



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 8

AUGUST 2026



"The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease! Great is His faithfulness! His mercies begin afresh each morning! I say to myself, 'the Lord is my inheritance'; therefore, I will hope in Him!" Lamentations 3:21-24 (NLT)

Unbelievable! If my husband were still living today, we would be celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary on the 10th of this month. Unbelievable, I say again! Where has the time gone? And while the "space" in my heart has been transformed over the years, from a deep wound of loss to simply a slight scar of memory, I still catch myself thinking about my wedding day and my married life at least briefly around this time every year.

Most certainly, journeying through life can sometimes lead us to question our decisions and our choices. I remember certain times during my grief, all those years ago now, when struggles were confronting me and I was simply unable to make a decision, or even move forward! Often times, I would turn first to friends and family for guidance. But over time, I found that without prayer and God's Word, I could not feel truly confident in my direction. In other words, advice from friends and family were helpful, but not enough. I needed to come to that point of discernment where I could see the difference between human trust and divine trust.

As I continued to journey IN THE MIDST of my grief, I began to reflect, more often, on the ways God had provided, rescued, and protected me amidst past situations I had faced throughout my life. And in doing that, I was able to recall all of the times God had been faithful and true to His promises! I remembered how God's love for me had never wavered! I recalled how I had always trusted in God's faithfulness because I knew God's character. And these insights gave me all of the hope I needed to move forward THROUGH my grief!

In this world, when any of us are weighted down with sorrow and/or stress, we need to remember to put our trust in God. God's steadfast love provides peace of mind ALONG WITH the empowerment to focus on our next steps, no matter how difficult! The more we allow God to provide guidance in our lives, the more peace and confidence we will receive regarding our life direction and our personal decisions.

So throughout this month and in all the days thereafter, let us begin each day seeking God's presence, God's purpose, and God's peace. Let us make it our daily mission to draw closer to God. Let us make it our daily commitment to trust in God's steadfast love. Let us make it our daily hope to seek God's faithfulness in new ways in our lives!

In Christ's love -

Pastor Kim

Continued...



cont'd...

A BRIEF WORD OF APPRECIATION

Dear St. Luke's Family of Faith -

Thank you so much for the beautiful welcome you gave me on Sunday, June 28th! Our first Sunday gathering together was truly enjoyable with our shared worship celebration, our coffee fellowship time, and the Welcome Bag you presented me! I have already worn my new T-shirt, displaying it proudly throughout the Bluffton community! I use my new "I Love My Church" bag at least once a week as I go to and from the office and home! I have not transferred all of my kitchen items from Aiken to Bluffton, so my St. Luke's coffee mug is really getting a workout each morning on Raymond Road! And while I have not yet tasted the local honey included in my Welcome Bag, I look forward to enjoying it on a morning in the not-too-distant future. As for the St. Luke's cookbook...I wish my mom was still around as she was always so good at trying out new recipes and sharing "the results" with dad and me!



I continue to feel abundantly blessed with this opportunity to be part of the St. Luke's family of faith. Thank you immensely for your warmth and your grace...not just upon my welcome to St. Luke's UMC, but each and every day that our paths cross in ministry together.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS AND OTHER APPLICABLE BUSINESS

Pastor Kim's office hours will be posted each week in the Sunday bulletin. Office hours will vary from week to week based upon scheduled appointments, Walterboro District meetings, Bluffton area clergy activities, Continuing Education conferences, etc.

Please note that if you don't see Pastor Kim's truck in the Pastor's parking space on any given day when office hours are advertised, she may be parked in the shade somewhere on the church property or she may have ridden her bike to work (aka Pastor Mary Poppins!). So please don't hesitate to come on in and say hello whenever you are on the church campus! Pastor Kim's office mat says...



And just another helpful reminder, feel free to call Pastor Kim's cell number at 843.685.3659 whenever you are wanting to connect with her directly!

AUGUST'S COLOR OF THE MONTH - YELLOW!!!

Did you know that the color **YELLOW** means joy, caution, and creativity...representing sunshine, warning signs, and new ideas? **YELLOW** is a bright and complex color that carries both positive and negative feelings.

On Sunday, August 23rd, in celebration of our Color of the Month Sunday, whether you want to wear a banana costume, a Caution sign, a sunshine hat, or your canary tie, you are invited to dress up in **YELLOW** as we brighten up the sanctuary and celebrate this perky color of lemons and beehives! And while we're at it, hopefully we'll learn a thing or two about the spiritual significance of **YELLOW** as well.

See you...in **YELLOW**...on the 23rd!

**WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY**

BEGINNING AUGUST 6TH!

Just a friendly reminder that a new season of our Women's Bible Study begins on Thursday, August 6th from 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Meet and Greet, followed by our 60-minute time of study from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

For this session of our study, we will embark on a 6-week text by author Melissa Spoelstra entitled...The Names of God. Participants are not required to purchase the study book; however you are encouraged to bring your preferred version of the Bible. Pastor Kim will lead this study.

If you have any questions or need any further information, or if you'd like to purchase a copy of the study text, please contact Pastor Kim at lkeanes@umcsc.org or 843.685.3659.

We Have a New Pastor, Now What?

When a congregation welcomes a new pastor, it is an exciting time, a new beginning for both the congregation and the new minister. To maximize this new beginning, it is important to prepare spiritually, cognitively, and emotionally for a new chapter.

