

THE EPISTLE

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

Keeping Our Promises

Dear St. Luke's Family –

Yes, this is the dreaded Stewardship letter! Yikes! “Already?” you’re thinking. Just do me a favor, and please don’t put this down! Just keep reading for a few more minutes!

Whether you’re a long-time member, a new member, or a regular attender, you probably have heard the promises we make when we join the church to faithfully participate in St. Luke’s ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. And, whether you’re an “official” member or a faithful attender, all of us are part of the St. Luke’s family and likely try to keep those promises to show up, volunteer, pray, and share a good word. And, if you’re like me, you keep some of these promises better than others. Sometimes I’m more present and less prayerful. Other times, I try to make up for my lack of service by giving more. I feel like being present is the easiest for me. I can always – or almost always – show up. During these next few weeks, we’re going to think about how we keep and honor these promises. Hear me, it’s not just about money.

And, while I’ve mentioned it, money is, of course, important. We need money to pay our outstanding staff and maintain this beautiful property, but, most of all, we need money to support the myriad ministries that happen at St. Luke’s each and every day – from our food

ministries to our music ministry – and everything in between.

We, individually, and collectively as the St. Luke’s family, have much to be thankful for. We are blessed beyond measure and need to be able to continue to share those blessings with our community. If we all do our part in giving, volunteering, serving, praying, letting folks in on the Good News, we will have an abundance to share.

So, my ask for these next few weeks is to come to worship and listen to what your fellow church family members have to say about keeping these promises to support St. Luke’s with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. And think about how you can live into those promises yourself.

And, above all else, remember “and this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19, New Living Translation.



Phyllis Gay
2025 Stewardship Chairperson





TRUNK OR TREAT

At St. Luke's UMC

5:30–7:30 pm

Friday, October 18th

**Trunk or Treat plus a Spooky
Special Bounce House!
FREE fun for all ages!**



Called Out and Called Back:

The Call to Worship is shared in various ways. The sacred moment is shared through friendly welcome, prayer or responsive readings, as well as sacred or spirited music. In whatever way chosen, it is an invitation from God expressing to us “The Meeting” has started. There is however so much more. The Call to Worship communicates and emphasizes the primacy of God’s Word that has assembled us and what we have come to do which is to set our minds and hearts and attention on the glory of God. Our praising is through song/hymn, affirmation, prayer, and listening attentively to the scriptures shared to daily become new creations in Christ.

The afterglow in gathering together is three in number. First, there is the experiencing of wholesome fellowship. Secondly, as with the early post resurrection Church meeting, it is the way that Christian people spiritually and emotionally grow in their Faith. Thirdly, courtesy of our “hourly “worship service, we are in many various ways moved to share God’s love as gifted throughout the week.

It is the third benefit I specifically address in this article. Several months ago, we celebrated the many fruits generated by worshipping together. Our “out in the field “stretches from our own backyard to around the world and all locales in between. In my way of thinking, our many ways of caring are ministries which are acts of worship and very much “a going to church.” They are an ongoing singing of the Doxology long after the worship service is over. In turn, these many acts of “ceaseless praise” whether collective or individual lead us back to the sanctuary for gathered worship again.

These additional ways we go to church are in addition to our weekly community

gathering as we promised. Nary a one is ever to be considered as taking the place of or be substituted for gathered congregational worship.

In the sacred sanctuary, which we come back to after a week of discipleship, is where we are readied and recharged as God’s “called out one’s” from the world to go back into the world which John Wesley regarded as our Parish to share The Good News in prayerful and practical ways. It is by these means that those we extend Christ to will know as the hymn declares “And they will know we are Christians by our love” which we sang at church several weeks ago. The opening Call to Worship has a boundless reach though shared in a brief amount of time.

Kind regards,

Pastor Dennis Neenan

If anyone has something to add, challenge, or want clarification on related to this article or anything else I express, I am easy to find and very willing to listen.



Calling all Youth!

St. Luke's Youth will be exploring Shelby Farms-Hyde Lake on kayak or paddle board, Sunday October 13 at 3pm. This is part of our nature adventure ministry efforts to spend more time with God outside of the church walls. We'll meet outside of the bathrooms by the Fed-Ex event center. Be sure to wear comfortable clothes and footwear and bring a bottle of water for the ride. Never kayaked before? No worries, we can have a quick lesson beforehand. The water doesn't have any current, so it's great for beginners.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the month of October, St. Luke's Youth will be focusing on a service leadership study on poverty. We're using this time to prepare our hearts and minds for the upcoming Food for Thought luncheon. We hope to see you in Sunday School!

