



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 (5th Sundays 9:15 AM)

Volume 20, Issue 6

JUNE 2025

St. Luke's UMC,

Planting Seeds, Leaving Legacy: A Call to Nurture and Give

For the Love of Our Young People and the Glory of God

As we look around our church and see just five young people walking through our doors every other week, it can be easy to wonder, “*What happened to the days when the pews were filled with young voices and growing feet?*” But let us not be discouraged—because even five young people are five precious lives, five callings, five futures full of possibility, and five reasons to remain faithful in our calling.

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” —*Proverbs 22:6 (KJV)*

This scripture is not just good advice—it's divine instruction. Whether we're parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, or simply faithful members of the Body, we all play a role in shaping these young lives. Young people are not only the future of the church—they are the present. And it's our responsibility to help lay a foundation that keeps them rooted in Christ, even long after they leave our sight.

Training them up doesn't require big crowds or big budgets. It requires big hearts. It requires time, prayer, patience, and the wisdom that only age and faith can bring. Every Sunday School story told, every hug after church, every example of faith in action—it all plants seeds. And we may not always see the fruit right away, but God's Word promises it will come.

At the same time, we are reminded of the blessings tied to generosity:

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.” —*Luke 6:38 (NIV)*

This verse isn't just about finances. It's about pouring love, wisdom, guidance, and grace into the next generation. When we give of ourselves to raise up our children in the Lord—whether it's through time, teaching, mentoring, or prayer—we are promised that God will multiply it back to us in ways we can't imagine.

Let's be a congregation that gives. Let's be a people who invest in the five children we have like they are five hundred—because in God's hands, five loaves and two fish fed a multitude.

If we want our church to thrive in the years to come, we must start by giving our best to the little ones who are here now. The baton of faith is meant to be passed—not dropped. So, let's lift it high, with joy and hope, and place it lovingly in their hands.

Together, we can leave a legacy.

Together, we can train them up.

Together, we can give—knowing God will give back even more.

Because five young people are more than enough...when God is in the midst.

—*With faith and love,*

Rev. Christopher L. Thompson, D. Min

In Honor of Godly Fathers

Father's Day is a day to recognize the role fathers play in society. It is believed to have been first celebrated as a compliment to Mother's Day on July 5, 1908, but it wasn't made a federal holiday until 1966. Interestingly enough, where Mother's Day was met with enthusiasm, Father's Day was met with amusement, the target of satire and derision, as many people saw it as an effort to fill up the calendar with promotions for merchants.

For some individuals, this impression of Father's Day may be true. There are many fathers who are absent in their roles as provider and leader in the family, whose example is less than exemplary. The image of father has not been helped, either, by portrayals in the media of dads as mindless, self-absorbed individuals who are clueless about their families. However, this doesn't change what the role is of a father or that many men try to do their best to be what God expects of them. We are thankful for those who understand how important the role of a father is in the home and in society, who seek to submit to God and exhibit Him in their lives.

God has entrusted a great responsibility to fathers. Paul wrote, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4) Children need discipline to learn the parameters God has established for living, to hear it from loving fathers and to see it lived out in their fathers' lives, too. The role of spiritual headship God has given to fathers complements well the role of nurturing God has entrusted to mothers. Children need to understand dad's authority is given by God, but it is to be tempered by the love of God as well. Children should know their fathers aren't perfect, but they are loving, caring and obedient to God just as He wants them to be, wanting the best for their children, now and eternally.

A father's responsibility is carried out when rules have to be enforced but also when he sits down and talks with his children about life. It's seen on the banks of a pond, fishing with a son, or in a bedroom, having a tea party with a daughter. It's observed in the pride he feels for his children's successes and the grief he bears for their failures and hurts. It's known in their understanding that they can always go and talk with him and that no matter how bad things are, he will always love them. They realize how deep his commitment to them runs, not just in what he provides for them physically, but in seeing him lead family devotions, offering prayers on their behalf to God and taking them, not sending them, to worship. In these ways, and many more, fathers fulfill God's charge to them and make a positive difference in the lives of their families.