Once a new pastor is appointed to your congregation, there are a few things you can do to prepare personally and congregationally to follow a new spiritual leader:



- **Pray for your new pastor.** In most of the churches I know, members pray for the PPRC Team throughout the assignment process, and they pray for the pastor even before they know the identity of their new minister. And they pray for their new pastor in the pastor's inaugural days of ministry. However, I suggest making a commitment to pray daily for our pastor throughout the duration of her ministry. Once the honeymoon period is over, and the daily grind of ministry begins, praying for your pastor will strengthen your pastor's ministry and will fortify your bond with your pastor.
- **Send your pastor a welcome note or email.** Be careful not to make this correspondence a lengthy epistle and certainly don't make it a diatribe itemizing your personal expectations or agenda. Just offer a brief note, introducing yourself and/or family, and offering a heartfelt welcome. These notes will help your new pastor learn about their new congregation. They will help your new pastor prioritize and adjust their goals.
- **Mention your name on your first several encounters with your new pastor.** Once your new pastor arrives, make sure to offer your name in each greeting for the first few weeks. Learning names is important for pastors. And be sure not to embarrass the pastor by quizzing, "Do you remember my name?" Give your pastor the opportunity to learn your name, and over time, to learn a part of your life story.
- **Embrace the uniqueness of your pastor.** Your pastor has a distinct personality, a unique set of spiritual gifts, and a diverse set of experiences. When the Spirit leads a church to a new pastor, the Spirit seldom leads a church or committee to a person just like the previous pastor or the beloved pastor from the church's history. To compare your new pastor to any other is to disrespect the Spirit's role in guiding you to your new pastor in the first place.
- **Be prepared to follow.** A pastor who is worth his or her salt must lead in both optimal and challenging situations. And the kingdom of God is enriched when we as a congregation follow our pastor and embrace our mission with enthusiasm. The vast majority of pastors I know provide proactive leadership that is Spirit-led and mission focused. Don't be a backseat driver. Serve with your best gifts.
- **Speak positively about your pastor publicly and privately.** One of the ways we bring out the best in our ministers is to speak well of them publicly and privately. With most pastors, it is easy to find something to criticize, because every minister has weaknesses. "He is too loud." "She is too soft-spoken." "He uses big words I don't understand." "She is not a people person." However, every pastor has more strengths than weaknesses. A healthy pastoral tenure is nurtured when we magnify around our pastor's strengths and then minimize and compensate for our pastor's weaknesses.

There are many other ways to welcome your new pastor and to launch your pastor into an effective and healthy tenure. If you compare them to your favorite football coach and expect them to "win every game," not only will you be disappointed, you will make your minister miserable and ultimately ineffective.

Cont'd...

But if you receive your new pastor as a spiritual leader sent to encourage your faithfulness, challenge your presuppositions, and to bring out God's best in you, the relationship between your pastor and your congregation will be vibrant and effective.

And as church members, we are privileged to co-labor with our pastor in this transformative work of demonstrating grace, sharing the good news, and equipping disciples. Let us go forward in faith with our new pastor!

As an addendum, Pastor Kim has made a wonderful suggestion and offering. Beginning in our next newcomer mailing, we will be offering "A Service for The Blessing Of A Home". We both feel that this is a beautiful way to welcome new neighbors and Welcome Christ into their home. Lay Servants, and others will be asked to participate. If you would like to help, or have your home blessed, give Pastor Kim a call.

Will Ross,
Lay Servant



We have continued "Blasting" our church events over 15 Facebook pages.

We invite every member to "Share" our postings on all your media pages.

Our mailing to newcomers is growing. We are including our Welcome letter, an offer to bless a newcomers home (with details.) Our Project 150 color flyer, Missions Activity page, any upcoming event flyers.

Instead of just mailing to the new home sales, we are watching for mover trucks in our area and adding a mailing to these "Resales".

If you notice any new residents in your community (via moving truck or otherwise) let us know and we will immediately mail a new packet to them.

Send any activity to:

Pat Schwartz

patschwartz4124@gmail.com

Will Ross

willross2689@gmail.com

Thank you for your efforts in spreading the good word of St Luke's UMC.

Pat Schwartz,
Communications Chair



MEETINGS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Mondays - Starting Sept. 14—Men's Bible Study, 8:00 AM
Every Tuesday—Choir Practice, 7:00 PM
Thursdays – Starting Aug. 6 —Women's Bible Study,
Meet & Greet 5:30; Study 6:00-7:00 PM
Tuesday, 08/04—Trustees, 9:00 AM
Wednesday, 08/12—Missions, 1:00 PM
ALL are welcome to attend.
Tuesday, 8/25 – Blanket Ministry, 10:00 AM
Thursday, 8/27 – Church Council, 3:30 PM

OTHER EVENTS FOR ST. LUKE'S FAMILY

Graveyard Tour—Thurs. Aug 20th at 10:00 AM
Come, bring a friend & learn about the History of St. Luke's UMC.

Church Picnic — Sat. Aug 22nd at 4:00 PM
Let's get acquainted with Pastor Kim!



Please wear **YELLOW** on the 4th Sunday in August.



PLEASE NOTE – DON and CHARLENE KING are now the contact people for FELLOWSHIP HALL reservations. If you would like to reserve the Fellowship Hall for an event or a meeting, please contact Don and Charlene, at kingdc33063@yahoo.com.

