



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2024, Number 13

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

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Trust in God's Faithfulness

A father said to his frustrated, impatient daughter, "My dear, if you would only recognize that life is hard, things would be so much easier for you."

Yes, you and I know that life is hard, difficult, tough, frustrating, and often times painful. We are not promised lives that are free of struggles, sufferings, conflicts, heartaches or pain. Most of the time, the hardest trials and struggles seem to come out of nowhere – a grim cancer diagnosis, natural disasters (we have plenty of these lately) that destroy homes, car accidents with subsequent injury and loss, or a discovery that shakes marriages at its very foundation. Life is calm and quiet one day, and the next day life is full of chaos. One day things are semi normal the next day you find yourself struggling to even breathe.

It is easy to fall into a "pit" of sorts, when we get knocked by life's troubles, events and circumstances. Have you been there? We all have been tired of trying to find the good in a situation.

When reading the Bible, you will find two kinds of responses to problems and circumstances people were dealing with. Some people continue to live their lives complaining, and arguing with God and God's "Lack of care" – other people place their hopes in God's faithfulness. Even when things are still just as bad as they were, when we are in deep valleys of suffering, and pain, hoping in God's faithfulness, mercies, goodness and grace, gives us the strength to look up to God in trust.

How do I know that? *I've been there before!* I've had my share of losing brothers, parents, and friends to death. I have been with families who were struck by tragedies. I have been in communities where homes were destroyed by fires, tornadoes and other natural disasters. I had the wind knocked out of me from absolutely nowhere. I traveled through the deep valleys for a while, but I chose to hope and continue to trust in God's faithfulness and presence while going through these valleys.

I know there are a lot of uncertainties in life. We never know what tomorrow may bring, but we also know who holds everything together including our messy and troubled lives. When everything else in life is uncertain, you can be certain that God is faithful, merciful and just. God is "the same, yesterday, today, and tomorrow." God is there with us. We are not alone.

Lately, I had many conversations with church members and friends who are walking through difficult times. They share with me some of the emotions and struggles that accompanied them, I experienced a connection with them.

While the circumstances of the situations weren't the same, I was able to share with them Biblical truths that had been a lifeline to me in my experience. Just sharing an encounter of God's presence and faithfulness, their countenance changed and together we claimed our faith and trust in our Lord who "will never leave us nor forsake us."

When we are in the deep valleys of difficulties, we can wallow in pity and bitterness or we can hope in God's faithfulness, mercies, grace, and presence. Hard times often feel like they can only yield negative things and negative emotions. God's grace allows them to yield sweet moments. We need to trust in God's will and pray "not my will but yours will be done."

With the psalmist we affirm, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me... Surely goodness and mercies shall follow me all the days of my life."

In Christian love and grace, Mel



St. Luke UMC Resale Shop Yard Sale Saturday, July 13 • 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Enjoy a Hotdog & a Bottled Water • Cost: \$3

Yard Sale excludes jewelry, curio cabinet, all furniture and fixtures.

Everything is priced as marked.

All clothing inside store is priced
3 items for a \$1.

All clothing outside is priced at 50¢ each.



Back to School Sale:

Clothing for children and youth are in various sizes and priced as marked.

NO PUNCH CARDS ACCEPTED AT YARD SALE



If you or your Sunday School class would like to donate monies to help buy school supplies, contact Mary Paris at 817/688-2571.

There will be information concerning the date of the Blessing of the Backpacks in the next newsletter on July 24, 2024.



Upper Room Devotional

Mark 4:26-29

“This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

On the one hand, this parable feels like an invitation into purposeful work with the Lord. The man in the parable takes on the work of scattering seeds without knowing of what of what will take place. Any gardener knows the hope and trust required in planting seeds. We may not know exactly how the flower comes from the small seed, but we do know that the flower will never grow if we don't plant the seed in the first place.

On the other hand, Jesus is encouraging us to take the pressure off ourselves. While we do have responsibility to scatter the seeds, we are not responsible for what happens once those seed are scattered; that is God's work. We can make life-giving contributions to God's kingdom while also remembering the growth and success of it are not in our hands. This parable reminds us of the importance of divine power over human hustle.

When attempting to do our best to balance our profession and home life, we occasionally get overwhelmed by all we have to do. Surely, you too have felt this—overwhelmed by the road ahead and wondering how everything can possibly work out when there is just so much to be done.

