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 11 **NOVEMBER 2026**



THANKING GOD FOR EVERYTHING!

One of my favorite Christian pop songs currently is entitled "Thank God", and it's sung by Leanna Crawford. The following are some of the song's lyrics:

> "Thank God for all the times that He said no
> Thank God He let me walk the harder road -
> Thank God that not too soon when I was lost His light broke through –
> Thank God that I don't need to walk alone –
> Thank God that it ain't me upon that throne –
> Thank God that while He's watching over me, He's still watching over you
> There's a part of all good stories where you wonder if the morning sun will shine again
> Sometimes faith is learning lessons, sometimes pain turns into blessings
> So I'm remembering to…thank God…"

The primary reason I enjoy this song so much is that it serves as a reminder to me that we need to thank God for everything – in all circumstances and for all things. Now, to be perfectly honest, I sometimes get incredibly frustrated when Christians talk about thanksgiving and gratitude "in all things and at all times" because that implies that we're supposed to be happy and have an abundance of joy no matter what! But I don't! Sometimes, I feel overwhelmed, frustrated, and even "lesser" in comparison with others! So how am I supposed to feel thankful TO God and be honest WITH God about my frustrations all at the same time?

There's this little church that sits off of Hwy 278 between Aiken and Bluffton which displays the following message on its' sign: "What if you woke up tomorrow with only what you thanked God for today?" This simple little church sign used to annoy me, but eventually I grew to realize that it is quite profound! For it affirms that, indeed, there are many things in this life which frustrate us. But simultaneously, there are so many things in life which bless us! So, which "category" do we focus on the most? And to piggyback on the church sign question – "what would we be sad about, if we woke up without it tomorrow?" Again, to do a little self-reflection here - do we find ourselves living out our frustration over the things we don't have or the things that "don't work out" more often than we practice thanking God for all the things we do have and all the blessings we continue to receive?

Now please don't misunderstand me here. I do not believe that God expects us to "fake our thankfulness". But God does expect us to focus upon the gifts God has given us and…at least be thankful for them!

Continued…

From the Pastor
Cont'd...

So, as we move closer to the beautiful season of Thanksgiving, and especially if you are struggling to practice an attitude of gratitude this time of year, I offer the following ideas:

Thank God for God's consistency in your life – food, shelter, loved ones, etc.
Thank God for something you find beautiful – nature, works of art, music
Thank God for someone special in your life – spouse, child, co-worker, friend, pet
Thank God for God's presence in your life – especially in the most difficult seasons
Thank God for the faith you have which provides all of the hope you'll ever need
And last but not least - "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever!" (1 Chronicles 16:34)

Happy Thanksgiving!
Pastor Kim



A NOTE OF APPRECIATION FOR "YOUR" APPRECIATION!

Dear St. Luke's Family –



I want to express my deep gratitude for the thoughtful cards and gifts you gave me in celebration of Pastor's Appreciation Month. Your personal gifts, which represented "some of my favorite things" (see picture) warmed my heart immensely. And your abundantly generous monetary gift is appreciated beyond measure.

The love and care that you have shown me through your words and kind acts remind me daily of how blessed I am to be traveling on this ministry journey alongside all of you. Our unity in sharing the Gospel, serving this community, and building the ministry of St. Luke's to the glory of God are not only ways that I appreciate all of YOU, individually and as the Body of Christ, but they are also consistent reminders of the divine blessing of my renewed call to ministry in this place and at this time with every single one of you.

Once again, thank YOU for your prayers, your partnership in ministry, and your passionate hearts for this church. I am so thankful for every single one of you and I am beyond excited about what God has in store for us in the days ahead. Thank you for the PRIVILEGE of serving as your pastor.

Pastor Kim

Charge Conference 2026

As I write this article, we are putting the final touches on the reports required for St. Luke's Charge Conference, 2026, which takes place on Sunday, November 1, 2026 at 12:30 PM at Church of the Palms UMC.

First off, I want to thank our Nominations Committee for their presence and sharing at all of our Nominations Committee meetings throughout the months of September and October. Thank you for your lifting of names, your sharing of church history, your phone calls and texts to nominees, your formulation of lists and charts, and ANYTHING ELSE I may be forgetting that you ALL did to make our nominations process smooth and successful!

Additionally, I want to thank all of our current and/or outgoing Servant Leaders for your input as to what our church teams and committees need in the year ahead in order to provide the best possible ministry we can offer to the St. Luke's family and our surrounding community! Thank you for the openness of your sharing along with your transparency in naming particular ministry needs. I look forward to your continued ministry and/or your gracious "passing of the mantle" to our incoming Servant Leaders.

