Savior.



Country Santa

Collecting begins Nov. 1- Dec. 14

Younger Children

Toys, bikes, trikes, puzzles, books, art supplies, dolls, Barbie, Ken and accessories for Barbie, action figures, trucks, balls, bats, cars, games, toddler toys, trains, stuffed animals, coloring and activity books, crayons, washable markers and Legos.

Teens

Hairbrushes, curling irons, hair barrettes, makeup, perfume, lotions, bath gel, nail polish, hats, scarves, gloves, board games, card games, Rubik's Cube (without colors), and other fidget toys such as the Shashibo Shape Shifting box, other games, soccer, basketball and footballs, nail kits, pickle ball sets, skateboards, drawing pads, drawing pencils, markers, bracelets making kits.

We will shop for you if you would rather make a monetary donation!
Help make Christmas brighter for children in Pickens County.



Mark Your Calendar!

Two or More will meet on Tuesday, January 6th, 2026 at Ken & Donna Glenn's home to plan for the New Year! ALL are invited just let Donna know by Sunday January 4th so we have enough coffee, tea and light refreshments! Bring your ideas and let's make 2026 the BEST yet!

Two or More Ministry Christmas Gathering

All Are Welcome!

(Please remember to RSVP so we have plenty of food for everyone!)

Date: December 18

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Event: Movie Morning featuring "The Chosen: Christmas"

Join us for a joyful and relaxed morning as we celebrate the season together! We'll enjoy a special Christmas film from The Chosen, share a light lunch, and finish with a fun and friendly Christmas Surprise Swap—our playful, church-friendly twist on a White Elephant Exchange!

For the Christmas Surprise Swap:

Bring a wrapped gift to use in the game—but please don't buy anything new!

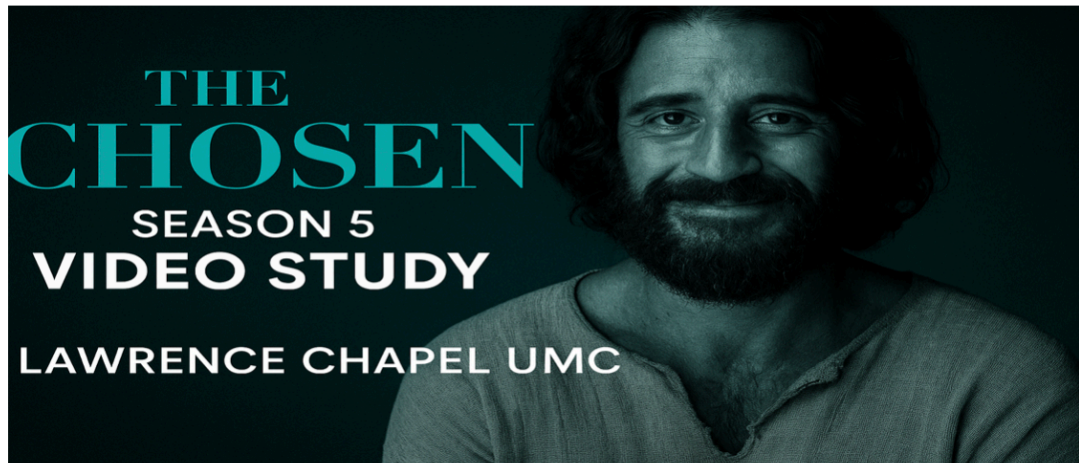
Just look around your home for something you no longer need or want.

Get ready for swapping, "stealing," and lots of laughter as we trade our treasures!

Kindly RSVP to Donna Glenn

Text: 864-483-2280

Email: dglennmles@gmail.com



The table is set. The people of Israel welcome Jesus as king while his disciples anticipate his crowning. But instead of confronting Rome, he turns the tables on the Jewish religious festival. Their power threatened, the country's religious and political leaders will go to any length to ensure this Passover meal is Jesus' last.

Join us beginning November 20 as we journey to the cross with The Chosen Season 5. Dates as listed. This study is open to everyone.

All sessions at 10:00am on Thursday - in the church Library. We will not go over 90 minutes.