SEPTEMBER 2024 HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS:

Memorials:

In Memory of Harold Thompson from Harry and Bette Colter, Cathy Bowsher

In Memory of Fred Thompson from Harry and Bette Colter, Cathy Bowsher, Janie Hendrix

In Memory of Barbara Caldwell from Judith Stewart-Abernathy

In Memory of Ron Kirkpatrick from Mary Lou Cushing

In Memory of Dan Donahue from Rita Ricardson

In Memory of Mary Francis Hall from Rorie Read, Martha Eubank, Rita Richardson, Carolyn Galloway, Elaine and Larry Lambert, Roland Bullock and Galen Colbert, Ruth and Warren Morrison, Mary Lou Cushing, David and Virginia Wages

In Memory of Bob Fuller from Mary Lou Cushing

In Memory of Bernice Tutterow from Randy and Donna Dendy, Pat Jackson, Wes and Amber Dalrymple, Don and Faye Dalrymple

Church Facilities' 2024 Improvements

The Board of Trustees would like to thank Eddie Anderson, our Facilities Manager and Leon Clark, his assistant, for all the improvements to our buildings and grounds this year...and for the ongoing work on the projects still to be completed!

- The Board of Trustees approved a proposal to out-source cleaning for all church facilities, and City Janitorial Service began last month. Also, the church will no longer be reimbursed for a portion of the cleaning expenses by the Day School, the Challengers After-School Program, and the CLC Gym areas to be used by the University Schools, but instead these groups will budget and pay for cleaning services separate from the church. The Trustees hope all areas will see improvements!
- Our service contract with Pugh's Earthworks was canceled last month, and our new contract with Pettit's Lawn Scapes will begin in October 2024.
- The installation of the new Roof for Children's Building was completed in July 2024 at a cost of over \$100,000, but was significantly lower than originally quoted due to the church directly purchasing the roofing materials. The new roof and repairs to recent leaks enabled the Challengers to relocate from their temporary home on the 3rd floor of the Main Building back to the 2nd floor Children's Building prior to the start of the new school year. Thank you to Jabarey Luster, our new Challengers Director, Sheridan Harris, our CLC/Youth Director, and Dennis Neenan for their work facilitating the Challengers relocations.
- The Trustees performed their annual Campus Walk-thru (Exterior and Interior) during May 2024 and developed an on-going list of proposed/required maintenance and improvements to our facilities, many of which have been completed by our facilities' staff. (Thank you to Eddie and Leon!)
- The lighting issues in the Parking Lot were addressed and lamps repaired and/or replaced by Marsh Electric, who only charged the church for materials and donated their labor costs. Thank you, Marsh Electric!

- Sanctuary Lighting Improvements were completed by Higgins Electric in August 2024. Work included building scaffolding to access ceiling fixtures, cleaning fixtures and replacing bulbs in all pendants/chandeliers, replacement of flood lights/lamps that light Chancel areas, replacement of all bulbs in 40 existing incandescent recessed can ceiling fixtures. Retrofitting existing fixtures to LED is not compatible with the existing dimmer system and may be considered with future improvements to Sanctuary. The Trustees would like to especially thank Higgins Electric for not only completing this project in a timely manner, but also making a contribution to St. Luke's UMC, thereby reducing their invoice by \$1,250. The broken A/C unit in the Scout Building was replaced at a cost of \$18,000 but was paid for with the help of a very generous anonymous donor. The Scouts appreciate you!
- An updated card reader entry system was approved and is being installed at (8) access points; new badges will be provided to all employees when the system is complete.
- The HVAC units in the Gym, CLC, and Lounge will be replaced this fall as they were the same units originally installed when those areas were built over 30 years ago! The project includes the purchase & installation of (4) Trane units, electrical work, and setting remote temperature controls at a cost of approximately \$70,000.
- The Ladies Restroom-MB1 (across from Parlor) is still out of use due to plumbing issues, which also affect the Parlor Kitchen. Trustees are reviewing quotes and recommendations from several plumbing contractors to determine the best solution, which could cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000. Additional areas affected by the resolution to the plumbing issue include the Chapel and the Church Lounge, as repairs will involve trenching across those rooms to access pipes.
- A contractor has been hired for the replacement / hardware refurbishment of the main Sanctuary doors on Highland Street, and work will begin before the end of 2024. A big "thank you" to Jane Pate for coordinating this project!

