



# 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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I have been in contact with many people during the last few months as we have been experiencing COVID-19. The one

comment that everyone makes is how tired they are of feeling being locked down at home. Although, many businesses are reopened and restaurants are once again open for diners, there still seems to be a feeling of being restricted to stay at home for safety against this virus. People are longing for the day when life will resume to the normal life we had before COVID -19.

After having this conversation with a lady the other day, I began thinking of how this relates to our life with God. It brought to mind another special day that is a day we should all be anticipating, as well. Jesus tells us in John14: "In my Father's house are many dwelling places... And if I go and prepare a place for you, then I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also." As the people of God, we have much more to look forward to than anything this world can offer or just getting back to normal. We can look forward to a place prepared by Jesus and a place we are to be living for today, in other words walking and talking with God in anticipation of the day when we will see the place Jesus has prepared for you and me.

So as we anticipate the day of returning to normalcy, let us live for the day when we join that land of no more suffering, pain, tears and sorrow, and no more virus, for that truly will be a day of rejoicing and a day to look forward to!

Grace and Peace,  
Brian

**Contact Info for Pastor Brian**

Cell: 803.686.0794  
Home: 843.707.7991  
Email: bpreveaux@umcsc.org

**COMMON GROUND**

As one person put it - "These are difficult times".

God knows we have all made adjustments in our lives in order to cope with the COVID epidemic. It's quite interesting how each of us goes about our daily life reaching that end. I kind of group these people into three categories. The first group are the most cautious. These are the folks that will not leave their homes. They



haven't socialized with anyone except for maybe waving to the mailman now and then. They have their local grocer deliver to the doorstep. Same goes for restaurant food and household goods including clothing. Amazon never had it so good!

The second group is a bit more lenient and daring. They frequent eateries with close friends and neighbors. They enjoy frequent trips to the supermarket and have regular get togethers with small groups. They wear masks and are respectful of COVID consequences but refuse to let it govern their life.



Then you have the third group where anything goes. What pandemic???

I have reason to suspect that St. Luke's has a mix of all three of the above. But it's also interesting to note that no matter what group you find yourself, all groups have a common thread. We all love our church. We miss the camaraderie and Sunday closeness with being in the same pew. But, our giving continues with no end in sight. Thank you for your continued support. Our tithing is pretty much on target through all this uneasiness. One day in the not too distant future, we'll remember these times and the common ground that kept us together.

Blessings,  
Ron Pozsonyi, Lay leader



### **BUDGETING DURING A CRISIS**

The pandemic and associated shutdown of normal services and get together has disrupted many things in the life of our church. The fact is, the financial management that supports our Christian efforts must go on without interruption. The Church Council is currently reviewing the budget for calendar year 2021.

The good news is that with our systems, things are going on normally. Our budget assumptions are that next year will return us to a more normal state and our proposed budgets reflect that. I expect that St. Luke's will keep growing in our Christian outreach to the community. The refurbished fellowship hall will enhance that ability.

This year, many of you are remaining faithful and "mailing in" your weekly contributions. Thank you! The unseen and tireless efforts of Mary Goldfinch and Pat Simmons are maintaining all of our financial systems. We are blessed to have them.

Rob Clark, Finance Chair



Each day as we enjoy our lives and perhaps the wonder of a glorious sunrise, we should be reminded that God has kept his promises. All that we have is a gift from our maker and fulfills his promise to look after his believers.

Many of us made a promise to The Church in the past year to support the Fellowship Hall renovation. If you have not yet honored that commitment for 2020, I encourage you to do so at this time. We are actively spending money on the project and your pledged contributions at this time will reduce the finance costs of that effort. If you could not pledge your support previously, please consider giving now to keep St. Luke's a strong spiritual beacon in the community.

Thank you for your support.