Also, I want to express words of appreciation to our current Committee Chairpersons for submitting your budget needs to our Finance Team in a timely fashion for approval at our last Church Council meeting. And speaking of the Finance Team, thank you all for meeting together multiple times, keeping us focused on the priorities of our ministries, and "doing the math" toward a result which is in the best interest of our St. Luke's ministry arenas in 2027!

And of course, last BUT NOT least, thank you for the continued dedication of our behind the scenes administrative team, who researches the information needed for our CC forms, plugs in the names/numbers/stats, and submits the required forms accurately and professionally.

Clearly, we need EVERY WILLING hand and heart to fulfill this denominational responsibility! And I am so very grateful to each of you for caring enough about our beloved church that we have ministries to celebrate again this year, and every Charge Conference season!

In gratitude –
Pastor Kim

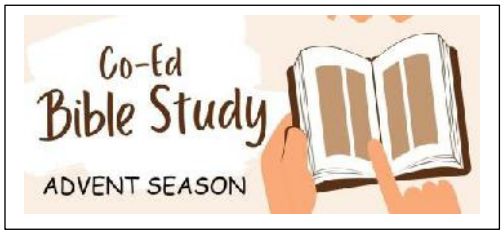
Pastor's Office Hours

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!



St. Luke's UMC will be offering a co-ed Advent Bible Study beginning Wednesday, December 2nd at 11 AM.

"Almost Christmas – A Wesleyan Advent Experience" will help participants come to an understanding between having an "almost Christmas" and having an "altogether Christmas".

Over our four-week study we will examine the traditional themes of the Advent journey – Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy and how, through Scripture references, the "Wesley brothers" considered these to be God's gifts to humanity.

No study book is required for this gathering. However, you are invited to bring your favorite translation of the Holy Scriptures. Weekly classes will be held every Wednesday at 11 AM on the following dates: December 2nd , December 9th , December 16th , and December23 rd , with an optional 5 th class to be offered on December 30 th if participants so desire. Both men and women are invited to attend! If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Kim: 843/685-3659 or lkeanes@umcsc.org.



ADVENT SEASON

Our St. Luke's Women's Bible Study fellowship will begin a new season of study on Thursday, November 19th at 5 PM in Fellowship Hall.

"Taste and See – Experiencing the Stories of Advent and Christmas" by Jan Johnson is an innovative way to actually become a part of the events surrounding the birth of the Christ child. Through our four weeks of gathering leading up to Christmas, we will aim to actually experience the events of Christmas ourselves. We will explore the tangible elements in the stories through the perspectives of the central figures of the Advent story. And through Scripture readings we will attempt to enter into the cultural and historical details surrounding the Advent journey. Hopefully, as we participate in this unique combination of Bible study and experiential learning, God will speak to each one of us personally in transforming new ways!

Our study schedule is as follows: Every Thursday at 5 PM on November 19th, December 3rd, December 10th, and December 17th, with a "potential closing session" on December 31st if participants so desire. No study book is needed but a spirit of imagination and creativity is required! Contact Pastor Kim with any questions you may have: 843/685-3659 or lkeanes@umcsc.org.

Thanksgiving All Year Long?



On November 11, 1620, about 102 settlers aboard the *Mayflower* arrived in the New World, and there was nothing to greet them except the harsh reality of a New England winter. Within five months, over half their number had died of starvation, cold, and disease. How amazing, then, that these "pilgrims" could still find reasons to be thankful in spite of such hardship!

In more modern times, Thanksgiving brings to mind warm memories of turkey and dressing, pumpkin pie, family togetherness, and football games on television. Thanksgiving is a time when we pause to remember how blessed we are as well as to reflect on how we are using those blessings. Sometimes, family members whose hearts are full of joy at such occasions might say, "I wish it could be Thanksgiving all year long!"

You know, we really ***ought*** to make every day a day of thanksgiving. The Bible says, "in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thess 5:18). I honestly don't believe that the pilgrims concentrated all their thankfulness into one single day, and neither should we! God's word teaches we would be much more joyful people if we would simply learn the habit of being grateful people. Here are some practical ideas:

- Every night, write down five specific blessings you experienced that day.
- At least once a week, take the time to write a note of gratitude to someone who has blessed you with their life.
- Every time you pray, listen to what you are really saying to God. Are my prayers concerned mostly with saying, "I want, I want, I want," or, "Thank You, Thank You, Thank You"?
- Each day, make it a point to tell just one person in your life something you admire and appreciate about them. Be specific, and DO NOT BE NEGATIVE.
- Never forget that everyone has three basic blessings: Life (Acts 17:28), Opportunity (Galatians 6:10), and the Lord (Titus 2:11). With these three blessings, even the poorest of the poor can be grateful.