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, 10:30-2:00 p.m. – Memory Matters
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. Aug 15th, 12:15 – 4:00 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
Fri. Aug 14th & 28th – 4:30-5:30 p.m. – Girl Scout Troop 4071
Fridays 6:00-7:45 p.m. – Depth & Weight AA Group

Other Scheduled Events

UMCOR Early Response Team (ERT) Training



UMCOR ERT Training Saturday, August 8, 2026 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Training is open to the entire community

\$30 per person includes: training day lunch, credentials, background check, manual, and training

Hosted by Bluffton UMC

101 Calhoun St., Bluffton 29910 • (843) 757-3351

- **To register:** umcsc.org/ertregistration/
(Walterboro District, St Andrew By-The-Sea; If no Special Resources: other->none of the above)
- **To complete your no-fee background check:** tinyurl.com/umcorrv
- **Contact:** Kerry at Kerry@lovetheocean.com or Brenda at patsmom02@gmail.com

Pastor Kim is registered to attend, and she would love for you to join her.

THE WALTERBORO DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENCY COMMITTEE is hosting a **WELCOME CELEBRATION** for the new **Walterboro District Superintendent, The Reverend Tiffany Knowlin Boykin**. The celebration will be at New Life UMC located at 763 Green Pond Highway, Walterboro, SC. We will gather **from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, AUGUST 16, 2026**. Please let Pastor Kim know if you are planning to attend!



Our new group using the Fellowship Hall, posted this on Facebook. They meet from 10:30 to 2:00 every Monday.

For info about the program or to be placed on the "Interest list" please call Memory Matters at 843.842.6688.



**1st Day
Okatie Social Day
Program**

We just wanted to share the success of our very first program day at UMC Okatie! 🎉 **[St. Luke's United Methodist Church](#)**

Lauren Morales - our Program Specialist - did an amazing job leading the program with confidence and ease, and our participants were so happy to be there. Throughout the day, we introduced ourselves to new friends, enjoyed music, danced, completed exercises and stretches, shared lunch together, and wrapped up the day with a wonderful art therapy session led by Heather. 🎨

Pastor Kim stopped by to see the program in action, and she absolutely loved what she saw. It was such a great first day and a wonderful start to this new partnership!

We know there are many more individuals and families who could benefit from this location, and we're excited to watch the program continue to grow over the coming weeks. Thank you to everyone who helped make today a success; this is just the beginning! 💙



The Rewards of Working Together

Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10 *“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for toil.”*

St. Luke’s reflects the message of Ecclesiastes 4:9–10. Together, we have discovered that shared effort makes the challenges we face easier to bear. Consider the many areas where we have stepped forward to make a difference: we have not taken on these projects alone. Members of our church have joined together, and through our shared labor, we have received good rewards.

Work and travel are often more meaningful when shared with a friend. Challenges become easier to face when someone walks beside us, and our efforts can grow stronger through mutual support.

- Together, our work becomes more effective and our successes more rewarding.
- United in faith, we are strengthened and less likely to be overcome.

Scripture shows that companionship is part of God’s wisdom for faithful living. In the ancient world, travel brought real dangers, including unsafe roads, cold nights, and conflict along the way. Ecclesiastes reminds us that “two are better than one” because companions strengthen, protect, and encourage one another. Jesus lived this truth when He sent His disciples out two by two, and Paul’s ministry also reflected it as he traveled and served with trusted partners in the work of the gospel.

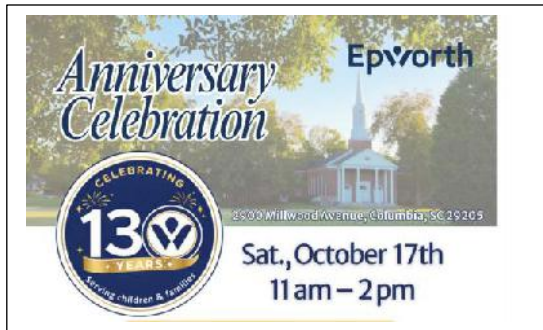
As we share meals, worship, fellowship, and service, God uses our friendships to strengthen our faith and deepen our life together. These relationships are more than social blessings; they are gifts through which we encourage one another, bear one another’s burdens, and reflect Christ’s love.

- May we continue to welcome the gift of Christian friendship with gratitude, recognizing that God often strengthens us through the people He places beside us.
- May our shared work and worship draw us closer to Christ and help us serve one another with humility, joy, and love.
- And may St. Luke’s remain a community where no one walks alone, because together we are strengthened for the work God has given us.

*Kathy Smith,
Lay Leader*



Epworth Children's Home – 130 year celebration!



Please bring your church group
for a wonderful day celebrating
Epworth's 130th Anniversary

- Columbia Classic Chevy Car Club
- Epworth Peanut Butter Ice Cream
- Fun children's activities
- Live music
- Campus tours
- And more!

Lunch will be provided by
Shealy's BBQ & will be
available while supplies last!

Adult plates \$15, Child plates \$10

Reservations are preferred



friendsofepworth.org/epworth-130th-anniversary/



EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Mark your calendars! Epworth's 130th Anniversary Celebration will be held **rain or shine on Saturday, October 17, 2026.**

Join us as we celebrate 130 years of serving children, youth, and families across South Carolina. This special event will honor Epworth's rich history and the countless lives that have been impacted through our ministry over the past 130 years.

Enjoy a day filled with food, fun, games, entertainment, and fellowship for all ages as we celebrate this remarkable milestone and look forward to the bright future ahead.

BBQ and Fried Chicken plates are \$15/person and \$10 for children 10 years of age and younger. For additional event information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://friendsofepworth.org/epworth-130th-anniversary/>

Thank you for being part of the Epworth story. Together, we continue a legacy of hope, healing, and opportunity that has spanned 130 years—and will continue for generations to come.

If you are interested in attending this event, please fill out the form below and let Phyllis Sippel know. Please note our meal has to be ordered and paid for in advance or you can bring your own picnic. The barbecue/fried chicken plate is \$15.00 for adults/\$10.00 for children. Based on interest our trip will be organized.