I am grateful for having seen this in my father, and the memories I have of him still speak to me today, helping me to be my best. I don't believe one ought to stop being this kind of father. It means a lot to children, no matter how young or old the children may be, to know their father is there for them. Even if you haven't had the most positive example of a father in your life, you can know you have a Heavenly Father who is everything a father should be for you. Father's Day isn't a mistake. Rather, it's a reminder of all that is best in God and in ourselves. "As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him." (Psalm 103:13)



Will Ross,
Former Lay Leader

THANK YOU FOR “WATCHING FOR THE DAY...THE 11TH OF MAY” and your *generosity* for the children’s programs at Epworth. Donations received - Total \$2,375.00.

If you were present at our services on Mother’s Day you were fortunate to learn of some of the program achievements from our guest, Rev. Cathy Joens, Chaplain at Epworth. If you were unable to attend, I suggest you watch the video.

Of note, Rev. Joens reported that there are 94 children in Jasper and Beaufort County being cared for in some manner by Epworth. It certainly adds credence to the importance of our mission. Our next opportunity to support the program will be in September for the “Work Day” Appeal.



Again, ***Thank you*** for Honoring Mother’s by supporting these children.

Phyllis Sippel,
Epworth Representative



Spotlight on our Youth:

Name: Hudson Pryor

Age: 11

School/Grade: River Ridge Academy / 5th grade

Interests: Baseball and all kinds of sports

Favorite food: Cheese Quesadillas

Fun fact: Hudson broke his nose twice in one week in baseball and then became the catcher for the team.

Other Children and Youth Ministry happenings:

Congratulations to Kennedy who has officially finished Middle school and to Hudson and Matthew moving into Middle school!

Aaron will be acting in Shrek! The Musical at Main Stage Community Theater. Performance dates are June 19-22 and June 26-29. All performances are at 7:00 PM except Sunday performances which are at 2:00 PM. The box office is now open.

If anyone is looking for help with odd jobs/manual labor Aaron is willing to help you out for donations! He plans on going to Costa Rica in the summer of 2026 with teachers and classmates. He is working hard to raise money for the trip. While in Costa Rica he will be learning about the history and culture of the area while improving his Spanish speaking skills. Please reach out and I can get Aaron to you!

June 29th will be the last day to donate to “Change for Change” designated for the American Red Cross charity the children have picked for this second quarter.

Michelle Cramer
Children and Youth Ministry



We received the following “thank you” note from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital for our “Change for Change” offerings.



May 16, 2025

Dear Friend,

Thank you so much! Your generous gift of \$937 in May 2025 to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital helps further the lifesaving research, treatment and world-class care our children so desperately need – children like Aria.

When Aria was 2 years old, she developed a rash and bruising. So, her mom took her to their local pediatrician thinking her daughter might be anemic. However, bloodwork that same day revealed the shocking news: precious Aria had leukemia.

Aria was immediately referred to St. Jude, where our doctors placed the little girl on a treatment plan that included chemotherapy. Even through the ups and downs of treatment, Aria’s personality is as big as ever. Her mom said, “Aria’s super sassy and very talkative. She’ll talk to anybody and everybody.”

“We were really nervous when we learned we had to move six-and-a-half hours away from our home,” said Aria’s mom. “But St. Jude supports families so much. Anything we needed here, St. Jude made sure we got.”

Because of generous gifts like yours, families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food – so they can focus on helping their child live.

Every child deserves a chance to live their best life and celebrate every moment. When you support St. Jude, you can help make cures possible for kids with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Together, we can save more lives.

Thank you again for helping to make St. Jude a beacon of hope for families like Aria’s.

Very truly yours,

Martin Hand
Chief Donor Officer

Our mission statement

The mission of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital is to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. Consistent with the vision of our founder Danny Thomas, no child is denied treatment based on race, religion or a family's ability to pay.



Entertainer
Danny Thomas
founded St. Jude
in 1962.



St. Luke’s continues to be blessed with guests at our worship services. Thank you to Mary Cale, Leslie Richards, Kathy Smith, and Lois Willig for their help with making an updated Welcome Packet for our guests. The packet contains information about St. Luke’s history, our pastor, our missions and outreach ministries, and where to find additional information.

Our committee continues to look at the needs in our community and how we can bless the less fortunate. We would love for you to join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, June 11th, at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall!

