



The people of the United Methodist Church

# E-MESSENGER

Open hearts  
Open minds  
Open doors

## Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2025, Number 10

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Available at: [stlukeumchaltomcity.org](http://stlukeumchaltomcity.org)



Recently, I read a benediction titled “Blessings for Moving on from a Good Thing.” That’s a perfect description: mourning leaving our amazing community while celebrating a Good Thing for 13 years. You! You are the Good Thing! Do you know the secret to how United Methodists keep a Good Thing a Good Thing? It is to transition well between pastors.

I’ve been so impressed with the SPRC, Trustees, and Administration Board for their shepherding this transition, as well as you in the congregation who have lifted up the process in prayer and participation these past few months. It has been noticed and I know our Good Things will keep going.

The questions I get asked often is when is your last Sunday? Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, is my last Sunday. We will have a Liturgy of Leave taking of the Pastor in the 10:30 a.m. worship service, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Todd Pick will be your pastor on July 1, 2025. My pastoral duties end on June 30, 2025. I am taking a week off vacation before transitioning into my new role.

Is this really goodbye or can we continue to contact you? Clergy and Church sign a covenant that my role as your pastor truly ceases after June 30<sup>th</sup>, and I agree with and will uphold that covenant. I won’t be a jerk and not say hello to you at any juncture of life when I see you—but our relationship won’t be the same as now. Yes, we will remain friends. I have always believed that a pastor is called to a particular place, for a particular time, with a particular purpose to a particular group of people in a particular community. We may have not accomplished everything that I had hoped for; yet still much was accomplished. When Jesus prepared to leave his disciples, he found three promises to share:

- First, Jesus promised to make a home in his disciples’ hearts. (John 14:23),
- Second, Jesus promised to fill the disciples with a spirit of courage and comfort. “The Holy Spirit...will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.” (John 14:26).
- Finally, Jesus promised to sustain his disciples with a special kind of peace. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.” (John 14:27).

So as Mary Lindberg says (from *The Graceful Exit*), “So we’ll open the gifts Jesus gave us—a home in him, the courage to move on, the peace that will get us through many unknowns. And we’ll trust that God is staying with those we love for many more seasons.”

*Blessings for Moving On from a Good Thing, Mel*



CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### First New Annual Conference Horizon Texas Conference June 8—10, 2025

#### June 8:

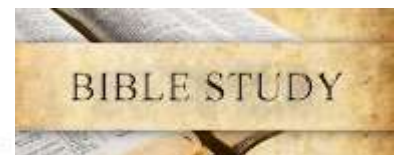
- Clergy Session • 3:30 p.m. • First UMC, Plano
- Laity Session • 3:30 p.m. • First UMC, Richardson
- Opening Worship Service • 7 p.m. • First UMC, Richardson

#### June 9:

- Opening Session • 8:30 a.m. • McFarlin Auditorium
- Service of Ordination & Commissioning • 7 p.m. • First UMC, Richardson

#### June 10:

- Memorial Service • 8:30 a.m. • McFarlin Auditorium
- Business Session • 10:35 a.m. • McFarlin Auditorium



**Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Bible Study**  
June 11, 2025  
Prayer Group † 9:30 a.m. • Bible Study † 10:00 a.m.  
Book of Exodus • Fellowship Hall  
*We invite you to join us.*

## A Letter from Dr. Martha Chapman...

To my dearest St. Luke UMC Family,

When I sat down on Saturday morning to do my devotional I use the *Upper Room* and a devotional for animal lovers. Recently I received one from *Guidepost* called *Morning with Jesus*. On the back cover was a familiar scripture, Mark 6:31, *Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest*. I had found this useful during the years because I had been so busy with my medical practice. I took my Bible and read the whale story from the beheading of John the Baptist to the feeding of the five thousand. It was a busy time. I thought about how many times I had been too busy to stop and talk to Jesus. He gave us many wonderful scriptures to follow, *Love one another as I have loved you*. That is a serious request. I think as a church we are not willing to follow that request. There is too much dislike for members one to another. We need to take a look at that and ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit. Too many people are saying bad things about others without a thought of what God said. We need to adopt Mel's saying of "I love you whether you like it or not, and there is nothing you can do about it."

We are going to have a new minister soon and I'm sure we are making up our minds if we will like him or not. Let Jesus help you decide. If we need to make amends to anybody we need to as if to ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts. I don't want to get to heaven and have God say, *Have you loved everybody as I loved you?* Think about that.

*God bless you all,  
I love you, Martha Chapman*



### 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; Barbara Jones; Charles & Pat Hooper; Melissa Lechler & her son, Lucas; Christin Osborn; Darren Isbell; Ed Baker; Sandra Mason; Bob Watkins & family; David Stapp; George & Karen Angle's daughter, Sarah & daughter-in-law, Kristine; Roy & Joan Hudson's son, Richard; Ann Kiker; Barbara Provenzano; sister, Lynn; Lydia Acosta & her husband; Jean P. Isbell; Peggy Fallin; Ruby Lane's nephew, Dan Reynolds; Mary Steward; Burt Moore; Anita McCullar; Doris Crocker; Bonnie Richards; Betty Longeway; family of Lou Coursey; Dayna Cox's son, Brennan; Buddy & DeeDee Hill's grandsons; Milo & Levi; Roy Hudson; Art & Cathy Gordon; Roberta Reeves; Michael & Claudia Turner; family of Bill Henderson; family of Joe Crawford; Mary Ross' daughter, Pam Williamson; Gene Bibb; Melba Duncan with the loss of her brother, Don Pitts; Ruby Lane; Tommie Martin

