



# 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 19, Issue 1

JANUARY 2024

St. Luke's UMC,



We had a glorious 2023. We ended the year with 10 new members, 7 of which were welcomed into the family during our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday service. The Outreach Committee/Social Committee allowed us to participate as a family in some wonderful programs. Our Music Director truly enriched our worship services with the many musicians and songs that she and the choir blessed us with each Sunday Morning. We established a couple of new committees and they have hit the ground running; thank you Pat Schwartz for accepting the position of Communications Chair. Thank you to Pamela Hoel and Kathy Smith for leading our Historical Committee and planning the bi-centennial celebration of our sanctuary. Thank you to those who have joined our Vision and Planning Committee, which is working hard on helping us to achieve our goals for the next 10 years. The Trustees have begun to really get our grounds in line with the vision. The Worship Committee continues to ensure that the sanctuary is ready for service and that the offering table is properly attired for each service, according to the message for each Sunday and the Pastor's wishes. The Lay Servants and all of the members who go each 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday to Canterfield to minister to those who are living there, you all truly brighten up their time. I have heard from numerous residents and family members that they miss going to church and truly value the time that we share with them. To Pat Simmons and Cynthia Thompson for ensuring that the church and our online community stays abreast of what is happening.

I say it quite often, that I cannot do what I do without my congregation. You all make me look good and for that I am truly Thankful.

Let us go into this year with a new and revived spirit to continue to live into the vision of being the hospital of God, that is open to all, and Love unconditionally as God continues to love us. As we worship in this new year, let us remember the three Fs of what makes us who we are:

**Food:** The Word of God in us that fills and nourishes our spirit, that allows us to nourish the world. The bread we break with each other that nourishes our body, that strengthens us as we go out and nourish the world.

**Fun:** The Bible tells us that we need to be Cheerful and Joyful in our giving and our worship. More than that we need to have fun with each other to draw closer to God and each other.

**Fellowship:** The coming together as one, sharing and spending time together that we may learn and grow together.

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



**ST. LUKE'S**

Chairman Church Council  
Lay Leader  
Lay Delegate to Annual Conf.  
Alt. Lay Delegate to Annual Conf.  
Pastor/Parish Relations Chair  
Finance Chair  
Treasurer  
Financial Secretary  
Outreach  
Missions  
Stewardship  
Worship Chair  
Nurture/Discipleship  
Communications Coordinator  
Recording Secretary  
Historian  
Membership Secretary  
Trustee Chair  
Endowment Representative  
Epworth Representative  
Director of Music/Organist  
Nominations Chair

**2024**

Jim Smith  
Will Ross  
Phil Mitchell  
Pat Simmons  
Kathy Smith  
Jim Manning  
Mary Goldfinch  
Pat Simmons  
Linda Jackson, Paula Swope  
Linda Fisher, Elizabeth Vance  
Rob Clark  
Nancy Sariscak  
Marie Baldauf  
Pat Schwartz  
Amy Erickson  
Pam Hoel  
Pat Simmons  
Jack Reed  
Rob Clark  
Sherry Lee  
Rebecca Biethman  
Rev. Dr. Chris L. Thompson

Committee: 2024: Linda Batten, Ev Sellers-Preston, Will Ross (LL)  
Class 2025: Lois Finch, Diana Hamilton  
Nominees Class 2026: Ouida Dell, Letty Husson, Sherry Lee, Leslie Richards

Trustees: Class 2024: Walker Hamilton, Bill Husson, Beth King, Jack Reed  
Class 2025: Myree Flanagan, Bill Metcalf, John Sariscak, Lois Willig  
Nominees Class 2026: John Preston, Pat Simmons, MT Davis

Pastor/Parish Relations  
Class 2024: Phil Mitchell, Will Ross (LL)  
Class 2025: Linda Fisher, Kathy Smith, Paula Swope, Elizabeth Vance  
Class 2026: Lynn Cutshall, Sherry Lee, Leslie Richards

