



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"

Normal Worship times: 8:30 & 10:15 AM - (Holidays & 5th Sundays - 9:15 AM)

Volume 21, Issue 6

JUNE 2026



June in the Life of the Church: Gratitude, Vision, and the Road Ahead

In the rhythm of the church year, every month carries meaning. Yet in the life of the United Methodist Church, **June holds a special place**. It is the time when Annual Conferences gather across the connection to pray, worship, discern, and carry out the business of the church. For us here in South Carolina, the **South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church** meets during this month to reflect on the past year of ministry and prepare for the year ahead.

One of the most significant responsibilities of the Annual Conference is the **fixing of pastoral appointments**. Throughout the week there are reports, celebrations, and discussions about the work God is doing in and through our churches. Yet on the **final day of the conference**, the appointments for each pastor across the conference are officially set. Until that moment, nothing is considered final. It is a reminder that ministry within the United Methodist tradition is part of a larger connection—one body serving one Lord.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us in **1 Corinthians 8:6**, *"Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."* The church belongs to God, and every appointment, every ministry, and every step forward is ultimately guided by His hand.

For me, the month of June also brings a moment of reflection and deep gratitude.

To the members of **St. Luke's United Methodist Church**, thank you. Thank you for your love, your support, your friendship, and your faithfulness. You welcomed not only me, but my family, into your lives. You invited us into your homes. You broke bread with us around your tables. You introduced us to your families and allowed us to walk beside you during some of the most meaningful moments of life—celebrations of joy and moments of grief alike.

Those experiences are the true heart of the church. They are reminders that the church is not simply a building—it is a family.

I am especially thankful that you embraced the **vision God placed on my heart for St. Luke's**. Together, we worked, prayed, and trusted God as that vision began to come to fruition. The prophet Habakkuk reminds us of God's response when the prophet cried out with questions and concerns. The Lord said, *"Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time... if it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come."* (Habakkuk 2:2-3)

Continued...



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God's vision always unfolds in His time, and I thank you for trusting the process and walking faithfully along that path.

Yet let us remember—**we have not reached the finish line yet.** What we have done together has simply brought us closer to what God has prepared for St. Luke's. I am excited to see what God has in store for this church in the days ahead.

Isaiah beautifully describes those who carry God's message forward: *"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation."* (Isaiah 52:7) Each of you is part of that message—living witnesses of God's grace, love, and faithfulness.

Please know that my family and I carry deep gratitude in our hearts for you. If there is ever anything we can do for you in the future, **do not hesitate to call.** Our connection does not end with a season of ministry; it continues in the bonds of faith, friendship, and the love of Christ.

And as we continue forward, may St. Luke's remain what it has always been—a place **where friends and family meet, and where the good news of Jesus Christ continues to be shared with the world.**

Rev. Christopher L. Thompson, D. Min



Epworth

Thank you for your generosity for the annual Epworth Mother's Day drive. As I have said before we are "small but mighty." 100% of your Mother's Day offerings provide comprehensive care for the children.

Some facts to bring you up to date with Epworth's accomplishments. In

2025: **1,293 children** were served through the residential, foster and kinship programs. **2230 children and families** were served by all of the Epworth programs.

I encourage you to go on-line www.epworthsc.org and read some of the Epworth success stories. The most recent shares the journey of Imani who was rescued from an abusive family member when she was 15 years old. Thanks to the love and care she received at Epworth, Imani will graduate High School in 2027 with a dual degree.

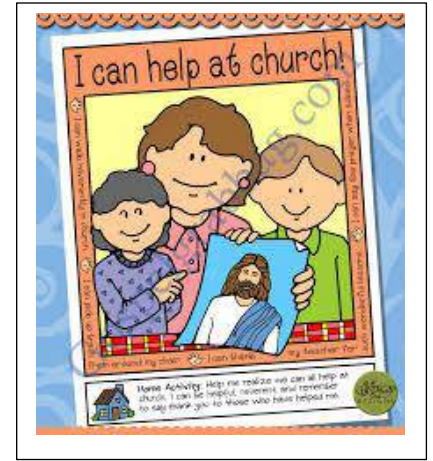
"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

Phyllis Sippel,
Epworth Representative

How Can I Best Help My Church?

The best way to help your church is to focus on **consistent attendance**, **joyful volunteering**, and **financially supporting** its mission. Show up regularly, offer your specific skills where they are most needed, and proactively ask your leadership how you can best serve the congregation.



1. Show Up and Engage

- **Be Present:** Your physical presence is a massive encouragement to the pastors, staff, and fellow members.
- **Invite Others:** Bring friends, family, or neighbors to regular services or holiday events.
- **Participate in Small Groups:** Join or lead a small group or Bible study to build deeper, meaningful relationships within your congregation.

