

Lamott African Methodist Episcopal Church

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Rt. Rev. Julius H. McAllister Sr., Presiding Bishop

Rev. Dr. Stanley Smith, Presiding Elder

Rev. Dr. Louis P. Attles, Pastor

Elder Richard Safford, Minister of Music

Sunday, December 3, 2023 – Time - 10:00 a.m.

Church School Lesson: “The Faith of Ruth” **Lesson Text:** Ruth 1:6-18,22 **Key Text:** “But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.” Ruth 1:16 NIV -

Summary of the Lesson: The lesson is not only about faith and human relationship but also about how God works amid our circumstance. The Book of Ruth focuses on the life experiences of one family during the period of the judges, who overcome extreme hardship to become an influential member of ancient Israelite society. It was a wild time for the Israelites during the period of the judges. The people began to engage in the forbidden practices of their neighbors, including worshipping other gods. As punishment, God raised up various nations from among Israel's neighbors, who harass and oppress them. When the people repented and asked for help, God sent deliverers known as judges, who initiated a period of peace. But the peace was short-lived, as Israel again turned, time and time again, from God. What we know from the verses before our lesson text begins is that Bethlehem experienced a great famine. The story of Ruth begins with the departure of a family leaving Bethlehem in search of greener pastures. The characters are Naomi, husband Elimelech and two sons. They went to Moab and settled there. The husband died, leaving the two sons who married Moabite women. Eventually, the sons died. Naomi, Ruth and Orpah became widows. The lesson text begins with Naomi learning of God's provision in her homeland. For her, the journey back was a return to her family and the safety net it represented. But what about the Moabite women? The three women had suffered tremendous grief and loss. Would they choose to go with her? Both women started out with Naomi but only one continued – Ruth. Let's stop here and consider what motivates you to leave your comfort zone. What is the cost of moving forward; going into the unknown; and at what risks? There were two daughters-in-law, but only Ruth made the decision to travel with Naomi. She made the decision to leave her home and her gods behind. What did she see in Naomi? How did she come to trust Naomi so? Perhaps over the period Ruth spent with Naomi it was the conversations about Naomi's God; and the love Naomi had for her daughters-in-law. The relationship one has with God is very important. I want to suggest, however, that it is also important to seek wise counsel from someone who may be older, more experienced, and wiser regarding life. It pays to engage in some inquiry from those who have had the experience of both success and failure in the journey of life before making decisions and taking actions that can have long lasting consequences. When we face decisions in life, it is wise for us to do some spiritual inquiry rather than just proceeding with only our human insight, and the primary means through which God communicates to us is through His Holy Word. Seeking and applying Godly wisdom gained from His Word and wise counsel from spiritually mature people results in peace in the decisions we face. The faith that Ruth had was big enough to step out of her comfort zone; step into the unknown; take the risk and bear the consequence of leaving all she knew behind. By the way, God had a hand in all of it. It reminds me that God works for the good of those who love Him. You know the rest of this beautiful story; of Ruth's faithfulness to God and to Naomi; living in a community with God and others. Ruth is a story of heartbreak, loyalty, love, and the hardship of poverty. It is also about love that crosses cultural and ethnic lines. Living amid pain and suffering is difficult, especially if we are dealing with our own feelings of loss. How you respond to tragedy will determine whether we can follow Ruth's example as she followed God's example without even knowing her many-times great grandson, Jesus Christ. Can we demonstrate love in our relationships like Ruth? Amen.

Zoom Conference Access Number: (301) 715-8592 - **Meeting ID:** 576 600 0754 – **Conf. Passcode:** 1234

Watch the 10 a.m. Morning Worship Service & Bible Study @ www.lamottamec.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS - “Virtual Bible Study” – Tuesdays @ 7:30p - All are Welcome! Invite someone!

TODAY - After the morning service **Rehearsal for the Church School Christmas Play**, All youth in the play the Samuels will treat to lunch, **After the Rehearsal.**

TODAY– **“Hot Dog & Bake Sale”** after the morning service. Sponsored by the Health Ministry. **See insert**

NEXT Sun., Dec. 10th – **“Stewards’ Board- Annual Day”** – celebrated during the morning worship service.

NEXT Sun., Dec. 10th – **“We celebrate our Pastor’s Birthday”** all clubs, organizations and church family prepare your gifts and cards. No food served.

Pastor’s Aid Members per Sis. Congelton, please don’t forget your birthday gifts and cards for our pastor.

Sun., Dec. 17th “Fellowship Sunday” all clubs, organizations and church family prepare your gifts and cards.

Sun., Dec. 17th- The Church School will present the play “Teach the Children” during the morning service.