Finance: Rob Clark, Mary Goldfinch, Jim Manning, Pat Simmons, Jack Reed (Trustee),  
Will Ross (LL), Jim Smith (Council Chair), Kathy Smith (PPRC), Chris Thompson,  
At large: George Batten

Worship Committee: Amy Erickson, Letty Husson, Linda Metcalf

Office/Supply Coordinator: Diana Hamilton

\*Committee Chairpersons have seats on the Church Council



## The Perfect Christmas Gift

Don't get her a vacuum, not if you don't mind sleeping on the couch for a while!

The perfect Christmas gift takes a lot of thought, a lot of knowledge, a lot of understanding and a lot of sacrifice.

One year I thought the perfect Christmas gift would be a professional photograph of our grandchildren, for Grandma.

The day started with a trip to the beauty parlor for cuts, curls and styling for three girls \$125. Because they were young, dresses and all the fluff were even more. On the day of the shoot, the youngest decided to have a tantrum. Just before the photographer came in, the middle one threw up on the dog. I got a beautiful photo of three crying girls with their eyes shut. Take my advice, leave the photographs to the ladies.

Here is another tip. Unless you know her exact size, don't buy clothes. If you choose the wrong size, and you pick too big, they say "So you think I'm fat!" If you pick too small, they say the same. Guys, you can't win.

If your spouse, or significant other has a hobby or plays a sport, that may be a good choice.

One of the top gifts, listed this year, is a drone, for the golf course. To help you see the layout and find your ball. Excuse Me! I have too many balls in the woods or in the pond. What good is a drone there.

I recently saw a cartoon, where a man is standing in front of a gift-wrapping station at a large department store. The woman wrapper says, "While I'm wrapping this iron for your wife, you might want to go to sporting goods and buy a helmet.

I looked up the top 23 gifts for this holiday. They include items to help you slim, sleep, relieve pain, see better and farther, hear better, and clean better. Others heat your room, improve your security, and just about make any task easier.

I don't see a lot of thought, knowledge, understanding or sacrifice in any of these. I also don't see a lot of love.

We too often get caught up in all of the hoopla of the season. The parties, the food, the drink and all the glitter have become far too distracting. We spend too much time thinking about the cards and the gifts. We need to remember the reason for the season. Jesus!

Jesus is the greatest gift! Our Father in heaven gave, to us, his only Son, who suffered and died for our sins, so that we may be redeemed and enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Now that's thought, knowledge understanding sacrifice and Love to the greatest amount.

I can't recommend the perfect gift. You have already received it.

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas

*Will Ross, Lay leader*





Have a wonderful and productive New Year! How does this relate to Stewardship?

Going back to the basics: All that we have come from the Lord. We are all Stewards/ Caretakers charged with protecting and properly using all that the Lord has given us in our lives.

Part of that responsibility is providing funding for the Church. By planning your giving ahead, you can help assure the steady flow of revenue that is required to keep St. Luke's active in the community and in your life. One way is to set up automatic giving with your bank so that your intentions are never missed due to "circumstances". Another approach is to make one or more large gifts to cover the next year. Treat your Stewardship obligations in the same way you manage other important things in your life.

Robert Clark: Stewardship Chair: [rclark55@sc.rr.com](mailto:rclark55@sc.rr.com)



Thank you to all who served on the Finance Committee in 2023 and I look forward to working with the new Committee in 2024. I want to especially thank our Treasurer, Mary Goldfinch, and our Financial Secretary, Pat Simmons, for the many hours of work they invest every week to ensure that St. Luke's accounting records for donations and disbursements are up to date and accurate. I also want to thank George Batten who handles all the payroll records and reporting required by the IRS. I humbly request that when you see them in church, please thank all three for the work they do that is outside the spotlight. Your thanks and God's blessings are the only paychecks they receive.

