



# 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"**

**Worship times: 8:30 & 10:15 AM (5<sup>th</sup> Sundays 9:15 AM)**

Volume 20, Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2025



A while back our Centering Moment spoke about an eight-year-old who's heart tank was running on empty. His mother recognized what was happening and decided that nothing else mattered until his tank was refilled. She hugged him for as long as it took to fill his heart tank up and she held on for just a little bit longer to ensure that his tank was filled to the brim. We are told that the boy's weekend was so busy and so full, and his little soul was just dry!!!

We are reminded that we may not be 8- you may be 28, 38, 48 or whatever- but ALL of us run on empty just like he did. We all must pause and take a moment to refill with the good things, Scripture, Prayer, Sunshine, Worship, Song, Laughter, Friends, and Hugs. We must refill our empty, or we'll find those emotions (tears, anger, snappy words) overflowing with no reason why.

Considering what is happening in our world, nation, state, city, and neighborhoods, we need to stop and begin to love on each other. We need to love on one another until we have filled each other up. Nothing else should matter until we have, at least made sure that our loved ones know that they are loved and matter.

Take a moment. Refill. It's the most important part of your day!

*Rev. Christopher L. Thompson, D. Min*



# Don't Sweat the Small Stuff

I used to be an assistant coach for middle school football with a gentlemen who also served our state as a Michigan State Trooper. Kids loved him (and still do) and I learned about life while being in his presence. When it came to dealing with emotions or people, he was, as my mother would say, “cool as a cucumber.” I noticed he never really got upset, but was firm, fair, and focused with all interactions (even referees). He always had a lot of funny little sayings. One of them I remember most is he would say, “Don’t sweat the small stuff, because it’s all small stuff!” Of course the context of this statement was aimed at “coach” trying to calm the nerves of a bunch of teenage boys before a game against other teenage boys in front of a crowd of fans. Needless to say, the air would always be tense. He was reminding the boys not to be nervous and pushing them to think about “bigger things” and not allow their “nerves” and emotions to trip them up. The intent was to simply get the team to calm down, stay focused, and don’t make an emotional decision.

Of course, we know Scripture teaches this concept on a much higher plane. When it comes to addressing being “upset” or reacting with anger which creates more problems for us, one of the more turned to passages referenced is James 1:19-21. Here James says, “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” Here James is teaching the church to pursue hearing the word, and to avoid hasty speech and unrighteous behavior. How easy is it to say, but more difficult to practice? James knows the answers to my questions. James knows about the fragility of humanity. James is echoing Jewish tradition on the misuse of the tongue and the anger that can result (Proverbs 10:19, 11:12; 15:1; 17:28). I once saw a poster hanging in a classroom at the school I attended, that said, “Anger is one letter away from danger!” That has always stuck with me. We see through the inspired pen of James a deeper lesson. Lack of listening, combined with a lack of restraint in speech, leads to ill-tempered action.

The man I coached with, through his age and training, obviously had a better understanding than I when it comes to not allowing our emotions to become obstacles. How many, like myself regret some of the things we said in haste, during our youth. I know God has forgiven me. I just wish some of the people I was short with has forgiven me too. If we read on in James 1:25 the loop is closed for us. “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” May we seek to follow the words of James because of the sacrifice of Jesus. Let’s not focus on the small stuff, but seek what’s really important. It’s never too late to learn.

*Will Ross, Former Lay Leader*



Mark your calendars for these Upcoming meetings!! (Subject to change)

### MEETINGS — In the Fellowship Hall

Every Monday—Men’s Bible Study at 8:00 AM  
 Tuesday, 2/4—Trustees at 9:00 AM  
 Every Tuesday—Choir Practice at 6:30 PM  
 Wednesday, 2/5—Missions at 1:00 PM  
 Thursday, 2/6—Church Council meeting at 3:30 PM  
 Monday, 2/24—Blanket Ministry 10 AM—12 PM

### Other activities and events that may interest you...



**Tomorrow, Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>** join us in the Fellowship Hall from 10:30—12:30 for “The Ageless Adventures Club.” The topic will be “Mental Health.” Then we will participate in various activities.

**On Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>,** “The Ageless Adventures Club” will meet again at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. This session will be on Fall Prevention and Home Safety.

Please come out and support Rikita Thompson as she gathers information and gives us good tips and advice on these subjects.

### Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>—Souperbowl Sunday!

We will have **ONLY ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 9:15 AM.**

Please plan to stay after the service and enjoy a bowl or two of these special soups made by our congregants!

