



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 – Joint Service @ 9:15 AM)

Volume 21, Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2026



LABOR WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Does anybody remember when Labor Day actually held an importance? I mean, when I was growing up, Labor Day was a BIG DEAL!

Labor Day marked the end of summer and the start of a new school year. Labor Day marked a change in schedules and a change in temperatures! Labor Day was THE day when you had to stop wearing white until Easter of the following year! Labor Day was an actual Holiday when everyone was released from work and school in order to celebrate the importance - and the gift - of work!

Maybe it's just the cynic in me, but it seems like Labor Day is not really a big deal anymore. Do you think it's because "work" isn't as big a deal in people's lives anymore? And is that because people have such a "different" understanding of work here in the 21st century? Those questions, and many others, got me to thinking recently about the diverse topics of work, vocation, calling, and purpose.

In Paul's reflection on similar topics as found in the third chapter of the New Testament book of Colossians, he writes: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward." (vv. 23-24 NIV)

So what is Paul saying in these verses and how can we apply it to our own lives, especially in regard to a renewed respect for work?

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart"...first, Paul is not teaching that we need to do "works" to get into heaven!

Far from it! After all, the Apostle Paul was a 100% "justification by faith" kind of guy! Paul never taught that the number of good deeds we do is what is going to save us from our sins and/or give us an automatic invitation into heaven.

So, what is Paul saying? Well maybe Paul is suggesting that our work, which I believe means any and all of our activity on any given day, should be done from a "heart perspective"...with the ultimate goal of pleasing God. In other words, all of our efforts and activities as Christian believers - all of our "work" - should come from a place of service to God, as exemplified in the life of Jesus the Christ.

So, what does that mean in 21st century "normal life" terms? Well I think it means that we are to work and talk and "do" and serve out of love, mercy, and grace. We are to care for others with a servant's heart. We are to put others' needs above our own - consistently - and approach everything with a willing heart.

Continued...

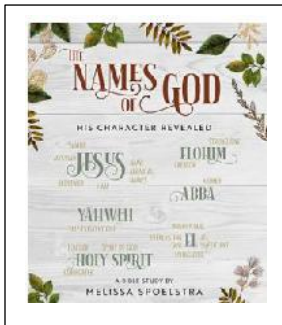


And Paul doesn't stop there in regard to his explanation of the importance of our work...for God. Paul calls us to work diligently. Paul calls us to work without arrogance or greed. Paul calls us to work without a sense of condescension or superiority. Paul calls us to work with mercy and grace as our primary motivators!

None of this is easy...especially when many of us have reached that season of life when we have the privilege of only working when we CHOOSE to...not when we HAVE to! But come to think of it, the "choose to" rather than the "have to" season of our "working lives" may be the greatest opportunity yet to fully and freely exercise the practices of working...truly from the heart".

I invite you to consider this "fresh" perspective on "work". And from this Labor Day season onward, let's make a renewed commitment to "work for the Lord", by "working from the heart"...using our energy, our gifts, and our talents to "work on" our relationships...to "work on" our perspectives...to "work on" our own flaws...and to "work toward" a shared purpose of bringing God's kingdom to earth!

Happy Labor Day!
Pastor Kim



Women's Bible Study Continues into September

Our women's weekly Bible study will continue throughout the month of September, as we gather in the Fellowship Hall each Thursday from 5pm-6pm.

Over the past four weeks, we have made our way about halfway through our study book, entitled "The Names Of God" by author Melissa Spoelstra.

As we continue on through the next several weeks, we will cover the final chapters of the Participant Book, which introduces us to ... Yahweh, Adonai, Abba, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus. Please contact Pastor Kim for additional information at 843/685-3659 or lkeanes@umcsc.org.

Pastor's Office Hours

As a reminder, Pastor Kim's office hours are posted each week on the Welcome! page of the Sunday bulletin.

Office hours vary from week to week based upon church meetings and activities, UM District meetings, Continuing Education events, Bluffton area UM clergy gatherings, as well as other scheduled appointments.

Please be sure to consult the schedule in the Sunday bulletin each week so that you can stay up to date with Pastor Kim's scheduled office hours.

And please remember, if you are in need of a particular appointment time separate from the posted office hours, please don't hesitate to call Pastor Kim directly at 843/685-3659 and she will try her best to accommodate your request!



The Walterboro District Superintendency Committee hosted a Welcome! celebration for the new Walterboro District Superintendent, the Rev. Tiffany Knowlin Boykin on Sunday, August 16, 2026, at New Life UMC in Walterboro.

Pat Simmons and Pastor Kim attended the event, taking with them a gift bag for the new District Superintendent, complete with a St. Luke's coffee mug, a St. Luke's Cookbook, a Church History Sketch postcard, and a handmade clip angel necklace.

Rev. Knowlin Boykin was thrilled to receive these special gifts from St. Luke's and in an email of gratitude she wrote: "Thank you and the St. Luke family so much for the mug, cookbook, and little angel necklace. I am appreciative of your thoughtfulness. Thank you, St. Luke's family of faith!"



WOULD YOU PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER?

As I shared in my Pastor's Report at our most recent Church Council meeting, it is an honor and a privilege to serve in ministry with committed disciples of Jesus who serve in the church and in the community. Each year, the church enters a process to identify servant leaders who will help the church continue its' efforts to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world! We are entering such a process now, and I hope you will prayerfully consider your own gifts for leadership and service.

At the beginning of the new calendar year, there will be several opportunities for SERVICE in this inspired community of faith "where friends and faith meet!" In addition, there will be opportunities to serve on Administrative Committees and Lay Leadership. I hope you will prayerfully consider how you might be of service and nominate yourself in the coming days. And please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions about the specific ministry opportunities becoming available. The ONLY committee within the church of which the Pastor chairs, is the Nominations Committee - hence my direct solicitation to you in regard to filling these new positions.

