

THE EPISTLE

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Give Up Pulling On The Bridle!

Psalm 32:9

"Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you."

St. Luke's are you being led by God?

- Do you willingly follow His guidance wherever it might lead?
- Or do you pull, scrap, and resist every step along the way?
- Does this mean God is intent on a specific destination for your life and He will get you there by whatever means it takes?
- As a stubborn mule, are you making your pathway longer and more arduous?
- Are you being forced to learn difficult lessons?
- Do you constantly resort to your own desires?
- Is there an easier way?
- Are the rewards greater and the pathway easier should you choose to deny yourself and follow Christ?

St. Luke's, prayer, confession, repentance, and faithfulness; these are the attributes of the righteous. When we willingly turn to God and ask for His guidance in every aspect of our lives, we are led upon a path that will take us to the glory God intends. When we resist and pull in directions of our own choosing, we may find ourselves instead, in the thickets and potholes of life.

God wants us to draw close. He wants us to hear Him speak. God wants to lead us through the twists and turns of life in ways that grow us into the disciples that He has intended all along. All we need to do is give up pulling on the bridle and learn to willingly follow close at His heels.

Faithfully,




DAY SCHOOL NEWS

We are well into our Summer Camp with lots of fun activities and themes each week. Already the kids have tie-dyed bandanas, made ice cream in a bag, been on a "stay in place" field trip from Botanic Gardens and had a hummus-making demonstration from some of our parents.

We will be off July 4 and 5 in celebration of Independence Day. Our last day of Summer Camp will be July 19. School begins August 5. We are excited for another great year!



JUNE 2024 HONORIUMS AND MEMORIALS:

Honoriums:

In Honor of Dennis Neenan from Rob and Pam Fairly

Memorials:

In Memory of Steve Hall from Carole Feisal, David and Virginia Wages, Sarah Jordan, Gene Green and Mary Todd

In Memory of Barbara Caldwell from Shirley Robinson, Karen Kinney, Rita Richardson, Carolyn Galloway, Rorie Read, Janie Hendrix, Mary Palmer and Dot Dickey, Betty Green, Christian Home Builders Sunday School Class, Mary Lou Cushing, St Luke's Pickleball Players, Miller Delgadillo, Sarah Jordan, Cathy Bowsher, Amy Pearson, Harry and Bette Colter, David and Virginia Wages, Nancy Saatkamp, Carole Feisal, Carol Jacks

In Memory of Rev Doyle Masters from Rob and Pam Fairly

In Memory of Diane Reams Deters from Rorie Read, Mary Lou Cushing

In Memory of Kenneth Dean Phillips from Mary Lou Cushing

In Memory of Laverne Arnett from Mary Lou Cushing, Sarah Jordan, Amy Pearson

In Memory of Stephanie Anderson from Sarah Jordan

In Memory of Kenneth Dean Phillips from Mary Lou Cushing

Youth News

Hello all!

The Youth are currently at Appalachia Service Project (June 29-July 6). We hope to share pictures after we return and appreciate your prayers and support so very much!

Here's what's on the schedule after we return:

Sunday, July 14/2p-4p - Youth Swim at the Ryan's - 4145 Barfield Rd. (We'll have Drinks and Popsicles!)

Sunday, July 28/2p - Meet at Jeremiah's for cool treats! (3717 Summer) Bring money and families are welcome!

Sunday School continues to meet every week from 9-10 am in the Youth Room (Thank you, Susan!).

Hope to see you all soon!



COLOR ME AMERICA!

A great time was had at our patriotic celebration, “Color Me America.” Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with set up, worked in the kitchen Sunday, and lent a hand to clean up

Fellowship Hall. A big thanks goes to Sheridan Harris, who sang America the Beautiful , Linda Hensley, who led our sing along, and Wes Kirkpatrick who was our accompanist. We hope everyone has even more fun celebrating on Independence Day!





Scout News

June has been a very busy month for scouting at St.Luke's. On June 1st, Troop 40G (for girls ages 10 - 18) was officially started. We currently have 3 young ladies, Annabelle Haag, Clara Haag and Mikayla Hatfield. We are looking for more to join in the fun, if you are interested in joining, you can contact Lisa St.Gelais at 901-230-9174 or Catherine Haag at 901-262-9616 or troop40g@gmail.com

Four cub scouts from Pack 40 were able to attend resident camp at Kia Kima Scout Reservation in Hardy, AR June 5th - 8th. They earned a total of 25 adventure loops/pins and participated in activities like repelling, swimming, gaga ball and a fun foam party. All six scouts from Troop 40B attended summer camp at Kia Kima Scout Reservation in Hardy, AR June 16th - 22nd. They worked on advancement opportunities, and earned 38 different merit badges as well as participating in the sports tournaments (basketball, spike ball, gaga ball and chess) where they won gaga ball (champions for the second year in a row). They also earned an Honor Troop ribbon by completing 11 out of 14 requirements such as showing scout spirit and participating in an interunit cracker barrel as well as earning the God and Country award. The three scouts from Troop 40G had their first outing by attending summer camp at Kia Kima Scout Reservation in Hardy, AR June 16th - 22nd. They worked on advancement opportunities, and earned 9 different merit badges as well as participating in the open shooting, branding and leatherwork. They also earned an Honor Troop ribbon by completing 11 out of 14 requirements such as showing scout spirit and participating in an interunit cracker barrel as well as earning the God and Country award.





