

THE EPISTLE

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

Dear St. Luke's,

I came across the words of an old 18th century hymn in my files last week. They are the words of the Prophet Isaiah set to music. It is the second verse of the hymn which intrigues me, however.

**"Fear not, I am with thee,
O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will
Still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee,
And cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous
Omnipotent hand."**

Last Monday evening, I was lying in my hammock and looking up at the stars and the words of this hymn came back into my mind; a refreshing truth came back into my heart, which I sometimes have a tendency to forget: that life is still good despite the actions and reactions of humankind. St. Luke's, that old hymn reminded me and should remind all of us in these troubled days of a truth about life, which we need to remember: God

can handle things if we do not get in His way. And we get His in His way when we become afflicted with what one psychologist calls "the Atlas conflict", seeking to lift the burdens of the universe of God's shoulders and to place them upon ours.

Faithfully,



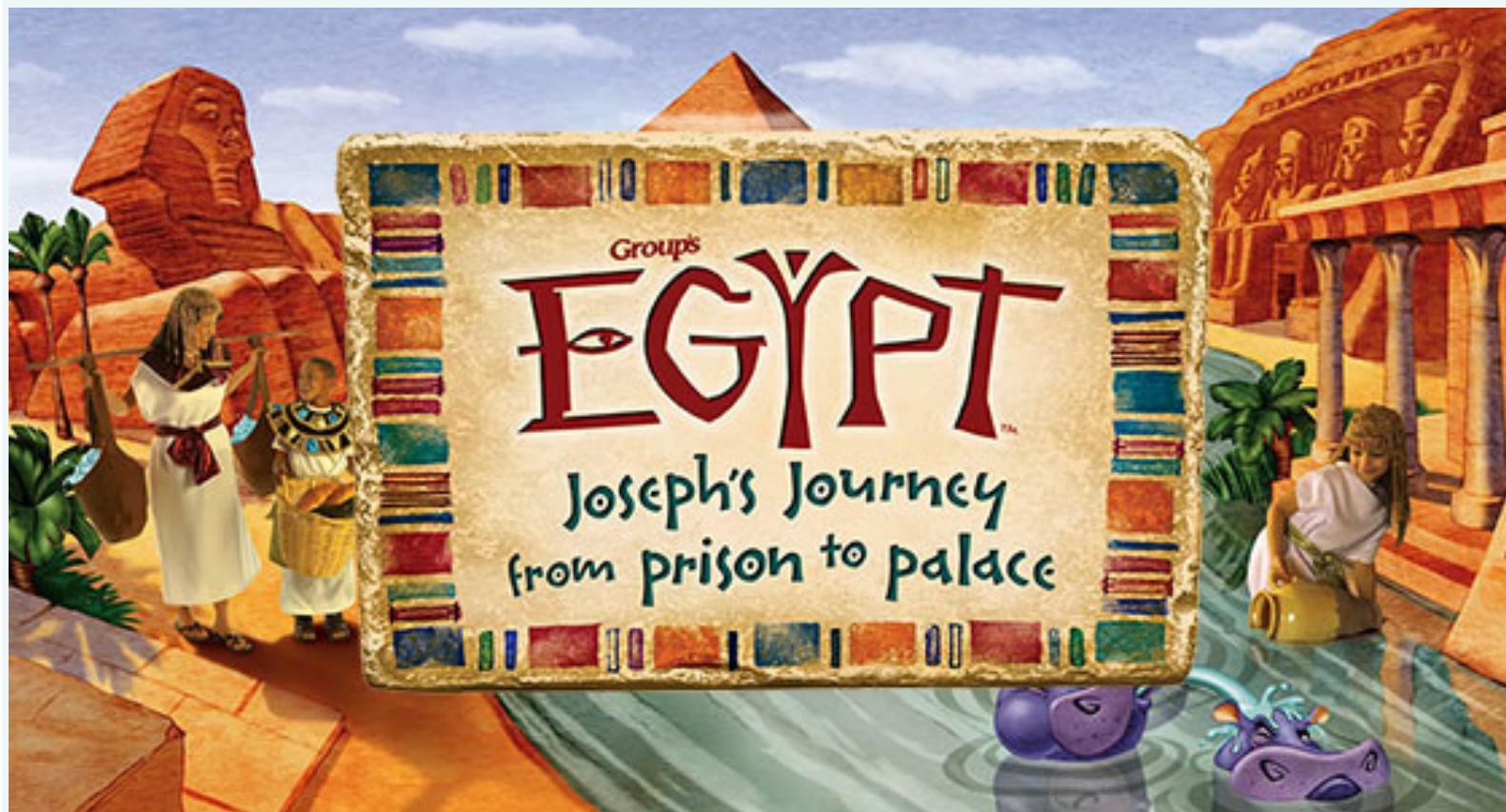

Shirley Robinson, Sheridan Harris, Pat Anderson and Ashley Jacob served lunch at the Wesley Foundation Thursday April 24 at noon. Students enjoyed the meal and we all enjoyed visiting with the students (pictured below).



TWK and UMCOR disaster response volunteers and staff report significant damage to homes in the western part of our conference. We are asking churches and individuals to please prepare UMCOR Cleaning Kits (buckets) to assist survivors with clean-up. Hygiene kits are also in short supply. Financial donations are always appreciated. United Women in Faith are asking you to join us in assembling hygiene kits on May 13 in the Lounge at 6 pm. Items are due by May 11.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

As we enter May, we are nearing the end of the school year which means Summer Fun can soon begin! Summer will begin with the big kick-off of Vacation Bible School being the week of June 9-12 from 5:30-7:30! Be sure to join us the Sunday right before on June 8th, as we have worship in Ancient Egypt to get everyone excited for VBS! This will be a super special day you surely do not want to miss. VBS will be so much fun and full of excitement. Kids will get to make crafts, sing songs of Worship, play games, learn