



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2024, No. 1

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



A Year of Building Up

What does it mean to **build people up**? It means to encourage, support, cheer up, boost, revive, pep up, liven up, grow, and empower them to reach their full potential. It involves using words of affirmation, providing constructive feedback, and creating a positive environment that fosters growth and development¹.

Building others up can have a profound impact on their lives and can ultimately make you feel more empowered and fulfilled. Here are some ways to build people up: Give someone a compliment. Build people up by supporting them through a hard time. Be a good listener and offer advice when needed. Celebrate their successes and milestones.

Encourage them to pursue their passions and interests. Help them identify their strengths and weaknesses. Offer constructive feedback to help them improve. Be present and supportive. Share your own experiences and lessons learned.

Remember, building others up is one of the most important things we can do as human beings. It can transform your life and the lives of everyone around you.

I am asking all St. Luke United Methodist Church members and friends to make 2024 a year of **Building Up**. It is my desire, my hope, and prayer that every member, every leader, clergy and staff will be engaged in building up upon the Christian principles of love, grace, and community. We are the church called out to be a difference makers in our world.

In I Corinthians Paul gives specific ways for Christians to build up the church:

1. Be sensitive to those of fragile/or weak faith (1 Cor. 8:1-9:18; 10:28, 33). Don't be too quick to judge, too fast to blame, and too eager to exclude, People are hurting, struggling and in pain. Be sensitive and loving toward all.
2. Win people through culturally sensitive evangelism (1 Cor. 9:19-23; 10:27, 32-33). Witnessing is not about pushing the Gospel in people's throats. It is about building relationships based on respect, sharing, and listening. It's about earning the right to be heard. It takes time. Be caring toward others.
3. We need to be able to speak in the language where people can relate and understand (1 Cor. 14:16, 23-25). We need to allow ourselves to relate to each other from human to human. Be authentic and real. Don't be afraid to share your testimony with others.
4. Use spiritual gifts not for personal display, or evaluating who has a better gift, but to build up the church (1 Cor. 11:2-16; 12:12-30; 14:1-35). Every gift is needed in the life of the church. All gifts are equally important. One is needed to compliment the other. Be open to use gifts and talent to build faith, hope, and love wherever you are.

In Christian love and grace, Mel



St. Luke UMC New Website

St. Luke UMC is announcing the launch of our new website—stlukeumchaltomcity.org.

We are still working on it, so please be patient while we continue to add and edit content. We want to thank Bill Hoffman for the many hours he has spent working on the new website.



Weekly Prayer Group Meeting
Wednesday Morning
9:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

St. Luke Members and any others who would like to join us:

For some years there has been a prayer group meeting weekly to pray for those on the church's prayer list and for others who we know are going through something that we'd like to ask the Lord to be with them and watch over them.

Our custom has been to start with a devotional, then review the list and share any information on their situation or progress. We then go around the room with each one saying a prayer, which may be as simple as "God Bless Them." The prayer may include asking our Lord for peace on earth, guidance of ourselves, our country and for our leaders to work together. Still nothing is set in stone, our only objective is to talk to the Lord about those in need of his help and keeping those in need in our thoughts and prayer.

At this time our Good Lord has called home so many of our group and many, mostly because of age or circumstances can no longer join us in the evenings. So we are moving our prayer group from Thursday evenings at one of our homes to Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m., an hour before the Bible Study Class in the Fellowship Hall.

This is an invitation to all to join us in a united effort to pray for those who we've loved enough to put on our church's prayer list. God Bless You if you can't join us but if you can, please do.

Jack Bostick, Prayer Group Member



The Resale Shop is in need of volunteers to work Thursdays to help with pricing and moving merchandise. We also need volunteers to work Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm!



Upper Room Devotional

Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

"In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

It's already a new season of the Christian year, (again). In this season of Epiphany, we will move between God speaking, first at the Baptism of the Lord and then at the Transfiguration, the last Sunday of Epiphany. After the season of Advent, expectation and celebration of the Incarnation, it's important for the moment of Epiphany to focus us on the sovereign majesty of God. Christians believe this is most clearly demonstrated in Jesus Christ. As we begin (again), our reading pauses us at the baptism of Jesus.

This is more than performing a ritual. Jesus here demonstrates radical submission to God's agenda. A hint that it is more than a ritual is that it does not make sense to John the baptizer (or us) that the one who is without sin, the one who was to come as God's anointed, would need a baptism of repentance. In a counter-intuitive move, Jesus surrenders to God's will at the beginning of his ministry just as he does at the end. Before the trails, Jesus humbles himself before the one he calls Father. And, at the end of his earthly mission, at the greatest trail of all, Jesus will again surrender to God's will.