As the flyer says “wear your favorite team color.”

This is a once a year event of Fun, Food & Fellowship!

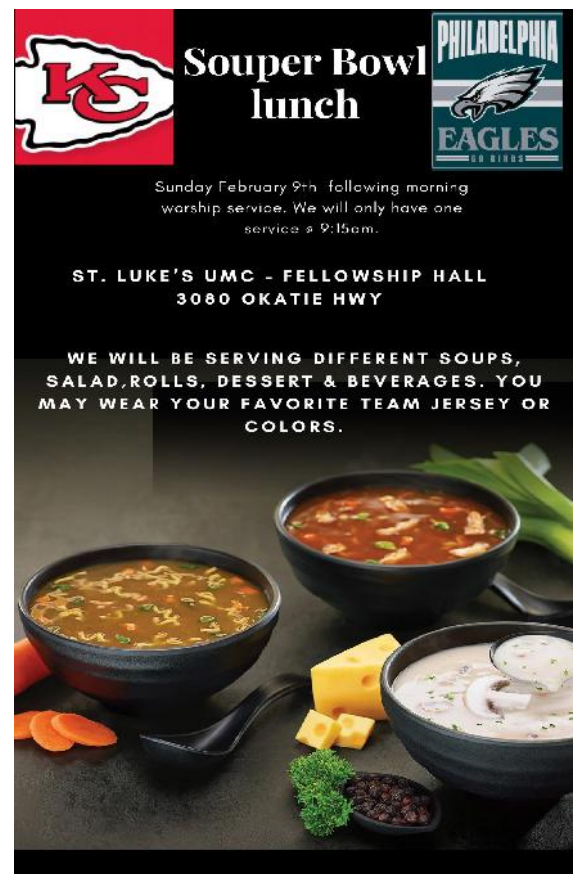
#### UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH:

**March 5—Ash Wednesday**

**March 8—Turn your clocks ahead**

**March 17—St. Patrick’s Day**

**March 20—First Day of Spring**





We have all felt the effects of our unusually cold and snowy start to the new year. It affects people in our community struggling to make ends meet especially hard. Many people lose income when severe weather occurs. Children that stay home from school because of the weather means extra food is needed. Quite simply, weather extremes increase the demands at food pantries and other ministries giving assistance to families in our community.

Three of the ministries St. Luke's supports – Agape, Bluffton Self Help, and Family Promise – help meet the basic needs of food and shelter for our neighbors in need. Thank you for your generous support of these ministries!

Our next Missions Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider joining us to learn more about St. Luke's outreach within our community.

Linda Fisher and Elizabeth Vance  
St. Luke's Missions Committee Co-Chairs

### **Bluffton Self Help First Sunday Food Mission, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

The volunteers and staff at Bluffton Self Help continue to be amazed at the quantity of food our small church contributes. Our first-of-the-month food drive helps restock their shelves at a time when items are sometimes out or critically low. Thank you for your faithful donations each month!

As Bluffton Self Help closes out in the first month of this year, they could use our help to fill their shelves. In 2024 they are proud to share (with our help) that they distributed over 560,000 pounds of food to our Lowcountry neighbors.

This photo was captured Wednesday morning after 90 families came through to do their shopping. The cold weather and school closings have put an extra strain on their supplies.

Lois Willig will be collecting your donations before each worship service on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have items to donate later in the month, please place them in the labeled basket in the Fellowship Hall. All food donations are appreciated, but here is a list of the most needed items at this time:



Canned Tuna & Canned Chicken

Low Sodium Hearty Soups

Whole Grain Pasta

Canned Tomatoes & Sauces

Peanut, Almond, or Cashew Butter

Low Sugar Jelly or Honey

Whole Grain Cereals\*\*

Rice

Unsweetened Applesauce

Oatmeal\*\*

Whole Grain Flour\*\*

Baking Mixes\*\*

Pancake Mix & Maple Syrup\*\*

Gluten Free Food Options

Condiments\*\*

Granola Bars

Dried Fruits, Nuts & Seeds

Cane Sugar

Shelf Stable Dressing\*\*

Shelf Stable Milk & Almond Milk

Canned Beans (Red, Pinto, Kidney, Cannellini, Navy, Black)\*\*



Soap & Body Wash (adult & child)

Toothpaste\*\*

Shaving Cream\*\*

Shampoo & Conditioner\*\*

Deodorant      Body Lotion

Baby Wipes\*\*

Diapers (Sizes 4, 5, 6 & 7)\*\*

Training Pants (2T-5T)\*\*

\*\*priority items based on current inventory

Unfortunately, they cannot accept opened, damaged or expired items.