If you inquire with other St. Luke's servants who are currently filling leadership positions in the church, you would be interested to know that the ONLY qualification necessary to serve in these ministry roles is as follows: you are a Christian disciple who takes seriously prayer, worship, study, service, spiritual relationships, and generosity...AND...who displays the fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Doesn't that sound easy enough? Indeed it does...through the power of the Holy Spirit!

Together, I believe we can continue to walk in our vision to be a Christ-centered congregation that uses its' spiritual gifts to meet the needs of the unique community which surrounds us. So, thank you, in advance, for prayerfully considering serving St. Luke's UMC in the year(s!) ahead!

Pastor Kim

SAVE THE DATE!!

UMC Walterboro District Lay Servant School

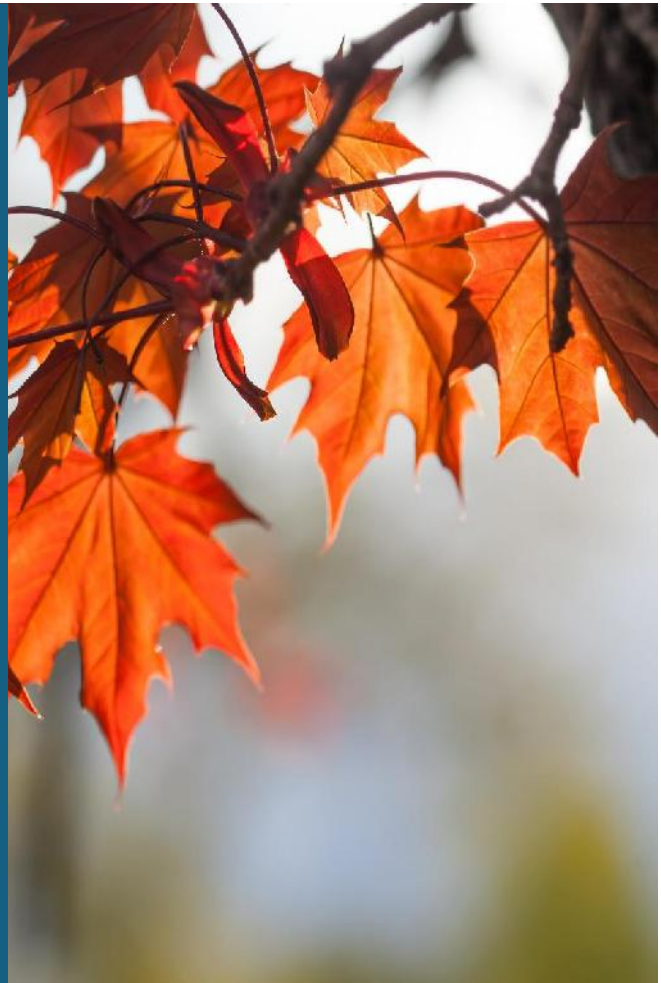
October 16-18, 2026

6:30 PM (UNTIL 9:00 PM) OPENING VIA ZOOM
OCTOBER 16

8:00 AM TO 1:00 PM OCTOBER 17 AND 2:00
PM TO 5:00 PM OCTOBER 18

CLOSING CEREMONY OCTOBER 18 - 5:00 PM
TO 6:00 PM

Bethel UMC
355 Hampton Street
Walterboro, SC



COURSES INCLUDE:

- 1) **Basic Course**
 - 2) **Preaching**
 - 3) **United Methodist Heritage**
 - 4) **Discovering Our Spiritual Gifts**
 - 5) **Ministry with the Forgotten (Dementia and Mental Illness)**
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The Walterboro District of the United Methodist Church Lay School is intended for all Members of the United Methodist Church who desire to become Lay Servants, Certified Lay Servants and Certified Lay Speakers. Registration for each class is \$25 and does not include the textbook required for that class. Depending on provider, textbook prices range from \$10 to \$25.

Additional Information will be included upon registration.

"The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, Love boldly, Serve joyfully, and Lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."

Is this your Dog?

As we browse through social media, you're sure to run across a photo of a dog or two with the caption, "Is this your dog? This poor baby looked lost, and we just couldn't leave him alone." Well-meaning folks post photos of dogs they find at shopping centers, on the side of the road, or in the rain. Their heart-felt sympathy and concern is poured out on the poor unfortunate pooch, who may be abandoned or separated from its family. Being long-time dog parents, we understand how we humans can feel such compassion for our furry friends. They become part of our families. Oh, that we would have as much compassion on people who are spiritually lost!

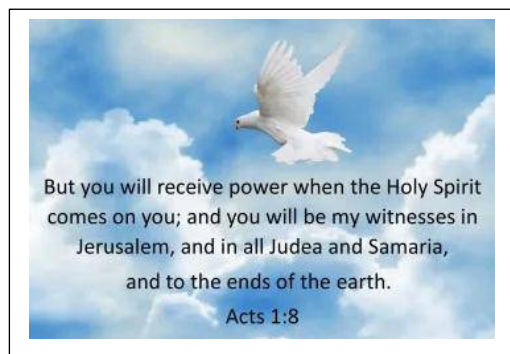


There are many recordings, in the bible, showing that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. When He sent out seventy disciples to evangelize, He said, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Luke 10:2). In Luke 15, Jesus tells the parable of the Lost sheep. How the shepherd leaves his herd of 99 behind, to search for the one lost sheep. When he is found, there is much celebration. There is also the parable of the lost coin in a short story told by Jesus in Luke 15:8-10 about a woman who searches her entire house for a single missing coin and celebrates with her neighbors when she finds it.

So important was the mission of evangelism, it was one of the last things the Lord instructed His followers to do. Just before He ascended back to heaven, He told the Apostles, "And you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8) We, as disciples of Christ, have been commissioned to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Evangelism requires communicating a clear message with words, not just good deeds alone. Our good deeds and examples are important, but we must reach out if we wish to find the lost. Invite that lost soul to church.