It's a radical display of allowing God to set the agenda that will fulfill God's promise of peace in Creation. John, maybe still not fully understanding (or agreeing?), submits to Jesus's request. And two thousand years later will still eavesdrop on Jesus hearing himself identified as the child of God the Creator.

As children of God, we can seek in all we do to be Christlike demonstrations of the presence of God in the flesh. To a listening and watching world, it will not always make sense. Still, let's get started...again.

Creator God, animate us by your holy Spirit so that all we do is undeniably a Christlike demonstration of your image in the world. Amen.



Receipts:
December 2023
\$37,163



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...

Continued Prayer Concerns: Jeanne Anne Pharis; French Congregation & the people of the Congo; Pat Farmer; Jack & Jerrie Lucko; David & Kay Stapp; Sam & Ann Kiker; Byron Lechler; Betty Holshouser; Ovella Russell; Scott Paris; Burt & Marylou Moore; Barbara Jones; Charles & Pat Hooper; Alice Cook; Jo Wommack; Melissa Lechler & her son, Lucas; Toni Hood's granddaughter-in-law, Christin; Buddy & DeeDee Hill grandson, Milo; Joe Crawford; Darren Isbell; Betty Ann Carter; Ed Baker; George & Karen Angle's daughter-in-law, Kristine; Ruby Lane; Judy White; Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Sandra Mason; Cathy Hicks; Mel & Susan Bishara's family in Israel and their nephew, Jimmy; Bob Watkins & family; Peggy Fallin; Ronnie Pippen & family; Virgil Van Schuyver's brother & sister; Raymond Hames; Bonnie Richards; Earline Vinnedge's granddaughter & great-grandson; Linda Smith & family with the loss of her sister, Sandra Dunn; Kelly, Tracy & Chandler Henderson with the loss their father & grandfather, Joe Henderson; Sharon Friddle's daughter, Amanda Govea; Rory Yocum; Rally Schmidt

This Week's Concerns: Doris Crocker Sandra Whittenburg; the people of the southern of Israel and Gaza; those affected by the shootings, tornadoes, flooding, earthquakes, & wildfires; isolation & loneliness; gun violence each day in our country; the people of Ukraine & the world; prayers for our nation

Our Military: Ryan Kelly Hampton; Kyle Johnson; Krystal Calvert; Evan Hill; Matt Miller; Nathaniel Hill; Alex Sullivan-Green; Harrison Lenox



*There's
always room at
the table.*

The Community Table Food Pantry

Hours of Operation:
Tuesday & Thursday:
4:00—7:00 p.m.

If you or someone you know is in need of food, the food pantry offers the following:

Dairy Products, Meat, Fresh Fruit & Vegetables, Bread Products, Canned Vegetables, and Non-Perishables



Please continue your financial support of St. Luke United Methodist Church. There are several ways to contribute that include mailing your offering to the church office or giving online through our website, stlukeumchaltomcity.org.

You may also use your banking online payment services to make your contributions every month.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Luke United Methodist Church!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

EMMANUEL CLASS:

We had eleven members and two visitors present along with Roxie leading our class. We honored two deceased members Sunday in our Rock Garden for Bill Reeves and Bill Worthington. Anita Bookout, Carol Negozio and Pastor Mel joined us to share memories of both men. Our class will meet at the Bluebonnet Café at 11:00 a.m. on January 25 for lunch to honor Roxie Waters for teaching our class for the last four years. We hope to see everyone there. Please call Barbara Blair at 817/656-4031 to RSVP.

Mary Ross

GENESIS CLASS:

We had a nice group to discuss our holidays and our upcoming lesson plan. We will begin our Christmas Carol Bible study this Sunday. It's going require some homework and advance reading on our part. The chapters are long and would not leave enough time for discussion if we read them in class. Read Stave 1 for this week's lesson. George reported that Sarah is doing a little better. Continued prayers for her. Thank you Amy and Dayna for covering snacks this week. We have a new calendar (thank you Amy) and it's just about filled through June. Snacks/ Doughnuts 1/14-Gordon, 1/21-Angle. LNO is this Thursday, January 11 at 5:30 p.m. at Sweetie Pies, 6720 N Loop 820 (820 and Rufe Snow). Amy is sending an email as a reminder. PLEASE *reply all* so we have a good head count. Y'all have a great week and see ya Thursday and/or Sunday.

