



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2024, No. 2

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



Serve & Lead from the Heart

When John Wesley talked about religion, he used the word, "heart." He was not referring to the muscle that pumps blood throughout the body. He was talking about the center of a human being, the core of who we are. He said "My heart was strangely warmed."

The Bible is full of expressions about the heart.

- Bitterness of heart • Closing one's heart • Evil heart
- Half-hearted • Hardened heart • Hearts melt
- Heart's treasure • Pure in heart • Receptive heart
- Writing on hearts • A heart of stone • A heart of flesh

We use heart language like this:

- Bottom of my heart • Have a heart • Eat your heart out
- Take heart • All my heart • Broken heart
- Love in any language straight from the heart.

The heart does not exist for the heart—it exists for the body. Leading and serving from the heart is leading for the sake of others. If the heart pumps and pumps and pumps, but the blood does not circulate, the heart has not done its job. If you just address your feelings and your spirit, and care for your soul, but you do not circulate, you have not done your job. You are not leading from the heart.

Serving from the heart begins the moment you make an active response to the hurts and hopes of anyone outside yourself. Whenever you take the slightest step beyond yourself, you are responding to a call to servant leadership.

There is a song which describes the kind of church we are and strive to be. It says this:

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live
A place where all God's children tell how hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace*

Here the love of Christ shall end divisions

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone

To heal and strengthen, serve and teach and live the Word they've known

Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face

Let us bring an end to fear and danger

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

That is the kind of church we are striving to be as St. Luke United Methodist Church, and with God's help can become. The church depends on people who serve and lead from the heart. Together we will fulfill our mission to "Making faithful disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world... one person a time."

In Christian love and grace, Mel



Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Bible Study

January 31 † Fellowship Hall

Prayer Group † 9:00 a.m.

Bible Study † 10:00 a.m.

Book of Hebrews

We invite you to join us next Wednesday.



Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 14 † 6:30 p.m.



St. Luke UMC has launched a new website:

stlukeumchaltomcity.org



Our church is in need of nursery workers. Anyone who applies will need to take sexual abuse training which involves a video and a quiz. The process takes less than an hour to finish. If you or anyone you know would like to become a nursery worker, the job pays \$15 an hour. Anyone interested in becoming a nursery worker needs to contact Susan in the church office at 817/838-6834.

Thank you very much in helping us find someone to care for our children.



Upper Room Devotional

Psalm 111

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

When we place ourselves humbly at God's feet and seek to learn, we find that we receive wisdom. The psalmist has experienced delight while observing "the faithful and just works of God's hands." Such delight inspires study, and the psalmist distills in verse 10 the lesson received from contemplating God's fidelity to the covenant: "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

This "fear" is not synonymous with terror or angst but is rather akin to a sense of awesomeness, an experience that ultimately defies reason. By acknowledging this holy fear as the igniting point of wisdom, we remain humble, perpetual students who delight in the creative artistry of God's hands.

Psalm 111 is cyclical in its litany of praise for God's gracious and merciful deeds. The delight that descends upon the psalmist inspires a description of the awesomeness of God. This awesomeness and the writer's exploration of it start to build God's divine wisdom in the writer; consequently, God's awe begets awe; God's wisdom begets wisdom.

We find in this psalm a model for our spiritual and intellectual formation. To fear the Lord is to desire to discern the will of God and to imbue humility in our actions. This holy reverence is to be practiced. Yet our embracing of the practice is merely the *beginning* of wisdom. To study the works of God's hands, we remain in a posture of beginning because God "has commanded his covenant forever," and when encountering the mystery of God's infinite wisdom, we are forever beginning.

Our Redeemer and Fount of Hope, send forth your Holy Spirit to dream within us and inspire us to follow your commandments. Amen.



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; Raymond Hames; Bonnie Richards; 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; Doris Crocker; Sandra Whittenburg

This Week's Concerns: David Stapp; Art & Cathy Gordon; Linda Savell; 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



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

There's always room at the table.