NAME: _____
TELEPHONE # _____
EMAIL: _____
MEAL ORDER: # ADULTS _____, # CHILDREN _____
I CAN DRIVE: YES: _____ NO: _____ (Please check one)
I CAN TAKE _____ # _____ PASSENGERS.
I NEED A RIDE _____

Phyllis Sippel,
Epworth Representative



Finance Report

Following is a statement of activity (profit and loss) through the first half of our fiscal (and calendar) year:

	Actual YTD (through 06/30/26)	Budget YTD (through 06/30/26)	Variance	2026 Budget
Operating Income				
Weekly plate	\$ 117,164	\$ 112,500	\$ 4,664	\$ 225,000
Interest & Other Income	\$ 5,391	\$ 1,002	\$ 4,389	\$ 2,000
Facility usage fees	\$ 2,194	\$ 1,500	\$ 694	\$ 3,000
Total Operating Income	\$ 124,749	\$ 115,002	\$ 9,747	\$ 230,000
Total Non-Operating Income	\$ 40,898	\$ 9,900	\$ 30,998	\$ 19,800
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 165,647	\$ 124,902	\$ 40,745	\$ 249,800
Local Church Program Expenses	\$ 25,475	\$ 25,844	\$ (369)	\$ 51,670
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 69,550	\$ 61,510	\$ 8,040	\$ 123,020
Total Facilities & Grounds	\$ 20,457	\$ 21,399	\$ (942)	\$ 32,225
Total Operating Expense	\$ 115,482	\$ 108,753	\$ 6,729	\$ 206,915
Operating (Deficit) or Surplus	\$ 9,267	\$ 6,249	\$ 3,018	\$ 23,085
Total Non-Operating Expenses	\$ 39,302	\$ 9,900	\$ 29,402	\$ 19,800
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 154,784	\$ 118,653	\$ 36,131	\$ 226,715
TOTAL (DEFICIT) OR SURPLUS	\$ 10,863	\$ 6,249	\$ 4,614	\$ 23,085

We are ahead of budget in both operating and non-operating income, but also ahead of budget in expenses in both categories. Our net surplus is slightly behind our year-to-date budget forecast. The pulpit leadership transition costs were not anticipated in the budget. With continued strong income from all operating sources and careful monitoring of expenses, we should be able to have another positive financial result in 2026; however, it may not be as strong as originally anticipated.

The Church Council has noted the current small balance in the PPI fund and has asked for special gifts—above and beyond normal offering—in anticipation of weather-related and other unforeseen expenses in the coming months. Non-operating activities include cemetery, grounds, and PPI activity; missions and outreach; endowment activity; and designated income and expenses.

The Finance Committee will begin work on the 2027 budget during this month, in anticipation of presenting a recommended draft for adoption by the Church Council at its October meeting.

Feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

Alan Jordan, Finance Chair
akkcjordan@gmail.com



Spotlight on our Youth:

Summer for the Pryor kids has been filled with vacations, sports, family, and excellent fellowship.

Kennedy has her permit and is preparing to get her driver's license, all while continuing her soccer travel program and getting ready for 10th grade.



Hudson and Dash brought home a Championship Ring and Medal at a Future Stars tournament in Asheville, NC while preparing for Football and Baseball starting in August.

And of course, proud mom and dad!!!



Matthew participated in an Artisan bread making class this past week. Here is a picture of some amazing creations! I hope to have him sharing his talents with our congregation soon!



I can't believe our students are wrapping up their summer vacation! They start school again on August 7 (teachers went back July 31).

As you think of our youth here is a prayer you could say for them:
Father God,

Thank You for the students of St. Luke's United Methodist Church. As they begin a new school year, we ask You to guide their steps and help them follow the path You have set before them.

Keep them healthy, safe, and surrounded by Your love. Watch over them as they learn, grow, and build relationships with teachers, classmates, and friends. May Your light shine through them in all they say and do.

Help them keep their eyes on You while giving their best in their studies. When learning is difficult, give them wisdom, patience, and confidence. In the areas where they are strong, help them lead with humility and encourage those around them.

Lord, we are excited to see the wonderful things You have in store for these students this year. Bless them, protect them, and remind them each day that You are always with them.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Back to School Supplies

Thank you for your generosity. Our church provided all our Youth with basic back to school supplies to help them get the year started!



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

*Michelle Cramer,
Youth and Children's
Ministry*



Let’s think fall – maybe it will help us feel cooler! Fall begins an especially exciting time for our missions’ outreach. With school starting this month, we are waiting to hear how we can support Pritchardville Elementary’s students in need. Along with our ongoing ministry opportunities, fall is also when we participate in the Walk for Water and fill shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse.

Two of the organizations we support are selling tickets for their annual fundraising events. Family Promise of the Lowcountry will hold a “Barn Bash” at New River Barn Park on October 15, and Bluffton Self Help will hold their annual “Sips Party” at Palmetto Bluff Farm on October 16. We have included more information below about where to purchase tickets or support either event.

St. Luke’s Missions Committee members keep in touch with the organizations we support. We meet monthly to plan how St. Luke’s can help meet the needs of struggling families. Our next Missions Committee meeting is Wednesday, August 12, at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome and we hope you will join us. **Thank you to everyone for your continued support and generosity!**

With prayers and gratitude for our shared mission,
Linda Fisher and Elizabeth Vance
St. Luke’s Missions/Outreach Co-Chairs

Bluffton Self Help First Sunday Food Drive, August 2

All your donations to help keep Bluffton Self Help’s Market stocked are very much appreciated! However, this month we have received a pared down list of their more urgent needs. Lois Willig will be in our parking lot before each worship service to collect your donations. If you have items to donate later in the month, please place them in the basket labeled “Bluffton Self Help” in the Fellowship Hall.



