

Mark Your Calendar

HAPPENINGS COMMUNITY THREADS FOR JANUARY 2019

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Regular Open Sew Session in the Bordeaux Room at Hickory Knob State Resort Park. Bring your project and supplies to enjoy a day of sewing and sharing. Join us for lunch in the restaurant. Thursday, Jan. 17, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Regular Open Sew Session in the Bordeaux room at Hickory Knob State Resort Park. Bring your project and supplies. The theme for our Fat Quarter Raffle will be announced prior to this gathering. Bring a fat quarter for the basket and fill out the ticket, and the lucky winner will take home the stash. Join us for lunch in the restaurant. Thursday, Jan. 31, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Regular Open Sew Session in the Bordeaux Room at Hickory Knob State Resort Park. Bring your project and supplies to enjoy a day of sewing and sharing. Join us for lunch in the restaurant. If

you are new to the area, or just want to know more about Community Threads, please contact Belinda at quiltingworkshops@gmail.com or call 843-860-5403. Community Threads is a program of the McCormick Arts Council at the Keturah (MACK), and all are welcome. No sewing experience necessary. "Come Stitch With Us!"

BLACK HISTORY DINNER AND SHOW

A black history dinner and show featuring the nationally known Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters will be held Feb. 2, 2019 at 5 p.m. at the Mims Community Center. Tickets are available now for \$20 per person. No tickets available at the door. Contact Sarah Moss at 391-2296 or Dorothy Rivers at 391-2095. The event is sponsored by Willington African American Cultural Center and the Mims Community Center.

Stay in your lane!

By Kittye Craig – Jackson

Peter had an age old disease, which we call "the foot-in-mouth disease," by sticking his foot in his mouth. Jesus told him, Peter the best thing that you can do is to "stay in your lane."

The next time you get a wild hair and go on a witch hunt against a fellow believer who is hanging on by a thread, the best thing you could ever do is to "stay in your lane." The next time you begin to get that itch to tell others how they should serve God and live for God, you need to retreat and "stay in your lane."

The church of today is filled with "claim jumpers" who are set on jumping into the business of others. Stay in your own lane and run your own race. Unless you're prepared to deal with the aftermath, never invite yourself to a situation where your presence is not requested or welcome. Don't pull out a chair at someone else's table, then turn around and be hurt when you feel unwelcome.

When we willfully choose to take our eyes off Jesus and focus on what other people are doing, we begin to compare, we judge and we foster feelings of insecurity and self-righteousness. We compare our callings to others. We compare our talents, gifts and even our service to others. Pretty soon, our eyes are off Jesus, and we fall short.

This is a game you can't win. If you're called to be at church every single time the doors are open because the Lord told you to, then do it! Don't worry about who is not there. Pray for them and reach out to them, but keep your eyes focused on the Lord. You don't know what He's doing behind the scenes.

There's a gentleman who plays the guitar at a local church, and I love how he handles his calling so humbly. Nobody wants me to take his spot playing guitar at that church – that's his calling, not mine. I stay in my lane by sitting back and enjoying his beautiful musical contribution to the service.

Don't be distracted by others; just stay in your lane. Be so focused on Jesus and on what He wants to do in your life that you literally do not have the time to play the comparison game.

I firmly believe that if each of us would practice more self-awareness and self-reflection when it comes to our interpersonal relationships,

we'd have less swerving out of our lanes and having emotional fender benders because we aren't paying attention or taking responsibility for our behavior.

Please allow me to give you some examples of what I am talking about:

1.) If I am not the one who works with the ushers in the first place, and I am always telling them what they need to do – I am out of my lane.

2.) If I am not the organist or pianist or the drummer, and I am always trying to tell them how to play, and I don't even play – I am definitely out of my lane.

3.) If I am not the choir director, and I am always trying to direct the choir – I have veered into the wrong lane.

4.) If I am not the one in charge of the pastor or church anniversary, and I take it upon myself to go and ask people to do something on those programs, and I have not asked the chairperson if that is okay – I have jumped out of my lane and crossed over into oncoming traffic.

Now, we must remember that it is not wrong to be a part of and to work with others, but when you decide on your own to take the authority of the one who has been placed in the lead position, you have become a hindrance. You are not respecting the one who has been chosen to lead. We must all remember our place and be there to support, not take over.

I am reminded of King Uzziah. 2 Chronicles 26:16 says, "But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the Lord his God by entering the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense." God struck him with leprosy because only the priests were permitted to burn incense on the Altar of Incense. Uzziah crossed over into an area where he was not supposed to be.

God made you the way He wants you to be. He designed you and gifted you, anointed you and equipped you for a purpose. He Himself wants you to be the best version of who He made you to be!

We need to stay in our lane. It's not worth the drama to cross over.



The Women Ministry (WISE) of Bethany Missionary Baptist Church shared a fellowship program with gifts to the residents of Petra Health & Rehab on Dec. 1. The ministry held their 18th Christmas Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 15 with the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church family as the guest church. The speaker for the occasion was Evelyn Wardlaw. On Sunday, Dec. 23, the WISE Ministry distributed 40 "We Care Gift Bags" to members of the church and the community as a yearly project to give a special touch of care and love. Shown above are the members of the WISE Ministry (Women Inspiring Spiritual Encouragement). WISE wishes all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Church Calendar

BORDEAUX WORSHIP CENTER
• Services at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

BUFFALO BAPTIST
3699 Hwy. 28 N.
• Jan. 9: Deacons meeting at 6 p.m. at the church.
• Jan. 13: Church conference following the worship service.
• Jan. 27: VBS meeting following the worship service. Everyone interested in helping with VBS is asked to attend.