2. Volunteer Your Time and Skills

- **Evaluate Your Talents:** Offer practical help based on your skills, such as playing an instrument, teaching, accounting, administrative tasks, or maintaining the building.
- **Start Small:** Offer to help with behind-the-scenes tasks like running the sound system, cleaning up after services, or helping with children's ministry.
- **Support Pastoral Staff:** The leadership team often faces heavy burdens; offer to pray for them, send notes of encouragement, or ask how you can help relieve administrative stress.

3. Support Mission and Outreach

- **Give Generously:** Provide financial support through tithes and offerings to keep the church running, fund its staff, and maintain its facilities.
- **Engage the Community:** Encourage your church to look outward. Participate in or help organize local outreach projects, such as food pantries, clothing drives, or neighborhood cleanup efforts.

4. Connect with Local Resources

- If you live in or near Hardeeville, SC, you can look into local community ministries and volunteer opportunities. Consider exploring local directories such as Volunteer Match or Just Serve to find local faith-based initiatives, food banks, and civic projects where you can volunteer your time.

This article was generated by A.I. at the request of Will Ross

Will Ross,
Lay Servant



MEETINGS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

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

Every Tuesday—Choir Practice, 7:00 PM

Every Thursday—Women’s Bible Study,

Meet & Greet 5:30; Study 6:00-7:00 PM

Tuesday, 06/02—Trustees, 9:00 AM

Wednesday, 06/10—Missions, 1:00 PM

ALL are welcome to attend.

Graveyard Tour—Thurs. June 18th at 10:00 AM
Come & learn about the History of St. Luke’s UMC.

“Hats Off” to Pastor Chris & Cynthia

Please join us in a Farewell Celebration as the Thompsons move on to their next appointment!

June 20th – 3:00-6:00PM

Fun, Fellowship, Food & Music
PLEASE WEAR YOUR FAVORITE HAT!

June 21st - Father's Day
Pastor Chris in Pulpit for last time

The HILTON HEAD CHAMBER MUSIC INSTITUTE (HHCMI) will **COME to ST. LUKE’S** United Methodist Church on **Tuesday, JUNE 16**, for a free master class beginning at **6:30 PM**. All St. Luke's members and guests are encouraged to attend this free event. (See the next page...) More information about the HHCMI is available at <https://judychambermusic.wixsite.com/hhcmi>.



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? Amy Erickson has been scheduling our outside groups for several years. She would like to know if anyone would be interested in keeping the calendar of events for the Fellowship Hall and working with outside groups to schedule meetings. She would be happy to answer any questions regarding what is involved. Please contact Amy if you are interested in volunteering for this activity.

Schedule of Outside Groups using our Fellowship Hall.

We are pleased that several community groups utilize our Fellowship Hall for their meetings. This is another way St. Luke’s serves as a hospital for the heart! ❤️

Sundays, 1:30-3:30 – Trinity Christian Church

Mondays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. – Just for Today Al Anon

Mondays, 7:30-9:00 p.m. – Keep it Simple Men’s AA Group

Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. - Clear-Cut Directions AA Group

Sat. June 13th, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.– Pamela Carter - card making

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. – Drop the Rock AA Group

Fridays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. – Living Free Women’s AA Group


Every other Friday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. – Girl Scout Troop 4071

Fridays 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Depth & Weight AA Group


Hilton Head Chamber Music Institute will take place from June 10– 20, 2026.


Founded in 2018, Hilton Head Chamber Music Institute (HHCMI) provides an intensive training program focused on the art of small ensemble playing. Designed for outstanding young musicians from across the United States who possess a strong focus on chamber music performance, the program is led by world-renowned violinist, Carolyn Huebl and cellist, Felix Wang, faculty members from the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University.

The highly individualized program encompasses coaching, masterclasses, one-on-one instruction, special workshops and professional performance experience at SoundWaves, the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra's, state-of-the-art island headquarters.



**HILTON HEAD
CHAMBER MUSIC
INSTITUTE**

an educational program of the 



**IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE BEAUTY OF
CHAMBER MUSIC**

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Quartet Master Class

Tuesday, June 16 at 6:30PM

www.hiltonhead.com
For more information contact: judy.chambermusic@hiltonhead.com



Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

As we approach the close of the school year and the beginning of summer, this passage has been especially meaningful to me. It is a time of transition—a new season in many areas of life.

On a personal level, my family is experiencing several changes. One child is moving from middle school to high school, while another will, for the first time, attend a school without the presence of his brother or me. Additionally, our household now includes two teenagers—a new and exciting chapter. Professionally, I am entering my sixth year at the same school, a milestone for me, as I typically transition roles every five years.

Our church family is also entering a season of growth and change. Over the past several years, we have been blessed by the leadership of Pastor Chris and Cynthia. Through their guidance, we have grown both individually and collectively as a congregation. They have encouraged many of us to step outside our comfort zones and embrace new opportunities for service. They have offered comfort in times of need and helped establish meaningful traditions that have strengthened our church community. They will be deeply missed.

With every new season comes change. While it can be tempting to remain in the comfort of what is familiar, we are called to embrace new opportunities for growth. Change may feel uncertain, but it often leads us to unexpected blessings.