Non-Perishables	
Cream Soups (any variety)	Hearty Soups
Pasta & Pasta Sauce	White Rice
Taco Kits	Cereal
Canned Beans (Black, Pinto, Refried)	
Deodorant	Body Wash
Bar Soap (multi-bar pack okay if individually wrapped)	
The items cannot be distributed if damaged, opened, expired, or bulk items.	

While transitioning back to school, Bluffton Self Help is especially appreciative of St. Luke’s consistency in meeting their needs.



This will be the 10th year for Bluffton Self Help’s “Sips Party”, their annual fundraising event. It will be held on October 16 from 5:00-9:30 PM at the Palmetto Bluff Farm. The cost is \$300 per person, and dress is “Low Country Chic”. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please visit their website blufftonselfhelp.org.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our two meals for the Family Promise shelter residents in July! This month we will provide meals on Tuesday, August 18, and Thursday, August 20. Please stop by the bulletin board in the sanctuary, beginning August 2, and sign up to help provide food for these meals.



All donated food should be delivered to the church Fellowship Hall between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18. Before this date, if you are donating nonperishable food, it can be placed in the basket labeled “Family Promise” in the Fellowship Hall. Fresh food, with a “use by date” after August 20, can be placed in the refrigerator in the Fellowship Hall clearly marked for Family Promise. If you need to make other arrangements, or have any questions, please contact Linda Fisher at dlfisher4@hotmail.com.

Family Promise will hold a “Gather & Give” fundraising event at the New Riverside Barn in Bluffton on October 15 from 5:00-8:00 PM. The cost is \$200 per ticket. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please visit their website fp-lc.org.

Below is a letter of thanks we recently received from Family Promise:



FAMILY PROMISE OF THE LOW COUNTRY, INC.
181 BLUFFTON ROAD, D101 – BLUFFTON, SC 29910
Phone: 843-815-4211 | info@fp-lc.org
www.fp-lc.org

6/17/2026

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
PO Box 2779
Bluffton SC 29910

Hi Friends,

On behalf of everyone at Family Promise of the Lowcountry, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your very generous grant of \$1,150.44 on 6/8/2026, to purchase mini refrigerators. Your support means the world to us, and we are truly grateful for your commitment to our mission.

You may notice our new name, Family Promise of Beaufort County is now Family Promise of the Lowcountry, a change that reflects both our growing service area and the expanded mission that comes with it. We are the same organization, with the same commitment to families and the same tax ID, now serving a broader community throughout the Lowcountry.

Family Promise of the Lowcountry has been working hard since 2008 to provide temporary shelter, family stability, and permanent housing solutions for homeless families with children. In 2024, we purchased our “Freedom House” shelter home and doubled our shelter capacity. This would not have been possible without your help!

Our Shelter, Homeless Prevention, and Stabilization programs continued to assist families in need, with calls for assistance rising each year. Your recent gift will have a direct impact, supporting families in their journey toward a better tomorrow.

If you have questions about how your gift is being used, or you would like more information on how to continue your support, please don't hesitate to contact a member of our team.

Thank you,

John Trinh, MDiv.
Executive Director

Family Promise of the Lowcountry, Inc. is a 501©3 nonprofit organization.
Federal Tax ID# -20-5647589. No goods or services were received in consideration of this gift.

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

Every Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00 am until noon volunteers help sort and distribute fresh food donated by local grocery stores to families and seniors in need. If you would like to help, you do not need to sign up – just show up. You will not do any heavy lifting. We have several people from St. Luke's who volunteer regularly. 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 lesliearichards717@gmail.com.

We recently received the following thank you from Agape with pictures of the children at their summer camp program enjoying supplies donated by St. Luke's.



THANK YOU from AGAPE for just one of the many items we sent them for their summer program from St. Luke's Missions Fund. We sent sip and paint posters (see in the thank you), small basketball stands for the young children, volleyballs, etc. Agape's program for 35 young students goes from the end of school (May or June) to the beginning of school (August.) It is an extensive program: Mornings are for reviewing their grade level subjects and the afternoons are for field trips, fun indoor and outdoor activities and dinner.

Blanket Ministry is Back! Tuesday, August 25, 10:00 AM

Come join us in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, August 25, at 10:00 a.m. to make no-sew blankets for our church family and friends who are experiencing health issues. We spend about an hour cutting fleece, tying knots, and enjoying catching up or getting to know each other better. Bring sharp scissors if you have them, or we have several pairs on hand. Many of us bring a bag lunch so we can continue the fellowship after the blanket making. Please contact Kathy Smith at kishhi1947@gmail.com, if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you!



Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

You have filled up our 4th box of pull tabs this year. Getting ready to send it to the Savannah Ronald McDonald House.

Because of you, families find the comfort and care they need to face childhood illness or injury. Beds to rest, meals to nourish, and community to encourage. Because of you, families can stay at the heart of their child's care.

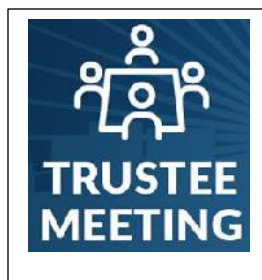
"We will be forever grateful to the Ronald McDonald House for helping our family be there without worry for our daughter's treatment."



