



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2024, Number 14

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



I'm praying for you...

As he walked away, I offered my support and reassured him that my prayers were with him. He came to my office and began to pour out his heart and shared the immense pain he is going through seeing his wife, Carol, dying of pancreatic cancer. It is a heartbreaking situation to see his wife in her last stages facing the inevitable, death. So there was little either one of us can do to change the reality of his beloved wife.

I hoped that by sharing his pain the conversation might at least offer some catharsis or comfort. I listened as he spoke of his parents passing within two days of each other. We briefly discussed coping strategies to help him navigate this difficult and painful journey ahead. Before he left, I reiterated, "I'm here for you, and I'm praying for you."

If I'm honest, I have to confess that at times my promise to pray for someone can feel inadequate and may seem insufficient. Given the choice, I'd rather help someone find solutions, solve a problem, or fix what is broken. However, deep down, I know there are some things that can't be fixed, some problems remain unsolvable, certain illnesses are incurable, and some answers elude us.

There have been a few times when saying "I'm praying for you" feels like the only thing left to say. As if a promise to pray is a resigned last effort to do something helpful when nothing else works. It can sometimes come across as a last resort effort to be constructive and supportive when other avenues have been exhausted.

The truth is prayer is not a last resort. It's the first words spoken by people who believe deeply that God is in the midst of our lives, working in ways we can't possibly fathom, to bring us whatever we desperately need for our own particular journey. Informing someone that you are praying for them reassures them that they are not alone. It signifies that you are turning to God on their behalf, seeking solace, comfort, and grace for them.

In the end, in times of distress and difficulties, maybe what we need are not solutions and answers but prayers; deep, genuine, authentic, God given, heartfelt, and life affirming prayers.

I leave with this prayer from Howard Thurman, *Deep is the Hunger*:

When our minds are sick with frustration and division;
When fear eats away the foundations of our peace - Be present, O, Our God, to heal, to bless, and make whole.

When our hearts are heavy with sorrow and misery; when only heaviness is our daily portion - Be present, O, Our God, to bless and to relieve.

When the beauty of Comradeship has wasted like the noon day - Be present O, Our God, to restore, to bless and renew.

When the thread of our years unwinds near the end of the spool; when the failing powers of mind and body accent the passing days - Be present, O, Our God, to reassure, to make steady and confirm.

When our well ordered plans fall apart in our hands; when hopes give up, having run their course - Be present, O, Our God, to replenish, to create, to redeem.

In Christian love and grace, Mel



A Celebration of Life *Raymond Hames*

December 19, 1938—June 15, 2024

Friday, August 2 † 11:00 a.m.
St. Luke United Methodist Church
With a Reception to follow the
Worship Service

*Please keep Raymond's son, Lewayne
and his family in your thoughts
and prayers.*



Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 4 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Our students, teachers and administrators will return back to school in the HEB ISD on August 12 and the Birdville ISD on August 14.

We will bless the student's backpacks on Sunday, August 4 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

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



Blessing
of the
Backpacks



Upper Room Devotional

Psalm 14

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. Do all these evildoers know nothing? They devour my people as though eating bread; they never call on the LORD. But there they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous. You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge. Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

Psalm 14 is a lament, a passionate expression of deep and heartfelt emotion. The psalmist says their feelings out loud. There is something special about that. It is not sugar-coated or polished; it is dramatic and emotional.

Sometimes we think we cannot talk to God in such a manner. We are afraid to vent our deepest thoughts and emotions to the Almighty, like we might offend God. We think our prayers need to be buttoned up, censored, rated no higher than PG. As a result, we sometimes inhibit ourselves from being honest and vulnerable with God. The tone of this psalm reminds us that it is okay to talk to God through whatever emotions we are feeling. Our honesty might actually help us grow closer to the Divine.

God is not fragile or sensitive. There is nothing that God has not seen or heard before. In the psalmist's vulnerability there is strength. Instead of dismissing deep emotions, the writer gives in to their depth and breadth, and it is ultimately from this pain that the realization is born that life is better with God. Finding our way in faith begins with letting ourselves feel. God gave us our emotions for a reason, and God can receive them. Our pain and frustrations do not hurt God's feelings. Without the darkness, how would we know the abundant light?

God of our anger, God of our irritation, God of our sadness and sorrow, help us to know that we can bring our whole selves to you. No thought or feeling is too raw or disturbing for you to bear. It is in our honesty and vulnerability that we realize a bounteous life is possible with you. Amen.



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published **August 7** and all submissions need to be in the church office by **August 5**. Thank you!



