



# 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 5

MAY 2020



There has been much question and conversation over the last few weeks concerning the date of gathering once again for

worship. We have been living through a very difficult time with the closure of most businesses, restaurants and recreation venues. It is as if the whole world has ceased to function. There are shortages of paper products, meat and even some common food items. We have been ordered by state and federal officials to shelter in place which leads to depression and isolation for many people.

We still, even after all this bad news, have reason to rejoice and praise God. We have had time to slow down and assess all the excess we all have in our lives. We have had time to catch our breath from the hectic lifestyle many of us encounter in each day. There has been time to spend with family (too much at times) and enjoy the simpler things in life. I have enjoyed watching the many alligators sunbathe outside our backdoor.

The point is we have had time to see the blessings of God in our life that we are normally too busy to see in each day or that we take for granted in each day. Jesus told the disciples, "The hour is coming, indeed, it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his own home, and you will leave me alone. I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world."

Jesus has conquered the world and everything in it including this time of separation and uncertainty. So, take courage, finding the peace and power of Jesus in your home while enjoying God's blessings in this day!

Grace and Peace,  
Brian

(The following is copied from the [umcsc.org](http://umcsc.org) website)

**Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, resident bishop of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, released this statement regarding the latest guidance in response to the coronavirus pandemic in our state:**

In consultation with The Cabinet, and in compliance with the most recent information shared by public health officials, I am strongly recommending that leaders of each local church continue to suspend in-person worship services – and all gatherings, meetings and events **through May 20, 2020**. Conference leaders will continue monitoring developments in the pandemic, and we will share our recommendations about events planned beyond May 20<sup>th</sup> in the coming weeks.

My friends, we serve a loving God whose word is a light that brightens our path even when it is difficult for us to see. The time will come when we will be together again physically. Together in worship. Together in service. Together in fellowship. We will pass the peace again. We will stand shoulder-to-shoulder again, praising our Savior in word and song.

In the meantime, I know that you will remain persistent in finding ways to be in community with your sisters and brothers in Christ. Our regularly updated collection of resources to help local churches through this unprecedented time can be found at [umcsc.org/coronavirus](http://umcsc.org/coronavirus).

And please meet me each morning– on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com), [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com) and at [umcsc.org](http://umcsc.org)– as we continue to pray for those affected by the coronavirus, for those experiencing stress and anxiety and financial uncertainty, for medical professionals treating and caring for patients, and for those working to ensure a healthier future for all of us.

Grace and peace,  
L. Jonathan Holston  
Resident Bishop



Building the Church

After the enforced time away, it will be great when we can again worship together and continue the St. Luke's missions and ministry in the community. Our Fellowship Hall has always been a key component of our missions as well as a place for us to come together. Time is now to move forward with the renovations and planning is in process.

You can “kick start” the building this year by giving some extra to get us going. The past month has caused a lot of our travel and vacations to be canceled. Staying home has saved money and then the Federal Government sent us all checks. For those of us on a “fixed income” it has finally been a good thing knowing that we still have income and don't have a job to lose. Your donation of the “pandemic stimulus checks” can help assure that we get off to a good start in the planned rehabilitation of the Fellowship hall. Please consider how blessed you have been and share those blessings with your church family in this building effort. Thank you.



I just want to acknowledge and thank all of you who continue to support St. Luke's during the enforced closure. Your mail-in tithes and contributions have really helped. Although we could not be together, most of our expenses continued. If you have not mailed yours in, please consider a “catch up” contribution to help cover the church's expenses for the past month. All mail should be addressed to **St. Luke's UMC, PO Box 2779, Bluffton SC 29910** address. Bless you.

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



MISSIONS

FIRST SUNDAY  
MONDAY FOOD  
MISSION DRIVE



we will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> ~~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, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 to 10 a.m. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> at Rob Clark's in Sun City, 50 Star Flower Drive.**

Thank you,  
Rob Clark



Pastor Brian's truck was “loaded” with food delivered to Bluffton Self Help in April.

**From the Fellowship Hall Pledge Committee:**

It's May already! We had such plans for progress on the building project but – Man proposes, God disposes. God is still faithful towards us and we are continuing to be faithful to the call He has on our lives. That faithfulness includes remembering our promise to Him in support of our Fellowship Hall project.

There are several things that still need to take place before we can begin the physical work on the Fellowship Hall. Our conference must meet and formally approve the project. Obtaining building permits for the project must occur. Meeting with our bank to get a building loan to cover costs until our pledging of money converts into receiving the money. None of these can happen until the business shutdowns are lifted.

However, we can be ahead of the game with our receipt of pledges! As you continue to support the church with your tithes and offerings, you can also continue to pay towards the pledge you made. Just make sure that you mark your pledge contribution separately from you tithes and offerings.

You can mail your pledge donations to the church via:

St. Luke's UMC  
P.O. Box 2779  
Bluffton, SC 29910

We look forward to being together again as we share our walk and our lives. Won't it be great when we can gather in our new Fellowship Hall?

Looking Back on Sunday, April 12, 2020

EASTER DAY



Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!  
Earth and Heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens and earth reply, Alleluia!



Even though we are not physically in church this day, we are there in our hearts and rejoice in the Risen Christ. Our church, St. Luke's was decorated for Easter with flowers, open shades and our hearts in every pew. Enjoy the pictures.

Happy Easter!!





**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**, NHC, 3039 Okatie Hwy, Rm. 135L, Okatie, SC 29909
- Jane Slayton**, NHC, 3039 Okatie Hwy, Rm. 331 Okatie, SC 29909; Tel: 843.705.1319



**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



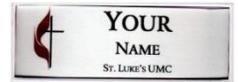
**June Birthdays**

- 04 Jane Cook
- 07 Rick Hoel
- 13 Andy Makarick
- 13 Shirley Stark
- 13 June Dorsey
- 17 Jon Watkins
- 22 Ruth Dolan
- 23 Marie Baldauf
- 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

**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, 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](mailto:disneydw1@gmail.com)