Our faith was challenged in 2023, but our faithful God blessed us so we could begin 2024 debt free and with an achievable 2024 operating plan and budget. A major change in 2023 was the establishment of a "Stand-Alone" Mission Fund. Prior to 2023, mission giving was provided within the Operating Budget. As 2023 began there was a somewhat larger than normal sum of money that was specifically donated and restricted for use in mission projects. The restrictions were not to any specific mission project only that they be used for mission related work. By creating the stand-alone Mission Fund the Mission Committee can manage those funds and future donations of that type for projects that are needed over multiple financial periods. In other words, they do not have to use the funds by a year end reporting deadline and are thus available for both current and future mission project needs.

As a Mission oriented church and considering the establishment of the stand-alone Mission Fund, the Finance Committee proposed, and the Church Council approved, that the Mission Fund receive a tithe of 10% of the excess of Operating Fund donations that exceed total operating expenses for the year. The remaining 90% of any excess will be added as in prior years to the Operating Reserve Fund to be used as needed.

I will provide our 2023 financial summary after the year-end closing of the books and the performance of the UMC required annual audit. We need a few individuals to volunteer to be part of the four-member team comprising the Audit Committee that will perform verification procedures regarding our books and records. I will lead the team and Rob Clark has committed to participate. Audit experience is not required but if you have accounting, general business, bookkeeping or just a desire to learn something new, please do not hesitate to volunteer. To avoid losing out on this wonderful opportunity to use talents God has given you please do not delay to email me at [jwmanning518@gmail.com](mailto:jwmanning518@gmail.com) or call me at 440.503.7137 to add you to our team.

Prepared by James Manning, Finance Chair

## SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS IN 2024

### Human Relations Day – January 14, 2024

Human Relations Day is a denomination wide Special Sunday designed to celebrate and raise awareness to further the development of better human relations by involving congregations in community and youth outreach. A special offering taken the Sunday before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Gifts received for the offering build King's vision of "the beloved community" through programs such as Community Developers and United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs.

### UMCOR Sunday – March 10, 2024

Previously called "One Great Hour of Sharing," the UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.

### Native American Ministries Sunday – April 14, 2024

The Native American Ministries offering bolsters the work of Native American ministries in annual conferences throughout the United States. These ministries exist in rural and urban settings, including reservation and other community ministries. The Native American Ministries offering also provides scholarships for Native Americans studying at United Methodist schools of theology and empowers congregations to find culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities through Christ's love.

### World Communion Sunday – October 6, 2024

The World Communion Sunday offering provides scholarships and leadership development opportunities for international students and U.S. racial-ethnic students who are pursuing advanced degrees. Gifts not only make an impact in the lives of individual students, but also the religious, social and civic communities in which they lead and serve.

### United Methodist Student Day – November 24, 2024

Historically, United Methodist Student Day has been celebrated with an offering on the last Sunday in November. The offering supports United Methodist scholarships and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund.

## Coffee Fellowship

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Coffee and goodies after the 1st worship service each Sunday. COFFEE TIME COORDINATOR - We are SO GRATEFUL for those who have signed up to continue our Coffee time in the Fellowship Hall between services. We still need volunteers, so please check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to sign up.



There was an article in a previous newsletter about the "Sunshine Ladies". On a bookshelf in our Fellowship Hall, there are cookbooks that were sold by the Sunshine Ladies in the past. The recipes are from former & present members of St. Luke's. These cookbooks are still for sale at \$8.00 each. If you would like to purchase one, please let me know. ~Pat Simmons





Speaking from our own experience, it is quite easy, living in such an affluent area, to think that everyone else is doing fine also. But the reality is many in our community are homeless, parents work but still struggle to provide basic needs, children head to school hungry or with holes in their shoes, seniors struggle to make ends meet, and many are uninsured with medical needs. Fortunately, we also live in a very generous community with many agencies that are working to supply food, housing, clothing, medical and other much-needed services.