If we can help that one lost friend, stranger, or family member come to Christ, there will be much joy and celebration in heaven.

Will Ross,
Interim Council Chair



MEETINGS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



Mondays - Sept. 14—Men's Bible Study, 8:00 AM
 Every Tuesday—Choir Practice, 7:00 PM
 Thursdays –Women's Bible Study,
 Study 5:00-6:00 PM, Fellowship 5:30
 Tuesday, 09/08—Trustees, 9:00 AM
 Wednesday, 09/9—Missions, 1:00 PM
 ALL are welcome to attend.
 Wednesday, 9/30 – Blanket Ministry, 10:00 AM
 Wednesday, 9/30 - Visions/Project 150, 4:30 PM

OTHER EVENTS FOR ST. LUKE'S FAMILY

Graveyard Tour—Thurs. Sept. 17th at 10:00 AM

Come, bring a friend & learn about the History of St. Luke's UMC.



September's Color of the Month - Jersey Day!



And no ... that doesn't mean we are setting aside a special Sunday to celebrate all of our St. Luke's family of faith members who are formerly from New Jersey! Rather, as a "creative edit" to our regular Color of the Month celebration, you are invited to bring a little game day spirit into the House of God on **Sunday, Sept. 27th!**

Whether you have a Trademark jersey, a favorite T-shirt, or some fancy socks...whether you want to wrap yourself in a logo fleece blanket or annoy your pew neighbor by waving a Rally towel for an hour...please plan to wear your favorite team apparel to church on Sunday, Sept. 27th.

Most certainly, we might root for different squads outside of our church walls, but when we gather together for worship and fellowship, we belong to the "winning-est" team of all...TEAM JESUS!

So come as you are, invite a friend, show your pride in your 2nd favorite team (2nd only to Team Jesus!), and join us for an uplifting time of worship and community.



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. Sept. 12th, 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. Sept. 11th & 25th – 4:30-5:30 p.m. – Girl Scout Troop 4071

Fridays 6:00-7:45 p.m. – Depth & Weight AA Group



...The Reason we ask you to sign the attendance pad?....What Apportionments are?... Why we give to Epworth?...

Each week, everyone is asked to “sign” the **attendance pads**. The reason for this is because once a year...we are required to submit information to the SC United Methodist Conference about how many people we have in attendance, whether they are members or others. So, it is important for you to sign the attendance pad. Other numbers we are required to submit for our “Statistical Report” are gender, ethnicity, plus the amount we receive in donations from identified members along with anonymous cash donations we receive.

Recently, Pastor Kim showed the congregation a certificate which we received from the SC United Methodist Conference reporting that we had given 100% of our “**apportionments**” last year. Here is a definition: The main way we support the ministries of the church is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the churchwide budget to conferences and local churches.

For United Methodists this method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition. Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God's people.



LABOR DAY

Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday of September to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements in the United States.

Beginning in the late 19th century, as the trade union and labor movements grew, diverse groups of trade unionists chose a variety of days on which to celebrate labor. In the United States, a September holiday called Labor Day was first proposed in the early 1880s.

Alternative accounts of the event's origin exist. Descendants of two men with similar last names claim their great-grandfather was the true father of the holiday.

According to the early history of Labor Day, the event originated in connection with a General Assembly of the Knights of Labor convened in New York City in September 1882. In connection with this clandestine Knights assembly, a public parade of various labor organizations was held on September 5 under the auspices of the Central Labor Union (CLU) of New York. Secretary of the CLU Matthew Maguire is credited for proposing that a national Labor Day holiday subsequently be held on the first Monday of each September in the aftermath of this successful public demonstration.

An alternative theory maintains that the idea of Labor Day was the brainchild of Peter J. McGuire, a vice president of the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, which was a predecessor of the American Federation of Labor. After a visit to Toronto where he saw parades celebrating labor that May, he put forward the initial proposal in spring 1882. According to McGuire, on May 8, 1882, he made a proposition to the fledgling Central Labor Union in New York City that a day be set aside for a "general holiday for the laboring classes." According to McGuire he further recommended that the event should begin with a street parade as a public demonstration of organized labor's solidarity and strength, with the march followed by a picnic, to which participating local unions could sell tickets as a fundraiser. According to McGuire he suggested the first Monday in September as an ideal date for such a public celebration, owing to optimum weather and the date's place on the calendar, sitting midway between the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving public holidays.

Labor Day picnics and other public gatherings frequently featured speeches by prominent labor leaders.

In 1909, the American Federation of Labor convention designated the Sunday preceding Labor Day as "Labor Sunday", to be dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement. This secondary date failed to gain significant traction in popular culture, although some churches continue to acknowledge it.

The popularity of the event spread across the country. In 1887, Oregon became the first state of the U.S. to make Labor Day an official public holiday. By 1894, thirty U.S. states were officially celebrating Labor Day. In that year, shortly after the Pullman Strike, the Congress passed a bill recognizing the first Monday of September as Labor Day and making it an official federal holiday. President Grover Cleveland signed the bill into law on June 28. The federal law, however, only made it a holiday for federal workers. As late as the 1930s, unions were encouraging workers to strike to make sure they got the day off. All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories have subsequently made Labor Day a statutory holiday.

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Labor Day is called the “unofficial end of summer” because it marks the end of the U.S. culture’s nominal summer season. Of the 7% of Americans who take two-week vacations, many take their vacations during the two weeks ending Labor Day weekend. Many fall activities, such as school and sports (particularly football), begin about this time.

In the fashion world, Labor Day was once considered the last day it was acceptable to wear white or seersucker. The source of the tradition lies in part with the migration of wealthy 19th century New Yorkers back from their summer home Newport Mansions and accompanying change back from summer clothes. In the 2020s, some people have approved of wearing white year-round.