Elizabeth Vance and Linda Fisher
St. Luke’s Missions & Outreach Co-Chairs

Bluffton Self Help First Sunday Food Drive, June 1st

Thank you for your generous donations for Bluffton Self Help every month. Demands are higher in the summer when hungry children, who usually receive breakfast and lunch at school, are at home. Bluffton Self Help allows eligible families to “shop” in their Market once a week for free, fresh produce, meat, dairy, bread, desserts, and non-perishable items. As you can see from their most-needed items each month, they encourage healthy eating by offering their clients healthy food choices.

Lois Willig will be collecting our donations in the parking lot before each worship service on June 1st. If you miss Lois, or have food to donate later in the month, please leave it in the basket in the Fellowship Hall labeled “Bluffton Self Help.” All donations are appreciated; however, here is the current list of most needed nonperishable food and hygiene items. Unfortunately, they cannot accept out-of-date, open, or damaged items.

****Most needed items**

- Canned Beans** -- (Black, Red, Pinto, Kidney, Cannellini, Navy, Garbanzo)**
- Condiments & Shelf Stable Dressing****
- Whole Grain Cereal & Oatmeal****
- Whole Grain Flour & Baking Mixes****
- Pancake Mix & Maple Syrup****
- Shampoo & Conditioner (adult & child) ****
- Deodorant & Shaving Cream****
- Toothpaste****
- Feminine Products****
- Large Diapers (size 4, 5, 6, & 7) ****
- Training Pants (2T – 5T) ****
- Baby Wipes****

Always needed items

- Canned Tuna & Canned Chicken
- Low Sodium Hearty Soups
- Rice, Whole Grain Pasta, Barley or Farro
- No Salt Added Canned Tomatoes & Sauces
- Canned or Dried Fruits
- Unsweetened Applesauce
- Nuts & Seeds
- Peanut, Almond or Cashew Butter
- Low Sugar Jelly & Honey
- Shelf Stable Milk & Almond Milk
- Granola Bars, Cane Sugar, Coconut Oil
- Gluten Free Food Options²
- Soap & Body Wash (adult & child)
- Body Lotion





Thank you to everyone who donated food for the families at the Family Promise shelter in May. This month we are providing dinners for the shelter families on **Thursday, June 26th, and Friday, June 27th**. You can sign up to contribute food starting June 8th. The sign-up sheets will be posted on the sanctuary bulletin board.

We will be in the Fellowship Hall at **9:00 AM on Thursday, June 26th**, to accept your donations. If you sign up for nonperishable food, you may bring it any time before June 26th and place it in the “Family Promise” basket in the Fellowship Hall. Also, fruit, vegetables, or baked goods with expiration dates beyond June 27th can be placed in the refrigerator clearly marked for Family Promise.

If you have any questions or need to make other arrangements to drop off your food, please contact Linda Fisher at dlfisher4@hotmail.com.

We were happy to hear that the family with 15-year-old triplets has moved from the shelter into an apartment. So, what happens next?

Families who gain full time employment and locate affordable housing are invited to participate in the Family Promise *Staying on Track* stabilization program. This program continues support that includes life skills, home visits, basic household needs, and financial support. The support typically lasts for one year.

Agape Family Life Center Food Pantry – Volunteers Needed

If you are up for volunteering, come help at the Agape Food Pantry every Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until noon. You will be helping to sort and distribute fresh food to families and seniors in need. No need to sign up beforehand, just show up! You will not be asked to do any heavy lifting. This is a wonderful way to meet other volunteers and the clients you are serving. Several people from St. Luke’s volunteer regularly at Agape. You may want to wear your St. Luke’s nametag.



The Agape Food Pantry is located at 5855 Okatie Highway, Hardeeville, which is three miles from the New River round-about and about a 10-minute drive from St. Luke’s. If you would like more information, please contact Leslie Richards at lesliarichards717@gmail.com



If you are going through an illness or a 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, if you need support or would like to help in this ministry.



HISTORY HAPPENINGS

Fanlight Windows: More Than Meets the Eye

As you enter the church next Sunday, take a moment to admire our fanlight windows (sometimes called fantail windows.) They are typical of the period in which St. Luke's was built in 1824 and are one of the most special features of St. Luke's. Their story is one of time-consuming labor and symbolic importance.

