



# Sharing Our Faith

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

3080 Okatie Highway, between the back gates of Sun City on Hwy 170

**"Praising and Serving God Thru the Ages"**

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Henri Nouwen writes there is always hope.

"I am increasingly impressed

by the Christian possibility of celebrating not only moments of joy but also moments of pain, thus affirming God's real presence in the thick of our lives. A true Christian always affirms life, because God is the God of life, a life stronger than death and destruction. In him we find no reason to despair. There is always reason to hope, even when our eyes are filled with tears."

In these days of painful isolation and withdrawal from our church family, there is still reason for hope, for God is not the God of singleness and isolation, but the God of community and shared worship even in our own homes. Even in these tough situations, we can still praise God each day together for blessings. We can still pray together as a community of faith, praying for each other. We can still be St. Luke's checking in on each other while sharing God's love with each other. So, there is still reason for hope, because God, the God we worship is the God of hope, even when our eyes are filled with tears and our hearts yearn to be together.

Grace and Peace,  
Brian

God's Word—  
a Living Hope  
for the Nations



Pastor Brian praying for calmness and wisdom for our church, community and world. 3.15.2020

***Be the community of FAITH!***



Due to coronavirus concerns, latest recommendations from Bishop Holston and gathering restrictions set by Gov. McMaster, **NO Easter services will be held on Easter Sunday, April 12. This does not mean that Easter services will be cancelled, just postponed.** Our Easter service will be celebrated on the first Sunday we can all gather together once again at St. Luke's for worship. That will truly be a day of celebration of Jesus Christ and a true celebration of life!

Rev. Brian Preveaux

## buildingfaith

As we sit home, somewhat isolated, our faith is still with us. Consider this: Most of us have given freely to our church on a regular basis and many have pledged to support the Fellowship Hall renovation. Those needs continue! St. Luke's must pay our bills and the renovation will go on.

While our stock portfolios have dipped, our faith must not. This crisis will pass, and our church will remain strong. Just as you maintain your prayers and belief, maintain your regular giving through the mail. As you cancel plans for travel and cruising, consider re-purposing those dollars to meet the needs of your church. Our faith should always be strongest in times of distress.

Thank you for your generous support of St. Luke's.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!  
IT'S NOT TOO SOON!

While our formal pledge drive is over for the Fellowship Hall, it is NOT TOO LATE to pledge your support, or to increase your pledge. This will help mitigate our use of reserve funds.

While we have not broken ground yet, it is NOT TOO SOON to send in your pledge money or additional contributions. Early receipt of the money will reduce our finance charges and the total cost will come down.

Stay healthy and St. Luke's strong.

Direct contributions from your IRA to St. Luke's is a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) and that "earned income" is exempt from taxes. It also is counted as part of you RMD (Required Minimum Distribution).



Rob Clark, Finance Chairperson  
[rclark55@sc.rr.com](mailto:rclark55@sc.rr.com)

## REMEMBER

God is still with us. St. Luke's is still alive. Our church still has expenses and bills to pay. Please mail in your usual generous tithes and offerings for each Sunday to **St. Luke's UMC, PO Box 2779, Bluffton SC 29910.**

## MISSIONS



Each month, we receive a thank you letter from **Bluffton Self Help** for the food we donate the first of the month.

3/4/2020 Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous support of our mission and the work we do here at Bluffton Self Help.

Every day we see neighbors in need. Hard working neighbors who, despite their hard work, struggle to make ends meet. Thanks to supporters like you, we have been able to serve our community and these neighbors for 33 years. Because of you, just last year:

- Families and neighbors received over 403,000 lbs of food
- 467 neighbors attended workshops, GED classes and hiring events
- Over 670 families received clothing
- 227 households were able to make it through a difficult time with emergency assistance

We know that helping individuals meet their basic needs first is essential in finding personal success and breaking the cycle of poverty.

We rely on our community to keep our Wellness Food Pantry shelves stocked all year long. Your donation of food helps to ensure no child goes to bed hungry and no neighbor has to worry where their next meal is coming from. Your gift not only provides food to neighbors in need but provides hope. It provides nourishment and promotes health, allows people to focus on reaching their goals, and helps children to learn and stay focused in school. Thank you for doing your part in supporting our neighbors in need and creating a community where there is food for all. A gift like yours is incredibly important and for that, we are grateful.

With gratitude,

*Kimberly*

Kimberly Hall  
Executive Director | Bluffton Self Help



## FIRST SUNDAY MONDAY FOOD MISSION DRIVE

Helping to feed the hungry is an important mission of St. Luke's. Please drop off your contributions in the parking lot at the church on April 6<sup>th</sup>. "Social distancing" will be observed to avoid any risk of virus transmission. Your contributions are vital as the community needs are extreme due to the pandemic. Feeding the hungry is truly part of us doing God's Work!



