



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2024, No. 9

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



The Greatest Giver Was Probably A Woman

I have been thinking today that the greatest giver was probably a woman. Jesus stood over by the treasury and beheld as they came to cast in their gifts. The one He told about was a little widow who had only two mites, and she put them in; and He said, "...but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." She was probably the greatest giver. At least Jesus used her as a example giver. The most beautiful stories ever written about women are found in the Bible.

I think of Jochebed, the mother of Moses, whose very name signifies her glory is Jehovah. There are three women in the story of Moses: his mother, Jochebed, his sister, Miriam, and Pharaoh's daughter. Then who could ever forget the beautiful story of Hannah who prayed for a baby boy; and when God gave him to her, she gave him back to the Lord. Then there is Deborah holding back the host of Sisera, winning a great victory, and thus silencing forever the feeling some have had concerning women's weakness. There is Abigail, kneeling at the foot of the mountain until 400 wrathful men halt and turn back. There is Ruth, queen of the harvest field, who is in the ancestral line of our Lord.

In the New Testament there is Mary the mother of Jesus who lived beautifully before Him in everything. And, humanly speaking, if there were more mothers like Mary, there would be more children like Christ. There is the Syrophenician woman who, without a promise, pleaded with Jesus for her daughter who was grievously vexed with a devil. She demonstrated great faith. There is Dorcas who made garments for the poor and put her love into every stitch. And the stories go on and on and on. Christ was always especially tender with women. It was for two women (Mary and Martha) that He broke the seal of death and raised Lazarus from the tomb. It was for a mother that He stopped a funeral procession in Nain and raised a young boy from the dead. It was for a woman (Mary Magdalene) that He cast out seven devils.

When Jesus hung on the cross, He uttered seven things. Three utterances came before the darkness, three after the darkness, and one during the darkness. One utterance had to do with His mother. He looked at John and said, "Behold thy mother!" and made provisions for her after His death. The Bible is filled with stories about women I could not begin to tell them all.

My Mother taught me many lessons to live by:

1. **Happiness**—My mother believed a good attitude was important for having a good day. She always found a way to enjoy life.

2. **Smile**—She went out of her way to brighten others with her warmth and smile.
3. **Work**—My mother worked not only at home, but outside the home and supported my dad's efforts raising twelve children.
4. **Service**—My mother gave to others through her service and continued to give of herself until the day she died.
5. **Gratitude**—Both my parents were examples of gratitude. They always remembered to say "thank you."
6. **Generosity**—My mother believed, ...God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy and seldom suppressed a generous impulse.
7. **Study**—My mother always told me I would never regret getting a good education. She challenged me and my siblings to think.
8. **Consideration and respect**—My mother valued people no matter who they are and what their profession is.
9. **Pray**—The very first thing mom did was pray.
10. **Faith**—She taught me to trust God no matter what circumstances, no matter what life brings my way.

No man is poor who has had a godly mother.

—Abraham Lincoln

Happy Mother's Day!

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.



Confirmation Sunday

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

Acts 1:15-17

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.

Life in the community of faith isn't easy. Following Jesus doesn't make human beings less complicated. In fact, if anything, healthy spirituality points out more of our dysfunction as we become aware of what holy love really looks like. There is no idealism about this among the disciples after Judas' betrayal and tragic death. Sometimes we think that the church ought to be something it really just cannot be—free from hurt.

While we belong to a larger narrative in the eternal timeline of all things, we are very much a part of the imperfections that exist in our world. And that means dealing with the painful reality that human beings both do harm and have harm done to us. On top of this, harm, that happens within our trusted spiritual circles often cuts twice as deep. After all, these are supposed to be folks who have our backs; but then we find out that they are well, more human than we hoped that they'd be.

For many, this incongruence can be so hard to reconcile that the pain is traumatic. In the case of the friends in today's scripture, Judas' death ended the relationship, piling grief upon grief. We experience a similar loss when we must disengage from harmful relationships, and in fact our loss is amplified when find we need to disengage from the whole community. Our sense of belonging, place, and trust is deeply compromised. This kind of experience can have deep impacts on our mental and spiritual health, as well as our bodies.

