



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"

Volume 13, Issue 6

JUNE 2020



During the stay-at home order we have been living with the last few weeks, I have spent a great deal of time on our back porch

watching the alligators in the lagoon behind our house. There is consistently six or seven, swimming, floating or lying on the bank. The other day, I saw a dead turtle floating belly up in the lagoon and watched as a small alligator grabbed the turtle in his mouth and was trying to eat it. This noise caught the attention of another larger alligator that came to get the turtle for himself. The little one dropped the turtle on the bank and left the area, surrendering the turtle to the larger alligator. The larger alligator scaled the bank, grabbed the turtle, and tried to crack the shell with its teeth, unsuccessfully, leaving the turtle by the edge of the water. This commotion attracted the attention of another alligator which waited patiently for the big alligator to leave the turtle alone. The third alligator then scaled the bank and tried to eat the turtle, with no success. All three went searching for something they believed they wanted, only to end up disappointed.

That is the way our life can be many times. We see something we believe we want, only to find the effort in the acquisition does not bring the reward we wished for. It is the same in our relationship with God. We often seek things from God that we believe we want out of the desires of our heart, when we should only be trusting in God to give us the things God would want to give to us, for the things God gives, are truly the things that bring happiness, joy and peace and the things that are planned perfectly for our life.

Don't go chasing the turtle in the pond, but seek the blessings from heaven, knowing that all we receive from God is truly a blessed gift, for the gift from God is given out of love, grace and mercy and perfection!

Grace and Peace,
Brian

RETURN TO "IN-PERSON" WORSHIP

It is with great joy that I share with you the news that St. Luke's United Methodist Church will be resuming worship services on Sunday, June 14, 2020. While this is great news, there will be some changes to the setting and the way worship can take place due to social distancing restrictions and the still present threat of the Coronavirus. I have met with the Church Council and we have discussed and have come to a decision as to the best possible, safest way to resume worship during this pandemic.

Changes are as follows:

- **One** Worship Service held at **9:15 a.m.**

Worship will be held outside in the back lot in front of the Columbarium-We cannot meet in the sanctuary, for the square footage is not enough to allow for a gathering of more than 20-25 people at any one service due to the regulations in place.

- No bulletins
- No passing of the peace
- No passing of offering plates-There will be baskets available for the collection of tithes and offerings
- No congregational singing due to recommendations from health care officials
- Congregants are expected to wear their masks and will need to bring their own chairs
- Social distancing guidelines must still be adhered to even though we are meeting outside
- In the event of rain, services will not be held

The Pastor and the Church Council are responsible to open the church in the safest manner as we can provide. We realize this is not the most ideal option, but it will be great to worship together once again in the midst of God's nature. Worship will surely be a blessing.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Rev. Brian Preveaux
St. Luke's Church Council



We all hoped it (sequestering) would be over by now!

We expect to be able to worship together sometime in June, but do not know just what the “new normal” will look like. As we keep the faith individually, never forget that we are one Church and strong in our faith.

The Fellowship Hall project has been delayed waiting until the District can hold approval meetings again. LOOKING FORWARD, let's take this opportunity to get active in supporting St. Luke's and taking us beyond this disruption. While some in our community have been financially hurt by this pandemic, many of us have just had the inconvenience of canceled travel and being stuck at home. If you fall in that category, please consider increasing your support to the Fellowship Hall rebuilding. Any increase in your early contributions will reduce the financing required and reduce the project cost.

Bless all of you who have continued to “mail in” your tithes and contributions. Stay healthy and I look forward to seeing you at St. Luke's again.

Rob Clark, Finance Chairperson
rclark55@sc.rr.com



I want to call out and highlight the team of St. Luke's volunteers that are working behind the scenes even while we are not able to have services together:

- Pat Simmons collects the mail, deposits the money, writes the newsletter and keeps track of everyone.
- Mary Goldfinch keeps the financial records and pays the bills.
- Jim Seymore (and his Trustees) keep the property in top shape.
- Steve Klapp takes care of cemetery business and helps with burials.
- Jane Disney is there to help with all the communications.
- Dave Disney is taking care of our Epworth support work.

AND to all of you who call your neighbors, deliver cards, and look out and pray for each other.

Thank you all!
Rob Clark



MISSIONS
FIRST SUNDAY
MONDAY FOOD
MISSION DRIVE



We will have our **3rd FIRST SUNDAY MONDAY FOOD MISSION DRIVE** for our local food pantry, Bluffton Self Help. Please drop off your contributions in the parking lot at the church **ON MONDAY, June 1st, 8:30 to 10 a.m.** “Social distancing” will be observed to avoid any risk of virus transmission. PLEASE help us stock the pantry with the most desired/requested items. These include:

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

Helping to feed the hungry is an important mission of St. Luke's. 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!

If you cannot make Monday, you may drop your items off any time on Sunday, May 31st at Rob Clark's in Sun City, 50 Star Flower Drive.



Another good haul:

On May 4, Saint Luke's delivered another truckload of groceries to the Bluffton Self Help. The Pandemic has left many in our community in need and we are helping feed the hungry.

(Please see the note of thanks from Bluffton Self Help on the next page.)