Thinking about the kingdom of God as a scattering of seeds feels like a practice in non-attachment and deep surrender. Jesus is inviting us to join in purposeful work for God's kingdom and then release that work into the ever-moving love of God. Jesus is calling us to show up, share our faith in alignment with our gifts and energy levels, and then release the outcome to bloom in God's time.

God, we faithfully release our love into the world and then, in surrender, trust that your kingdom is in motion. Help us remember that sometimes we do more with less when we trust in your power. 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; Patty Tucker; Barbara Kimbrough; Maggie Khoury; Ann Kiker; Beverly Bradley; Barbara Provenzano; sister, Lynn

This Week's Concerns: Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Kelly Roberts; Art Gordon; Lydia Acosta & her husband; family of Raymond Hames; Mark Chandler's sister, Tamey and the loss of his brother-in-law, Jimmy Campbell; Buddy Hill; 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 12 present in class on Sunday. It was good to see everyone. Thank you, Beverly for a good lesson. Prayer concerns: Joe Crawford *Mary Ross*

GENESIS CLASS:

Thank you George and Amy Bibb for leading us in our lesson Sunday. We'll pick up next week on page 71. LNO is Thursday, July 11 at 5:30 p.m. at Hoffbrau's. Look for an email or text from Amy West for the details. Keep these in your prayers: Karen & George Angle; Anita Bookout; Buddy Hill; Kelly Roberts. Doughnuts:
July 14—Amy Bibb
July 21—Amy West
July 28—George & Karen Angle *Anita Bookout*

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. We had eight members in attendance Sunday morning. Thank you's to Jim Levine and Debbie Chapman for our refreshments. Prayer concerns: Toni Hood, Carol Gillan, Rose Mascari, Gail and Gerry LaRue, and Byron Lechler. Joys: Doris Crocker is feeling better, the Van Schuyvers spent dinner time with their greatgrand children. Byron's good friend picked him up and delivered him back home after a breakfast and fellowship with his guy friends at Braum's on Sunday morning. This was a nice blessing for Gloria. Ann delivered our morning prayer asking God to bless our members who are no longer able to gather with us for Sunday School. Gloria gave the devotion titled "Independence Day" taken from the *Daily Truth*, from Coral Ridge Ministries. It was based on Galatians 5:1, "For freedom Christ freed us. Stand fast therefore and do not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Thank you, Virgil for a good beginning and introduction for John 1:1-18.

Resale Shop: \$130 on July 7 and \$183 on June 30
Prayer Meeting: Dr. Martha's, 5:30 p.m. on Thursday
Devotion/Refreshments: Jack & Lorna Bostick
Lesson: John 1:19 *Gloria Lechler*

Youth News:



Last Sunday we shared with the youth the importance of being kind. Our Bible verse is found in the Book of Colossians 3:12. In this verse, the Apostle Paul is reminding us that the fruits of the spirit need to abide in us and that kindness as a Christian should be our clothing every day. A simple act of kindness can go a long way. We have no idea what people go through every day, a simple smile, a simple hug, a simple word of encouragement can lift somebody's spirit. Many of us can testify of one day, where we were feeling low and God sent one word through someone, sometimes a stranger who will minister to our soul unexpectedly. May the Lord help us to be kind hearted like him. Amen. *Stanislas Ndecky*



Prayer Group

July 11, 18 & 25 † 5:30 p.m.
At the home of Martha Chapman
6201 McCullar Street, Haltom City
We invite you to join us every Thursday.

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.



June 2024
Receipts:
\$24,652



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published **July 24** and all submissions need to be in the church office by **July 22** 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, July 14, 2024

8th 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 15, 2024

No Activities

Tuesday, July 16, 2023

No Activities

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

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

Thursday, July 18, 2024

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

Friday, July 19, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, July 20, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, July 21, 2024

9th 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 22, 2024

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

No Activities

Wednesday, July 24, 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 & YouTube:
 SLUMC—Haltom City*

**Sunday, July 14, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.
 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance • June 19

*Youth Activities—5
 French Bible Study—9
 UMM Breakfast • June 20—5*

Sunday, June 23

*Sunday School—61
 In-Person Worship—48
 Online Worship—102
 French Worship Service—37*

Weekly Attendance • June 26

*Youth Activities—12
 French Bible Study—9
 UMM Breakfast • June 27—6*

Sunday, June 30

*Sunday School—54
 In-Person Worship—43
 Online Worship—118
 French Worship Service—48*

Weekly Attendance • July 3

*Youth Activities—0
 French Bible Study—7
 UMM Breakfast • July 4—5*

Sunday, July 7

*Sunday School—53
 In-Person Worship—56
 Online Worship—207*