lessons, eat good food just like they did in Egypt, and so much more. Every single night they will go back in time to Ancient Egypt, as they learn about Joseph's journey from prison to the palace! We are so grateful to everyone who has already signed up to help but there's always a place to be plugged in if you are interested! Reach out to Mary Page Contreras to see how you can serve. The link to register is on our website, so sign up and tell your friends and neighbors to do so as well!



Day School News

We can't believe the school year is almost over! What a fun year we've had. Our final month of school will be full of activities the kids will remember for a long time. We will have our Field Day and Family Picnic on Thursday, May 15. Our End of Year Program will be Wednesday, May 21, 9:30 in the Sanctuary. Church members are welcome to attend! It is a program full of joy and happiness. Our last day of school will be Friday, May 23 (half day - 11:30 dismissal). Summer Camp will begin the next Tuesday, May 27, and run until July 18.

Easter Clothing Drive

This year's Easter clothing drive for Sherwood Elementary School was a huge success! In addition to the clothing you purchased and brought in, we also received \$1,445 in donations. We were able to purchase/deliver 59 dresses and 6 shrugs, 34 boys shirts, 8 belts, and 4 boys preschool sets. They have grown accustomed to these special gifts of clothing and look forward to it each year. We are so overwhelmed by your love and generosity. Thank you for helping us share the love of Christ with the precious children of this school community.

The Church Ladies Group
Melinda Kaler, Bette Colter, Barbara Simpson, Jacki Romey

St. Luke's Challengers

2024 - 2025 REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Dear Parents,

We are writing to provide you with an update on the Challengers program at St. Luke's United Methodist Church for the upcoming school year.

Director Transition

As you know, we have been searching for a new director for the Challengers program. We are pleased to share that we have a couple of promising leads, and we anticipate the transition will take place over the summer. This will allow the program to start fresh with new leadership in the fall. Our interim and former director, Sheridan Harris, will continue to serve the Challengers program until the end of the school year. Please feel free to reach out to her with any questions regarding the registration process or financial concerns.