We would like to thank everyone who helped with the January dinners, and a special thank you to Mary Cale. Although the snow and ice-covered roads caused a cancellation of the Thursday delivery, Mary managed to pull all the food together by Friday and delivered it to Family Promise.

Several of the larger churches in our community will be providing dinners for the families in the shelter in February. The next dinners St. Luke's will provide will be in March.

**Freedom House volunteers are needed!** During the week, the shelter has a House Manager or Case Worker on site. On the weekend, volunteers are needed to spend a few hours (or an overnight) at the house. It is recommended volunteers work as a team – you and your spouse or a friend. The purpose is to only have a presence at the house, and at most interact with the parents and children, as you are comfortable. You will NOT be asked to clean or to take care of the children. If you would like more information about this much-needed way to serve, please contact Linda Fisher at [dlfisher4@hotmail.com](mailto:dlfisher4@hotmail.com).



#### **Prayer Blanket Ministry – Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM**

It was a morning filled with laughter and sharing as the sixteen people in attendance in January worked on this worthwhile mission project. Nine blankets were completed and will be delivered to our members and friends of St. Luke's who are experiencing health issues. After all the knots were tied, everyone was treated to a wonderful lunch provided by Mary Cale.

Please join us on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall for the next blanket-making session. No sewing required. Bring lunch and stay for a time of fellowship afterwards. Everyone is welcome! (Check out the photo page.)

#### **Agape Family Life Center, 5855 Okatie Hwy, Hardeeville**



Every Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00 AM until noon, volunteers help distribute fresh food donated by local grocery stores to families and seniors in need. Volunteers are especially needed around holidays such as the upcoming President's Day weekend, when regular volunteers may be away. No heavy lifting is required. Volunteering at Agape is a wonderful way to meet the people we serve as well as the other friendly volunteers. You do not need to sign up ahead of time. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Richards at [lesliearichards@gmail.com](mailto:lesliearichards@gmail.com).



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 If you are going through an illness or another crisis and could use some support, please let us know. Marie Baldauf leads this ministry which can help by providing a meal and caring phone calls. Please contact Marie at [baldaufmarie@gmail.com](mailto:baldaufmarie@gmail.com), if you need support or would like to help in this ministry.  
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## HISTORY HAPPENINGS

On Sunday, January 16, Pastor Chris handed me a stack of materials someone had left for him. Included were past committee meeting notes, Trustee meeting notes, Charge Conference notes, budgets, etc. Also included were three newspaper articles from the Bluffton Packet. One is already included in our archives—"Historic Church Waking Up to New Face". However, I had never seen the other two, "The Bluffton Charge" and "Homecoming". Both articles tell the story of John Howie-- a Minister at St. Luke's from 1956-1957.

Receiving the materials was quite a coincidence (?) because I had just started a project to see what I could find out about our ministers to add to our historical knowledge!

**The Bluffton Charge: One Preacher's Struggle for Civil Rights**, written by Howie's son, Stephen, tells the story of his parents, John and Beverly. Stephen writes:

*This is the story about two people I never knew, a decade before they were parents. It is a story about a time before they were careful, before they invested their beliefs in their children, when they were eager to challenge the most basic aspects of the culture that had raised them both.*

*They carried their ideas with them to the Lowcountry of South Carolina in 1955 and put them to work, forming friendships with blacks and other liberals, attending Klan rallies as moles, working against the grain of a defensive South on the verge of a battle that was only beginning to take shape.*



In 1956 Rev. John Howie and his wife Beverly moved to Bluffton, SC where he was appointed as the minister for the Bluffton Charge. The Bluffton Charge was comprised of three Methodist Churches—Bluffton, Hardeeville, and Pritchardville. Howie preached at all three every Sunday.

During their time in Bluffton, they were actively involved in the Civil Rights Movement. They worked covertly with both black and white community members to establish the region's first Human Relations Council. This initiative sought to foster dialogue and understanding between races during a period of significant tension.

This commitment to civil rights often put Howie at odds with the prevailing sentiments of the time and his all-white congregations. In 1957 the Boards and parishioners from all three churches gathered, and essentially, put John "on trial"—accusing him of "agitating local blacks". Despite these challenges, Howie remained steadfast to his advocacy for racial equality throughout his life.