Please keep saving those pull-tabs and deposit them in the box in the Fellowship Hall.
We'll start filling up box #5!



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



NEW PROCEDURE FOR THERMOSTATS

You have probably noticed that the thermostats in the Fellowship Hall and the St. Luke's Sanctuary now have protective covers over them. These covers were installed primarily to cut down on our heating and cooling costs due to the abundant groups who utilize our space on a regular basis. The Trustees have set the thermostats at a reasonable temperature, but if you need to adjust the temperature for any gathering/meeting/fellowship activity, please note the following information regarding the keys to the thermostats:

The Fellowship Hall thermostat key is located in the Copy Room in the mail slot labeled Trustees. If you need to adjust the Fellowship Hall thermostat, please return the key to its slot in the Copy Room.

The Sanctuary thermostat key is located in the storage bin underneath the pulpit. The key is labeled with a large colored keyring. Please return the key to the storage bin upon adjusting the thermostat.

Thank you for your continued good stewardship regarding the adjusting of the thermostat and the return of each key after use.



HISTORY HAPPENINGS

Did you know . . . ???

- St. Luke's was traditionally known as Bull Hill Church.
- There was a building that preceded our historic church. It was built close to the current building and was a Chapel of Ease for Episcopalians.
- St. Luke's parish was established in Granville County which was an earlier name for what became Beaufort County in 1769.
- It took almost 20 years to erect a church building.
- Prominent families joined together to get the building: William Hort, John Bull, James Garvey, George Hipp, Jacob Guerard, and Daniel Stevens.
- John Bull donated 4 acres of land for the church.
- John Bull owned Bull Plantation in this area.
- This church was later burned and rebuilt in 1824 on adjoining land donated by Jacob Guerard.
- Jacob Guerard is buried in St. Luke's graveyard and has the earliest year of birth, 1793.
- By 1875 most of the members of the church had died or moved away or attended the Church of the Cross.
- The remaining members along with Methodists living in the Pritchardville area purchased St. Luke's.
- They paid \$200 for the church and 2 acres.
- St. Luke's was in a prime location. It was located near a railroad called the Charleston-Savannah Trail, an extension of the King's Highway.
- The King's Highway was a historic wagon trail covering more than 1300 miles from Boston to the Savannah River.

Kathy Smith,
Church Historian



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.

The Art of Casting a Net

By Jean Tanner

Back in the day, if you wanted a mess of shrimp and you had a net, with a saltwater creek nearby, you went to cast your net and take home your cache. One didn't think of whether it was shrimp season or not.

Shucks, when the weather warmed up, come April or May and if the tide was on the way moseying out, about an hour before dead low tide, well it was time to hit the creek for the best chance of catching enough of those delectable crustaceans to 'stink-the-pot'. When the tide comes to a 'lull' and getting geared up to turn and start coming in, take a breather for a minute if you're in your boat or casting from a dock and give the tide a minute, because they're just as catchable on the hour of incoming tide as they were with the going out tide.

My goodness, back in the late 60's husband Harry and brother-in-law Carlyle Hubbard went out shrimping in a boat on the May River one day and brought back home a #2 wash tub full of 'creek' size shrimp. Needless to say, all of us, adults and children, gathered around the tub under the shade of our large Cedar tree and there was some serious 'pinching' heads off of shrimp going on.

Of course, I had to dip out a good pot full to boil with heads on, and that was everyone's 'pay-off' when we got the 'pinching' off heads job finished. Then we all sat around the wooden picnic table eating boiled shrimp drowned with a glass of sweet iced tea or a Pepsi-Cola. Good times, good food, and good family togetherness.

My daddy, Jesse Simmons, knitted nets, mullet and shrimp nets for himself and for others in the area to buy. He started out making all cotton nets and then went to using nylon twine. Then when monofilament nets hit the market there weren't as many offers for his hand-made nets and he slowed down on making them. During this slow period of time, he made a "mini" 15-inch replica of a regular 6 ft. shrimp net, complete with a lead line on the bottom and a cow-horn up top for the rope to pass through, for all of us young'uns and all of his grandchildren. What a memorable keepsake!



15-inch replica

Now-a-day, there 'is' a season set aside for shrimping with rules and regulations to follow, including licensing and quota's on amount allowed to catch and keep. Also, there's baiting for shrimp, using poles and meal flavored patties that does require a license and has its own season set aside beginning at noon the last Friday on or before September 15th and lasting 60 days, by law. Then there are some fishermen that have 8-10 ft. special-made nets and with the help of Sonar, a depth-finder on their boat they go 'deep-holing' in 10-50 ft depths of water catching the larger white shrimp. For more information on shrimping in South Carolina go to website: "SCDNR-Shrimp-SC.gov"

So, as far as the recreation of shrimping goes you could sum it up by saying, "You've come a long way, baby!", cause the size of shrimp caught now when baiting or 'deep-holing' in comparison to the ones we caught from the creek 'way-back-when' makes them look like they grew from kindergarten to high school graduates now.

Regardless of how you go, when you go, or what size shrimp you catch you still need a net and regardless of the length of your net, whether it's a 4ft. bait net or a 10ft. deep-hole net, you need to know how to throw it. My daddy taught me how to throw one & I practiced by casting it on the grass in our front yard before trying it in the creek.

The Art of Casting a Net...(cont'd)

Over the years I have had the opportunity to introduce the fun of casting a net to some of my friends by using a family dock down at Stoney Creek, and what a 'kick' they get out of it, especially when they catch some shrimp. As I was taught; you wrap the hand-line rope of the net around your wrist of one hand several times, then catch the extra rope up in oval loops and hold in same hand. Place a bit of the lead-line between your lips then grab a portion of the lead-line a little farther down in your other hand and then in synchronous release the net into the water with it opening out into a perfect circle before settling to the bottom. You will feel it settle on the bottom, so then give the rope a few quick jerks so the net will 'tuck' gathering the shrimp in for you to pull up.

