



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2024, No. 12

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



On the Road of Becoming

God loves us based on our being God's children, not on our performance. As a result of being God's beloved children, it is natural to perform good deeds, to do whatever we can to make this world a better place.

We all have disappointed our parents, our children, our friend, and co-worker. Above all we have disappointed our good and loving God. It's amazing, God knew every mistake we would ever make, along with every foolish decision, every sinful action and sinful thought. Yet still God continues to love us, to forgive us, to save us, and to renew us. It is so easy to forget that Jesus Christ paid for our past sins, our present sins.... and our future sins. That's how Good the Good News really is! That's how "Amazing" grace really is.

God's promise is that if we will follow Jesus, get close to Jesus, listen to Jesus (one baby step at a time) that we will become more like Him because, God will make us into who we need to be. We become more like Jesus when we reach out with our hands, resources, and love those in need. Sometimes it's our job to simply be a microphone, offering our volume, influence, and privilege for the sake of those who need it most. We do it because we are followers of Jesus and we want to become more like Jesus in our actions and words. That's how we become more like Jesus, and that's how we grow in our faith.

We can keep on growing or we can stay in the shallow end of the pool. Some grow, and grow, and grow into becoming more like Christ every day. It's not about what we're doing but rather about who we are becoming! My prayer is that I stay, and we stay on the same "becoming more like Christ" road as well.

Just because we cannot feel, sense, and see that God is present – does not mean that God is not fully present and fully engaged in our lives and in the circumstances of our lives. Even in our most difficult moments – God is with us.

Isaiah 43:1—*Fear not, I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine.*

Religion says, "God loves you if....", our Christian faith says, *God loves you PERIOD!*

Corinthians 11:1—*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

Ephesians 5:1-2—*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Luke 9:23—*If anyone would come after me"—that is, become a disciple, "let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.*

What are you sure about in regard to faith? What are those things that hold you in faith and hold you steady when the world around you is shaking? Are you on the "Becoming" road? How do you know and how do you stay on the road?

In Christian love and grace, Mel



Congratulations to Alvin & Kelli Eclavea in the birth of their new daughter...

Ronnie Jo

Born June 12, 2024

Big Brother: Benjamin

Big Sister: Trudy

Grandmother: Barbara Finch



We are saddened to announce the passing of Raymond Hames December 19, 1938— June 15, 2024

Arrangements are pending for Raymond's memorial service.

Please keep his son, Lewayne and his family in your thoughts and prayers.



Upper Room Devotional

Mark 4:35-41

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

When the storms of life hit our doorsteps, how do we react? If we know that God is with us, why do we panic? It seems so logical that if Jesus is present, we have nothing to fear, and yet our humanity gets the better of us in times of crisis. When things get suddenly bad, we often forget how present God has been.

It's important to note that we react differently when we find ourselves in crises we didn't expect compared to crises we knew were coming. There are times when God gives us a heads-up that we are about to face a storm, but there are other times when chaos and calamity surface seemingly out of nowhere.

How do we remember that we still serve an on-time God when God seems late to our crisis? How do we handle the storms we face like the one in today's text? Many of us would think that because Jesus is there, we shouldn't have a storm in the first place. We must be careful, though. We cannot assume that we will be without trouble because we are faithful Christians. Trouble is not an indication that God has left us. Sometimes trouble finds us and Jesus is right there, waiting to see how we will react.

What storms are raging in your life right now? What is your faith telling you? Is it reminding you that Jesus can calm the storm? Is your faith reminding you to pray all the more? In times of unexpected crisis, we have to talk to ourselves. In the direst storms of our lives, we have to remind ourselves that God is still with us. God has not left us. God still has the power to calm the raging storms in our lives.

God, I ask that you make me attentive to your presence in my life, even when life gets hard. Let me never forget that you are in my boat. You are with me. 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; Betty Holshouser; Scott Paris; Burt & Marylou Moore; Barbara Jones; Charles & Pat Hooper; Alice Cook; Melissa Lechler & her son, Lucas; Toni Hood's granddaughter -in-law, Christin; Buddy & DeeDee Hill's grandson, Milo; Darren Isbell; Ed Baker; Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Sandra Mason; Mel & Susan Bishara's family in Israel and their nephew, Jimmy; Bob Watkins & family; Peggy Fallin; Rory Yocum; Larea Pippen; David Stapp; Joe Crawford; George & Karen Angle's daughter, Sarah & daughter-in-law, Kristine; Ruby Lane's nephew, Dan Reynolds; Roy & Joan Hudson's son, Richard; Byron Lechler; Martha Chapman's daughter, Carol Gillan; Sherry Chandler & family with the loss of her sister, Jane West; family of Jo Wommack; Patty Tucker; Barbara Kimbrough; Maggie Khoury; Ann Kiker; Walter Pegg with the loss of his wife, Sherry