As we move forward into this new season of church life, let us approach it with openness and faith. Let us be willing to try new things, take thoughtful risks, and trust in God’s plan. We warmly welcome Pastor Kim into our church family, recognizing that God has placed her here for a purpose. Let us support her with our prayers and encouragement, as this season represents a new beginning for her as well.

I look forward with anticipation and hope to all that God has in store for our future together.

*Michelle Cramer,
Lay Leader*



MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day 2026, the City of Hardeeville held the grand opening of Memorial Park dedicated to remembrance, reflection, and community.

A highlight of that dedication was Mayor Harry William's announcement of the **John William Harper, JR. Proclamation** with a key to the city.

This honor reflects JW's lifetime of dedication and service to the community and country. (Please take time to read the entire proclamation.)

JW said this tribute was something he never expected to see. He thanked the mayor and council for what they are doing with projects like this Memorial Park. Harper, now 98 said, "It's important for people, especially younger generations, to remember those who gave their lives in service. Sometimes young people don't seem to care. It's really great when people walk up to me and say, 'Thank you.'"

How fortunate and blessed to be a part of St. Luke's UMC with such an honorable, humble, servant of our Lord.

We love you J.W.



JW with his daughter, Linda

**CITY OF HARDEEVILLE COUNCIL PROCLAMATION
HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JOHN WILLIAM HARPER, JR.**

WHEREAS, John William Harper, Jr. was born on September 2, 1927, in Walterboro, South Carolina, to the late John William Harper, Sr. and Ella Belle Roach Harper; and

WHEREAS, at the age of two, he moved to Hardeeville, South Carolina, where his father was employed by the Argent Lumber Company; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, John William Harper, Jr. graduated with honors from Hardeeville Consolidated School, which stood on the same site as the present-day Hardeeville City Hall; and

WHEREAS, following high school, he proudly served his country in the United States Army during World War II as a member of the "Greatest Generation," and was later called back into service during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, after his military service, Mr. Harper worked for the Argent Lumber Company and later for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad — now known as CSX Railroad; and

WHEREAS, in approximately 1956, he joined the all-volunteer Hardeeville Fire Department, where he selflessly devoted thirty years of service; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, he began a distinguished career with the United States Postal Service at the Hardeeville Post Office, serving first as a clerk and later as a rural mail carrier, retiring in 1994 after thirty-three years of dedicated service and he continued working by driving vehicles for local car dealerships, finally retiring again at the age of ninety-two; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of Hardeeville Marine Rescue Squadron 2-B for approximately twenty-five years, assisting with water rescues and promoting safety on local waterways; and

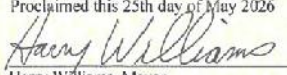
WHEREAS, in July 2012, he was honored to participate in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., where he visited the World War II Memorial; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, John William Harper, Jr. demonstrated an unwavering work ethic, deep civic pride, and a lifelong commitment to serving and improving the City of Hardeeville;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hardeeville do hereby honor and recognize John William Harper, Jr. for his extraordinary service to his country and his enduring contributions to the Hardeeville community and express their profound gratitude and appreciation for a life lived in service to others.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hardeeville have hereunto set their hands and caused the Seal of the City.

Proclaimed this 25th day of May 2026


Harry Williams, Mayor

Food, Fun & Fellowship will be on, **JUNE 20th** in the Fellowship Hall from **3:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Please wear your favorite **HAT!**

ST. LUKE'S
UMC


Hats Off!
to
Pastor Chris & Cynthia

Thank you for your years of faithful service, guidance, and love.

Join us as we honor his years of service, guidance, and faith.

JUNE 20TH
FELLOWSHIP HALL
3:00PM - 6:00PM
MUSIC, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Chris Final worship
Service Sunday June 21st
@9:15am



"Well done, good and faithful servant."
- Matthew 25:21

ST. LUKES UMC
3080 OKATIE HWY
BLUFFTON, SC



Spotlight on our Youth:

What a blessing it was to have Aaron and Matthew share with us this last month. It was a great chance for them to learn and grow.



Student Activities:

Student activities are currently on hold for the summer. We will keep you updated as things pick up again.

Please pray for Aaron and his travel group as they travel to Costa Rica from June 8 – 16. This will be a fun and educational trip for all!

Aaron & Matthew won 2nd place in the school talent show.



Aaron is officially a high school student!



Change for Change



This quarter, we are collecting funds for Agape to help purchase additional food items.

We currently have a container in the back of the sanctuary, and we will try to start to pass a separate basket for the "Change for Change" offering again. When our students are present, they will assist in passing the baskets.

Thank you for your continued generosity, encouragement, and support of our youth!