I even took my net to Drayer Physical Therapy Institute, Sheridan Park in Bluffton, some years ago, when having physical therapy for a bum shoulder, to show my young therapist, that was interested in shrimping, on how to cast a net. We went outside the building, and she practiced on the grass while I took photos for her to send her mom. She was tickled pink of her achievement, and I sometime wonder if she ever had the opportunity to try her luck in a creek somewhere, since she had to move to another city.

People come into our lives, touch a chord of friendship with us, then like a shadow are gone, leaving everlasting memories.

Frank Herbert, an American author said, "If wishes were fishes, we'd all cast nets."

Happy casting!

"Jean Tanner casts her net down at the creek as the sun rises in the East."



"Harry Tanner Jr. makes a perfect cast from the dock at Stoney Creek."



"Don King throws far and wide with his 6ft. monofilament shrimp net."



Boiled and ready to "peel & eat!"



"Pat Simmons casts her net off of her dock on Stoney Creek."

Advent 2026 Daily Devotionals

GREETINGS SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST!

It's time to begin planning our Advent 2026 Daily Devotional, and I hope your congregation will once again join Church of the Palms UMC in this meaningful ministry. As in previous years, I am inviting authors from each participating church to write devotionals. I will edit the submissions and return the completed devotional to each church in digital and/or printed format. If all four churches participate, each congregation will need to provide only six devotionals. These devotional booklets have been warmly received over the years. Congregants use them to enrich their personal devotional life, and many share copies with family members, friends, and neighbors. Please give prayerful consideration to participating in this year's project. If you have any questions or suggestions, I would be delighted to hear from you. Feel free to contact me by phone or email.

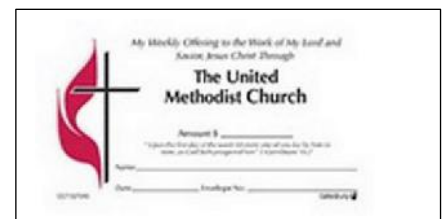
Ed Corbitt – 304.238.8210 or crowbar253@gmail.com
Church of the Palms



Were You Aware???

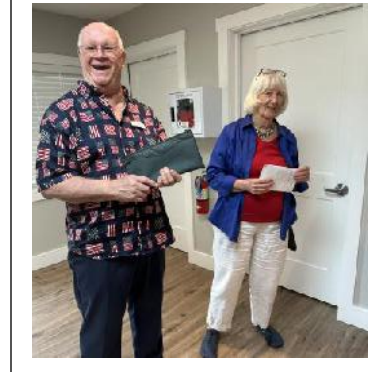
Donations... Did you know that you can make your donation to St. Luke's UMC online with a credit card or have it taken directly out of your bank account? If you are interested, you may click on this link (or copy & paste it in your browser) to reach our Vanco page: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-A2R5> – or you may go to our website by clicking on this link (or copy & paste it in your browser: <https://stlukesumc-okatie.org/>). Then click on the “DONATE” button in the headings. This will take you to our Vanco page where you may choose how you want your donation to be used. There are various church related areas or missions to support. It's only necessary to sign up one time as there is information once you are on the giving site about how often and until when you want to participate with that particular donation. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Simmons.

If you donate with cash, we have “envelopes” available. Look for these on the narthex table, on the back of the last pew or in the Fellowship Hall. Just include your name on the envelope to receive credit on your year-end giving statement.



A BACK AT JULY 2026

TO CELEBRATE JULY 4TH, RED, WHITE & BLUE



Food donations delivered to Bluffton Self Help



Before our delivery



After delivery!!

At the Trustee meeting, we celebrated Pastor Kim's birthday!



Graveyard & Sanctuary tour on the 16th.



Mexican Train game night



July ended with everyone wearing
the color of the month: **RED**





**Celebrating a very special birthday –
Lois Finch (93)**



**Both Lois Finch & Dell Harper
celebrating their birthdays!**

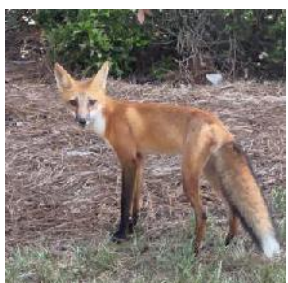


**Everyone loved Olenna,
granddaughter of Diana
& Walker Hamilton.**



**Lois Finch & Anges Scarlett
arriving for worship.**

**Donuts were brought
by a couple of
people to honor our
“donut lady, Lois.”**



**On their way home, Donna & Chris Hauck saw this RED fox on
RED DAM ROAD after our color Sunday, RED!**

A few photos from our visit to Canterfield Assisted Living on Sunday, July 26th for a short worship message, singing hymns & serving communion. 17 Residents joined us!



A “throw-back” photo of Fellowship on color “blue” Sunday.



IN SEPTEMBER...LOOKING FORWARD TO...



Color coordinated second service greeters, Elizabeth Vance on left. Her niece, Linda Fisher on right. They claim it wasn't planned. Love the smiles!