They were made using special glassmaking and wood working techniques available at the time. The glass was hand-blown in one of two ways: *crown glass* (a molten glass blob was spun into a flat, large disk and then cut into panes) and *cylinder glass* (the glass was blown into a cylinder, then cut lengthwise and flattened into sheets.

The glass was cut by hand, using a hot iron or a diamond cutter and the edges were then smoothed. Fanlight windows required the glass to be cut into wedge or trapezoid shapes to form the fan pattern.

The next step was the construction of the hard wood frame, usually of oak or pine. Skilled carpenters carved or bent the frame carefully. Sometimes the wood was steam-bent into the curved shape, but more often, the curve was made by joining segments together.

Large sheets of glass weren't available or affordable in 1824, so each pane was inserted into the frame using putty and held by small nails or by thin strips of wood that divided the window into smaller panes of glass. In fanlight windows the glass was often arranged radially to create the fan shape. It's important to point out that fanlight windows were typically placed above doors or entryways. But at St. Luke's they are also at the top of the side windows in the sanctuary.



History Happenings...cont'd...



All of this was time-consuming and difficult. So why make fanlight windows? Because they were more than just windows. They carried spiritual meanings:

1. **Symbol of Divine Light and Presence:** In Christian architecture, light has always symbolized the presence of God. A fanlight window—often placed over the entrance—lets light in from above, suggesting divine light watching over and blessing those who enter. It mirrors the idea of being spiritually welcomed into God’s house.
2. **Radiating Fan Shape—Glory or Halo Motif:** The radiating lines resemble a halo or sunburst, both common Christian motifs for holiness, resurrection, and glory. It can be seen as a visual echo of Christ’s resurrection and the spreading of the Gospel.
3. **Symbol of Transition or Passage:** Positioned above a doorway, the fanlight marks the threshold between the secular and the sacred. Passing under it can be symbolically understood as moving from worldly life into divine presence. The door fanlight windows are at the top of the doors and let little light in, but as you enter the sanctuary the fanlight windows become larger—letting in more light.
4. **Heavenly Order and Harmony:** The symmetry and graceful shape reflect a sense of divine order, a key theme in religious art and architecture. It quietly reinforces that the church is a place aligned with heavenly truths.
5. **Eternal Watchfulness:** Because the fanlight is high and centrally placed, it can feel almost like an all-seeing eye—not in a sinister sense, but in the comforting way of God’s ever-present watchfulness and care.

So next Sunday look at the windows carefully. Then take a moment as you enter the church to appreciate the hard work our windows required to make and let the spirituality the windows symbolize. Get ready to worship and praise God.



Blessings,
Pam Hoel, Church Historian

A BACK AT MAY 2025



May 1st started out with a “Day of Prayer” at Magnolia Hall. Rev. Richard Smith & Rev. Dr. Chris Thompson took part in the event.



Okatie

ENROLLMENT	118
ATTENDANCE	83
OFFERING	5180
MEMBERSHIP	104
MEMBERS IN	380
MEMBERSHIP FUND	247

HYMNS	176 128
	451 399
PSALTER	754
	881

The ladies were honored with these beautiful roses in celebration of Mother’s Day. Rev. Cathy Joens delivered the message.

May 24th was a fun evening of “Mexican Train” with a Nachos Bar





On Sunday, May 25th, many of our congregants wore outfits to honor Memorial Day.



We were remiss in May's newsletter in NOT acknowledging and thanking Pat Simmons for her labors of love.



Pat painstakingly hand makes these unique palm crosses for everyone attending Palm Sunday service at St. Luke's UMC. Year after year she picks and cuts the palms. While pliable, she forms the cross. What makes hers so unique is the addition of the purple ribbon!!!



Pastor Chris, May 25, 2025



We receive so many comments on these gems, and you can find them on cork boards, collections from many years past, and Pastor Chris still wearing his on the Sixth Sunday of Easter!