This Week's Concerns: the family of Raymond Hames; Mark Chandler's sister, Tamyé and his brother-in-law, Jimmy Campbell; Beverly Bradley; 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



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 seven members present on Sunday and we enjoyed a lesson on Friendship given by Ruby Lane. Since it was Father's Day we honored our fathers by telling stories from the past.

Prayer concerns: family of Raymond Hames; Beverly Bradley and Joe Crawford. We wished Mary Steward a Happy Birthday—June 16. *Mary Ross*

GENESIS CLASS:

We continued our lesson on *The Walk* with 10 members present. Prayer concerns: Amy West's sister, Martha; Brennan Cox; Anita Bookout; our members who are traveling.

Donuts: June 23—Dayna Cox *Amy West*

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. We had 8 in attendance on June 16 and 12 on June 9. We praise God for that great attendance! Our joys are for Rose and her successful move to Clyde, Texas, for two good Sundays of great attendance in Sunday School, and for the return of good health for Gloria. Our prayer concerns are for Rose's hand and wrist, safe travels for Mel and the LaRue family, and for those who have health problems we miss you: Ronnie and Larea Phippen, Alice Cook, Doris Crocker, Toni Hood, Pat and Charlie Hooper, Maggie Khoury, Anita McCullar, Bonnie Richards, Virgil Van Schuyver, and Byron Lechler. Debbie, "Your refreshments were delicious, Thank You!" Gloria Lechler presented our Father's Day message entitled "A Child of God." from *Christian Counseling and Educational Services*, an online devotional service. We were saddened to hear of Raymond Hames' passing. He was such a sweet gentleman. Thank you, Jack for the morning prayer and thank you, Ann for a well taught lesson from Matthew 27.

Resale Shop: \$200

Prayer Meeting: Thursday at 5:30 p.m.—Dr. Martha's Devotion/Refreshments: Debbie/Gloria

Lesson: Matthew 27:32 *Gloria Lechler*

Youth News:



This Sunday we shared with the youth the importance of passing on our legacy concerning our faith to our coming generation. Our Bible verse can be found in the book of Psalms 78:5-6. In these verses, the author David is telling us how important it is to testify to the younger generation about the goodness of the Lord and what the Lord has done for us. If a family keeps God as the center of their lives, it becomes natural to pass it on to the younger generation. And when we look at all the things happening today in our society, our children can only benefit from the presence of God. They can benefit from prayers and putting their trust in God because indeed He is real. Amen. *Stanislas Ndecky*



Prayer Group

June 27 † 5:30 p.m.

At the home of Martha Chapman
6201 McCullar Street, Haltom City

We invite you to join us every Thursday.
*The Prayer Group will not meet Thursday, July 4,
but will resume meeting on July 11.*

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 church office will be closed Thursday, July 4 in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published **July 10** and all submissions need to be in the church office by **July 8**. Thank you!



St. Luke United Methodist Church
 3200 Denton Highway
 Haltom City, TX 76117
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The *E-Messenger* newsletter is published bi-weekly online. Deadline for submission of articles is 9:00 a.m. 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.
 Expansion Church Hispanic Service • 1:30 p.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, June 23, 2024

5th Sunday after Pentecost

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, June 24, 2024

No Activities

Tuesday, June 25, 2023

No Activities

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

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

Thursday, June 27, 2024

9:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast—Bluebonnet Café
 5:30 p.m. Prayer Group—at the home of Martha Chapman

Friday, June 28, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, June 29, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, June 30, 2024

6th Sunday after Pentecost

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, July 1, 2024

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

No Activities

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

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, June 23, 2024 • 10:30 a.m. Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance • June 5, 2024

Youth Activities—7
French Bible Study—11
UMM Breakfast • June 6—6

Sunday, June 9, 2024

Sunday School—64
In-Person Worship—59
Online Worship—88
French Worship Service—33

Weekly Attendance • June 12

Youth Activities—6
French Bible Study—8
UMM Breakfast • June 13—6

Sunday, June 16, 2024

Sunday School—42
In-Person Worship—53
Online Worship—76
French Worship Service—34