



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

*Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors*

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2024, No. 8

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



We Are Stronger Together Than We Are Apart

Dear church family and friends,

I hope this article finds you well and filled with the love and grace of God. As we navigate through challenging times, it is important for us to come together as a community and focus on our shared mission and values.

I hope and pray that delegates to the United Methodist Church 2024 General Conference will not be swayed by the whispers of those who do not understand our beliefs or walk alongside us in this spiritual journey.

As our beloved United Methodist Church navigates through challenging times and divisive conversations within our denomination, it is important for us to pause and reflect on our core mission and values. We are called to be a community of love, grace, and inclusivity, welcoming all people regardless of their theological stance, sexual preference, skin color, language, or political party. There is room for all of us under the umbrella of God's love, mercy, and grace.

Our mission as a church is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, who showed unconditional love and compassion to all, without judgment or discrimination. In light of discussions and disagreements, let us remember that at the heart of our faith is the commandment to love one another as Christ has loved us.

We acknowledge that we may have different perspectives and beliefs, but let us not allow those differences to divide us. Instead, let us come together in unity, respecting each other's unique journeys and experiences. Let us strive to create a safe and welcoming space where everyone feels valued and respected, no matter who they are or where they come from.

As we individually, and we as United Methodists collectively face these challenges, let us recommit ourselves to living out our values of love, justice, and inclusivity. Let us be known not for our theological debates or doctrinal differences, but for loving one another, and for our unwavering dedication to serving others and spreading God's love to all corners of the world.

Together, we can rise above the noise and distractions, and focus on what truly matters - our relationship with God and our service to others. Let us be beacons of light and hope in a world that is often filled with darkness and despair, and continue to embody the spirit of love and acceptance that defines who we are as a church.

We are a family bound by the common thread of faith, and we are called to support and uplift each other in times of need. Let us lean on each other for guidance, strength, and encouragement as we stay true to the path that God has set before us.

May the love of God guide us, protect us, and unite us as we continue on this journey together. Always remember, we are stronger together than we are apart.

In Christian love and grace, Mel



Pentecost Sunday

May 19, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Come and worship in-person or online with us as we celebrate the birth of the early Christian Church.



On Pentecost Sunday our two confirmands will be joining our church. Join us in welcoming Lydie and Exauce Banguala as new members of St. Luke United Methodist Church at our 10:30 a.m. worship service.



Upper Room Devotional

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

We were taught as children to never question God's presence and always to look to the Lord as our source of help and strength. As we mature into adulthood, however, we have discovered that no matter how deep and abiding one's faith and hope is in Jesus Christ, we all find ourselves asking God at some point, "How much more can I be expected to bear?" or "How much longer will I endure this struggle?" Every one of us will experience times in our lives when we feel overwhelmed by difficult circumstances and daunted by painful conditions in our world. How many of us have prayed to God and found that we had no words of praise or faith by only questions?

As we read this passage, we can imagine the Israelites asking many questions. They have found themselves in exile and must be feeling defeated and abandoned. The prophet Isaiah proclaims a message of hope, reassuring the people of Israel that despite their present circumstances and conditions, the Lord is with them and is upholding them, even in the middle of their suffering. Isaiah declares that God will send a servant who will bring justice and healing to the nations. This servant will not be defeated by sin and darkness. God will redeem God's covenant people and will empower them to be God's agents of love, light, justice, and hope to the world.

When we feel far from God's presence, let us remember that Jesus is our strength, our deliver, and our hope. Jesus is right here with us in the middle of our circumstances. Our doubts and questions can never separate us from this promise or from God's presence.

God, help us always to place our trust and hope in you, even—especially—when you feel far away. Remind us that you always hear us when we pray. Amen.