To take advantage of large numbers of potential customers with time to shop, Labor Day has become an important weekend for discounts and allowances by many retailers in the U.S.

Now that we have a little history about Labor Day, what does the Bible teach us about labor.

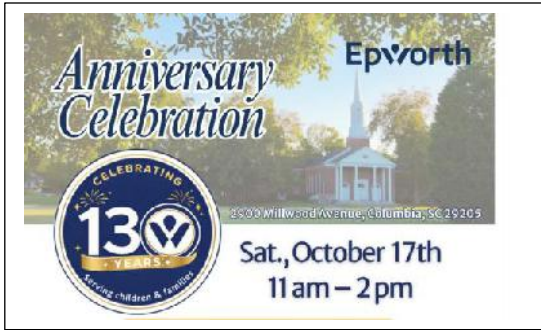
1. Labor as Stewardship and Purpose: From the beginning, God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden to “dress” and “keep” it (Genesis 2:15), showing that work is tied to caring for creation. This reflects stewardship—using God’s gifts to maintain and bless the world.
2. Diligence and Wholehearted Effort: Scripture encourages doing all tasks “with all your heart” (Colossians 3:23) and “with all your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Hard work brings profit, while laziness leads to poverty (Proverbs 14:23, 10:4). This diligence is not just about productivity but about honoring God in every effort.
3. Work as Service to God: The highest motivation is not human approval but serving the Lord (Colossians 3:23-24). Labor done for God’s kingdom is “not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58) with eternal rewards.
4. Rest and Balance: The Ten Commandments command six days of labor followed by Sabbath rest (Exodus 20:9-10), showing that work is part of a sacred rhythm honoring God’s creation.
5. Ethical Responsibility: The Bible warns against idleness that refuses responsibility (2 Thessalonians 3:10) and calls for honest, productive work (Acts 20:35). Even those who work are to do so with integrity, sharing with others when possible.
6. Labor as a Calling: 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 frames labor as a quiet, honorable way of life that wins respect from outsiders. It’s not just physical toil but a moral and spiritual commitment to contribute to the community.

In summary: The Bible teaches that labor is a sacred part of life—rooted in God’s design, motivated by faith, and aimed at serving Him and others. It values diligence, integrity, and stewardship, while also recognizing the need for rest and balance. When done with a faithful heart, work becomes an act of worship and a means of building God’s kingdom.



Charlene King,
Lay Leader

Epworth Children's Home – 130 year celebration!



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

Join Epworth as they 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 their ministry over the past 130 years.

Enjoy a day filled with food, fun, games, entertainment, and fellowship for all ages as they 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. 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.

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

EPWORTH IS OUR MINISTRY! Because of faithful supporters like you, Epworth served **2,230 children, youth, and families** through its statewide programs in 2025. Every day, Epworth provides hope and healing for children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma, abuse, neglect, or loss. Through compassionate care and supportive services, lives are transformed and brighter futures become possible.

This long-standing tradition began when Methodists were challenged to give a day's wages to support the children at Epworth. Today, that same spirit of generosity continues as we support children, youth, and families served through Epworth's ministries across South Carolina. Remember Christ's command to let the little children come to him. Through your generosity, you become part of a ministry that offers hope, healing and a brighter future to those who need it most.

On **Sunday, September 13th**, our congregation will participate in the Annual Epworth WorkDay Offering to support the children, youth, and families served through Epworth's ministries across South Carolina. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to participate in this special offering.

(We are asked to support Epworth twice a year...on Mother's Day and Labor Day.)

Phyllis Sippel,
Epworth Representative



A merger of Visions and Project 150

A vision is a mental plan for the future. St. Luke's has always been filled with plans, looking ahead to growth and promise. Back in 1824 when the land was donated and the church was built; someone had a vision. The first fellowship hall was someone's vision as was our newly remodeled fellowship hall. I found an article about the church purchasing our organ. We know our cemetery started as someone's plan. Don't forget our pavilion, another example of vision.

We have people in our church who have more visions for the future of St. Luke's. We have some serious issues like a safety plan as well as ways to increase our membership and provide space for our fellowship and our meetings. The original Visions committee is merging with Project 150 because we know many hands make lighter work.

We need you! We need your ideas, your thoughts, your help. Join us on Wednesday, September 30 at 4:30 pm to share concerns, ideas, and dreams.

Can't wait to see you!

Jesus Loves Me

Many years ago, while watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I watched a Church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the Church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gate to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind, he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak.

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what the greatest lesson was ever learned in my 50 odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heart break and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me...the only thing that would comfort was this verse.

Jesus loves me this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong,
We are weak but he is strong...
Yes, Jesus loves me...
The Bible tells me so."

When he finished, the church was quiet. You actually could hear his footsteps as he shuffled back to his chair. I don't believe I will ever forget it.

A pastor once stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."

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Senior version of Jesus Loves Me

Here is a new version just for us who have white hair, or no hair at all. For us over middle age (or even those almost there) and all you others, check out this newest version of "Jesus Loves Me".

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as
snow. Though my sight is
growing dim, Still He bids me
trust in Him.

(Chorus) Yes, Jesus Loves
Me, Yes, Jesus Loves Me,
Yes, Jesus Loves Me, The
Bible Tells Me So.

Though my steps are oh, so
slow, With my hand in His I'll
go on through life let come
what may, He'll be there to
lead the way.

(Chorus)

Though I am no longer young, I
have much which He's begun.
Let me serve Christ with a smile,
Go with others the extra mile.

(Chorus) Yes, Jesus Loves Me,
Yes, Jesus Loves Me, Yes, Jesus
Loves Me, The Bible Tells Me So.

When the nights are dark and
long, In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

(Chorus)

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been
won. He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

(Chorus) Yes, Jesus Loves Me, Yes,
Jesus Loves Me, Yes, Jesus Loves
Me, The Bible Tells Me So.