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 Phippen; 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; Patty Tucker; Barbara Kimbrough; Ann Kiker; Barbara Provenzano; sister, Lynn; Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Kelly Roberts; Lydia Acosta & her husband; family of Raymond Hames; Buddy Hill

This Week's Concerns: the loss of Martha Chapman's daughter, Carol Gilland; Beverly Bradley's grandson; Art Gordon; 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 eleven present Sunday morning. It was so good to see Lydia Acosta and to learn that her husband is doing better. It was also good to see Joyce Seat and her daughter, Susan in class. Prayer concerns: Joe Crawford; Betty Turnage; Tommie Martin; Beverly Bradley's grandson; the loss of Dr. Martha's daughter, Carol, Tom & Judy Connelly & family. Happy Birthday to Melba Duncan—July 28 and Tommie Martin—July 29.

Mary Ross

GENESIS CLASS:

We had another small, 9 in class, but as usual lots of good discussion! Please remember in your prayers, the loss Dr. Martha's daughter, Carol; Amy W's friend Katie; Sarah Angle; the healing of George's nose; those who are traveling. We stopped on page 78 of our study, so next week we will start the chapter on Give. Remember to do something with intentional Kindness!

Donuts:

July 28—George & Karen Angle
August 4—Michael & Claudia Turner
August 11—George & Karen Angle
August 18—Dayna Cox
August 25—Amy West

Amy West

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings to all from the Upper Room Class. Attendance last Sunday was eleven. Joys: A large donation was given by Cindy Lasiter and her daughter, Megan, to the Resale Shop. This was a wonderful blessing and will help many people in our community. Our prayer concerns go out to Dr. Martha, Gary Gilland and family with the death of Carol Gilland, Byron Lechler, Alice Cook, Rose Mescari and Larea Pippen. Our morning prayer was delivered by Earline asking the Lord to be with our church family, and for us to remember God's Word and put it into action. We thank Debbie for the beautiful and delicious cherry desserts and for Gloria's devotion titled, "Woman at the Well" from John 4:5-39. Thank you Virgil for another good lesson and thanks to Ann for being our wonderful, organized president. You are doing a great job.

Resale Shop: \$140

Prayer Meeting: 9:30 a.m., Wednesday at the church

Devotion/Refreshments: Virgil /Ann

Lesson: John 3:1

Gloria Lechler

Youth News:



We shared with the youth on the importance of trusting the provision of God in our lives. Our Bible verse can be found in the Book of Ephesians 3:20. In this verse, the author is reminding us that God is able to do above what we can think or imagine. What a blessing. I am sure that many of us have already experienced the mighty powerful hand of God in a miraculous way in their lives. That very thing that you remember and which represent a miracle for you, is exactly what God does and he keeps doing it over and over again if we keep on trusting him. The only problem is that sometimes we lack of faith, but God has not changed his ways towards his children. We see in the Bible how he feeds thousands with just a piece of bread and some fish. Today let us believe in this God again because he never fails, he has never failed us one time. Amen.

Stanislas Ndecky

Holy Communion Sunday, August 4, 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

Bible
Search the Scriptures, open the truth.
Study

Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Bible Study

July 31, 2024 † Fellowship Hall

Prayer Group † 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study † 10:00 a.m.

Book of Exodus

We invite you to join us next Wednesday.

Thank
You

There is no way to say thank you to all the people who worked so hard to make the Yard Sale at the Resale Shop so good. We made \$630 with lots of sweat and sore muscles. Thanks to all. I love you all.

Martha Chapman

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Dr. Martha's daughter, Carol Gilland, who passed away, Tuesday, July 23.

Funeral arrangements are pending. Please keep Dr. Martha, Carol's husband, Gary, their son and the entire family in your thoughts and prayers.

ADDRESS CHANGES



Barbara Jones

812 Everyday Way #1024
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San Antonio TX 78240



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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. 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 28, 2024

10th 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 29, 2024

No Activities

Tuesday, July 30, 2023

No Activities

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

9:30 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

Thursday, August 1, 2024

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

Friday, August 2, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, August 3, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, August 4, 2024

11th Sunday after Pentecost † Communion Sunday

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

Monday, August 5, 2024

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

No Activities

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

9:30 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, July 28, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.
 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance • July 10, 2024

*Youth Activities—12
 French Bible Study—8
 UMM Breakfast • July 11—7*

Sunday, July 14, 2024

*Sunday School—55
 In-Person Worship—44
 Online Worship—131
 French Worship Service—31*

Weekly Attendance • July 17, 2024

*Wednesday Bible Study—17
 Youth Activities—13
 French Bible Study—10
 UMM Breakfast • July 18—8*

Sunday, July 21, 2024

*Sunday School—44
 In-Person Worship—46
 Online Worship—80
 French Worship Service—46*