*Michelle Cramer,
Youth and Children's
Ministry*



We would like to thank Pastor Thompson for his enthusiastic support of St. Luke’s Missions Committee and our outreach in the community. He has not only participated in many of our committee meetings but has also served alongside us. He grilled food during our cookouts for the families at the Freedom House shelter; helped distribute food at Agape; delivered gifts for the children at Pritchardville Elementary; and walked with us in the Walk for Water. His support has helped St. Luke’s outreach in the community grow and thrive.

Our next Missions Committee meeting will be on **June 10 at 1:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us and be a part of the planning and putting into action St. Luke’s missions’ outreach.

With gratitude and prayers for our shared mission,

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

Bluffton Self Help News

Help Stock the Market for Summer!

Bluffton Self Help currently has about 700 families who receive food from their food pantry “market”. The summer months, with children home and high energy costs, are particularly challenging. Bluffton Self Help is very appreciative of St. Luke’s commitment to helping our neighbors in need by donating nutritious food and essential hygiene items.

Lois Willig will be in the parking lot between our worship services on **Sunday, June 7**, to collect our donations for Bluffton Self Help. If you have items to donate at other times, please place them in the basket in the Fellowship Hall labeled “Bluffton Self Help.” Although all donations are greatly appreciated, here is a list of the most needed items:



Non-Perishables

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken | Canned Fruit |
| Canned Chili, SpaghettiOs | Hearty Soups |
| Canned Beef Stew | Pasta & Pasta Sauce |
| Rice & Rice Sides | Skillet Meal Kits |
| Taco Kits, Salsa, Refried Beans | Cooking Oil |
| Pancake Mix & Maple Syrup | Flour, Sugar |
| Unsweetened Applesauce | Shelf-Stable Cheese |
| Shelf-Stable Almond Milk | Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise |
| Shelf-Stable Salad Dressing | Jelly |
| Shampoo & Conditioner | Body Wash |

The items cannot be distributed if damaged, opened, expired, or bulk items.



Bluffton Self Help's New Mobile Market



cont'd...

In May, Bluffton Self Help's Mobile Market debuted. According to the organization, 21,230 households in Beaufort County and 3,700 (12.6 %) households in Jasper County are food insecure. The refrigerated truck is yet one more way to help these families by bringing fresh, healthy food and other grocery items to their communities.

Agape Family Life Center Food Pantry, 5855 Okatie Hwy, Hardeeville



Every month we provide you with information about the opportunity to volunteer at Agape's food pantry. Volunteers are needed every Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00 until noon to hand out fresh food to families and seniors in need. You do not need to sign up in advance. Thank you to everyone who has answered the call!

Agape also runs a wonderful summer camp program for children. Mornings are devoted to academics, and the afternoons are for fun activities. Last year, St. Luke's donated educational supplies and an indoor volleyball net (which the children love!) This year, Agape would like to purchase roller skates for each of the children who attend their summer camp program. We hope you will consider going to the Pancake Breakfast on June 6. Here is the information:

Let's carpool together! For additional information, contact Leslie Richards at leslearichards717@gmail.com.

AGAPE FAMILY LIFE CENTER
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
ROLLER SKATES
PANCAKE
Fundraiser

www.agapoflc.org | MORE | GIVE | NOTE: PANCAKE BREAKFAST

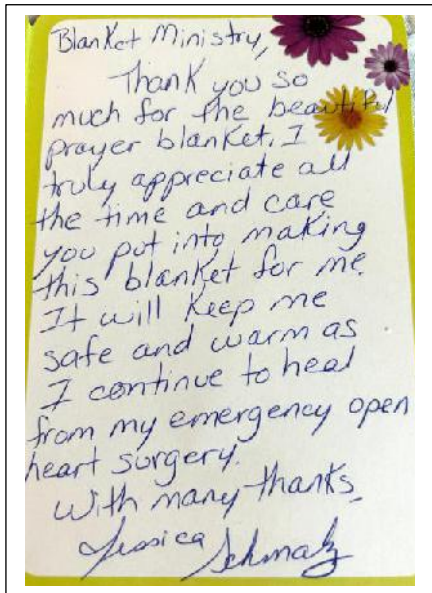
DONATIONS:

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH AT 9 - 12PM

AGAPE FAMILY LIFE CENTER
5855 S. OKATIE HWY. HARDEEVILLE, SC

\$5	▪ BREAKFAST MENU	▪ TICKETS
PER PERSON	▪ PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, SYRUP, JUICE & WATER	▪ Available at AGAPE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL HELP PURCHASE ROLLER SKATES FOR OUR CHILDREN.



The Mission Team received the Thank You note pictured left after donating one of the "hand- knotted" blankets made by our church ladies.

Why do we support Family Promise?



As the only shelter in Beaufort and Jasper Counties, Family Promise has proven to be successful, unique, and cost effective. They operate at 1/3 the cost of traditional shelters. Over 90% of families graduating from their program are still in permanent housing after one year. Since opening in 2008, they have assisted over 3,000 people, 70% of which were children.