Lesson 1 - Video - Entry. **NOVEMBER 20**
Lesson 2 - Video - House of Cards. **DECEMBER 4**
—> CHRISTMAS SPECIAL / Video Special. **DECEMBER 18 (Two hours)**
Lesson 3 - Video - Woes. **JANUARY 15**
Lesson 4 - Video - The Same Coin. **JANUARY 29**
Lesson 5 - Video - Because of Me . **FEBRUARY 12**
Lesson 6 - Video - Reunions. **FEBRUARY 26**
Lesson 7 - Video - The Upper Room Part 1. **MARCH 12**
Lesson 8 - Video - The Upper Room Part 2. **MARCH 26**

April 3 - GOOD FRIDAY
April 5 - EASTER SUNDAY

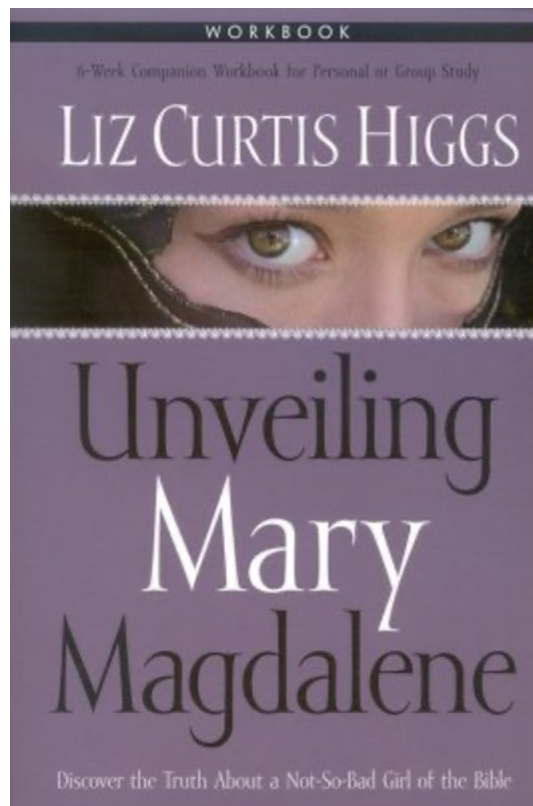
STUDY GUIDES:

NOTE!!! I will be using the FREE Study Guide for Season 5. Let me know if you are attending and I will send you the PDF or print a copy for you.

- **FREE** - Resource from The Bible Artist. One Page Study. Bring your bibles to class to dig into scripture before and after watching the movie.
- Type Link here in your browser: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11oJMqBaBj3csAl9aPBRoho6-Qoaza0K2/view?usp=sharing>

You may use this study guide if you want a more in-depth study.

- The **Interactive Bible Study Guide** same as we have been using. Purchase your own copy at your favorite Book Seller. Runs from \$ 15.00 and up.



BIBLE STUDY starting **December 11, 2025**. If you have been watching “The Chosen” (which will start back up with Season 5 on November 20th), you have noticed the role that Hollywood has given Mary Magdalene. Everyone and anyone is invited to join me for a study of Mary Magdalene written by Liz Curtis Higgs (the author of “Bad Girls of the Bible”). Let's find out what the Bible has to say about her?

Please contact the church office or Pat Fenton (910-393-9001 or pfenton9@yahoo.com) to sign up for this study. We will be meeting on the dates alternating with Season 5 of “The Chosen.” Our first meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 11 at 10 a.m. in the church library. Bring your bible to every future study!

Study 2026 dates are as follows meet at 10am in the library:

Jan. 8, 22, Feb. 5, 19, March 5, 19.

Children Christmas Play





Feeling Blue this Christmas?

You are not alone. For many, the Christmas season brings not only joy, but also feelings of sadness, loss, or loneliness. If this Christmas season feels heavy for you, Rev. Joey Gambrell and Rev. Justin Ritter invite you to a Blue Christmas Service at Lawrence Chapel UMC 2101 Six Mile Hwy, Central, SC 29630 on Thursday, December 18th at 6:00pm.

**Through scripture, prayer, music and remembrance, we will make space for both our sadness, loss, or loneliness and hope, trusting in the promise that
“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John1:5.**



It has been the tradition at LCUMC to collect a love offering for the church staff at Christmas time. Your generous gifts, designated for this purpose, will be distributed to Justin, Elizabeth, Amy, Deanna, Kris, Grayson and Suzi in recognition of and appreciation for the ministry and service they provide to Lawrence Chapel. Thank you! Jeff Hall.