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

(Chorus) Yes, Jesus Loves Me, Yes,
Jesus Loves Me, Yes, Jesus Loves
Me, The Bible Tells Me So.



Activities:

School is back in session. Aaron & Matthew went
back on August 7th.
All the Pryor kids are in full force forward movement
on the schooling and in their sports.

Spotlight on our Youth:

Here's Aaron in his
JROTC Drill uniform...



Dash is playing recreational flag football and
travel baseball at 10U (age 10 and under) while
Hudson is playing travel baseball 13U.

Kennedy is playing travel soccer U16.

All kiddos are pretty busy all week with practices
and most weekends competing in games, and
Randy says "loving every bit of it."

Matthew will start soccer in mid-
September, which is coming up soon!

Aaron is in JROTC and joined the JROTC
Drill Team.

He also had auditions this past week for 3
theater events and has roles in all of them!

Stayed tuned for what and when his events
will be happening!

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

Michelle Cramer,
Youth and Children's
Ministry



We recently heard a sermon about using your God-given gifts. This month, we have many ways you can use your gifts to serve hurting and less fortunate people in our community and thousands of miles away!

You can help children and struggling families in our community through your donations to Pritchardville Elementary, Bluffton Self Help, Family Promise, and Epworth Children's Home. Use your hands to help make blankets later in the month. Hand out fresh food to families at the Agape Food Pantry. More of a planner, join us at our Missions Committee meeting on September 9. Prefer to be more active, then join St. Luke's team at the Bluffton Walk for Water.

Thank you for each and every way you serve!

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, September 6

The food pantry at Bluffton Self Help is called **THE MARKET**. The Market transforms access to food into an opportunity for financial stability. By providing free, nutritious groceries and essentials, families can save up to \$500 per month and use those savings to meet other household needs. In 2025, 1,429 families shopped in The Market, representing a 23% increase over the previous year. The number of families seeking help continues to grow this year.

Bluffton Self Help is amazed at the faithful and generous donations they receive from St. Luke's each month! Lois Willig will be in the parking lot before each worship service on September 6 to accept our donations. If you have items to donate later in the month, please leave them in the Bluffton Self Help basket in the Fellowship Hall. Here is a list of the most needed items:



Non-Perishables

Canned Chicken & Canned Tuna	Canned Chili
Taco Kits, Salsa, Refried Beans	Canned Beef Stew
Hamburger Helper	Pasta & Pasta Sauce
Pancake Mix & Maple Syrup	Jelly
Rice & Rice Sides	Unsweetened Applesauce
Canned Fruit	Spaghetti-O's
Shelf Stable Salad Dressing	Hearty Soups
Shelf Stable Cheese (Velveeta)	Canned Ravioli
Flour, Sugar	Cooking Oil
Shelf Stable Almond Milk	Ketchup, Mustard

Hygiene Items: Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash

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

Cont'd...



Thank you to everyone who contributes food each month for the hot meals that we provide for the homeless children and their parents living at the Freedom House shelter.



This month we will provide meals on Thursday, September 24, and Friday, September 25. Beginning September 6, we will have a sign-up sheet on the sanctuary bulletin board. Please stop by to see if you can help with the items needed. We will collect all the donations in the Fellowship Hall between **9:00-9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 24.** If you donate non-perishables, you may leave them in the basket in the Fellowship Hall labeled for Family Promise. If you need to make other arrangements, or have questions, please contact Linda Fisher at dlfisher4@hotmail.com.



One of the ongoing needs of the Freedom House shelter is bed sheets. Using St. Luke's Missions funds, we purchased twenty sets of twin-size sheets for them. Elizabeth Vance helped with the purchase and delivery last week.



PRITCHARDVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Pritchardville Elementary Support

Snacks -- School is back in session, and we are continuing our support for the students in need at Pritchardville Elementary. We used St. Luke's Missions Funds to purchase snacks, and the children are loving them! It is difficult for students to focus and learn if they are hungry. Supplying snacks is just one way we help throughout the year.

Prizes – Pritchardville Elementary holds three Multi-Language (ML) Night events each year for the families of the students in their English as a Second Language program. These events are essential for keeping families engaged and actively involved in their children's education. The next ML night will take place later this month. If you can help us support this event by donating prizes, here is a list of suggested items:

- Kids coloring books (example: Bluey, Hello Kitty, Elmo, etc.)
- Coloring supplies (crayons, markers, etc.)
- Small stuffed animals (about the size of a beanie baby)
- Household cleaning items (wipes, paper towels, trash bags, etc.)
- Self-care items (soap, hairbrush, pouches for items, etc.)

Please drop off your donations in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, September 20. If you have any questions, please contact Lois Willig at willigwp@hotmail.com.

Pritchardville Elementary is very appreciative for the support we give them throughout the year. Below are two letters we received from the principal and social worker before school ended last year.



Pritchardville Elementary School
9447 Evan Way
Bluffton, South Carolina 29910



Mrs. Brenda Blue
Principal

Mrs. Emily Gray
Assistant Principal

843-707-0500

Fax 843-707-8119

March 17, 2026

Dear Members of St. Luke's Church,

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of the school and the Multiple Language Learners (MLL) group, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the continued support you have shown to our community. Your generosity and commitment have made a significant impact on the success of our school and the MLL program.

The MLL group holds three family night reunions each year, which bring together families from diverse cultural backgrounds who speak English as their second language. These events are essential in keeping families engaged and actively involved in their children's education. Thanks to your unwavering patronage, we can foster an environment where families can connect, learn, and grow together.

We have already held two family reunions this year, and they were a great success. The toys, games, gift cards, books, and other gifts you generously provided for the participants helped make these gatherings very special and meaningful for our families.