St. Luke's is a very generous church! We are blessed to have a Missions Fund and a very dedicated Missions Committee that works with local agencies and social workers to help meet some of the needs of the less fortunate in our community.

By supporting Bluffton Self Help and Agape, we provide food for the hungry. Our prayer blankets provide comfort to those who are ill or homebound. Working with the Pritchardville Elementary social worker, we provide snacks, shoes, and fulfill other needs for some of their needy students. Eighty (80!) Pritchardville students received Christmas gifts thanks to your generosity!

**We invite anyone interested in helping plan and implement our mission's program for 2024 to join us at our next Missions Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 10, at 3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.**

*Elizabeth Vance & Linda Fisher, Missions Co-Chairs*

Here are the details on ways to help and serve this month:

#### **BLUFFTON SELF HELP – First Sunday Food Drive, January 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Please drop off your donations with Lois Willig in the parking lot following each service on January 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have food to donate later in the month, you can place it in the designated basket in the Fellowship Hall. All food is appreciated, but here is a list of the most needed items:



- Whole grain cereals – instant grits/oatmeal
- Peanut butter, jelly
- Dried pasta, pasta sauce
- Boxed or bagged dinner mixes (Hamburger Helper, etc.)
- Dried beans and rice
- Diapers (sizes 4, 5, & 6) and toilet paper.

No expired, damaged, or opened items can be accepted. Reusable shopping bags are also helpful.



**Agape Family Life Center, 5855 Okatie Hwy, Hardeeville – Every Saturday from 10:00-noon** Help hand out fresh food donated by local grocery stores to families and seniors in need. No heavy lifting is required, and no advance sign-up needed. This is a wonderful way to meet the people we are helping as well as the other dedicated volunteers at Agape. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Richards at [lesliearichards@gmail.com](mailto:lesliearichards@gmail.com).



Cont'd.

### Prayer Blanket Ministry, January 22 (Monday), 10:00-12:00

Please come out and join this group that has enjoyed getting together once a month to make no-sew fleece blankets for our members and others who are ill or shut in. If you can tie a knot, you can help make a blanket. No sewing required. Bring sharp scissors and a ruler if you have them, but we also have some available to use. We have been enjoying getting to know each other better and catching up with friends over lunch after our blanket-making session. So, bring lunch and join us! Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Smith at [kishhi1947@gmail.com](mailto:kishhi1947@gmail.com).

**Pritchardville Elementary School** – Hungry children have difficulty focusing and learning, so the school provides snacks for these children. Please help us fill their snack closet with healthy snacks, such as Belvita, granola bars, Goldfish crackers, or pretzels. Please NO snacks with NUTS. Drink pouches are also needed. You can place your donations in the marked bin in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact Lois Willig at [willigwp@hotmail.com](mailto:willigwp@hotmail.com).

#### From the staff at Pritchardville Elementary:

There's a gentle kind of prayer that begins in the heart, and on its way to heaven, it becomes a thank-you for the people who are blessings in our lives.

*"I have not stopped giving thanks to God for you." Ephesians 1:16*

Thank you, St. Luke's for its angel helpers like you who matter so much.

#### From Missions Committee:

The love and compassion you showed to these children experiencing unfortunate circumstances through no fault of their own was overwhelming. From searching for that illusive pink stuffed cat to learning all about the different Lego toys, you always manage to make your selections so very personal. This year Miss Wendy added her ability to find the more difficult shoe sizes. St. Luke's showed these families true Christian Love. Already looking ahead to next year and anticipating being able to adopt closer to 100 children! Thank you again. Happy New Year.



