



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2024, No. 4

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



We Are An Easter People

When we look at Christ's humanity played in His passion, death, and resurrection, few questions come to mind: Did Christ *want to die*? Was Christ *eager to be crucified*? The answers here are "no" and "no." In both the Gospel of Luke and the Gospel of Matthew, Christ pleads with His Father to "let this cup pass from me." So, when we think of the crucifixion, we should not think of an enthusiastic self-sacrifice, but of a suffering servant. Jesus was not cheery in his final hours; by no means did he want to die such a terrible death, at a young age, in a disgraceful manner. All Christ wanted to do was to love perfectly to the end, whatever that entailed. And He did just that.

In *The Last Temptation of Christ*, Greek author Nikos Kazantzakis famously—and controversially—conjectured how afraid and hopeless Jesus might have been in His final hours, tempted to reject His cross and to settle for a quiet, ordinary family life. While this interpretation of Jesus's final hours is entirely Kazantzakis own, his thesis is intriguing and insightful: how much more splendid a victory is the Cross if we take into consideration that its victim was a broken and distraught man, who felt abandoned by His father and friends, and faced the temptation to relieve Himself of so heavy a burden. What if we embrace the possibility that Jesus, as He made His way up the road to Calvary, was quaking with fear and apprehension? And, most amazingly, despite all these utterly human experiences, Jesus preserved in His mission, loving perfectly to the very end!

Whenever we feel broken, abandoned, or afraid, we can look to the Passion as a model. Whenever we feel unsure or scared of God's plan for us, questioning whether we have the strength and fortitude to accept and it to live it out, we can look to Jesus the man for encouragement. He too was apprehensive of His Father's plan for him, He too struggled to accept where and how we were called, He too had to choose between settling for His own wants or trying to integrate them with God's will. Christ's death on the Cross was the fact that He accepted that death for us!

It is important to remember that it is not a sin to be afraid of God's will. Indeed, God will often call us far beyond our comfort zones, which is a naturally terrifying proposition. All we can do is try to follow Jesus and love perfectly to the very end, wherever that may lead.

The good news? It will always lead us the everlasting Easter banquet. We are, after all, an Easter people.

In Christian love and grace, Mel



Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Bible Study

February 28 † 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.



The Community Table Food Pantry is Moving

We want to announce that The Community Table Food Pantry is moving locations this Saturday. This is the last week that the pantry will be serving food to their guests. They are merging with Leah Vanzant Community Life Center located at 2809 Layton Avenue, Haltom City, 76117 and their phone number is 817/834-5595.

It is with a heavy heart that we make this announcement. We knew that they were trying to find a new Executive Director by the end of this month, but they made this decision to merge with the Leah Vanzant Community Life Center without speaking with our pastor or anyone at St. Luke UMC.



Attached with this newsletter is a letter from our Bishop, Ruben Saenz, Jr. and the Director of Finance & Administrative Services, Tim Bruster. This letter congratulates us for paying 100% of our apportionments and shares with us how lives are transformed through new relationships and faith in Christ.



I am in the process of updating the church directory. Please contact me with any changes in your address, phone number or email address. You can send your changes to office@st-luke-umc.com or call the church office at 817-838-6834. Thank you, Susan Briles



Nursery Workers Needed

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.



St. Luke UMC has launched a new website:
stlukeumchaltomcity.org



Holy Communion Sunday, March 3, 2024

Communion will be served during our in-person worship service. We will invite all who are able to come to the altar to receive communion. As usual during our online worship service we will invite you to participate in communion by having your own elements ready.

Prayer REQUESTS

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; 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; Darren Isbell; Betty Ann Carter; Ed Baker; George & Karen Angle's daughter-in-law, Kristine; Ruby Lane; Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Sandra Mason; Cathy Hicks; Mel & Susan Bishara's family in Israel and their nephew, Jimmy; Bob Watkins & family; Peggy Fallin; Raymond Hames; Bonnie Richards; Sharon Friddle's daughter, Amanda Govea; Rory Yocum; Doris Crocker; Sandra Whittenburg; David Stapp; Rose Mascari & her son; Judy White; Art & Cathy Gordon; Gloria Lechler; Mickie Fletcher

This Week's Concerns: Larea Pippen; Barbara Blair; Joe Crawford; Sharon Friddle; Ovella Russell; Karen Angle's sister-in-law, Debbie Biles; the people of the southern of Israel and Gaza; those affected by 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; Junior Chowe



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

GENESIS CLASS:

Thank you, Claudia for leading us back into our book *When the World Takes the Wind Out of Your Sails*. Wonderful discussions about Easter celebrations of our pasts. We'll move on to chapter 7, "Remember That the Holy Spirit Is with You" next week. Please keep Debbie Biles in your prayers.
Doughnuts: 2/25-Gordon and 3/3-Dayna.
Have a great week and see ya next Sunday. *Anita Bookout*

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings to the Upper Room Class. So sorry I have been out of commission in getting the class news out to you the past two weeks. Please forgive me. The attendance for the past few weeks is as follows: February 4—10; February 11—7 and on February 18—7. We wish to thank Jack and Lorna, Toni Hood, and Gail LaRue for the devotion and refreshments for the past three Sundays. Also, many thanks to Jack Bostick for pitching in for Virgil in delivering our lessons on Matthew. Joys: Doris Crocker had good results from the temporary apparatus to relieve her back pain. She will now have a permanent implant to relieve her pain. The date has not been scheduled yet due to insurance. Also, we give God's praise for Mandy Govea's successful surgery. Please keep in your prayers Doris Crocker, Pat and Charlie Hooper, Rose Mascari and her son, Gerry and Gail LaRue's son, Cindy Lasiter's daughter, Elaina and Cindy's husband, David, Sharon Friddle, Ann and Virgil VanvSchuyver, Maggie Khoury, Bonnie Richards, Sam and Ann Kiker, Ronnie and Larea Phippen and Gloria and Byron Lechler.

Resale Shop: Total for the past 3 weekends: \$1125
Prayer Meeting: Wednesday 9:00 am—Fellowship Hall
Devotion/Refreshments: Gloria and Debbie
Lesson: Matthew 18:20 *Gloria Lechler*



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published March 6 and all submissions need to be in the church office by March 4. Thank you!



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

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Psalm 121 takes us straight to the heart of what it means to embark on a journey of faith and trust. Notice as you read that the voice of the speaker changes. In verses one and two, we hear the voice of the lone pilgrim: "I lift my eyes" and recall that "my help comes from the Lord." but as we move through the rest of the verses, we find that the words of the first speaker elicit a refrain from elsewhere, affirming that "God won't let your foot slip" and "the Lord will protect you." Visualize this pilgrimage song as a call and response, with the leader beginning and the rest of the community of pilgrims singing out in unison as they step out together toward Jerusalem.

This can be your Lenten journey and your journey of growing in faith beyond Lent. You begin with the moment of centering, the moment of remembering with humility that you are God's precious creation. You trust God to keep and protect you as you take risks—to resist forces that evaluate humans based on their productivity rather than on their inherent worth as children of God; to ask deeper questions that might open up new insights about how God is working in the world; to wrestle with the images of who God is; to step into the gap between people of faith who are in conflict. And when you proclaim this intention to step out in trust to take these risks, know that you are not stepping out alone. The community of God's people, stretching from our ancestor Abraham through all the peoples of the earth, journeys with you.

Gracious, protecting, loving God, bind me with all your people, and give us the humility, wisdom, and courage to step out in trust into your promise for all your creatures. Amen.



The Resale Shop is having a Yard Sale on **Saturday, February 24** from 10 am to 3 pm. Everything inside the shop and outside will be 50 cents. If you can volunteer, call Dr. Martha at 817/269-9654.



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.

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mel Bishara
Phone: 817/838-6834

Editor: Susan Briles
Fax: 817/838-7631

Website: stlukeumchaltomcity.org

E-mail: office@st-luke-umc.com

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, February 25, 2024

2nd Sunday in Lent

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

Monday, February 26, 2024

No Activities

Tuesday, February 27, 2023

No Activities

Wednesday, February 28, 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 Congregation Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 29, 2024

9:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast—Bluebonnet Café

Friday, March 1, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, March 2, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, March 3, 2024

3rd Sunday in Lent † Communion Sunday

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

Monday, March 4, 2024

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

No Activities

Wednesday, March 6, 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, February 25, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance • February 7

Prayer Group—10

Wednesday Bible Study—17

Wednesday Night Youth Activities—5

French Congregation Bible Study—10

United Methodist Men Breakfast • February 8—3

Sunday, February 11, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School—45

In-Person Worship—54

Online Worship—114

French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—44

Weekly Attendance • February 14

Prayer Group—9

Wednesday Bible Study—17

Youth Activities—0

French Bible Study—0

Ash Wednesday In-Person Worship—23 Online Worship—205

United Methodist Men Breakfast • February 15—6

Sunday, February 18, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School—55

In-Person Worship—66

Online Worship—94

French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—50