I am thankful of my St Luke's Family.

Will Ross,
Interim Council Chair



Worship



Hello Church Family. The next couple of Months are special times in the life of the church. Sunday November 1st we will be observing All Saints Day. We will be honoring those members who have passed away this year by tolling a bell and lighting a candle in their Memory. Those being Honored will be William Trainer, David Fisher, June Hamilton and Michael Brown. We also have on display a Blue Board with little white clouds. We ask if there was someone special in your life who has passed this year to please write their name on a cloud and place it on the Board so that we can honor them as well.

Sunday November 8th will be Communion Sunday, and we will also be welcoming New Members.



On Tuesday, November 24th Church of the Palms will be hosting a Thanksgiving Service with St. Luke's UMC and Bluffton UMC at 6:00 PM. More details to follow.

On Saturday, November 28th at 10:00 AM we will decorate the church and place the luminaries in preparation for the Advent Season. All are welcome to help. Many hands make light work.







November 29th is the first Sunday of Advent. There will be a short reading and we will light the first candle on the wreath. This will happen each Sunday in Advent. I'll be looking for 2 volunteers for each service. One can do the reading and the other can light the candle.

Just a few dates for December so that you can put it on your calendar. On Saturday, December 12th Marsha Gerber and the Choir will be performing a Cantata. There will be more details in December regarding these services.



If anyone has comments, questions or suggestions please feel free to call or email me.

Thank you!

Nancy Sariscak,
Worship Committee Chair
412-770-8092
nlsack72@gmail.com



MEETINGS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Mondays —Men's Bible Study, 8:00 AM
Every Tuesday—Choir Practice, 6:00 PM
Thursdays –Women's Bible Study,
Study 5:00-6:00 PM, Fellowship 6:30
Tuesday, 11/10 —Trustees, 9:00 AM
Wednesday, 11/11—Missions, 1:00 PM
ALL are welcome to attend.
Tuesday, 11/17 - Project 150/Outreach, 4:00 PM

Other events for our Church family.

Nov. 24th, Tuesday – Thanksgiving Worship at Church of the Palms, 6:00 PM.

Nov. 28th, Saturday at 10:00 AM – Come help decorate our sanctuary for the Advent Season.

UPCOMING - Dec. 12th, Saturday at 4:00 PM, Chancel Choir performing a Cantata.

OTHER EVENTS FOR ST. LUKE'S FAMILY

Graveyard Tour—Thurs. Nov 19th at 10:00 AM
Come, bring a friend & learn about the History of St. Luke's UMC.



Are you interested in joining the History Committee? Perhaps you would like to be a guide or maybe a ghost. You might have some great ideas for church history projects. Maybe you just like history. Join us on Wednesday, December 2 at 2:00 p.m. for our reorganization meeting. Thank you!

November's Color(?) of the Month - FLANNEL & PLAID





Have you fired up those gas logs yet? Have you pulled those blankets down off of those closet shelves? Have you bought your pumpkin and spice coffees and lattes?

Well, you won't need any of those things to celebrate November's "Cozy Clothing Sunday" – St. Luke's latest "spin off" from our Color of the Month celebration! But you WILL need something flannel or something plaid! Cozy, universally owned, and offered in a variety of autumn colors, flannel and/or plaid is the "perfect look" for any celebration Sunday throughout the Fall season! So, drag out that rich burgundy, burnt orange, mustard yellow, olive green, or deep brown plaid or flannel shirt or skirt, and join us for worship on Sunday, November 22nd!

Hope to see you there!



UNITED METHODISM 101 CLASS CONTINUES THROUGH MID-NOVEMBER

Our United Methodism class will continue to meet weekly up to and including November 19th. We meet every Thursday at 3:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Participants simply need to bring notetaking supplies and a willingness to share in discussion!

Our first session covered an examination of the openness, flexibility, and diversity of the United Methodist denomination overall, as well as the local churches within the denominational connection.

Our second session introduced us to the history of United Methodism, as well as a thorough look into the Wesley family, the formation of Circuit Rider preachers, along with the importance of music in the United Methodist practice of worship.

Our final four sessions will offer an explanation of the theology and beliefs of the United Methodist denomination (10/29), the organization and governance of the connection called United Methodism (11/5), the present and future challenges of the United Methodist denomination (11/12), and finally, some current issues and concerns within the denomination called United Methodist (11/19).