June & July Dinners for the Freedom House

With your help, St. Luke's supports the families at the Freedom House shelter by providing two dinners each month. Our next dinners will be on **Thursday, June 4 and Friday, June 5**. If you would like to help provide some of the food needed for these meals, sign-up sheets are posted on the sanctuary bulletin board. We will collect your donations for both meals in the Fellowship Hall on **Thursday, June 4, from 9:00-9:30 a.m.** If the food you are donating is nonperishable or has an expiration date beyond June 5, you may leave it in the refrigerator (labeled for Family Promise) or in the "Family Promise" basket in the Fellowship Hall.

Sign-ups for our July meals will begin on Sunday, June 14. Our July meal dates are Thursday, July 9 and Friday, July 10.

Please feel free to contact Linda Fisher at dlfisher4@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

St. Luke's Purchases Mini-Refrigerators for the Freedom House

Supporting churches provide dinners for the Freedom House residents Monday through Friday. Families are responsible for preparing their lunches and weekend meals. With the expansion of the shelter to accommodate up to 28 people, the need for additional refrigeration space quickly became apparent.

Problem solved! St. Luke's used our Missions Fund to purchase six mini refrigerators – one for each family room – to help alleviate the problem of insufficient and shared refrigerator space.



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 meals and caring phone calls. Please contact Marie at baldaufmarie@gmail.com if you need support or would like to help in this ministry.



PRITCHARDVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



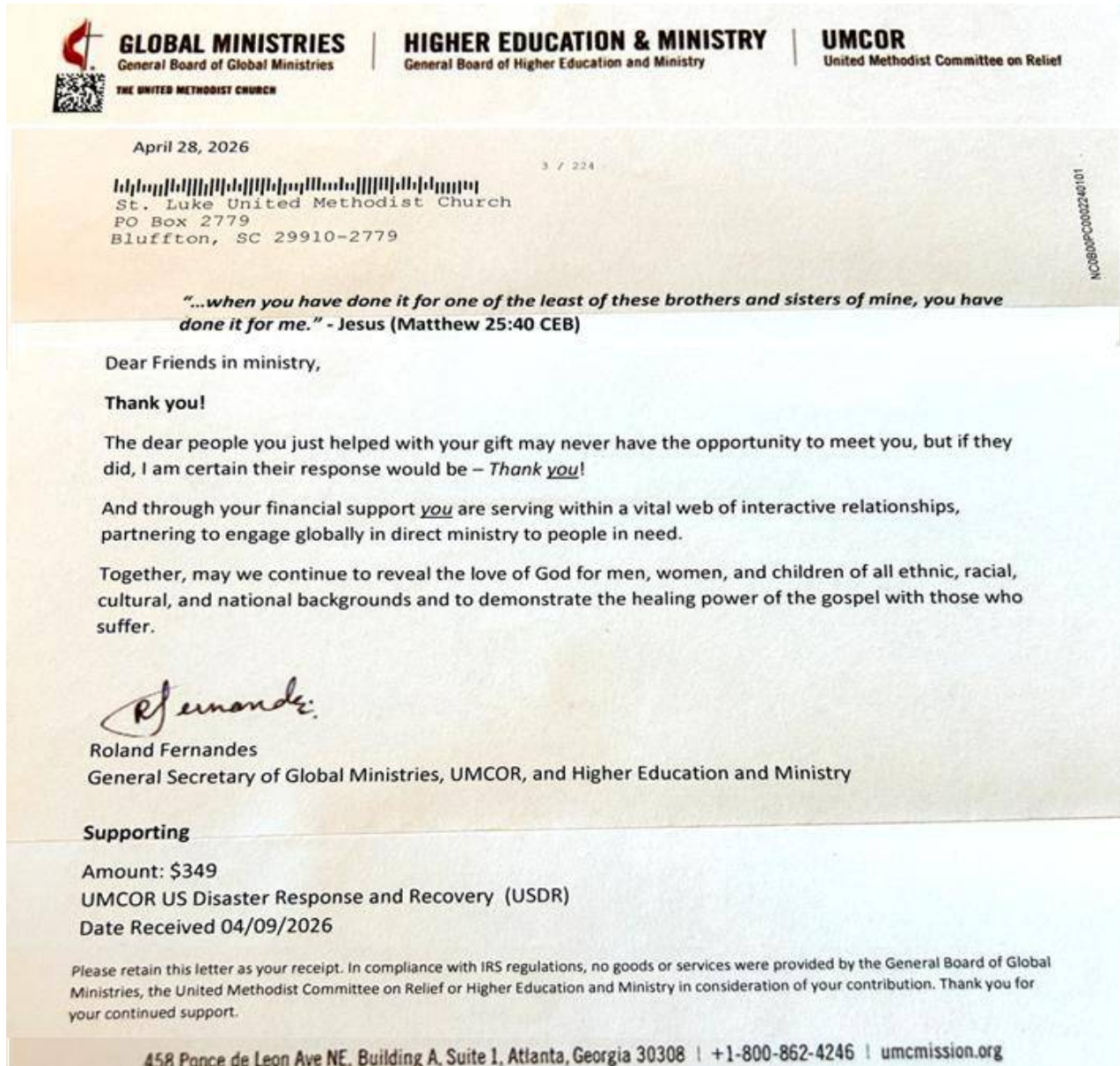
Ashley Owlett, LMSW, School Social Worker, Pritchardville Elementary School

Ms. Ashley and the staff from Pritchardville Elementary thank us for all our help over the school year. Whenever they had a need throughout the school year, you stepped up from snacks, uniforms, water bottles, special "prizes" for the Multi-Language Family Fun Nights to making Christmas so very special for so many of them.