Program Details

For the upcoming school year, we will initially be offering spots to Zach Curlin Campus school families only, with current families having first priority. The last day to receive priority registration is June 1st. If your family includes an incoming kindergarten student, please let me know so I can open a registration spot for them. Upon availability, we will open registration to other University Schools students on June 2nd.

The program will continue to support extended learning pick up and University Middle School pick up.

Program Features

Our program is designed to provide a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment for your children after school. We offer:

- **Individualized Care:** we maintain a 7:1 student/teacher ratio, which allows us to get to know our families personally.
- **Nutritious Snack:** snacks are offered at 3:15 for regular pick-up & 4:30 for extended learning.

- **Recreation:** Recreation is offered every day from 4:00-6:00pm. We will continue to utilize the gym, playground area, fellowship hall and lounge to give students the opportunity to move their bodies and be a kid. *campus athletics schedule has been adjusted to accommodate Challengers schedules
- **Homework Time:** homework time will be given Monday-Thursday during non-testing times.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition rates for the upcoming school year will be:

- Full-time (5 days a week): \$300
- Part-time (3 days a week): \$225

These rates are competitive with local after-school programs and reflect current inflation. A \$100 registration fee is required upon signing your child's contract. Family discounts will be applied to your registration fee, as opposed to a monthly discount.

New students will be considered for entry into the program after June 1st, pending available space.

Payments will be automatically drafted from your account on the 6th of every month. You will receive ONE reminder email 2 days before the payment is sent. If your payment fails to post on your account, a \$20 late fee will be applied. If your account becomes more than 1 month behind, students will not be picked up by the Challengers bus until your account is current again.

Registration Process

All contracts and forms will be sent out via Brightwheel. In order to claim a spot, please follow the instructions below:

1. Fill out the 2025-2026 registration for ALL children.
2. Upon approval, complete the 2025-2026 contract form for all children planning to attend the program. Please fill out the form with your preferred spot (full or part time)
3. Set up your Brightwheel account with a credit card for automatic payment. The payment schedule will begin on July 6th, one month ahead of the start date for University Schools.
4. An official contract and payment details will be sent via email. Challengers will officially reserve your spot once all steps are completed.
5. Pick-up will begin on the first day of school.

We are excited about the upcoming year and the opportunity to continue serving your family through the Challengers program.

Sincerely,

St. Luke's Methodist Church Staff



The Fun Bunch Roadtrip!

When: Tuesday, May 13 at 11:30

Where: Craft room in the CLC.

We will be crafting Spring Flower Buckets.

Please bring your sack lunch, and we will provide drinks and desserts. Please sign up in Hospitality Hall so we will know how many drinks, desserts and buckets to bring!

Call Jim or Jeanne Debo for any questions: 413-3341

APRIL 2025 HONORIUMS AND MEMORIALS:

Honoriums:

In Honor of Pastor Jim McKinney from Helen Wofford

In Honor of Mary Lou Cushing from Helen Wofford

Memorials:

In Memory of Nita Barlow from Mary Lou Cushing, Linda and Jim McKinley, Carol Jacks

In Memory of Tom Burkett from Rita Richardson, Jim Burkett, Janie Hendrix, Mary Lou Cushing, Mike Burkett, Janice and Jerry Crawford, David Robertson, Bob and Jane Crowl, Jenny Zorn, and Stephanie Bushart, Joe and Deborah Lee, Kimberly Wade, Amy Pearson

In Memory of Joanne Williams from Mary Lou Cushing, James and Barbara Luckett, Laurie and Terry Harmon, Hal and Betty Padgett, Christian Homebuilders Class, Mary Palmer and Dot Dickey, Harry and Bette Colter, Galen Colbert and Roland Bullock

In Memory of Mike Smith from Hal and Betty Padgett, Miller Delgadillo

In Memory of Bettye Jo Masters from Linda and Jim McKinley

In Memory of Frankie from Barbara Simpson