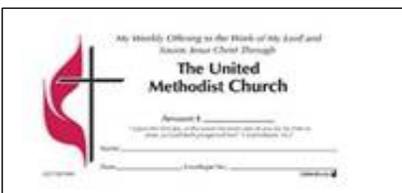


Wally Willig, April 14, 2019

We can't begin to express our appreciation to Pat!!
~Submitted by Lois Willig for the entire congregation!!!!

Did You Know??

If you would like to dedicate the worship flowers to someone special, all you need to do is sign up for flowers on the bulletin board. When it's your time to be recognized as the donor, we request that a donation of \$53.50 marked "Flowers" be placed in the offering plate. The flowers are for two Sundays and then, if you'd like, you may take them home. To have it listed in the bulletin, send your info about who you are recognizing (in honor of/in memory of:) to Amy Erickson and Linda Metcalf.



If you give "cash" in the offering and want to get credit at the end of the year for your donations...use one of the envelopes we have hanging on the last pew. Just write your name on the envelope.

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



MEETINGS — In the Fellowship Hall

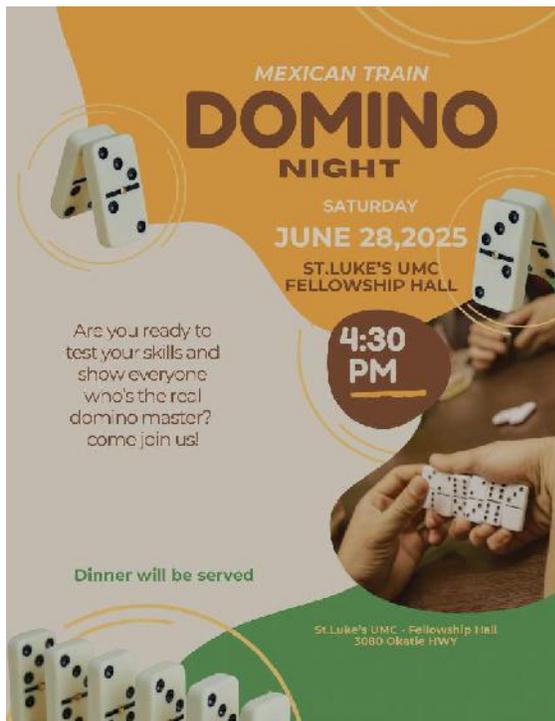
Every Monday—Men’s Bible Study at 8:00 AM

Tuesday, 6/3—Trustees at 9:00 AM

Wednesday, 6/11—Missions at 1:00 PM

Every Thursday, Women’s Bible Study at 5:30 PM

Join us on **June 28th at 4:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall for our 2nd evening of “Mexican Train” (the fun domino game!)

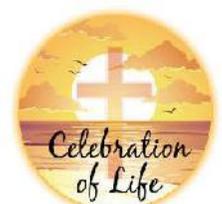


**5th Sunday Potluck
Sunday, June 29th**

following our joint 915 AM service. Sign up under “Categories” on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

See Lois Willig with questions. 843.304.1086

Rob Clark's Celebration of Life Service will be at St. Luke's on Friday, June 13th at 11:00 AM. A luncheon will follow the service. If you are interested in helping with the luncheon, please contact Lois Willig at 843.304.1086.



Prayer Requests

CONGREGANTS

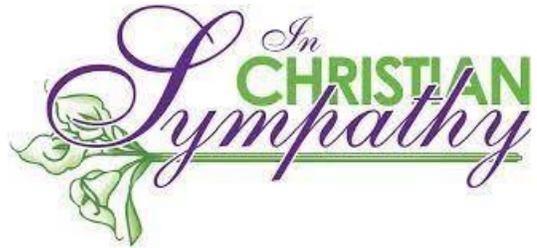
Ruth Dolan Marsha Gerber Linda Jackson
Andy & Sharon Makarick Linda O'Connor
Pam Hoel Michael Brown Beth King
Thomas Cook Ouida Dell