Rob Clark, <rclark55@sc.rr.com>



### **FELLOWSHIP HALL RENOVATION UPDATE**

There isn't much progress to report this month. The required surveys, drawings and documentation were turned into the Beaufort County Planning Director's office in July. As of last Friday, our engineer has not heard anything from them. We cannot proceed with any other plans until we receive approval from the planning office. Government sometimes moves slow and it is even slower because of Coronavirus issues. Please be patient, we are ready to proceed as soon as we receive approval.

Keep us on your daily prayer list.

*Jim Seymore*

### **WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER**

***Nancy Sariscak***



Nancy comes to us by Letter of Transfer from Andover UMC in Andover, OH. We are pleased to have her as a member of St. Luke's UMC. She serves as our Worship Chair.

### **MAIL IT IN**

Even when we are "shut down", many of our operating expenses at St. Luke's have continued. Please continue to "mail it in" to support St. Luke's until "normal" times finally arrive. To the many of you who have been supporting your church the past several months – a big THANK YOU!



## EPWORTH CHILDREN'S

### HOME – EPWORTH IS

**OUR MINISTRY!** Where do children go when DSS has taken them from their families because of



abuse or neglect? What about when a mother is struggling with addiction and is neglecting her children? Currently, over 80 children call Epworth home. Each of these children have found refuge in the ministry we share as United Methodists in SC. Epworth Children's Home has been welcoming children in Christ's name for 124 years through the generous support of churches like ours! **We will participate in the annual Work Day Offering on throughout the month of September**, to benefit the children who call Epworth home.

### OPEN DOORS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED.

Epworth Children's Home goes above and beyond providing food and shelter for children who have experienced abuse, neglect, and tragedy. It provides children with tutoring, counseling, health care, fun activities, and the spiritual formation they need to heal and gain a sense of belonging. Through the ministry of Epworth Children's Home, we open our doors to these children, surround them with comprehensive care and provide them with the opportunity to transform their lives. During September our congregation will stand with Epworth to break the cycle of abuse, neglect and shame through our collection of the Annual Epworth Work Day Offering. Without the support of churches like ours, Epworth could not provide transformational care for children in need. Please be in prayerful consideration of what God is calling you to give to this valuable and life changing ministry. We invite you to give generously to the children who call Epworth home. For more information, please visit Epworth on the web at [www.epworthchildrenshome.org](http://www.epworthchildrenshome.org).

***Epworth is NOT an apportioned item.*** We normally ask for Epworth donations on Mother's Day and again around Labor Day. On behalf of the children who call Epworth home, thank you for your part in helping our congregation donate to this worthy cause.

Please mail your donations to **St. Luke's UMC, PO Box 2779, Bluffton SC 29910**. Checks should be made payable to St. Luke's UMC with "**Epworth**" on the memo line. We send one check which includes all donations.

## FIRST SUNDAY

### FOOD MISSION DRIVE

The First Sunday Food Mission Drive is now under the leadership of Rick Hoel, Missions Chair. If you have any questions regarding Missions and the Food Bank in particular, please contact him at 843.295.9002 or [rickhoel12@gmail.com](mailto:rickhoel12@gmail.com)



Helping to feed the hungry is an important mission of Saint Luke's and we have determined to increase our efforts and provide more opportunities for those not attending Sunday services to participate and for those who can donate more. In addition to our regular drop off on the first Sunday of the month, we are also setting up a drop off on the third Monday of the month.

**Specifically, for September, please drop off your contributions in the back-parking lot at the church on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.** We will be loading before and after the service. **You can now also drop off at the church on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM.** "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!

Please help us with our **FIRST SUNDAY** and **THIRD MONDAY** FOOD MISSION DRIVES 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.

**In case of rain and church services are cancelled on September 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be at the church parking lot on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 10:00 AM.** Please remember to show your willingness to be of service by signing up to deliver the food donations for an upcoming month., Rick will be at the church parking lot on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 to 10:00 AM.

Thank you.