Anita Bookout

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. We hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and New Year's celebration. On January 7 we had eleven members in attendance. It was good to have Earline and her daughter, Cindy, back with us. We held a short business meeting discussing the new procedure for prayer meeting and communication from Samaritan's Purse. The Prayer Group meeting will now meet at the church instead of individual homes. The prayer group will be held each Wednesday morning at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall starting January 10. Also, we received a thank you note from Samaritan's Purse for our donation made prior to Christmas. Our joys were that Bill Whisenant was here to visit with some of our church members, Gail LaRue's family is doing well, Rose Mascari has joined our class, and, we are looking forward to celebrating Earline's 100th birthday on January 20. Our prayers go out to Doris Crocker, whose procedure has been delayed due to insurance having to okay everything, Ronnie Pippen and family, Maggie Khoury, Byron Lechler, Pat and Charlie Hooper, Rose Mascari, Sam and Ann Kiker, Betty Holshouser, Alice Cook, Toni Hood, Bonnie Richards, Betty Ann Carter, Amanda Govea and safe travels for a 14 year old female dancer going to Cuba from the US to perform. We praise God for C. J. Stroud, Houston football player, who was unafraid to give God the credit for allowing him a successful career in the NFL. On a final note: Have a happy and healthy new year and know that God is with us at all times.

UPPER ROOM CLASS continued:

Resale Shop: \$342

Prayer Meeting: Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall

Devotion/Refreshments: Virgil and Ann

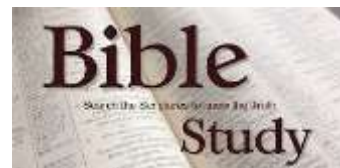
Lesson: Begin Matthew 14:1

Gloria Lechler



This Sunday we spoke with the youth on getting ready for the coming of Christ. Our Bible verse is found in the Book of Revelation 22:20. In this verse, Jesus is saying that he will be coming back soon. Ever since I became a Christian, I have been hearing of the coming of the Lord. At first, I was taught that before we reached the year 2000 Christ will be back, but here we are in 2024 and we are still waiting for him. Does it mean that Christ is not coming back? No, it simply means that we have more time to get ready to meet him. He is giving us more time to pray and repent, more time to do good to others, more time to seek his face and more time to share the Good News of the Gospel. Let us take advantage of this time God is giving to us. Amen.

Stanislas Ndecky



Wednesday Morning Bible Study
January 17, 2024 † 10:00 a.m.
Book of Hebrews † Fellowship Hall
We invite you to join us.



The contribution statements for 2023 are being prepared this week and you can pick up your statement in the north foyer this Sunday. For all of our home bound members, your statements will be mailed to your home.



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published January 24 and all submissions need to be in the church office by January 22. Thank you!



St. Luke United Methodist Church
 3200 Denton Highway
 Haltom City, TX 76117
Open hearts, open minds, open doors

The *E-Messenger* newsletter is published bi-weekly online. Deadline for submission of articles is 9:00 a.m. every Monday. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

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Central Texas Conference website: www.ctcumc.org

Sunday Services: Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

In-person and Online Worship • 10:30 a.m.

French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Community Table Food Pantry Open Tuesday & Thursday • 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

NEWSLETTER ONLINE AT:

www.st-luke-umc.net



Sunday, January 14, 2024

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
 2:00 p.m. French Worship Service

Monday, January 15, 2024

No Activities

Tuesday, January 16, 2023

4:00 p.m. Community Table Food Pantry Distribution

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Youth Activities
 6:00 p.m. French Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 18, 2024

9:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast—Bluebonnet Café
 4:00 p.m. Community Table Food Pantry Distribution
 5:15 p.m. Prayer Group

Friday, January 19, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, January 20, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, January 21, 2024

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
 2:00 p.m. French Worship Service

Monday, January 22, 2024

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

4:00 p.m. Community Table Food Pantry Distribution

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Youth Activities
 6:00 p.m. French Congregation Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal



Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for
 In-Person Worship or Online Worship via our
 Facebook page & YouTube:

SLUMC—Haltom City

Sunday, January 14, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance

Wednesday Bible Study • January 3—0
 Wednesday Night Youth Activities • January 3—6
 French Congregation Bible Study • January 3—9
 United Methodist Men Breakfast • January 4—9

Sunday, January 7, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School—64

In-Person Worship—52 † Online Worship—124

French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—40

Weekly Attendance

Wednesday Activities • December 27—0
 United Methodist Men Breakfast • December 28—8

Sunday, December 31, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School—42

In-Person Worship—56 † Online Worship—135

French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—70

Weekly Attendance

Wednesday Bible Study • December 20—11
 Youth Activities • December 20—0
 French Bible Study • December 20—9
 United Methodist Men Breakfast • December 21—7

Sunday, December 24, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School—40

In-Person Worship—49 † Online Worship—287

French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—32

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—85