We are deeply thankful to your congregation for your dedication and attentiveness to our cause. Your kindness and willingness to help are invaluable, and we appreciate you more than words can express. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being such incredible partners in education.

With sincere gratitude,

Brenda Blue

School Principal

THANK YOU!

Dear St. Luke's United Methodist Church,

My name is Ashley Owlett, and I am the school social worker at Pritchardville Elementary School in Bluffton, South Carolina. I wanted to personally thank you for your incredible support during the 2025-2026 school year!

Your generosity has made a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and families. Your assistance with providing new uniforms ensured that our students could come to school feeling confident, comfortable, and ready to learn.

The Christmas gifts you so thoughtfully provided truly touched our families and made their holiday season so much brighter. One of the highlights of my year was working with families to help select meaningful gifts ideas, and seeing the care your team put into beautifully wrapping and delivering each one to Pritchardville. The joy and excitement on the faces of our families was unforgettable!

Your snack donations have also been greatly appreciated by both students and teachers, helping to support our classrooms each day. No kid is hungry, which is incredibly important!

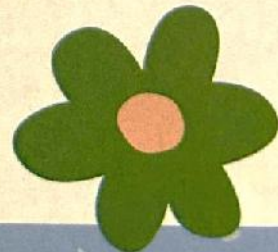
Additionally, we are grateful for your involvement in our Multilingual Learner Night, a special event where we celebrate and recognize the multilingual families who help our school and community thrive. Your support helped make the evening welcoming and memorable for all who attended.

Your kindness continues to reach far beyond what words can fully express.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

A special thank you to Lois for her kindness and willingness to help at every turn. As someone new to the district, your support has meant so much to me personally, and I am truly grateful.

On behalf of our entire school community, thank you for your compassion and generosity. We are looking forward to working with you next school year. If you need anything, please reach out!

Sincerely,
Ashley Owlett
School Social Worker
Pritchardville Elementary
School



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.

Blanket Ministry, *Wednesday, September 30, 10:00 AM*

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday**, September 30, at 10:00 a.m. to make no-sew blankets for our church family and friends who are experiencing health issues. If you can tie a knot, you can make blankets! 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 extra 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!



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.

Please remember to save your "pull-tabs" and bring them in for us to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. The container to the right is in the Fellowship Hall.





Walk for Water (October 3) – Sign Up Now & Invite Your Neighbors!

The Bluffton Walk for Water will take place on **Saturday, October 3**. Walkers will assemble at Bluffton United Methodist Church, 101 Calhoun St, for check-in starting at 8:00 a.m. The walk begins at 9:00 a.m. Walk for Water is a fundraiser for Water Mission, a Charleston, SC, Christian engineering nonprofit that builds sustainable safe water solutions for people in developing countries, refugee camps, and disaster areas.

Since 2001, Water Mission has served more than 8 million people in 60 countries, sharing safe water and the message of God's love. Over two billion people around the world lack access to safe water. But there is hope! Charity Navigator has awarded Water Mission its top four-star rating for 15 years. To learn more, visit watermission.org.

This will be St. Luke's second year as a sponsor. We had about twenty walkers on our team last year. The walk is approximately three miles, but they have golf carts available if you need to shorten your walk.

To REGISTER:

Start at <https://walkforwater.rallybound.org/2026-beaufort-walk-for-water>, scroll down to Top Teams and click on View All. Our team's name is **St. Luke's UMC - Okatie** and will appear on the list. On the far right, click on the head silhouettes and JOIN will appear.

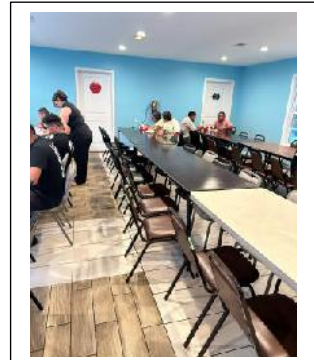
If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Cramer at mviolin2003@yahoo.com, or Linda Fisher at dlfisher4@hotmail.com.

Memorial Gift...

When David Fisher passed, his wife Linda decided to use the memorial donations in his honor to purchase new chairs for the Fellowship Hall. The chairs we had were various types and some were beginning to deteriorate. Before our new chairs were delivered, we had to decide what to do with the chairs we had. A suggestion was to donate them to another church. Our previous lawncare man, Miguel Monzon was contacted and he gladly accepted the chairs for his church.

He sent a note saying:

"We are so blessed and thankful to have these chairs. You made our day!" He also sent these photos:





HISTORY HAPPENINGS

Fort Mitchel

Did you know that there is a Civil War fort on Hilton Head? The Heritage Library on the Island maintains the fort and offers tours in the spring and fall.

Fort Mitchel stands on 2.4 acres of land originally granted in 1698 to John Bayley of County Tipperary, Ireland by the Lords Proprietors of Carolina. The land was occupied by the Yemassee Indians from 1684 until their expulsion following the 1750 Yemassee War.

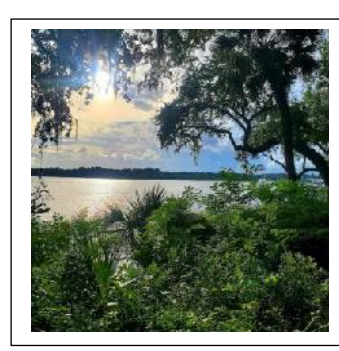
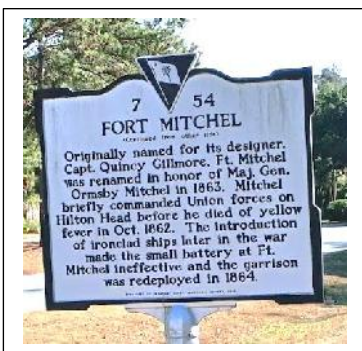
During the Revolutionary War the area was owned by Lieutenant John Talbird who later represented the island in the South Carolina Legislature. Early in the 19th century it was incorporated by planter Thomas Henry Barksdale into his 2600-acre Skull Creek Plantation. Following this 1883 death, it was purchased by planter William Seabrook and was confiscated by the US Army November 7, 1861.