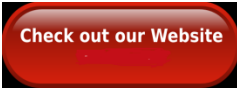


**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF**

**ST. LUKE'S** – Please email Pat Simmons at [st.lukesumc.hwy170@gmail.com](mailto:st.lukesumc.hwy170@gmail.com) for an

“Invitation to Membership” form. Fill it out and mail it to St. Luke’s UMC, PO Box 2779, Bluffton SC 29910. You will then be contacted by Pastor Brian.

“**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)



Many of you may not know that we are posting our “backyard” sermons on YouTube. Each Sunday, **after 2:00 PM** (that gives time to set everything up) you can click on the link below to listen and watch the sermon. The link is also on our website under “Quick Links”:

**This is the website address:**  
[www.stlukesumc-okatie.org](http://www.stlukesumc-okatie.org)

**Here is the YouTube link:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj\\_gXL78wJ24jKL6HMBp02g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj_gXL78wJ24jKL6HMBp02g)

If clicking on the link doesn’t work for you, copy and paste it in your browser.

“IN-PERSON” WORSHIP

We continue to have “in-person” worship in the “back parking lot”. We bring our chairs and do social distancing, plus we wear our face coverings. We have only **One** Worship Service at **9:15 a.m.** In the event of rain, services will not be held

We look forward to seeing you there!



August Birthdays

- 01 Sherry Clark
- 07 Joy Preveaux
- 07 Pat Simmons
- 09 Brian Preveaux
- 11 Myree Flanagan
- 13 Dave Fisher
- 13 Sheryll Ingram
- 13 Marilyn Schum
- 14 Angie Harting
- 17 Marcia Garner
- 21 Pam Hoel
- 26 Bill Usher

October Birthdays

- 09 John Hubbard
- 09 Sharon Makarick
- 14 Vivian Smith
- 15 Roger Weaver
- 16 Jane Disney
- 16 Doris Heck
- 18 Julie Bascom
- 18 Bill Halstead
- 19 Loretta LoMonaco
- 22 Haigler Woods
- 23 Judy Watkins
- 27 Nancy Adkins
- 27 Steve Klapp
- 29 Jerry Wick

August Anniversaries

- 06 Jean & Jim Shaffer
- 07 Dottie & Lew Apgar
- 11 Carol & Vern Conway
- 16 Jane & Terry Tiffany
- 30 Diana & Walker Hamilton
- 24 Sherry & Rob Clark
- 26 Kathy & C.J. Strife
- 27 Karen & Phil Mitchell

October Anniversaries

- 13 Pat & Will Ross

**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

## ONLY A NICKEL?



“This **nickel** is not going to be much of a contribution, but that’s all I have.”



“I’m too young to have a job; there is no allowance, so I am dependent on what Dad gives me as my offering on Sunday’s.” (***It was only a nickel!***)

These were the thoughts of a ten-year-old boy starting to attend church on a regular basis. Neither of the parents attended or was involved with a church. They did believe in God.

Thinking back about this “nickel offering” the boy realized that as frugal as it was, an introduction to stewardship was created. Note that stewardship starts with one’s relationship with God. It does not create that relationship, as it already exists through God’s love and grace.

The church (Methodist) was small (rural), had an itinerate pastor, and was within walking distance from his home. Each Sunday the young boy walked to church with “nickel in hand”.

“What can I do to promote God’s work and be an integral part of this church? With only a nickel I can’t see much progress on my part. My nickel is not enough to make a difference.” (But it did!)

“Get involved with the church. That’s what I’ll do”.

And so, he did. – Helping with the worship service, reading scripture at services, singing in the choir, receiving the offering (nickel included), cleaning the church grounds and classrooms, greeting members and visitors, attending various functions, etc.

As the years passed and the youth matured, he continued to experience the *pleasure* and *satisfaction* of **giving to God spiritually and financially**.

This is the time of year when our church budget is being prepared. Your “nickels” will see us through the “bumpy” times ahead. God’s guidance, love, and grace are our fortress along with your support to see us through.

Together, our “nickels” will keep us on track now and in the future years.

Having a firm “spiritual commitment” to God’s grace is the guide for your financial commitment to our church.

May your “nickel” make a difference too!