Music on the GROUND
A Day of Music, Community & Celebration!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
(Rain Date: September 26, 2026)

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

ST. LUKE'S UMC PAVILION
(behind the church)
3080 Okatie Highway
Bluffton, SC

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

10:00 - 10:55 AM	SC Mountain Strings
11:00 - 11:55 AM	SC Ukulele Band
12:00 - 12:55 PM	SC Strummers
1:00 - 1:55 PM	SC Jazz Band
2:00 - 2:55 PM	Carolina Girls n' Guys
3:00 - 4:00 PM	TBD
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Port Royal Band

PREREQUISITE: COMMUNITY

LIVE MUSICAL GROUPS **VENDORS** **FOOD TRUCKS** **FUN** **FELLOWSHIP & FOOD**

Bring your family, invite your friends, and join us for
A WONDERFUL DAY TOGETHER!
FAITH • FAMILY • COMMUNITY All Are Welcome!



MEMBERS & CONGREGANTS

Barbara Silcox

Beverly Cook

Andy & Sharon Makarick

Harold Prosser

Paula Swope & Jack Reed

Judi Landin

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CONGREGANTS

Steve Nelson, friend of Marie Baldauf

Fred and Lisa, brother and sister-in-law of Elizabeth

Vance

Karen, friend of Tina Blount

Niece of Jerry Vagnier

Doris, daughter of Dawn Hall

Mikey, friend of Nancy Sariscak's nephew

David Kennedy, friend of Tina Blount

Eileen, friend of Fran Iacovo

Dexter Nease, son-in-law of J.W. Harper

Irv Mottern, friend of Jim and Kathy Smith

David and Lynn Clearwater, friends of Beverly and

Thomas Cook

Bethany Horry, granddaughter of Ouida Dell

Gary Landin, husband of Judi Landin

Wanda, friend of Dawn Hall

June, sister of Janet Jacoby

Louise Leonhardt, friend of Marie Baldauf

Karen Wilson, sister of Bill Halstead

Tom Smith, nephew of Lois Willig

Dawn Sharp, daughter of Beverly Cook

Let us remember with cards, and prayers...

CHURCH MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES,

ASSISTED LIVING OR HOMEBOUND



Ruth Dolan,

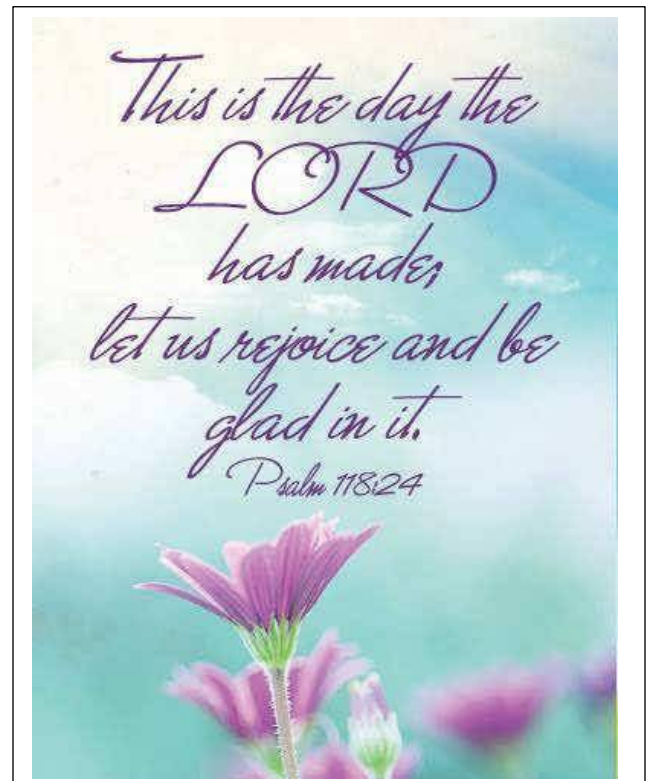
Summer Breeze, 351 Wilmington

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

AUG BIRTHDAYS

01 Donna Stephen
02 Jim Jackson
02 Carol Jackson
04 Archie Vance
08 Gwen Cassidy
08 Joyce Blosser
10 Jeananne Cranston
17 Hudson Pryor
19 Francine Iacovo
21 Letty Husson
22 Mim Mazon
22 Tom Symonds
23 Leslie Richards
24 Pat Schwartz
25 Joe Cservek
29 Sharon Symonds
30 Lee van Rensburg

SEPT BIRTHDAYS

01 Shirley Hamilton
02 J.W. Harper (99)
02 Harriet McCauley
04 Bonnie van Rensburg
06 Karen Madsen
07 Pat Simmons
09 Curtis Genga
10 Karen Jordan
13 Sheryll Ingram
16 Mary Cale
18 Megan Sytsma
19 Suzanne Gibson
20 Jim Smith
21 Pam Hoel
25 Phyllis Griggs
26 Barb Silcox
28 Chick Mazon
28 Ann Webster

AUG ANNIVERSARIES

04 Tatyana Topoleski & Darrel Fitzgerald
10 Sandi & Kevin Coupland
10 Netti & Bill Peck
11 Joyce & Bill Blosser
15 Shirley & Norm Stark
17 Diane & JP Moery
17 Constance & George Ulrich
27 Karen & Phil Mitchell
28 Phyllis Griggs & Wayne Teague
31 Mim & Chick Mazon

SEPT ANNIVERSARIES

16 Sharon & Matthew Melancon
16 Jane & Terry Tiffany
16 Lynne & Scott Wheeler
20 Megan & David Sytsma
30 Diana & Walker Hamilton



OR WATCH "ON-LINE" AT

ST. LUKE'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

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

Donate through Vanco, go to our web page:

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



Please "like" our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082060615677&mibextid=LQJ4d>

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



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. LUKE'S – you may 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 Kim 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**