**Coffee & Chat is back!! Wednesday, January 17 – 2:00-4:00** – Drop in and meet some new folks or catch up with some old friends. No formal program – just a chance to get together while enjoying a cup of coffee or tea and a snack. Everyone is welcome – invite your neighbors to join us! If you have any questions, please contact Judi Landin at [judisells4u@aol.com](mailto:judisells4u@aol.com)



If you are going through an illness or another crisis and could use some support, please let us know. Marie Baldauf leads this ministry that can help by providing meals and caring phone calls. Please contact Marie at [baldaufmarie@gmail.com](mailto:baldaufmarie@gmail.com) or 843.705.2210 if you need some support or would like to help in this ministry.



## HISTORY HAPPENINGS

Happy New Year! This is a particularly important year for St. Luke's. Our quaint, historical church turns 200 years old! As I think of what that means, I imagine all the events, weather, joys, and sorrows St. Luke's has been through, but lovingly kept in great condition by those who love her just as we do. Although our records do not show us the exact day or month the building was started or finished, our records do show that was consecrated on June 11, 1824.

Work has already begun on the centennial celebrations beginning in April. The Steering Committee, Pam Hoel, Chair, Kathy Smith and Mary Cale, along with our consultant, Lois Willig, have already begun planning. We agreed to begin monthly celebrations in April since that will give us time to put in place the plans we have already started. We are the steering committee, but each of you will all be an integral part of the celebrations' planning and development. Below I have outlined the **tentative** responsibilities of each committee. We need everyone's input. If you are not a member of any committee presently (or if you want to join an additional committee) please do so.



### **1824–2024 - St. Luke's UMC 200 year Celebration**

#### **Tentative Bicentennial Committees and Responsibilities**

##### **Steering Committee**

Conduct Church and Cemetery Tours .

Continue to videotape oral interviews with church members as is possible.

Plan, develop and set up history exhibits .

Schedule meetings with all committee chairs to explain what we have planned and then periodically meet as a group so the right hand will know what the left hand is doing

A steering committee person will attend committee meetings

Develop Souvenir booklet for attendees

Write history article for each monthly newsletter

Report to Church Council at monthly meetings (Pam Hoel, Historian)

Ask each committee to tie in whatever they do during the year to the centennial theme and celebration whenever possible

**Music Committee:** Rebecca Biethman

##### **Media Committee, Chair is needed**

Secure video camera and operator to record activities

Take photos of each event

Develop and present slide show of past activities and previously taped videos of various church members





Cont'd...

**Publicity Committee: Chair, Pat Schwartz**

- Prepare local newspaper articles
- Prepare flyers for each event
- Request a proclamation from the Bluffton Mayor
- Arrange for local media to cover major activities
- Bicentennial information on our Facebook and Web pages

**Note:** I will contact Michael Reynolds asking permission to post on

“You know you’re from Bluffton if ...” site and I will also make arrangements at the Heyward House to place our information flyers there.

**Invitation Committee: Chair Needed**

- Invite former pastors, Historic Bluffton Foundation members, mayors in surrounding communities, past members, inactive members, etc.
- Print and mail invitations (w/RSVP info) and include a statement such as “If housing is needed, please contact \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Encourage all church members to invite families and friends.

**Registration Committee: Chair Needed**

- Setup registration table in Fellowship Hall
- Nametags – Guestbook
- Arrange for wheelchairs if needed.
- Arrange for transportation to and from hotels if needed.
- Have people at each exhibit to talk with attendees (chair of each committee—missions, history, worship, outreach, etc.)

**Welcoming/Hospitality Committee: Chair Needed**

- Enlist lay leaders and others to greet guests.
- Arrange a reception for Saturday afternoon (formal greeting by Pastor Chris, music, light snack)
- Announce that tours of church and cemetery will be available (times TBD)
- Plan Saturday evening meal
- Birthday Party with cake, hats, blowers and sparklers in the Pavilion
- Plan Sunday luncheon
- Thank you notes to guest pastors and special guests.
- Note:** Pam will make cards for this with church painted on them – Pam has made initial contact with a company used by Historic Bluffton Foundation; mug with church drawing, dates, and theme, T-shirts with church drawing, dates, and theme



More...