Join Us for Sweet Sunday on July 28th, 2023

The fourth Sunday of each month, we have a time of sweet treats and sweet fellowship between Sunday School and Church. Join us for our next Sweet Sunday in Hospitality Hall on July 28th, from 10 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. Treats and Coffee will be there. We just need you to come share a little sweetness.

July- August Activities



- 1) July 17th at 11:40 am: Meet at MoSH (Pink Palace) for the noon viewing of the movie “Wings Over Water”. Cost is \$10 per person. We will go to lunch following the movie.
- 2) August 14th at 7:00 pm: Meet at Theatre Memphis to see “Grease”. Cost of ticket is \$10 per person

Sit & Sew will resume classes on 7/15/2024 on Mondays only at this time. So far, 7 potential students have contacted me about sewing lessons. However, the most important thing is to be back in church again. Questions about classes, call me at 901-324-4944 or email me at martystitches@aol.com.

Marty Cobb

Golden Cross Ministry News

Due to hospitalization, I have missed the luncheon meetings at Golden Cross. However, Bianca Smith has kept me informed. Laurie Garrison, the director for Golden Cross is working remotely from Houston, TX.

Rev. Camille Henderson Edwards retired from her position at Golden Cross and Wesley Senior Ministries. The new pastor serving is Rev. Octavio Munguerza. Looking forward to working with him and Golden Cross. In June, Golden Cross was able to provide over 500 Bingo prizes. Donations for these are always needed like Crossword and Word Search puzzle books or dish soap, laundry powder, and items for your kitchen and bathroom. For more info, please check out the website <http://www.goldencross.org> or call me at 901-324-4943.

Blessings come in small packages ...

Marty Cobb, Key Woman
St Luke's UMC

**TOTALLY
FREE!**

FRIDAY SUMMER FUN!



JOIN US FOR OUR SUMMER SERIES!

We will have Movie Nights,
fun hands-on Science experiments and more!

JUNE 7, & 21 & JULY 12 & 26

6:30-7:30 PM

CHILDRENS' MINISTRY

In June we had the most amazing time in Nazareth for Vacation Bible School. The kids enjoyed visiting all of the shops this year which included the Bead Bazaar, Serve Tent, Olive Oil Shop, Carpentry, Food Market, Farmer's Field, Rock Quarry, and even a Barnyard while live animals! They played lots of fun games in the Hometown Playground and heard stories about the importance of names, family, and what Jesus was like as a kid from all kinds of characters including a Rabbi and Mother Mary! We sang songs and learned some dances too! We had over 50 participants and so many incredible volunteers truly made it a wonderful, intergenerational experience.

The rest of the Summer we will continue our Fun Friday Summer Series with a Movie Night on July 12th and a Science Night on July 26th. We will finish out the Summer strong with our infamous "Back to School Bash" on Friday, August 2nd from 5:30-7:30 pm. Immediately after the B2SB on the 2nd, we have our "Blessing of the Backpacks" on Sunday the 4th and our Promotion Sunday on August 11th. All of these events are open to the whole community and all of our Challengers and Day School friends are always invited and welcome! We have been having a great Summer so far and are working on some new plans to make the Fall just as awesome so stay tuned!

A word to ponder:

Cross Words That Build Up

Normally associated with cross words are statements made that erupt out of mouths in fits of anger occurring when there is a “blowing of one’s top.” These statements are as hot flowing lava consuming the victim/victims with the volcanic ash choking life out of all in ear shot despite their continued breathing.

The cross swords I speak of in this reflection do not fit the above usual understanding. They are instead words nested in expressions giving meaningful life and hope to all who hear them. Statements like “You look nice today.” “That was a kind deed I saw you give to a neighbor. It sure did them wonders.” “I am sorry for not being very thoughtful to you the other day. Please forgive me.” “Those were good points you shared at the seminar. Well done.” And a thousand more of like mind and heart expressed.

These cross words emerge when we concentrate on whatever is true; whatever is honorable; whatever is just; whatever is pure; whatever is lovely; and whatever is of good report. Philippians 4:8. It is centering on thinking what is excellent and worthy of praise. Such genuine and affirming kindness in looking for the beautiful are terrific ways to plant hope, birth smiles, warm a heart, put dance in a step, and bring life back quickly or slowly after one feels defeated or dead inside.

To all in the flesh world that delights in horrifically putting neighbor down, watching and listening to this practiced cross word building up is like a crossword puzzle. It’s an momentary event that can lead a bitter spirit to sit down and figure out “ just what happened here?” It may be the very moment of kindness expressed and shown that brings them around to building up and not tearing down.

When God’s children share this power of affirming cross words, it is one of the many ways it is living as Jesus a life that is true.

To your health and to our health,

Pastor Dennis





Our offices will be
closed July 4th & 5th in
observance of
Independence Day.

HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY!