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CONGREGANTS

Hannah Nystrom, friend of Marie Baldauf
Edward, brother of Debra Burr
Kelly Mayer, daughter of Donna Stephen
Drew Howell, nephew of Donna Stephen
David Howell, relative of Donna Stephen
Judy Boswell, friend of Sheryll Ingram and
 Bill Halstead
Jill Demsack, friend of Jane Tiffany
Nancy, mother-in-law of Michelle Cramer
Courtney, daughter of Judi Landin
Donna Ludwig, friend of Marie Baldauf
Sharon Johnson, friend of Cynthia Thompson
Michael, neighbor of Judi Landin
Jim Myers, neighbor of Judi Landin
Eva Bergren, friend of Sheryll Ingram
Tom, nephew of Lois Willig
Ruth Flemming, cousin of Pat Simmons
Lou, cousin of Mim Mazon
Tina Mcllroy, friend of Ann Webster
Kinsey, family member of Nancy Sariscak
Gary Bethel, brother of Alan Bethel
Jonathan Bethel, grandson of Alan and Carole
 Bethel
Kim, sister of Debbie Prentice
Joan Wagner, sister of Constance Ulrich
Margo, daughter of Suzie Wiles, friend of
 Constance Ulrich
Shannon, granddaughter of Candice Payne
Michael, Justina and their caregiver, Marie,
 acquaintances of Judi Landin
John Busby, husband of Emma Jo Busby
Thomas, brother of Susie Brown

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CONGREGANTS

The Smith family
Tom Sternberger, friend of Sheryll Ingram and
 Bill Halstead
Jim Freeman, friend of Sheryll Ingram and Bill Halstead



*Our deepest sympathy and prayers to
Leslie Richards and the family and
friends of Leslie's sister, Lynette
Hassinger, who passed away on May 25.*

*Our deepest sympathy and prayers to
Will Ross and the family and friends of
Will's brother, Hugh, who passed away
recently.*

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



Happy Birthday!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 01–Gerri McKay
- 02–Dave Jacoby
- 03–Leslie Van
- 04–Dave Baumeister, Jr.
- 04–Sherri Prosser
- 07–Rick Hoel
- 13–Andy Makarick
- 13–Shirley Stark
- 18–Barbara Marangio
- 22–Ruth Dolan
- 23–Marie Baldauf
- 23–Rev. Chris Thompson
- 24–Constance Ulrich
- 25–Scott Wheeler
- 25–Jane Wick
- 28–Carla Carte
- 30–Donna Hauck

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 02–Debbie Burr
- 06–Diana Hamilton
- 11–Alan Jordan
- 12–Elizabeth Vance
- 12–Reece Woods
- 13–Arlene Schaltegger
- 19–Will Ross
- 24–Richard LaFever
- 26–Lois Finch
- 26–Eric Woods
- 27–MaKayla Carter
- 28–Dell Harper

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 02–Dell & J.W. Harper
- 04–Linda & George Batten
- 13–Marnie & Rick Beebe
- 14–Sharon & Andy Makarick
- 15–Barb & Bud Silcox
- 24–Leslie & Greg Richards
- 30–Paula Swope & Jack Reed



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 06–Sheryll Ingram & Bill Halstead
- 12–Barbara & Ron Marangio
- 17–Cynthia & Rev. Chris Thompson
- 17–Sharon & Tom Symonds
- 20–Doris & Bob Heck
- 25–Pam & Rick Hoel
- 27–Denise & Randy Pryor
- 27–Elizabeth & Archie Vance
- 29–Ann & Allen Webster
- 29–Carol & Jim Jackson
- 31–Lynn & Joseph Cutshall



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.

OR WATCH “ON-LINE” AT

ST. LUKE’S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.lukes.unitedmethodistchu8920/videos>



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!

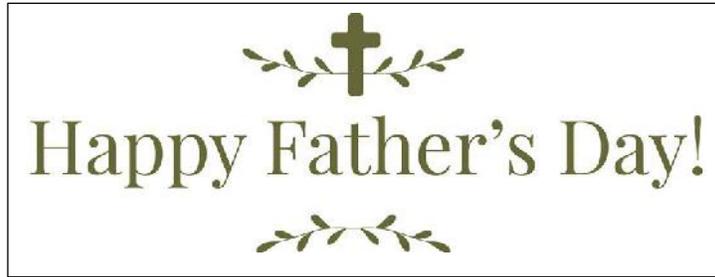


If you cannot come to church, we Thank You for “mailing” your donations to:

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



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. LUKE’S – you may pick up an “Invitation to Membership” form (located behind the last pew) or on the bulletin board. You can also email patsimmonsperdue@gmail.com for a copy. Fill it out, bring it back and Pastor Chris will get in touch with you.