### Miscellaneous

Flowers and decorations  
Tents for meals necessary?

### Exhibits: We will work together on the placement of these in the Fellowship Hall

Chrismon Booklet and samples – History Scrapbook – Updated cemetery book  
Newsletter book – Missions – Outreach (Social) – Fellowship Hall Constructions Pictures  
Pictures of previous Homecomings – Previous ministers display  
Choir display (Cantata tape? Easter choir tape?). Scripts for to be included in the History scrapbook  
Special events display such as Maundy Thursday – Cookbooks with some recipes from 1800's  
Old photo church directories

All other committees—make their projects relate to the Centennial theme as much as possible and aid centennial committees

### Tentative Schedule – September—Last weekend

#### Saturday Afternoon

Registration and Welcome      Register, get nametag, sign guest book      Look at exhibits  
Person at each exhibit to answer questions  
Fellowship time and light snack      Church and cemetery tours

#### Saturday Night

Banquet      Short Church Service  
Birthday Cake and Sparklers in the Pavilion (Or we could use our Christmas Eve candles)

#### Sunday Morning

Sunday Service      Sunday Luncheon      Closing Comments—Pastor Chris

### MISC. TO DO

Budget--\$2,000.00

Guest pastors—Pastor Chris will invite

In early January, schedule a meeting of all committee chairs

Theme?—We have suggested "A Legacy of Faith" and Pastor has approved

Every month beginning in April have an activity related to centennial

Sept—Entire month focuses on Centennial.

We have met with Pastor Chris and will continue to do so throughout the year.

Please understand that these are suggestions. We need to hear your ideas, things you think won't work and things you like. Let's keep communication open. Please share your thoughts with anyone on the Steering Committee.

Looking forward to hearing from all of you,

*Pam Hoel,  
Historian*



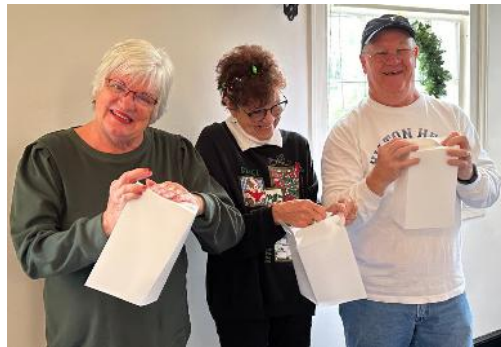
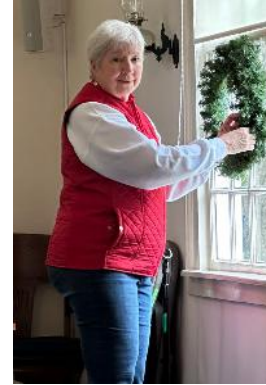
Mark your calendars for these Upcoming events!!  
The Outreach Committee's 2024 Schedule  
These dates & events are subject to change...

- January 20 – Pancake Breakfast– 9:00 AM
- February 10 – Valentine's Day Ladies Afternoon Tea
- February 11 – Super Bowl Sunday – After the last service, come in to the Fellowship Hall for some soup.
- March 2 – Build-a-Sundae and Bingo
- March 18 – Corned beef and cabbage in celebration of St. Patrick's Day (17<sup>th</sup>)
- March 31 – Easter Sunday – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck (One service at 9:15 AM)
- April 13 – Taco Bar
- April 20 – Pancake Breakfast
- May 4 – Derby Day – English Afternoon Tea. Prize for best hat.
- May 18 – Fun Dog Show
- June 22 – Spaghetti Supper
- June 30 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck (One service at 9:15 AM)
- July (TBD) – Music with the Carolina Girls
- Aug 17 – Build-a-Sundae and Bingo
- Sept (all month) – Bi-Centennial Celebration
- Sept 29 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck (One service at 9:15 AM)
- Oct (TBD) – Music on the Ground
- Nov 28 – Thanksgiving Day
- Dec 3 – Cookie Exchange
- Dec 7 – Craft Show and Bake Sale
- Dec (TBD) – Christmas Social Gathering
- Dec 29 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck (One service at 9:15 AM)



# A **LOOK** BACK AT DECEMBER

Starting with Decorating the church



# **MORE ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER**

Welcome to our "Craft & Bake" sale...