We are wished a wonderful summer, and they hope we can continue this relationship for 2026-2027 school year also offering their help to us.

The Missions Committee add our deepest appreciation for your ongoing dedication and generosity in true Christian Spirit.

The letter below was received by the Mission Committee.



United Methodist Student Day

On **Sunday, June 14**, we will participate in one of the special offerings of the United Methodist Church. Every dollar given to United Methodist Student Day goes directly to scholarships for United Methodist students. These funds support a diverse group – from those preparing for ordained ministry to others pursuing professions that serve their communities. Your generosity removes financial obstacles and opens doors for future leaders to answer their call. A special offering envelope will be provided in the bulletin on June 10. If you give by check, please make it out to St. Luke’s UMC and note “UM Student Day” on the memo line.



Thank you for helping to build a stronger Church and empowering the next generation to carry forward God’s work in new and meaningful ways.



HISTORY HAPPENINGS

Women of the American Revolution

Women prior to the American Revolution were excluded from politics, government and decision making. They were expected to care for their homes and families. Their work was done quietly and without fanfare. The notion that women must be protected at all costs was prevalent, but as women assumed new roles, perceptions began to change.

Formal politics excluded women. However, to be successful, the war effort needed ideological and material support from the women of that time. Could women be Patriots? The women of the Colonies demonstrated that they could maintain traditional female occupations, handle domestic economy and take up the slack in their husbands' or fathers' occupations.

The women, of course, suffered great hardship during the Battle for Independence. Often left home alone while their husbands were fighting, they suffered through food shortages that drove prices up. Women were among the rioters who conducted over 30 raids on storehouses between 1776-1779 seizing goods from merchants they considered unreasonable.

They also were left vulnerable and were often harassed or brutalized by the enemy.

Women found that boycotting British goods was an effective tool. They refused to drink British tea and stopped ordering their clothes from England. Instead of purchasing material and clothes, Patriot women increased the long tradition of spinning their own cloth. In addition to making clothes for themselves and their families, they provided the Continental Army with much needed clothes and blankets.

Women were also called upon to contribute to the financial needs of wartime. The Ladies' Association of Philadelphia was one example. The Association collected funds that Martha Washington took directly to her husband, George Washington. In 1780 women collected over \$300,000 through female-run organizations.

Some women actually fought in the war. Some were treated with contempt while others were admired for their service. While some women joined the army to support the men they loved, others were lured by the enlistment bonus.

There were women who could not maintain their homes without the help of their husbands so many became camp followers. These women followed the Continental Army serving as washerwomen, cooks, nurses and seamstresses.

Many women chose to fight with their words, using poetry, plays and essays about their struggles for genuine equality as well as their terror for husbands and family members who were at risk. Women like Mercy Otis Warren wrote pamphlets like *Observations on the New Constitution and on the Federal and State Conventions*. Phillis Wheatley is considered the first African American author of a published book of poetry.

Some women even acted as spies, hiding army dispatches and sensitive military information under their petticoats. Emily Geiger of South Carolina carried an important letter from General Green to General Sumter. She was arrested by British scouts but tore the letter into small pieces and ate it before she was searched. She had memorized the letter and delivered the letter to General Sumter verbally.



History cont'd...

There were countless examples of female bravery during the Revolution, but Mary Ann Ladson Talbird is one of my favorites. The day that Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, a Tory militia unit from Daufuskie Island landed at Spanish Point. They marched up Skull Creek, burning Patriot-owned plantations along the way. One plantation was owned by the Talbirds. Lt. John Talbird was away fighting for the Patriots. His 9-month pregnant wife, Mary, ordered the household slaves to hide in the woods. She faced the approaching, red-coated officers, including the officer in command, her brother-in-law, Philip Martinangel. After telling Mary that he was going to burn her home, he allowed time for his soldiers to remove household goods from the house and place them under the spreading branches of a giant live oak, about 50 yards from the main house. He then ordered the building be destroyed. Later that day, slaves would build a makeshift shelter under the tree where Mary Ann delivered her son, Henry, named after his grandfather who gave the land to them as a wedding present. Born on October 19, 1781, the day that Cornwallis surrendered, he was always referred to as Yorktown Henry.