Howie left Bluffton and the ministry to pursue a doctorate in philosophy at Boston University where he studied under mentors who had also guided Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The couple then moved to Illinois where John taught philosophy at Illinois State University.

Pam Hoel, Church Historian  
Professorpamela1@gmail.com



# A BACK AT JANUARY 2025

Pastor Chris gave us a challenge in December. Each time we attended church, we took a puzzle piece, wrote our initials on the back and placed it in the offering plate. The goal was to have the puzzle finished by the end of December.



Unfortunately, we were missing 6 pieces to complete the puzzle. If you accidentally took a piece home, there's still time to return it.

On January 18, Rikita Thompson led the 1st session of "The Ageless Adventures Club." She explained the different groups available where "occupational" therapy is offered. After her talk, we broke out into several groups to color & play games.



Shirley & Norm did Adult Coloring



One group played this "Scrabble & Monopoly" game



For some, Jenga was the highlight! It was certainly a challenge!



We were all very slow & careful about removing a piece of the tower!



Peggy Firtion & Letty Husson played checkers.



Letty also played Jenga!



At the end... it did come crashing down!!

A great time was had by all who attended. We're looking forward to the next session!



## More from January...

January 26, we went to sing, give a message & communion to the residents of Canterfield.



Will Ross gave the message. Pastor Chris served the communion. Sherri Prosser played the flute and Charlene King played the piano.

The residents always enjoy singing hymns with us.



Our Blanket Ministry started up again on January 27<sup>th</sup>.



If you know of someone who would benefit from one of our beautiful blankets, please let someone on the Mission Team know.



# January 2025 South Carolina SNOW



Chris Hauck



Bill Metcalf



Bill Metcalf



Chris Hauck



Will Ross



Amy Erickson



Amy Erickson



Lois Willig



Phyllis Sippel



Pat Simmons



Simmons-Perdue



Allyn Perdue

Photos submitted by members of St. Luke's UMC.

## Prayer Requests

### CONGREGANTS

Ruth Dolan      Judi and Gary Landin  
Linda Jackson      Rob Clark      Emma Jo Busby  
Pat Schwartz      Dave Fisher      Barbara Marangio  
Andy & Sharon Makarick

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CONGREGANTS

Hannah Nystrom, friend of Marie Baldauf  
Kathy Visconte, friend of Jane Tiffany  
Lynette Hassinger, sister of Leslie Richards  
Edward, brother of Debra Burr  
Fred Schaltegger, Brother of Rich Schaltegger  
Kelly Mayer, daughter of Donna Stephen  
Shannon, friend of Judi Landin  
McKayla, daughter of Susie and Michael Brown  
Nathaniel, nephew of Don McKay  
Drew Howell, nephew of Donna Stephen  
Blake, acquaintance of Rose Kooper  
Jim Buckholder, neighbor of Diana Hamilton  
Michelle and her family, co-worker of Michelle Cramer  
Norm Neus, friend of Phyllis Sippel  
Julian and Indie Parks, parents of Linda Batten  
Ron Kramer, friend of John & Nancy Sariscak  
Vicki Harrizer, friend of Marie Baldauf  
Debra, sister of Diana Hamilton  
David, son of Beverly Cook  
James Burton, nephew of Archie Vance  
Carolyn Kurz, friend of Sheryll Ingram and Bill Halstead  
Judy Boswell, friend of Sheryll Ingram and Bill Halstead  
Spencer, daughter of Sam and Carol Rossa  
June Hamilton, former member  
Tom Jackson, son of Jim and Carol Jackson  
Joan McLeod, friend of Letty and Bill Husson  
James and Sarah, son and daughter of Shelley Valentine  
Mim, wife of Chick Mazon  
Randy, acquaintance of Ann Webster  
Jill Demsack, friend of Jane Tiffany



*Our deepest sympathy and prayers to Jack Reed and his family on the passing of his mother, Wilda Reed, January 6, 2025.*

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

#### CHURCH MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES, ASSISTED LIVING OR HOMEBOUND

Ruth Dolan,  
Summer Breeze  
351 Wilmington Island Rd., Room 225  
Savannah GA 31410

Elnora Ekholm, 173 May River Rd.,  
Bluffton SC 29910

June Hamilton, 4 Concession Oak Dr.,  
Bluffton SC 29909

Jane and Jerry Wick, 740 Middletrail Court,  
Mt. Airy MD 21771



**Rob Clark's updated address:**

Fountain View Village Apt C324  
16455 E Av Of The Fountains  
Fountain Hills AZ 85268  
E-mail: rfclark555@gmail.com  
Text/Cell: 612.432.5379