We also had a "Cookie Swap"



# AND...MORE ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER

Our "Ugly Sweater" party hosted by Pastor Chris & Cynthia



We were blessed to receive this replica of St. Luke's UMC which was made by a former member, Mike Kirwan.



Mike passed on Dec. 17, 2023.



The Winners...  
 Carla Carte, 1<sup>st</sup> Ugly  
 Pastor Chric, 2<sup>nd</sup> Uglier  
 Chris Hauck, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ugliest

# AND...MORE ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER

Parade of other Ugly Sweaters...



Everyone enjoyed our Christmas Cantata on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>



# **AND...EVEN MORE ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER**

Pritchardville Elementary School gifts delivered...



Several congregants went to Canterfield on Christmas Eve to give communion and sing carols with the residents.





# **AND...OUR LAST ACTIVITY IN DECEMBER**

New Members joined St. Luke's UMC Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023



Bernie and Laurie Oreka      Donna and Chris Hauck      Margo & Joe Cservek      Sandy Lowry  
Unable to attend were Harriet McCauley, Carol and Joe Rossa

Pastor Chris installed the Church Council officers for 2024



In attendance: Rebecca Biethman, Pat Schwartz, Jack Reed, Will Ross, Jim Smith, Kathy Smith, Mary Goldfinch, Rob Clark, and Amy Erickson (John Hubbard was holding the Bible)

## Dec 31<sup>st</sup> Potluck



# Prayer Requests

You will notice that the list no longer includes the reason for prayer, due to HIPPA regulations. Please email Amy Erickson, [amyhousererickson@gmail.com](mailto:amyhousererickson@gmail.com) with any prayer requests you may have. If you have loved ones who have been blessed by recovery, peace or grace and may be removed from the list, please provide that information to Amy as well.



*Our heartfelt prayers and sympathy to Marge Kirwan & family on the passing of Mike Kirwan, Dec. 17, 2023.*

## CONGREGANTS

Ruth Dolan Myree Flanagan Jack Reed Verna Crosby  
Sherry & Rob Clark Joe & Fran Iacovo Andy Makarick  
Chuck Watts Leslie Richards Lynn Cutshall

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CONGREGANTS

Hugh and Sue Ross, brother and sister-in-law of Will Ross  
Ron Kramer, friend of Nancy Sariscak  
Brian Johnson, nephew of Lois Finch  
Hannah Nystrom, friend of Marie Baldauf  
Lynette Hassinger, sister of Leslie Richards  
Cathy Visconte, friend of Jane Tiffany  
John, brother-in-law of Jerry Vagnier  
Grandson of Pat Schwartz  
Cooper Johnson, nephew of Jerry Vagnier  
Gaby, friend of Carla Carte  
Annie Price and her mother, Dorothy Sloan  
Becky Owens, friend of Jane Tiffany  
Daughter of neighbor of Linda Jackson and son-in-law,  
Zachary  
Bob Hall, cousin of Diana Hamilton  
Jane Frey and June Steward, sisters of Janet Jacoby  
Irma Cooler, friend of Ouida Dell  
Ken, son of Arlene Schaltegger  
Karen Williamson, friend of Linda Fisher  
Kathy Purdue, mother of Sherri Prosser  
Eileen Miles, neighbor of Fran Iacovo  
Barb O'Connor, friend of Lois Willig  
Eunice Rowell, friend of Elizabeth Vance  
Kendall Brody, 9 year old  
The military friends of Rebecca Biethman's stepdaughter  
Traveling mercies for all those traveling over the holidays