St. Luke's Youth Ministry

BIG SCREEN BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, October 2

Wednesday, October 16

Wednesday, October 30

Wednesday, November 13

Dinner will be
served at 5:30pm.

Pick-up at 7:00





The Fun Bunch Activities

- Join us on October 2 to go to a free Zoo Day sponsored by PNA. Free admission to the Zoo and free tram rides. Come help us roar at the lions! We will be taking our church van and leaving our parking lot at 9:30 am. Please sign up at the Hospitality Hall desk to reserve a sit on the bus! Thanks.
- On November 20th at 11am, we will have our annual Thanksgiving Feast. We will provide ham and turkey. Please sign up at Hospitality desk to let us know what you adding to our celebration.
- On December 11th, we will host our annual Ornament Decorating party 11am in the Craft Room. Bring your sack lunch. There will be a special game in memory of Ms. Alice Roberts.

Questions ? Call Jim or Jeanne Debo 413-3341



October 27th in the CLC! Now Accepting Teams of 4!

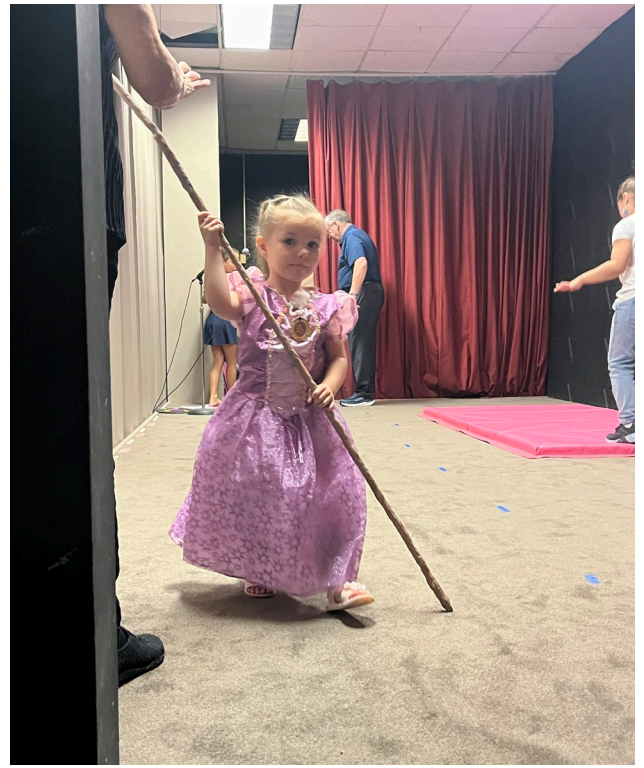


Thanks for “Puttin’ On The Ritz”



Thanks to everyone who helped make Puttin’ On The Ritz a success! Thank you to the volunteers who set up for the event, ran the kitchen, supervised kids, served as the stage crew, and cleaned up. You did a phenomenal job. The food provided by all of our wonderful St. Luke’s cooks was beyond tasty. All of the acts were entertaining and so much fun to watch. Special thanks go to the choir for a wonderful Irving Berlin medley, to our master of ceremonies, Robert Harris, and to our sound team. In addition to a wonderful afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship, the best part is that \$2,580 was raised for St. Luke’s outstanding music ministry. An additional \$900 has been received since for a total of \$3,480. What a fun way to support this vital part of our church!







21.4%

OF THE MEMPHIS POPULATION IS LIVING IN POVERTY

Join us for a Poverty dinner & roundtable discussion November 10th to find out how we can make a difference together.

PHONE
901-452-6262

Hosted by St. Luke's
United Methodist Youth Group

EMAIL
Sheridan.harris@stlukesumc.org



Deck the Halls



to support families experiencing houselessness

The Dorothy Day House annual Wreath And Garland Fundraiser features high-quality, live evergreens sent from Washington State straight to your door or for local pick-up. For more information and items available, visit:

WWW.DOROTHYDAYMEMPHIS.ORG/WREATHS

Questions? Call (901)726-6760 or email lgoller@dorothydaymemphis.org

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10' Western Cedar Garland
\$50.00 - PICKUP



22" Mixed Evergreen Wreath
\$60.00 - DELIVERY



28" Mixed Evergreen Wreath
\$70.00 - DELIVERY



10' Western Cedar Garland
\$70.00 - DELIVERY

ORDERS ARE DUE BY 11/1 WITH PICKUP IN EARLY
DECEMBER / DIRECT DELIVERY ARRIVES DURING THE
TWO WEEKS AFTER THANKSGIVING

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