# Happy Birthday!



## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

04—Tom Shelley	10—Walker Hamilton	21—Marge Skinker
04—Rikita Thompson	11—Jack Reed	23—Bill Husson
06—Don McKay	13—Gary Landin	24—Janet Baumeister
08—Tina Blount	13—Bill Trainer	25—Tom Cook
09—Michael Brown	18—Shelley Valentine	26—Linda Batten
09—Linda Metcalf	19—Linda Fisher	28—Candace Payne
10—Sam Rossa	21—Ron Marangio	

## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

01—Arlene & Rich Schaltegger  
02—Letty & Bill Husson  
15—Bonnie & Lee van Rensburg  
26—Nancy & John Sariscak

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

02—Amy Erickson	12—JP Moery	24—Linda O'Connor
02—Elnora Ekholm	15—George Batten	31—Janet Jacoby
06—John Sariscak	16—Rich Schaltegger	25—Sandy Lowry
07—Linda Jackson	16—Stan Wilde	25—Diane Morey
09—Randy Pryor	19—Sharon Melancon	30—Aaron Metropolis
11—Armen Hagopian		

## **MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

26—Carole & Alan Bethel



## **OR WATCH "ON-LINE" AT ST. LUKE'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj\\_gXL78wJ24jkL6HMBp02g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj_gXL78wJ24jkL6HMBp02g)



**Donate through Vanco**, go to our web page:

<https://stlukesumc-okatie.org/>, Click on the "Donate" button at the top of the page. This will link you to our Vanco donation tiles. Choose where your donation will be applied.



Please "like" our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082060615677&mibextid=LQQJ4d>

**LET ME TAKE YOUR PHOTO!** If you are attending St. Luke's United Methodist Church, we would like to have you in our Photo Directory. We include visitors as well as members! Please see Pat Simmons to arrange a time to have your photo taken. It only takes a minute of your time!



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

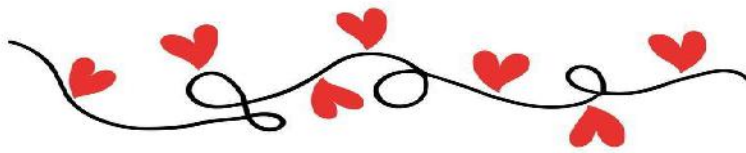
**OF ST. LUKE'S** – you may pickup an "Invitation to Membership" form (located behind the last pew) or on the bulletin board. You can also email [patsimmonsperdue@gmail.com](mailto:patsimmonsperdue@gmail.com) for a copy. Fill it out, bring it back and Pastor Chris will get in touch with you.

**If you cannot come to church, we  
Thank You for "mailing" your  
donations to:**

**St. Luke's UMC  
PO Box 2779  
Bluffton SC 29910**







### Valentine "One-Liners"

- What did one spice say to the other on Feb. 14? Will you be my Valen-thyme?
- What did the maple syrup say to the waffle? "I'm sweet on you."
- What did the painter say to his wife on Valentine's Day? I love you with all my art.
- What's the one flower you should never give on Valentine's Day? Cauliflower.
- What's pink, oinks and shoots arrows on Valentine's Day? Cu-pig.
- What did one rabbit say to the other? "Somebunny loves you."
- How do farmers celebrate Valentine's Day? With hogs and kisses.
- What did the stamp say to the envelope? "I'm stuck on you."
- What did one chemist say to the other? "I've got my ion you."
- Did you hear about the two tennis players that fell in love? It was a courtship.
- What candy never shows up on time? Choco-late.
- Can February march? No, but April may!
- What's the best kind of air to give on Valentine's Day? Million-aire.
- Why couldn't the computer go out to dinner on Valentine's Day? It had a virus.
- What did one ant give the other on Feb. 14? A Valen-tiny.
- Why do melons get married in church? Because they cantaloupe.
- Did you hear about the shoes that got engaged? They're sole-mates.
- Why did the skeleton call off the wedding? His heart wasn't in it.
- What did one drum say to the other? "My heart beats for you."
- What's the best way to get arrested on Valentine's Day? Steal someone's heart.
- What did one cat say to the other on Valentine's Day? "You're purr-fect."
- What flowers get the most kisses on Valentine's Day? Tulips.
- What happens after two spiders get engaged? They have a webbing.
- What did one pickle say to the other? "You mean a great dill to me."
- Where's the best place to find dates? The grocery store.