The Origin of Father's Day

Many people assume Father's Day (and [Mother's Day](#) for that matter) is a holiday designed by greeting card makers to turn a profit. But that couldn't be farther from the truth. The story behind how this day became a holiday is actually a tale of determination by one woman and a decades-long fight to get fathers the recognition they deserve.

Some attribute the first Father's Day observance to the 1907 Monongah, West Virginia mining disaster that killed 361 men—250 of them fathers—and which left more than a thousand children without a dad. Grace Golden Clayton, whose father was killed in the tragedy, suggested a service of commemoration to the pastor of her local Methodist chapel. But it never really caught on as an annual observance.

Two years later, in May of 1909, a woman named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, heard a Mother's Day sermon by Reverend Dr. Henry Rasmussen in her hometown church and thought a similar day should be set aside to honor fathers. Her own father, William Jackson Smart, a Civil War veteran, raised six children as a single parent.

The Struggle to Make Father's Day A Holiday

Sonora Louise Smart Dodd, Courtesy of Northwest Museum of Arts Culture/Eastern Washington State Historical Society

On June 6, 1910, Dodd approached the Spokane Ministerial Association and the local Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) with her petition outlining the idea for an annual observance, and she received overwhelming support. Spokane's held its first Father's Day celebration on Sunday, June 19, 1910, with moving speeches by her own pastor and those from other area churches.

The first US President to celebrate it was Woodrow Wilson in June of 1916, who opened the church services by telephone to Spokane from the Oval Office. Wilson liked the idea so much of a day of observation for fathers that he pushed to make it a national holiday (he had just made Mother's Day official in 1915), but members of Congress resisted, fearing that such a day would take away support from the Mother's Day holiday, and commercialize the day for fathers, causing more harm than good.

Undeterred, Dodd took her mission on the road and spoke publicly to fathers to gain their support. But she was met with hard criticism. According to *The Spokesman-Review*, they laughed at her and said they didn't want a Father's Day. "A national fishing day would be better," they told her.

Next page...

The effort to formally recognize a day for fathers met with even more hurdles over the years. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged states to observe the day nationwide but refused to issue an official proclamation for the holiday, and by the 1930s there was an effort to combine Mother's Day and Father's Day into a single "Parent's Day" holiday. Even the newly formed "Father's Day Council," made up (and funded by) of members of men's clothing retailers, couldn't get the holiday recognized by 1938, only succeeding in getting calendar makers to mark the third Sunday in June with tie and pipe illustrations. And the general public had no interest in buying cards or gifts for dad that he probably didn't need.

A Maine Senator's Harsh Words

Maine's US Senator, Margaret Chase Smith, had her own thoughts on the matter. When the holiday efforts reached another stalemate in Congress, Chase-Smith penned a harsh memo in which she declared, "Either we honor both our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honoring either one. But to single out just one of our two parents and omit the other is the most grievous insult imaginable."

More than 50 years after Dodd's initial efforts, Father's Day was recognized as a holiday to be celebrated on the third Sunday of June by President Lyndon Johnson's Executive Order in 1966. But it was still not officially recognized as a federal holiday until six years later, in 1972 when, during his re-election campaign, [Richard Nixon signed an official proclamation](#) setting Father's Day permanently on the third Sunday in June nationwide.

So when you're picking out that special gift and card for dad, remember Sonora Smart Dodd and her efforts to get fathers the recognition they deserve.

In 1978, Mrs. Dodd died at the age of 96. Her grave at Greenwood Cemetery in Spokane reads:

Sonora Smart Dodd
Founder of Father's Day
1882-1978

Dad Jokes,,,

Under Five

A little child in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed the offering plates. When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so that everyone could hear: "Don't pay for me Daddy, I'm under five."

Car Issue

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month, the boy came back and again asked his father, if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been really proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut."

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samsom had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair!", to which his father replied, "Yes, you're right, and they also WALKED everywhere they went!"