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; 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's grandson, Milo; Darren Isbell; Betty Ann Carter; Ed Baker; George & Karen Angle's daughter-in-law, Kristine; Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Sandra Mason; Mel & Susan Bishara's family in Israel and their nephew, Jimmy; Bob Watkins & family; Peggy Fallin; Raymond Hames; Rory Yocum; Rose Mascari & her son; Art & Cathy Gordon; Larea Pippen; Ovella Russell; Mark Chandler's father; David Stapp; Jim Whittenburg with the loss of his wife, Sandra; Doris Crocker; Barbara Porvenzano with the loss of her nephew, Douglas Etchison

This Week's Concerns: Pat Burt & family with the loss of Bennie; Joe Crawford; Pastor Abel Ditu; George & Karen Angle's daughter, Sarah; Ruby Lane's nephew, Dan Reynolds; the people of the southern of Israel and Gaza; those affected by flooding; 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



We Express Our Deepest Sympathies

Bennie Burt

January 14, 1940—April 22, 2024

Graveside Service:

Tuesday, April 30

Greenwood Cemetery

10:00 a.m.

Please keep Pat and family in your thoughts and prayers.



I want to express my thanks to Mary Paris and Carol Negrozio for taking the time out of their lives to volunteer to work in the church office last week while I was on vacation. I appreciate both of you so much! *Susan Briles*

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

EMMANUEL CLASS:

We had 8 members present with 3 members of the PIF Class joining last Sunday. Please keep Joe Crawford, Lydia Acosta and her husband in your prayers this week.
Mary Ross

GENESIS CLASS:

We had a nice group Sunday morning to discuss a lot of information. We have 2 more chapters in our James Moore book and we discussed moving on from him to something else for a while. Adam Hamilton's book, *The Walk* was presented and seems to have been accepted.

Keep Pastor Ditu, Susan's friend, and Ben Burt's family in your prayers.

We'll have LNO on May 9. Place TBD.

Doughnuts: 4/28—Anita; 5/5—Bishara

Y'all have a great week and we'll see ya Sunday.

Anita Bookout

Prayer Group Meeting Time Change

Please be aware that the prayer group that meets every Wednesday morning has changed their meeting time.

They now meet from **9:30 - 10:00 a.m.** before the Wednesday Morning Bible Study.



Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Bible Study

May 1 † Fellowship Hall

Prayer Group † 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study † 10:00 a.m.

Book of Hebrews

We invite you to join us next Wednesday.



Join us on Sunday, May 12 as we honor our Mothers during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Dr. Martha is asking for volunteers to work in the OLD Resale Shop to go through bags and boxes to get merchandise ready for sale. Call Dr. Martha at 817/269-9654 to schedule a time to work.

Holy Communion Sunday, May 5, 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.



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published **May 8** and all submissions need to be in the church office by **May 6**. 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.

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 & phone: www.ctcumc.org • 817/877-5222

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.

NEWSLETTER ONLINE AT:
www.stlukeumchaltomcity.org

Sunday, April 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
 1:30 p.m. Expansion Church
 2:00 p.m. French Worship Service

Monday, April 29, 2024

No Activities

Tuesday, April 30, 2023

No Activities

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

9:30 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, May 2, 2024

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

Friday, May 3, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, May 4, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, May 5, 2024

6th Sunday of Easter † Communion Sunday

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
 1:30 p.m. Expansion Church
 2:00 p.m. French Worship Service

Monday, May 6, 2024

Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

No Activities

Wednesday, May 8, 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 & YouTube: SLUMC—Haltom City

***Sunday, April 28, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.
 Fifth Sunday of Easter***

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance • April 10

Prayer Group—5

Wednesday Bible Study—10

Youth Activities—5

French Bible Study—8

UMM Breakfast • April 11—6

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Sunday School—56

In-Person Worship—55

Online Worship—106

French Worship Service—45

Weekly Attendance • April 17

Prayer Group—9

Wednesday Bible Study—19

Youth Activities—6

French Bible Study—8

UMM Breakfast • April 18—5

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Sunday School—62

In-Person Worship—57

Online Worship—87

French Worship Service—38