It isn't a comfortable thing to allow ourselves to confront harm that has occurred within our faith community. But naming our hurts is often the first step in the path toward healing.

Loving God, thank you for seeing our hurt and knowing our need. Help us heal. Amen.



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

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; 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; 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; Doris Crocker; Barbara Porvenzano with the loss of her nephew, Douglas Etchison; Pat Burt & family with the loss of Bennie; Joe Crawford; Pastor Abel Ditu; George & Karen Angle's daughter, Sarah & daughter-in-law, Kristine; Ruby Lane's nephew, Dan Reynolds

This Week's Concerns: Roy & Joan Hudson's son, Richard; family of Betty Ann Carter; Tommie Martin; Beverly Bradley; Jo Wommack; Patty Tucker; Byron Lechler; 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



The 2024 Church Directory is now available in the church office.

The standard cost for a directory is \$3, two for \$5 or you can make donation to help cover the cost of printing.



April 2024 Receipts: \$20,948

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

EMMANUEL CLASS:

We had eight members present Sunday with 2 members of the PIF Class in attendance. Larry Mathewson taught our lesson on grace and we express our thanks to you.

Prayer concerns: Tommie Martin, Beverly Bradley and Joe Crawford.
Mary Ross

GENESIS CLASS:

Well, we had so much discussion that we didn't even get to the lesson. That's okay, too. We'll finish James Moore this Sunday and start *The Walk* on May 19. Amy Bibb has volunteered to lead the first week. There are still a few books available. We will be meeting in our old classroom this Sunday as the children are hosting a Mother's Day Brunch for their moms and asked to use our room next to the kitchen. Happy Mother's Day, Mom's. We should be having LNO this Thursday, May 9, but I forgot to mention it in class. Look for a text from Amy West. We are meeting at Hoffbrau's at 5:30 pm. Keep Jo Womack in your prayers as she has had health issues since her surgery for a broken hip. Also, the NRH police department in the loss of an Assistant Chief. He was Jon Richerson's immediate supervisor. Jon is Michael and Claudia's son-in-law.

Donuts: May 12—Amy Bibb

May 19—George & Karen Angle

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

Anita Bookout



If you or someone in your family is graduating from college this year, please contact the church office at 817/838-6834 or email Susan at office@st-luke-umc.com and we will recognize them in our May 22, 2024 newsletter.

Betty Ann Carter

November 7, 1932—May 5, 2024

Funeral Service: St. Luke UMC

May 10 • 11:00 a.m.

Burial: Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Luncheon immediately following
the burial at St. Luke UMC in
the Fellowship Hall.

*Please keep the family of Betty Ann in
your thoughts and prayers.*



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!



Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Bible Study

May 15 † 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.

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.



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published **May 22** and all submissions need to be in the church office by **May 20**. 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.

NEWSLETTER ONLINE AT:
www.stlukeumchaltomcity.org

Sunday, May 12, 2024

7th Sunday of Easter † Mother's Day

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 13, 2024

No Activities

Tuesday, May 14, 2023

No Activities

Wednesday, May 15, 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 16, 2024

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

Friday, May 17, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, May 18, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Pentecost † Confirmation 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 20, 2024

Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

No Activities

Wednesday, May 22, 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, May 12, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.
 Seventh Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday
 Mother's Day***

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance • April 24

Prayer Group—10

Wednesday Bible Study—15

Youth Activities—0

French Bible Study—9

UMM Breakfast • April 11—6

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Sunday School—47

In-Person Worship—41

Online Worship—262

French Worship Service—43

Weekly Attendance • May 1

Prayer Group—7

Wednesday Bible Study—18

Youth Activities—5

French Bible Study—7

UMM Breakfast • May 2—7

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Sunday School—58

In-Person Worship—61

Online Worship—130

French Worship Service—27