05/05/20

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous support of our mission and the work we do here at Bluffton Self Help. During this unprecedented time, coming together as a community is more important than ever. Every day we see neighbors in need. Hard working neighbors who, despite their hard work, are now struggling to make ends meet. Thanks to supporters like you, we have been able to continue to serve our community and get these neighbors through this crisis. Because of you, in just a few short weeks:

- Families and neighbors received over 43,695 lbs of food
- Over 477 households have been able to rely on BSH to put food on the table every week
- More than 140 families are receiving help for the first time
- 127 households were able to make it through a difficult time with emergency assistance from our COVID-19 Family Relief Fund

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. During the COVID-19 pandemic the need continues to grow. 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 getting back on track, and helps children to learn and stay focused on learning at home. Thank you for doing your part in supporting our neighbors in need and creating a community where there is food for all.

With more than 7,500 lbs of food being distributed every week from our pantry, a gift like yours is incredibly important and for that, we are grateful.

On behalf of the board, staff and neighbors in need, thank you.

With gratitude,

Julia Violi
Program Manager

Thank you for all you all do for us each month!



LADIES "CARD" MISSION

A few months ago, 10 ladies joined with Judi Landin to address cards to different nursing homes, and for June we completed thank you cards to each employee of Coastal Carolina. This ministry has been a great blessing. I wanted to extend an invitation to anyone who might be interested in joining in this ministry for our July cards. Due to vacations and some surgeries, etc., we are going to be a little short-handed this month. Volunteering for this ministry does not mean you have to do it each and every month. Whatever time you have to donate is a wonderful and appreciated gift. Also, there is no postage involved. I deliver all the cards.

If anyone is interested in joining in, even for just the July cards, please let me know by Wednesday, June 3rd as I must get the count of how many cards we each need to do to each of the volunteers the first week. I try to give as close to 30 days' notice to everyone as possible so there is no rushing. We are hoping to do two nursing homes in July: Bayshore and Life Care.

You may call me at 843.540.1448 to respond. Thank you all and may you all be blessed and well. —Judi Landin

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME... IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE



Many of you may remember that in the past, on Mother's Day, we have taken up a special offering for Epworth Children's Home. Since we did not have worship services on Mother's Day, an offering was not taken. If you would like to contribute to Epworth Children's Home, just indicate "Epworth" on the memo line of your check. **Please mail it to St. Luke's UMC, PO Box 2779, Bluffton SC 29910.**

Most of the children at Epworth did not celebrate Mother's Day with their mothers. Instead, they were surrounded by loving staff and volunteers who walk with them daily to provide spiritual, educational, emotional, and physical support. Consider what God is calling you to give to support our church's ministry to the children in South Carolina.

Epworth does not receive apportionments from the United Methodist Conference. This offering is our opportunity to support this vital ministry. Please give generously. For more information about Epworth Children's Home, visit them online at www.epworthchildrenshome.org.



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

Jane Slayton, NHC, 3039 Okatie Hwy, Rm. 331 Okatie, SC 29909; Tel: 843.705.1319



June Birthdays

- 04 Jane Cook
- 07 Rick Hoel
- 13 Andy Makarick
- 13 Shirley Stark
- 13 June Dorsey
- 17 Jon Watkins
- 22 Ruth Dolan
- 23 Marie Baldauf
- 24 Joan Ruffino
- 25 Jane Wick
- 27 Verna Crosby

June Anniversaries

- 04 Linda & George Batten
- 12 Jane & Dave Disney
- 14 Anita & David Leming
- 14 Sharon & Andy Makarick
- 15 Loretta & Paul LoMonaco
- 15 Vivian & Roland Smith
- 24 Leslie & Greg Richards
- 25 Ruth & Tom Dolan – 60th!

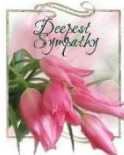


July Birthdays

- 03 Karen Robinson
- 06 Diana Hamilton
- 07 John Baldauf
- 07 Russell Smith
- 11 Carol Conway
- 12 Elizabeth Vance
- 13 Reece Woods
- 18 Don Leonard
- 19 Will Ross
- 20 Anita Leming
- 21 Andy Beall
- 21 Gail Rogers
- 22 Bill Harting
- 23 Paul LoMonaco
- 23 Jim Seymore
- 26 Lois Finch
- 26 Eric Woods

July Anniversaries

- 01 Judy & Chuck Watts
- 06 Sheryl Ingram & Bill Halstead
- 19 Kathy & Steve Klapp
- 20 Doris & Bob Heck
- 25 Pam & Rick Hoel
- 25 Beth & Bob Peters
- 27 Elizabeth & Archie Vance
- 30 Nancy & Ottice Adkins



Condolences of the pastor and congregation are extended to **Marcia Garner & family** on the passing of her husband, **Ron, May 28, 2020.**

Also, to the family of **Carolyn Ransier** on her passing, **May 25, 2020.**

Looking Back on Sunday, May 10, 2020

MOTHER'S DAY



On Mother's Day, we give God thanks for those who nurture us, many of whom we are related to, and others we have met along life's journey. We honor the mothers we know and remember the ones now in Heaven whose influence is still felt.

The Roses above were placed in the church sanctuary for Mother's Day by the Worship and Flower Committees to the glory of God and all the women at St. Luke's.

We hope all mothers had a Happy Mother's Day ❤️❤️!!



A few months ago, we were blessed with this new sign. It was donated by Dr. Abell. To say, "thank you", we signed a card and Pastor Brian

presented it to her back in March. You may remember that she shared her testimony with us.



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 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, listen to the "Online Sermons by Pastor Brian,** 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