FIRST BETHANY BAPTIST
• Sunday school at 10 a.m. Sunday worship at 11 a.m.
• Second Sunday evening services: Forest View Manor (Callison Hwy.) at 4 p.m. Mission meeting (all ages) at 5 p.m. Finger food fellowship at 6 p.m.
• Fifth Sundays: Fifth Sunday singing and worship at 5 p.m.
• Wednesday nights: Light supper (free) at 6 p.m. Class from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Bible Buddies - birth to five years old. GA (Girls in Action) - first to fifth grade. RA (Royal Ambassadors) - first to fifth grade. EPIC Group (Youth) - Sixth to twelfth grade. Adult Bible study.

**FOUNTAIN OF LIFE
OUTREACH MINISTRY**
• What are your needs? Let us pray. Call in prayer line every Wednesday 5:30 a.m. 218-632-0999. Pin #622939.

**MCCORMICK
UNITED METHODIST**
200 Gold St.
• Jan. 4: Cards and games from 1 to 4 p.m.

MT. ZION A.M.E.
185 Mt. Zion Church Rd.
• Church school at 9 a.m. Worship service at 10:15 a.m. The Rev. Lebbie Ligon is pastor.

NEW MACEDONIA F.B.H.
209 Deason St.
• Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.
• Jan. 5: Praise and worship service at 2 p.m. The special guest will be the Rev. Brenda Patterson Ishmel. Come hear this great speaker. Various choirs will sing. The Rev. Willie Elmore is pastor.

NEW STRAIT GATE CHURCH
• Jan. 5: Modern Modest Beauty presents the Miss New Year Pageant for ages up to 14 at 5 p.m. Admission is \$10. For more information, contact modernmodestb@gmail.com or 864-310-0604.

PINE GROVE A.M.E.
317 Pine Grove Church Rd., Plum Branch
• Church school at 9 a.m. Morning worship service at 10:15 a.m.

PLUM BRANCH BAPTIST
• HisKids children's ministry and PBBC youth meet Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

**REPUBLICAN
UNITED METHODIST**
865 Chamberlain's Ferry Rd.
• Sunday school 10 a.m. Church Service 11 a.m.

SPIRIT AND LIFE
615 Hwy. 378 West
• Regular weekly order of service for January: Prayer and Sunday school 10:15-11:15 a.m.; worship experience 11:15 a.m. (Communion on the

first Sunday); Nursing home ministry the third Saturday at 3 p.m. Call 864-337-0818 or 864-337-6415. Bishop Donn M. Lee is founder and pastor.
• Telephone Bible study on Wednesdays from 6-6:45 p.m. The call-in number is 712-451-0923, and the access code is 279337. Guest teachers are also being solicited.

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST
301 Edgefield Rd., Plum Branch
• Sunday service at 9:45 a.m. Come as you are. Bible study at 9 a.m.

**VILLAGE CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
• Village Church of Christ meets Sundays at 9 a.m. Contact Michael Kolb at 864-391-4543.

Corps' Thurmond Lake Project accepts Christmas trees for recycling

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Thurmond Lake Project Office will accept natural Christmas trees (no artificial trees) for recycling through Jan. 9, 2019. Artificial trees will not be accepted.

The Christmas trees can be dropped off at Riverside Middle School, located in Evans, Ga. All decorations – tinsel, lights, garland, bulbs, etc. – must be removed from the trees before dropping them off. Dumping of wireframe wreaths, yard debris and household trash at the site is strictly prohibited.

The recycled trees will be used as fish attractors in Thurmond Lake. Corps rangers and volunteers will

place submerged trees around fishing piers to improve fishing habitat. Additional trees will be staged at select ramps around the lake to be used by the public. Anyone wishing to obtain a list of locations where the trees

will be available should contact the Corps' Thurmond Lake Office after Jan. 9.

For more information or to volunteer, contact the Thurmond Lake Project Office at 800-533-3478.

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McCormick First Baptist Church

108 S. Oak Street, POB 416, McCormick, SC 29835 • 864-852-2640
www.mccormickfbc.org

Sunday	
Sunday School	9:45 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Evening Service	6:00 PM
Youth Program	6:00 PM
Wednesday	
Children's Program	5:30 PM
Prayer Meeting	6:00 PM

Nursery for Sunday Morning Worship provided

McCormick United Methodist Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

We Welcome you to Join us in Worship this Week

Gold and Pine Streets
McCormick, SC
(864) 852-2394
mccormickumc.org

Reaching Up

Reaching Out

Rev. C. Nels Ledwell....Pastor

Worship Services....8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Church School....9:45 a.m.

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Lutheran Church By The Lake

We invite you to worship with us.

SUNDAY MORNING 8:15 & 10:15 A.M.

**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
WITH GOD AND NEIGHBORS**

Highway 378 & Twelve Oaks Drive • McCormick
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GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Invites you to attend services

Wednesday & Friday at 9 a.m.; Saturday at 5 p.m.
Sunday at 11 a.m.

Hwy. 221 North, McCormick
Father Robert Sayer

Confessions: Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Or by Appointment Only
For additional information call 852-4722