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 nine members present to hear Roxie's lesson. We are meeting at the Bluebonnet Café at 11:00 a.m. on January 25 for lunch to honor Roxie for being our teacher before she moves closer to her family. Prayer concerns: Lydia Acosta's husband, Alfred. January birthdays: Anna Allen—January 30. *Mary Ross*

GENESIS CLASS:

Well, it may have been cold outside but the warm discussion inside was great. We're off to a good start with *The Christmas Carol*. Some very thought provoking statements in the text of the book, from Psalm 51 and 139, and us. Next week we'll move onto Stave II. Read it and be ready for more of the same. Keep the Gordon's and Linda in your prayers.

Doughnuts: January 28—Bishara; February 4 - Turner
Stay safe and warm. See ya next week. *Anita Bookout*

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. We had 10 members and 2 visitors in attendance. It was good to have Bland and Mary visit with us again and thank you for helping with Earline's birthday party. It was a fantastic celebration. Thank you's to Gail LaRue for the devotion and refreshments, and to Toni and Gloria for the music. Our joys this week are for our sweet Earline's 100th birthday celebration and for the release of a Nicaraguan clergy to the Vatican. Also, we are joyful for the warmer weather. Our prayers go out to Ronnie and Larea Pippen, Pat and Charlie Hooper, Doris Crocker, Sam and Ann Kiker, Bonnie Richards, Dena Hughes, Toni Hood, and Rose Mascari. Keep Gerry LaRue and his sister in your prayers over property issues in Nicaragua. Remember these birthdays for the remainder of January: Rose Mascari, 1/22 and Bonnie Richards, 1/27.

Resale Shop: Closed due to weather January 19 and Birthday celebration on January 20

Prayer Meeting: Wednesday at 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Devotion/Refreshments: Debbie and Gloria

Lesson: Matthew 14:34 and continue with Matthew 15

Reporter: *Gloria Lechler*



Robert "Bobby" Hunderup
October 7, 1931—January 9, 2024

A graveside service was held on
Thursday, January 18, 2024 at
the Birdville Cemetery.

Please keep his family in your
thoughts and prayers.



We spoke with the youth on the importance of trusting God. Our Bible verse is found in the Book of Psalm 18:25-36. In these verses the psalmist David is telling us how it is beneficial to trust in God. It is very easy nowadays to just not believe in God but the ancient world is telling us that the scriptures are still valid today. If we truly know the God we are serving and the Lord we know and love, we should also understand that he is the one that has our back. He gave his life freely to the point of death. It is because he loves us and love believes everything. His love for us is not conditioned by anything but he just loves us freely. Let us accept this love and share it with our neighbors. Amen. *Stanislas Ndecky*



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!



The contribution statements for 2023 have been prepared and you can pick up your statement in the north foyer. For all of our home bound members, your statements were mailed to your home.



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published February 7 and all submissions need to be in the church office by February 5. 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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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 28, 2024

4th 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 29, 2024

No Activities

Tuesday, January 30, 2023

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

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

9:00 a.m. Prayer Group
 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Youth Activities
 6:00 p.m. French Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 1, 2024

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

Friday, February 2, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, February 3, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, February 4, 2024

5th Sunday after the Epiphany † Communion Sunday

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

Monday, February 5, 2024

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

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

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:00 a.m. Prayer Group
 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 & You Tube:

SLUMC—Haltom City

***Sunday, January 28, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.
 4th Sunday after the Epiphany***

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance

*Wednesday Bible Study • January 10—14
 Wednesday Night Youth Activities • January 10—0
 French Congregation Bible Study • January 10—7
 United Methodist Men Breakfast • January 4—7*

Sunday, January 14, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School—25

In-Person Worship—41

Online Worship—218

French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—27

Weekly Attendance

*Wednesday Bible Study • January 17—13
 Youth Activities • January 17—6
 French Bible Study • January 17—14
 United Methodist Men Breakfast • January 18—6*

Sunday, January 21, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School—55

In-Person Worship—52

Online Worship—115

French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—39