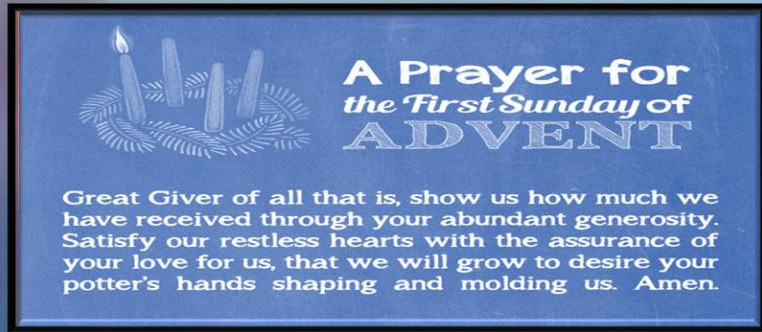
Sun., Dec. 24th @ 7:00 p.m. – **“Christmas Eve Hour of Power Service”** via our Zoom Line.

Sun., Dec. 31st @ 7:00 p.m. - **“New Year’s Eve Hour of Power Service”** - via our Zoom line:

Bible Study is CANCELLED - Dec. 26th & Jan., 2nd.

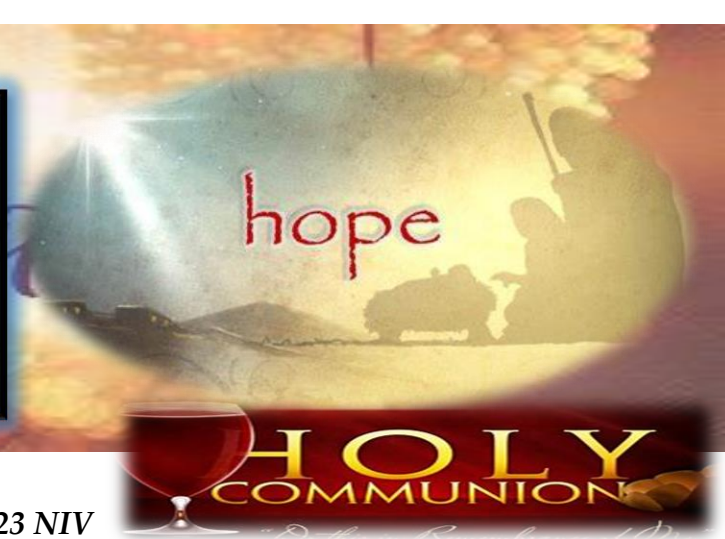


The Christmas Card box is in the rear of Sanctuary. - deposit cards for your church family



A Prayer for the First Sunday of ADVENT

Great Giver of all that is, show us how much we have received through your abundant generosity. Satisfy our restless hearts with the assurance of your love for us, that we will grow to desire your potter's hands shaping and molding us. Amen.



Scripture of the Month: 'If you can?' said Jesus.

"Everything is possible for one who believes." Mark 9:23 NIV

Order of Service Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.

Call To Worship – Please see **INSERT**

Opening Hymn "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

1) While shepherds kept their watching over silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light. **Chorus -**

2) The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth. **Chorus -**

Chorus - Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Prayer 

Prayer Response

Worship through Music

Declaration This is my Bible. I am what it says I am. I can have what it says I can have. I can do what it says I can do. Today I will be taught the word of God. My mind is alert. My heart is receptive. I'll never be the same again. In Jesus' name. Amen

Reading of the Will

Old Testament: Deuteronomy -18:14-22 **New Testament -Galatians 4:1-7** **The Gospel-** Luke 1:11-20

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty
Gloria Patri – "Glory Be To The Father"

Worship through Music

Sermon Rev. Dr. Louis P. Attles, Pastor

Invitational

Giving of our Tithes/Offering

The Pastor's Word/Announcements

1st Sunday of Advent Presentation Sister Martha Woods

General Confession – (Please see **INSERT**)

Communion Administered




Benediction

"Reach out and Touch Somebody's Hand"

Bro. Carl Rollins, Sis. Hester Alcorn, Sister of Charlotte & John Alcorn, Sis. Mary English, Sis. Maggie Bullard, Sis. Jeanette Congelton, Our country, Our youth, Bro. Leroy Williams, husband of Sis. Debbie Williams,, Sister Lottie Chisholm's mother, Lula King, Tuwana Jones, niece of Sis. Mary & Keith English, Rev., Dr. & Mrs. Melvin D. Wayns, Sis. Deb Williams' Mom & Dad, Bro. Bill Walker, Brother of Sis. Wanda Samuels, and All those who have family members and friends who are sick and have lost loved ones. **All those who have Birthdays or Anniversaries in the Month of Dec.,**

Happy Birthdays December = Pastor Attles Dec. 7th

Happy Anniversary – Dec. Natasha & Brett Patterson 31st - 13 years 

us continue in our giving. You can give by drop off, mail or online through "Tithe.ly" You can place your offering

The Month of December:
Focus or Theme: Encouraged people to celebrate the savior
Purpose: Celebrate what God did
Skill: Celebrate the Life God has given you



Cash app -[https://cash.app/\\$LaMottAMEChurch](https://cash.app/$LaMottAMEChurch)

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3. Put in the Amount - 4. Check box pay fee