The ground at Fort Mitchel is some 17 feet above the water level of Skull Creek, a perfect location for a battery to close the waterway to traffic between Savannah and Port Royal.

Lincoln and his advisors thought they could end the Civil War more quickly by blockading Southern Ports. There were four blockading squadrons: North and South Atlantic and East and West Gulf Coast. Commodore Samuel Francis DuPont was to head up the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron whose goal was to blockade Charleston and Savannah. He had a choice of three possible sites for his base of operations: Amelia Island, Tybee Island or Hilton Head Island. There was a Confederate fort, Fort Walker, under construction at Hilton Head, starting July 1861. Across Port Royal Sound on St. Phillips Island another fort, Fort Beauregard, was also being built. These two forts could control the entrance to Port Royal sound, which is one of the best natural harbors on the East Coast.

General Dupont amassed a fleet of 77 ships which left from Hampton Roads, Virginia at the end of October. These included troop transports carrying over 12,000 Union soldiers, supply ships, and gun boats. His strategy was called the Circle of Fire. On November 7, 1861, he had his gunboats circle between the two before 3:00 that afternoon when the 12,653 troops, under the command of General Thomas Sherman, came ashore on Hilton Head Island in the largest amphibious landing by American forces until World War II. Hilton Head not only served as the naval base for the South Atlantic Blockading squadron but also as the Union Army's base for the Department of the South, with over 30,000 troops stationed here throughout the Civil War.

Check the Heritage Library website for information on touring this earthen works fort. It is fascinating.



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.

"Hurricane Season and Electricity"

By Jean Tanner

We've all heard the phrase, "you CAN be replaced", maybe by a disgruntled boss or even friends in a competition match, but more than likely it is said jokingly, because each of us are irreplaceable. By offering something to the world that only we, as a person, possessing our own personalities that can't be duplicated, we become a unique organism that when no longer here will absolutely be missed, just by maybe being that special friend to someone in need, or being that outstanding person that has contributed astronomically to the world.

But material things, unlike humans, can be replaced and one "special" material thing we depend on and definitely don't like to be without is electricity. Electricity to our homes is taken for granted, faithfully thinking it's there, 'til it's not there when we 'flip' the switch. Gregory Dickow said: "Faith is like electricity. You can't see it, but you can see the light."

With Beaufort County having endured hurricanes and tropical storms over the past four years there have certainly been some areas of the county that have lost power, for some, short periods of time and others much longer. We had Hurricane Matthew in 2016, Tropical Storm Irma in 2017, Hurricane Florence in 2018, Hurricane Dorian in 2019 and a brush of Tropical Storm Isaias in August 2020. Hurricane season officially runs from June 1-November 30 so we never know when we might lose power.



When we do 'flip' the switch and there's no electricity we have to resort to the use of candles, flashlights, back-up generators and for some folks even an oil lamp if they're lucky enough to have one saved from another century. When using our oil lamp, during Hurricane Matthew brought back childhood memories of the many nights it provided light to complete homework for next day's school lesson.

When we think electricity, we automatically think of Thomas Edison and Benjamin Franklin. Thomas Alvin Edison, born in 1847, the 'electrical wizard', believed that "genius is about 2% inspiration and 98% perspiration." He invented the incandescent light bulb in 1879. He said, "We will make electricity so cheap that only the rich will burn candles."

Some of his other contributions to the world include the phonograph, motion picture camera and projector, telephone transmitter, dictating machine and the storage battery just to name a few.

Benjamin Franklin, born in 1706, often called 'America's patron Saint of common sense' was the first to prove that lightning and electricity are the same, when in 1752 he flew a specially rigged kite in a thunderstorm with the lightning providing the electric energy, and this was 127 years before Edison invented the light bulb.

Other than being a scientist and inventor, he was successful in many fields as an author, editor and printer, philosopher, diplomat and humorist. Being the 15th child in a family of 17, and his father being a candle maker, he used his wisdom, common sense (as in Poor Richard's Almanac) and tolerance helping him to shape the United States into the free democratic nation we know today, signing the Declaration of Independence, as well as the Constitution.

Cont'd...

...(cont'd)

Static electricity was actually discovered by Thales of Miletus, a Greek philosopher who lived 600 years before Christ, by rubbing a rod of amber briskly with a cloth causing small pieces of feather and the pith of plants attracted to the amber and clinging to it.

Current electricity was discovered after the discovery of static electricity by Luigi Galvani during the late 1700's by using a conductor, so electricity flowing along the conductor is called an 'electric current', once called 'galvanism' honoring Galvani.

Now-a-day, the long thin strands of copper wire that are buried under city streets across the country side are the 'nervous system of modern civilization.' The power of 50 thousand straining horses will flow through wires no larger around than your finger. We live in an age of electric power and without it as night draws nigh there is no light except for flickering candles and oil lamps. Electricity is the tool that man uses to make himself the master of his environment using it in factories, homes, store's, offices, on the farm, in communication and in medical science.

After a few days without power and with the hard work of electric companies working around the clock to restore it, in the 'blink of an eye' it's "lights, camera, action." The power is back on! Electricity, our needed friend, we missed you and we are grateful to have you back!

"Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity; it must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all."
William Faulkner

Some Miscellaneous Photos...



Jean Shaffer on her last day before moving to 1110 Marshall Road, Greenwood, SC.



Visiting with us...
Lynn Cutshall.
She attended with Carla Carte and Barbara Marangio.



We celebrated JW Harper's birthday the second time during our coffee time August 30th. The cake was delicious!!

Pictured with JW is his niece, Debra Williams.