Known as the “Heroine of the Battle of Cowpens,” Margaret “Kate” Moore Barry volunteered as a scout for the American forces. Familiar with every trail and shortcut around her plantation in South Carolina and being an excellent horsewoman, Kate was crucial in warning the militia of the approaching British. The Battle of Cowpens took place on January 17, 1781. Before the battle, Kate was instrumental in rounding up militia, including her husband Captain Andrew Barry, to support General Daniel Morgan and his troops. Thanks to the bravery of women like Margaret Barry, the Battle of Cowpens was a decisive victory by Continental army forces in the Southern campaign of the American Revolutionary War.

Women played a very important role during the American Revolution. Whether they provided support in the traditional occupations in the home or in nontraditional roles as spies or soldiers, women began to change the perceptions held about them and helped the young nation move into independence.

*Kathy Smith,
Church Historian*

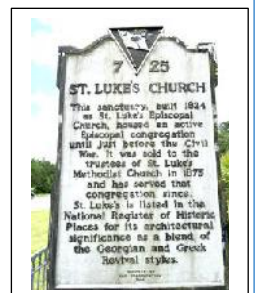
History on a Stick

It's amazing what you can learn from a historical marker, and we have one here at St. Luke's.



Our historical marker was placed on our grounds in 1996 following months of work by members of St. Luke's. They started by presenting an application to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Once the application was approved, and fees were paid, the marker was created by Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio. In 1927, E. W. Hawes founded a small sign business, and named it Sewah, his name in reverse. The foundry specializes in casting and lettering the roadside signs which are made of cast aluminum. If you travel by car around the country, you'll see these signs in many states.

The historical marker program started in 1936 in South Carolina, and there are currently more than 2,000 markers statewide. Here in Beaufort County there are 74 numbered markers. Not all historic markers are numbered; however. The Beaufort County historical markers have the number 7 in the upper left side of the marker. The St. Luke's marker shows the number 25 on the upper right side, so it was the 25th marker created for our county.



For the 250th birthday of our country, the Beaufort County Historical Society created a Historical Marker Scavenger Hunt pamphlet titled *Revealing the Revolution, One Marker at a Time*. If you are interested in investigating the scavenger hunt, copies of the pamphlet are on the table at the back of the church, and in the Fellowship Hall. The pamphlets can also be found at the local libraries in Beaufort County. Scan the QR code on the front of the pamphlet to check out the location of the 15 markers that deal with the Revolution here in Beaufort County.

If you haven't checked out our historical marker yet, I hope you will. You'll see that it needs some loving care after being on our grounds for 30 years.

History Committee Member,
Shirley Stark

Jean Tanner wrote for the Island Packet for many years. With her permission and help, we will reprint some of these columns for your enjoyment.

"Country Living Perks"

By Jean Tanner

Having been born and raised in Beaufort County and lived in the same rural area between Bluffton and Pritchardville my entire life, I can truly attest that country living has its perks! Not knowing any different way of life; simple, easy going, accept-it-as-it-is, everyday living 'kinda' grows on you giving a peaceful outlook on life.

Even growing up as a youth, not being a 'house-bird', it was always more fun to tag along behind daddy and do whatever he and my older brother, Phillip, was involved in, whether it was feeding the cows, building another stall on the barn or plowing the ground to plant crops. One day I actually got to be of help by driving the ol' Ford tractor while they were clearing a part of the field of stumps. While they were busy wrestling with a chain around a large stump, I was to ease the tractor forward to pull the load, but the front tire caught on another stump and started to rear up with me steady giving it the gas, which made it worse. Daddy hollered, "Hit the brake, hit the brake!" Being a novice tractor driver, I finally figured out which pedal was the brake, hit it and 'WHAM' the front end came down with such force it almost sent me flying out the seat! Needless to say, that ended my being asked to drive the tractor.

Other hot summer days during school break were filled with chasing wasps down the rows of field peas and killing them by quickly clapping our hands together on them, keeping tabs on how many we got while not getting stung on a finger.

When tiring of this game and looking for something else to do, myself, being an avid reader, would grab a Nancy Drew mystery book and look for a low hanging tree limb in the shade to climb up on and drift off into another world of exciting mystery.

Having animals on the farm there were always babies of some sort around from calves calling out, "Ma-a, Ma-a" or peeping biddies or downy ducks. Rather than the domesticated animals it was always exciting to find a baby raccoon or rabbit. My younger brother, Tommy, loved little critters and one day finding a baby rabbit and against our mama's wishes brought it in the kitchen. Of course the little rabbit wriggled free of his clutch and scampered straight under the refrigerator which really created a ruckus with my brother jumping around in a tether thinking it would surely die while mama and the rest of us young'uns moved the heavy refrigerator enough to free the little rascal, which ran out and into my brother's hands, who quickly took it outdoors and set it free.