**NEXT MONDAY**, April 6<sup>th</sup>, (8:30 to 10:00 a.m.) we will have our ~~FIRST SUNDAY~~ **MONDAY FOOD MISSION DRIVE** for our local food pantry, Bluffton Self Help. PLEASE help us stock the pantry with the

most desired/requested items. These include: Cereal – Cheerios preferred, instant grits/oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, dried pasta, pasta sauce, boxed or bagged dinner mixes such as Hamburger Helper, Beefaroni, etc., dried beans, and rice. Also needed are recycled shopping bags & diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6) and toilet paper. Unfortunately, we can't accept any open, expired or damaged items.

Following is an email that Judi Landin sent out March 22<sup>nd</sup>



Ladies,

Since we are stuck for a while in our homes, I was wondering what some of you ladies might think about this particular ministry we could provide. There are many people shut in nursing homes and hospitals without visitors during this time I was hoping that some of us might provide notes to these people. We could start with local establishments and continue with different states even after this quarantine is lifted. Some people don't have family, but even if they do, receiving a note that says something like, "Someone in South Carolina is thinking of you (or praying for you)", could really brighten their day.

If we decided to do a children's hospital, we could make it cute and light. Just bring a smile to their faces.

It doesn't have to be a card, so no one has to run out and buy cards - just a note or letter. For children, we could include a joke. For adults, perhaps an uplifting saying. Whatever the Spirit would move us to do. There is no right or wrong way to perform this ministry.

They could be addressed in a manner such as: for a child at \_\_\_\_\_; or for any Senior Citizen in this facility. (Ideas are welcome here)

I believe they could be appropriately signed with our name, followed by: "A partner in prayer from St. Luke's U.M. Church, Okatie, SC", for adult notes, and something like, "Saying prayers for you at St. Luke's U.M. Church, Okatie, SC" for children.

We could pick one place to start and call to ask how many greetings would be needed. Then we could divide and conquer!

On the envelopes, I believe we stand a better chance of the facility taking us seriously if we used the Church's return address. Otherwise, some facilities might think they are junk mail. (Not that I am trying to get someone inundated with return mail).

Once the quarantine is over, I am hoping we would continue this ministry of letting people know they are not alone through their struggles.

I know our Sunshine Ladies provide our congregants with a valuable service through their cards and that has meant a great deal to me since I became a member at St. Luke's. I would like to extend that out into the world a little further.

Please respond to me, Judi Landin, 843.540.1448 or email at: judisells4u@aol.com

Thank you, Ladies for taking the time to read this and pray about it. –Judi

March 25<sup>th</sup> another email was received from Judi...

Dear Ladies,

I wanted to thank all who responded and said they would love to be a part of the ministry of sending out greetings to nursing homes and to let others know that I will be finalizing the details for the first group on Friday.

If there is anyone else that would be interested in participating, please let me know at 843.540.1448 or email me at: [judisells4u@aol.com](mailto:judisells4u@aol.com)

It has been decided to start locally at NHC and Palmettos of Bluffton. Realizing the amount of postage that would be involved, I am volunteering to pick up any mail (without postage) from your lower mailboxes, for those who live in Sun City, or from your home front porch if you live elsewhere, and put in a large bag and personally drop off at NHC.

On Friday, I will contact all who have shown interest in this ministry with further details of count and pick up timing. How many days we will need to prepare these notes will depend on how many volunteers we have to participate in the preparation. There are 120 patients at NHC and 62 at Palmettos of Bluffton.

FYI, both places were thrilled and very grateful for the offer.

Thank you all for your time. –  
Judi Landin



NOTE: Judi said the April ones are all assigned, but hopefully for May we will get another home to do!!!



**MUSIC**

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed "Special Music" by Rebekah Borgelt, soprano. She sang "Offertory" while her father, Geoff accompanied her on the piano. It was beautiful and so appreciated!



March 15<sup>th</sup>, there was one person dressed to celebrate St. Patrick's Day...



I'm sure everyone recognizes Janet Jacoby!!

What a beautiful Church yard we have in the Spring!!



Looking through the window...



So pretty!



**Let us remember with cards, and prayers...**

- Nancy Adkins**, 49 Heron's Bill Drive, Bluffton 29909
- Doris Boskey**, Sonata Viera, Rm; 208 - 3325 Breslay Dr, Melbourne FL 32940
- Elnora Ekholm**, 173 May River Rd., Bluffton 29910
- Ron Garner**, Veteran's Victory House, Hospice Care, 2461 Sidneys Road, Walterboro SC 29488
- Carolyn Ransier**, The Palmettos, 3035 Okatie Hwy, Memory Care, Rm. 102, Okatie, SC 29909
- Jane Slayton**, 47 Fenwick Drive, Bluffton SC ,29909



**April Birthdays**

- 03 Roland Smith
- 09 Kathy Strife
- 11 Vern Conway
- 11 Bryan Metzger
- 14 Wally Willig
- 17 Beth Peters
- 30 Judy Watts

**No April Anniversaries**



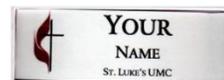
**May Birthdays**

- 03 Beth King
- 09 Rob Clark
- 09 Jane Seymore
- 09 Chuck Watts
- 10 Beth Woods
- 11 Jean Shaffer
- 13 Mary Hettenhouser
- 15 Wes Reutter
- 17 Tom Dolan
- 18 Jim Manning
- 24 Lois Willig
- 27 Nancy Sariscak
- 29 Jerry Vagnier

**May Anniversaries**

- 14 Elizabeth & Roger Weaver
- 19 Linda & Bill Metcalf
- 20 Pat & Allyn Perdue
- 25 Beth & Eric Woods
- 26 Julie & Paul Bascom
- 26 Linda & Dave Fisher
- 26 Marge & Harry Skinker
- 26 Judy & Jon Watkins
- 30 Joy & Brian Preveaux

**NEED A "NAME BADGE"?** Please indicate on the attendance sheet and one will be made for you. These badges are magnetic...so, if for some reason you cannot wear a magnetic one, we also have them with pins.