A BACK AT AUGUST 2026

We started out in August improving our parking lot.



Screen shot from outside camera recording of Jack on tractor smoothing out the gravel. (Might need imagination to see.)



Pastor Kim & Alan Bethel
Ready for work!

Women's Bible Study began again in August!



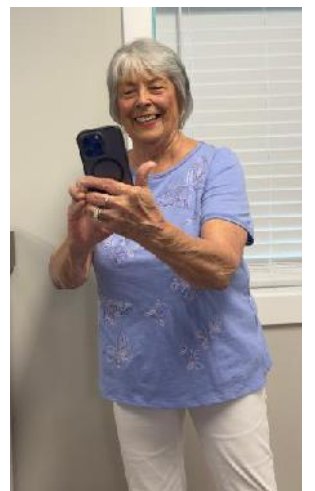
Dog Days of Summer Picnic and 99th birthday celebration!



JW's birthday cake (99 years)
donated by his wife Dell.



MORE FROM AUGUST...



There was a GREAT turnout for our "Dog Days of Summer Family Picnic"! It was a wonderful time of Fellowship! We did have some surprises, i.e. water spilling out all over the floor from a table we brought in from outside!

You take my picture...I'll take yours!!

0.

AND MORE PICNIC...



YELLOW?? DID SOMEONE SAY 'YELLOW?'



MORE YELLOW!!



Can you see that everyone is wearing “yellow glasses?” (courtesy of AI)



Story behind the glasses!
What timing! Dollar General had a promotion with Foster Grant where for a small donation to the Literacy Foundation you could purchase quality YELLOW sunglasses.

The thought was to outfit the entire congregation and when Pastor Kim welcomed us, she'd see a sea of cool yellow glasses

Unfortunately, it was near the end of the promotion. Even after numerous calls and trips to all the local Dollar General Stores, less than 2 dozen glasses were available. The effect was still priceless! Thank you to those good sports who participated!!



Singing hymns at Canterfield Assisted Living.



Even a few residents wore yellow.

Fellowship & Today's Worship



Three amigos...JW Harper,
Lois Finch & John Hubbard!



It was so good to see Lois!



Long time friends!



Blessing of the Blankets. Given to shut-ins & others recovering from surgeries or hospital stays.



Nancy Sariscak & Michele Elek arranging blankets on altar rail.



This is our new Facebook Logo.



MEMBERS & CONGREGANTS

Andy & Sharon Makarick

Randy Pryor

John Sariscak

Leslie Richards

Michael Brown

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CONGREGANTS

Steve Nelson, friend of Marie Baldauf

Karen, friend of Tina Blount

Niece of Jerry Vagnier

David Kennedy, friend of Tina Blount

Eileen, friend of Fran Iacovo

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

David and Lynn Clearwater, friends of Beverly and

Thomas Cook

Bethany Horry, granddaughter of Ouida Dell

Wanda, friend of Dawn Hall

June, sister of Janet Jacoby

Dawn Sharp, daughter of Beverly Cook

David Sharp, son of Beverly Cook

Kathy Haseem, friend of Nancy Sariscak

Dick, neighbor of Judi Landin

James Haas, grandson of friend of Dawn Hall

Louise, sister of Diana Hamilton

95-year-old grandmother of Michelle Cramer

Gloria, 100-year-old friend of Beverly Witzel

Carrie Tripp, niece of Mariah Fair

Pat Wilson, neighbor of Ouida Dell

Debbie, friend of Diana Hamilton

Colton, friend of Michele Elek

Debbie, friend of Michele Elek

Bergen Smith, niece of Linda Metcalf

Karen Wilson, sister of Bil Halstead

Judy Boswell, friend of Sheryl Ingram

Jake Rawl, neighbor of Beverly Cook

Rocky Gunjan, friend of visitor at today's service

Fred and Lisa, son and daughter-in-law of Elizabeth

Vance, their family and grandchild

Rue, daughter of Sandy Lowry

Husband of Linda Fisher's niece

Penny Christianson, friend of B.J. Scholer

Shirley, sister of David Hamilton

Carol Thompson, friend of Nancy Sariscak

Mother-in-law of Kathy Smith's daughter, Megan

Judith, friend of Fran Iacovo

Martha, friend of Fran Iacovo



*Our deepest prayers and sympathy
to Michelle Cramer and her family
on the passing of her grandfather.*

Let us remember with cards, and prayers...

CHURCH MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES,

ASSISTED LIVING OR HOMEBOUND

Ruth Dolan,

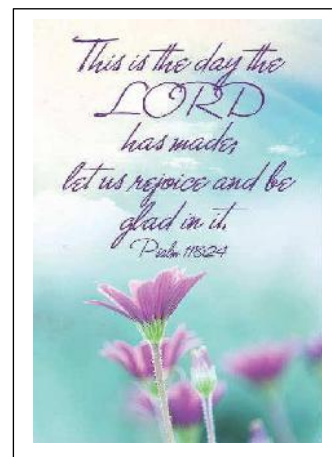
Summer Breeze, 351 Wilmington

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

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

OCT BIRTHDAYS

01 Susie Brown
01 Allen Webster
04 Matthew Metropolis
09 Dawn Hall
09 John Hubbard
09 Sharon Makarick
10 Phyllis Sippel
12 Bill Steffes
12 Bill Blosser
14 Chris Hauck
16 Doris Heck
16 Terry Tiffany
17 Carole Bethel
18 Bill Halstead
20 Peggy Firtion
24 Emma Jo Busby
29 Jerry Wick

SEPT ANNIVERSARIES

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

OCT ANNIVERSARIES

02 Meg Carmody & Stan O'Rear
13 Pat Schwartz & Will Ross
19 Karen & Alan Jordan
26 Bev & Don Witzel
28 Beverly & Tom Cook



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=LQQJ4d>

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



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