Lately we've, my husband and I, have been rescuing and observing our own batch of baby animals, ranging from baby squirrels falling from their nest, and rescuing a baby rabbit that fell in the swimming pool and survived only by sitting on the ledge of the skimmer while holding its nose above water until it was lifted out when we found it. Another morning a Scarlet King snake was found swimming in the pool and unable to slither up the side to freedom, so it was rescued with the leaf net. Our most recent, really pleasant surprise came late one evening when sitting out enjoying the cool and observed the rare sighting of two parent Black-Bellied Whistling ducks parade across the front yard with their 14 ducklings in tow following behind on their journey to the creek nearby. Now, that was a real 'perk' and a blessed way to end what had been a very hot summer day in the country!

A LOOK BACK AT MAY 2026



Jane Tiffany joined our membership.



Each Lady received a beautiful rose on Mother's Day.



Pastor with Matthew and Aaron Metropolis.



Matthew delivered the Mother's Day message.



Back on track with "Mexican Train."



Pastor Chris and Cynthia expressed



their enjoyment for our Game Nights!



Typical Coffee Time between Worship Services



Stan O'Rear & Sandy Lowry came out for the Workday!



Bill Metcalf & Cathy Hamlin placed flags to honor and remember veterans.



Unfortunately, our bridge walk had some rotten boards that needed to be replaced!



Cemetery Tour



Tour Guides, Chris Hauck and Kathy Smith



Sanctuary Tour

AND THEN, THERE WAS RED, WHITE & BLUE



Prayer Requests

MEMBERS & CONGREGANTS

Amy Dauplaise Thomas Cook Jennifer Bernhard Susie & Michael Brown Harold Prosser
Sharon & Andy McKarick Ouida Dell Fran Iacovo Don King Marsha Gerber Linda O'Connor

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CONGREGANTS

Jack Dobson, son of Tina Topoleski's neighbor
The Abercrombie family, friends of Charlene King
Steve Nelson, friend of Marie Baldauf
Carol Hubbard, relative of John Hubbard
Fred and Lisa, brother and sister-in-law of Elizabeth Vance
Grandson of Louise Propst
Denise, niece of Judi Landin
Ann and her husband, neighbors of the Cservek's
David and Lynn Clearwater, friends of Beverly and Thomas Cook
Darrel Lawrence, nephew of Jerry Vagnier
Beth, friend of Nettie Peck
Pete Berntson, former Pastor of Church of the Palms
Constance Cole, friend of Ouida Dell
Charlene Cooler, sister of Ouida Dell
Doris, daughter of Dawn Hall
Beth Marshall, acquaintance of Dawn Hall
Lynn Cushing, Ed Oglesby and Dotty Apgar, friends of Pat Schwartz and Will Ross
Mikey, friend of Nancy Sariscak's nephew
Brody, nephew of Nancy Sariscak
Alyson, friend of Nancy Sariscak's nephew
David Kennedy, friend of Tina Blount
Eileen, friend of Fran Iacovo
Steve Rose, friend of Candace Payne
Jim Hobson, brother of Judi Landin
Lucille O'Neal, friend of Tina Blount
Judi Gindorf, neighbor of Tina Blount
Karen, friend of Tina Blount

Let us remember with cards, and prayers...

CHURCH MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES,

ASSISTED LIVING OR HOMEBOUND



Ruth Dolan,
Summer Breeze, 351 Wilmington
Island Rd. Memory Care, Room 107A
Savannah GA 31410
Elnora Ekholm, 173 May River Rd. Bluffton SC 29910
Jerry Wick, 740 Middletrail Court Mt. Airy MD 21771



Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Dave Jacoby
- 03 Leslie Van
- 04 Dave Baumeister, Jr.
- 04 Sherri Prosser
- 13 Andy Makarick
- 13 Shirley Stark
- 15 Wayne Teague
- 18 Barbara Marangio
- 22 Ruth Dolan (Memory Care)
- 23 Marie Baldauf
- 23 Rev. Chris Thompson
- 24 Constance Ulrich
- 25 Scott Wheeler
- 28 Carla Carte
- 30 Donna Hauck

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Debbie Burr
- 06 Diana Hamilton
- 06 Margie Steffes
- 11 Alan Jordan
- 12 Elizabeth Vance
- 12 Reece Woods
- 19 Will Ross
- 24 Suzanne Szloboda
- 26 Lois Finch
- 26 Eric Woods
- 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
- 18 Ellen & Rich Rohde
- 24 Leslie & Greg Richards
- 30 Paula Swope & Jack Reed

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 06 Sheryll Ingram & Bill Halstead
- 12 Barbara & Ron Marangio
- 17 Sharon & Tom Symonds
- 20 Doris & Bob Heck
- 21 Joyce & Bill Haskins
- 24 Joann & Bob Sandruck
- 27 Denise & Randy Pryor
- 27 Elizabeth & Archie Vance
- 29 Ann & Allen Webster
- 29 Carol & Jim Jackson



OR WATCH "ON-LINE" AT

ST. LUKE'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.lukesunitedmethodistchu8920/videos>

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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) also on the bulletin board and in the Fellowship Hall. Or email 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**