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

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

Sherry Clark  
The Seabrook of Hilton Head  
Fraser Health Center  
Room W121  
300 Woodhaven Drive  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928



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

Elnora Ekholm, 173 May River Rd.,  
Bluffton 29910

June Hamilton, 4 Concession Oak Dr.,  
Bluffton 29909

Joe Iacovo, Canterfield of Bluffton  
567 Okatie Highway, Rm113  
Ridgeland SC 29936

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

## 10 New Year's Traditions From Across the Globe



The **Times Square ball drop** ceremony in New York City, seen here on Jan. 1, 2023, is one of many New Year's traditions honored around the world.



In Brazil, revelers often wear white and go to the beach to celebrate the new year.

### First footing

One tradition in Scotland, [where New Year's Eve is known as Hogmanay](#), is "first footing"—literally the first foot to enter someone's home after midnight. To ensure good luck, the first visitor should traditionally be a tall, dark-haired male bringing pieces of coal, shortbread, salt, a [black bun](#) and whiskey.



In Japan, Buddhist temples **ring bells 108 times on New Year's Eve**. This is because in Buddhism, it is believed that there are 108 types of earthly desires, and each strike of the bell will remove one desire. The tradition is called Joya no Kane. "Jo" means "to throw away the old and move on to the new" and "Ya" means "night."

### Hanging onions

In Greece, [families traditionally go to church on New Year's Day](#). After the service, they find an onion that [they hang on the doors](#) or in their homes as a symbol of good health, fertility, and lon-



Germans, along with some other Europeans, [have had the tradition of watching](#) the same black and white British comedy sketch from the 1960s, about a butler serving his 90-year-old employer and her deceased imaginary guests, on New Year's Eve since 1972,

### Finding 12 round fruits

In the Philippines, celebrations feature [round items](#), because it's believed that roundness symbolizes prosperity. Households [pick 12 round fruits](#) for each month of the year. People also fill their pockets with coins, or leave them on tables to attract wealth, and [wear polka dots](#) for good luck.



### Eating a dozen grapes

Spaniards celebrate the New Year by [popping 12 grapes in their mouth](#), one for each chime of the clock marking midnight, which is supposed to bring good luck for the year ahead. Revelers eat a traditional kind of thin-skinned, pale green grape, which is harvested late in November or December. The tradition dates back more than a century.



### Taking a suitcase around the block

In [some Latin American countries](#), people walk or run an empty suitcase around the block to bring good luck and manifest more travel in the new year.



### Leaping into the new year

Danes [literally "jump" into the new year](#), standing on chairs or couches to leap off when midnight hits. If you forget to jump at midnight, it's supposed to bring bad luck for the entire new year.



# Happy Birthday!



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

06—Lynn Cutshall  
 06—Mariah Fair  
 07—John Preston  
 14—Mary Goldfinch  
 15—Norm Stark  
 17—Bob Heck  
 18—Ottice Adkins  
 26—Rick Beebe  
 25—Agnes Scarlett  
 26—Robert Antoine  
 27—Joe McCulloch

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

04—Rikita Thompson  
 09—Linda Metcalf  
 10—Walker Hamilton  
 11—Jack Reed  
 13—Bill Trainer  
 14—Ev Sellers  
 18—Joseph Iacovo  
 18—Shelley Valentine  
 19—Linda Fisher  
 21—Ron Marangio  
 21—Marge Skinker  
 23—Bill Husson  
 26—Linda Batten

## NO JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

01—Arlene & Rich Schaltegger  
 02—Letty & Bill Husson  
 26—Nancy & John Sariscak  
 27—Ellie & Robert Antoine

8:30 and 10:00 AM  
 5th Sundays at 9:15 AM  
**COME  
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*with us!*



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