**Greeters, Readers, Acolytes & Communion Servers**

There are various opportunities to greet and/or be a gospel reader or acolyte and participate in serving communion at our services. Please see the sign-up sheet on the back board, or contact Julie Bascom, 317.403.1577. Acolytes contact Jane Disney, 843.707.1764.



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. LUKE'S** There are "Invitation to Membership" forms in holders on the back of the last pews. Fill it out and place it in the offering plate. You will be contacted.

**"Contact Us"** using email. Our church website, [www.stlukesumc-okatie.org](http://www.stlukesumc-okatie.org) is a valuable tool to attract people, share information and create interest in St. Luke's. To enhance capabilities and provide a foundation for the future, a collaborative effort is underway that changes some website organization, layout, content and navigation. For example, "Weekly Bulletins" are now under the Worship link and Newsletters are available through the "About Us" area. For more information or assistance using the website, please contact Dave Disney, 706.372.2178 or [disneydw1@gmail.com](mailto:disneydw1@gmail.com)



***The next Men's Breakfast scheduled for Friday, April 3, 8:00 a.m. at The Clubhouse at Okatie Creek, 60 Sun City Club Lane in Sun City is CANCELLED.***



As you are aware, most of our local congregations have suspended services and outside activities for the time being. In this time of uncertainty, we have made the decision to secure overnight accommodations for the two families in our Shelter Program at the nearby Candlewood Suites. They will be staying there for at least the next five weeks and possibly longer. Luckily, each room has a fully equipped kitchen and there are complimentary laundry facilities onsite.

This, of course, has placed an unexpected financial burden on our organization as each week will cost approximately \$1,400 for their lodging. We are reaching out to you, our volunteers, supporters, and friends for any assistance that you may be able to provide. This assistance could come in the form of:

- **Gift cards to Walmart (preferably in denominations of \$10 or \$25) which will be used to purchase gas for our family's cars so they can get to work and possibly food.**
- **Gift cards to Food Lion (preferably in denominations of \$10 or \$25) as the hotel is in walking distance of the store.**
- **Donations to assist with hotel expenses made either:**
  - **By check and payable to:**
    - **Family Promise of Beaufort County and sent to 181 Bluffton Road, D101, Bluffton SC 29910**

**OR**

- Submitted on our website using a credit card – <https://familypromisebeaufortcounty.org/donate-confirmation/>

Also, beginning Monday, March 23 and until otherwise communicated, our Day Center will be staffed Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

**Should you have any questions, please contact us at: 843.815.4211.**

From all of us at Family Promise of Beaufort County, many thanks and please stay vigilant about your own wellbeing and that of those around you.

**Repeat of email sent out on March 29<sup>th</sup>, concerning church worship services.**

Dear Congregation,

Bishop Holston issued a recommendation yesterday encouraging the suspension of services for the entire month of April. With COVID-19 concerns, recommendation of the Bishop and crowd restrictions by Gov. McMaster, we will not be holding services for the month of April, including Easter services.

This is not an easy decision to make as the Pastor, but our entire congregation is in the highest risk of people to contract the virus and it is not worth putting people's health or their life at risk.

I am looking for ways to broadcast sermons for the next few weeks via the website until worship in person can resume.

I am looking forward to returning to our regularly scheduled worship services and celebrating that day with all.

Continue seeking God's presence in this time until we are again united.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Brian Preveaux

**SOCIAL DISTANCING**  
What does it mean?

Social distancing is the practice of reducing close contact between people to slow the spread of infections or diseases.  
Social distancing measures include limiting large groups of people coming together, closing buildings and canceling events.

**AVOID**

- Group gatherings
- Sleepovers
- Playdates
- Concerts
- Theater outings
- Traveling
- Athletic events
- Crowded retail stores
- Malls
- Workouts in gyms
- Church Services
- Visitors in your house
- Non-essential workers in your house
- Mass transit systems

**KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**

- Visit a local restaurant to get take out
- Visit grocery store
- Pick up medications
- Play tennis in a park
- Keep at least 6'-8' between yourself and others

**SAFE TO DO**

- Take a walk
- Go for a hike
- Yard work
- Play in your yard
- Clean out a closet
- Read a good book
- Listen to music
- Cook a meal
- Family game night
- Go for a drive
- Stream a favorite show
- Call or email a friend or elderly neighbor to check in
- Group video chats