**This Week's Concerns:** Linda Smith; Ruby Lane's nephew, Dan Reynolds; those affected by the earthquake in Myanmar and southeast Asia; those affected by the fires in California; those affected by Hurricane Helene & Milton; the people of the Nazareth, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon & Syria; 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; Nathaniel Hill; Alex Sullivan-

## Retirement CELEBRATION

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE  
44 AMAZING YEARS IN MINISTRY

IN HONOR OF

*Reverend Mel Bishara*

JUNE 22ND AFTER SUNDAY SERVICES  
(NOONISH)  
ST. LUKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
3200 DENTON HIGHWAY  
HALTOM CITY, TEXAS 76117

HORS D'OEUVRES WILL BE SERVED



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](http://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 in attendance this past Sunday. It was so good to have Tommie Martin back in class. We also enjoyed the lesson given by Beverly Bradley. Prayer Concerns: Ruby Lane's nephew, Dan Reynolds.

*Mary Ross*

## GENESIS CLASS:

We have launched into our new study, Revelation. If you don't have a copy, one is available in class. Good to have Cathy and Art Gordon back, shoeless and all. Whatever it takes. Keep these in your thoughts and prayers: Dayna and Amy West while traveling and Michael Turner as he navigates recovery and treatment. LNO will be Thursday June 12. Look for a text later.

Doughnuts:

June 8—Dayna Cox

June 15—Open

June 22—Anita Bookout

June 29—Open

Have a great and safe week. See y'all Sunday.

*Anita Bookout*

## UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greeting from the Upper Room Class. Our attendance was twelve. Joys: Everyone enjoyed the President's Party. We had nineteen attendees. Two of these were visitors, Donna and Juan, who said they had a great time and are looking forward to our next party. We thank the Lord for the refreshing rains, Wayne, Earline Vinnedge's son is doing better. Darryl Miller is better and going back to work this week. Prayer Concerns: Earline Vinnedge; Barbara Provenzano sister, Lynn; Melissa and Byron Lechler. Virgil gave our morning prayer and Ann delivered our devotion titled "Celebrating the Sabbath." Thank you, Ann for the nice devotion and our wonderful refreshments. Love that watermelon!

Birthdays: Betty Longeway—June 10

Resale Shop: \$225

Refreshments/Devotion: Linda/Sharon/Gloria

Lesson: "Parenting with Purpose: Raising Godly Children"

Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Psalm 127:3-5;

Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21; Proverbs 29:17;

2 Timothy 3:14-15; Isaiah 54:13

*Gloria Lechler*



*Article by Alvin Eclavea,  
Youth Director*

Dear Church Family,

In our youth Sunday school, we've been tackling a really important and often challenging topic: **sin and its impact on our relationship with God**. We've been discussing how the Bible teaches that "the wage of sin is death," referencing **Romans 6:23**, meaning that sin fundamentally separates us from God's perfect holiness. We explored the idea that, in God's eyes, **all sin equally separates us from Him**, no matter how big or small it may seem to us. It's a heavy truth, but one that leads us directly to the incredible hope found in **John 3:16**: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." We've been focusing on the amazing gift of salvation we receive through God's grace. It's been a powerful time of learning and growth for our young people.

Mark your calendars! We're hoping to schedule our **Youth Summer Get-Together for June 25th at 6 p.m.** More details will follow, but we wanted to get that potential date out there. Also, don't forget our next **Youth Group meeting is on June 11th**. We're looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Finally, we want to extend a huge **thank you to the entire congregation for your continued prayers** for our youth ministry. Your support means so much, and we're truly looking forward to all that God has in store for us this summer!



Our youth meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. This month the youth will meet **June 11 & 25**.



**Financial Report:  
Receipts for May 2025:  
\$15,682**

# Newsletter

The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published **June 18** and all submissions need to be in the church office by **June 16**. 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. Monday. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

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Horizon Texas Conference website & phone: [htcumc.org](http://htcumc.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](http://www.stlukeumchaltomcity.org)

# Faith & Fellowship



**Sunday, June 8, 2025**

**Pentecost Sunday**

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

**Monday, June 9, 2025**

No Church Activities

**Tuesday, June 10, 2025**

No Church Activities

**Wednesday, June 11, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Prayer Group  
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
 6:00 p.m. Your Group Activities  
 6:00 p.m. French Bible Study  
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, June 12, 2025**

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

**Friday, June 13, 2025**

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

**Saturday, June 14, 2025**

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

**Sunday, June 15, 2025**

**Trinity Sunday † Father's Day**

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

**Monday, June 16, 2025**

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

**Tuesday, June 17, 2025**

No Church Activities

**Wednesday, June 18, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Prayer Group  
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
 6:00 p.m. French 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: SLUMC—Haltom City*

**Sunday, June 8, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.**

**Pentecost Sunday**

**Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.**

**Weekly Attendance • May 21**

*Prayer Group—5*

*Bible Study—12*

*French Bible Study—9*

**UMM Breakfast • May 22—4**

**Sunday, May 25**

*Sunday School—52*

*In-Person Worship—52*

*Online Worship—311*

*French Sunday School—11*

*French Worship—29*

**Weekly Attendance • May 28**

*Prayer Group: 4*

*Bible Study: 10*

*French Bible Study—11*

**UMM Breakfast • May 29—4**

**Sunday, June 1**

*Sunday School—55*

*In-Person Worship—55*

*Online Worship—332*

*French Sunday School—8*

*French Worship Service—30*