All classes include a teaching section, a video section, and a discussion section. Please contact Pastor Kim if you have any questions 843/685-3659 or lkeanes@umcsc.org.

WOMEN'S RETREAT of FELLOWSHIP AND STUDY
To all women of St. Luke's Church, Save the Date: January 15 –17, 2027.



We have been invited by the women of Church of the Palms UMC to attend a Women's Retreat and Study at Epworth by the Sea on Saint Simons Island, GA. The Women of Bluffton United Methodist have also received an invitation to participate. The study will be led by Lee van Rensburg and Randall Haase.

The cost per person/per night with meals included are:

Single=$229.95, Double=$158.23, Triple=$123.98, Quad=$114.00. A $50.00 deposit is due no later than Sunday, November 15, 2026. The $50.00 deposit will be credited to your room fee. Make checks payable to Epworth by the Sea. I will be accepting the deposit checks on Sunday November 1, 8, and 15 at our church Fellowship Hall between services and after second service. If this does not work for you, please send me an email to discuss other options. I will give you a receipt and registration form to complete when I receive your deposit.

Other useful information: There will be coffee provided in the mornings in the building where your room is located. Check in time is 4:00 PM on the 15th (no later than 4:30 PM.) Check out time is 11:30 AM on the 17th. Maximum attendance is 65.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. I can be reached at vnclb@aol.com.

Elizabeth Vance
Retreat Coordinator for St. Luke's UMC

LAY LEADERSHIP
CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES
THRIVING THROUGH CONNECTION

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." **– Psalm 9:1**

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, bringing with it a season of reflection and gratitude. It is a time to pause, look around, and recognize the many blessings that fill our lives. As a second-grade teacher, one of my favorite Thanksgiving activities was asking my students to draw a picture of something they were thankful for and then write about it.



The drawings were always as unique as the children themselves. Some illustrated cherished family gatherings, others featured favorite foods piled high on the table, and many captured special moments and memories. I especially loved the crayon masterpieces depicting smiling faces gathered around a Thanksgiving feast. Those colorful drawings, filled with joy and innocence, were gifts in themselves, and I felt deeply thankful as my students proudly shared them with me.

Gratitude has the power to transform our hearts and minds. When we intentionally focus on our blessings, our perspective begins to shift. Challenges that once seemed overwhelming become more manageable, and we discover joy in life's simplest treasures, even in a child's crayon drawing. God calls us to count our blessings because He knows that thankfulness leads to deeper happiness, greater peace, and lasting contentment.



A thankful heart does more than bless the one who possesses it. Gratitude overflows into our words, actions, and relationships, becoming a source of encouragement and grace for others. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, may we take time to recognize God's goodness and share the gift of gratitude with everyone around us.

One of the most meaningful ways we express our thankfulness to God is through worship. Whether we worship through song, prayer, or service, we acknowledge His love and blessings in our lives. Worship deepens our relationship with God and reminds us of His constant goodness and mercy. It also unites us as a community, encouraging and strengthening one another in faith. Through worship, we not only celebrate our blessings but also invite God's presence to guide us each day.



Kathy Smith,
Lay Leader

Conference Separation Litigation

On Monday, the South Carolina Conference learned that Circuit Court Judge Brian M. Gibbons intends to issue an order dismissing the cases brought by the Conference and local United Methodist churches involving the 70 churches that have sought to separate from The United Methodist Church.

The final orders have not yet been written or entered. Attorneys representing the separating churches have been asked to prepare proposed orders for the judge's consideration and signature.

We recognize that this news may bring disappointment, concern and questions for many across our Connection. In moments such as these, we are reminded that our trust rests not in any single court decision or legal proceeding, but in the God who continues to lead the church through seasons of uncertainty and change.

At the same time, we remain committed to faithfully stewarding the responsibilities entrusted to us. We continue to consult closely with our legal counsel, and we intend to appeal these rulings to the South Carolina appellate courts. Our hope is to bring these matters before the appellate courts, potentially including the South Carolina Supreme Court, at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

We have long understood that, regardless of the trial court's decision, an appeal was likely. While we had hoped to approach that next step from a different position, this ruling provides an opportunity for the appellate courts to consider the important legal issues involved in these cases.

We continue to believe strongly in the factual and legal basis of our position, and we remain confident as the appellate process moves forward. These cases are not concluded by this ruling, and we believe the appellate courts will have an important opportunity to provide guidance consistent with applicable federal and state precedent.

As United Methodists, our calling extends beyond the courtroom. Even amid disagreement and uncertainty, we are called to remain people of grace, prayer and hope. We ask our clergy and laity to pray for all those involved – including the congregations on every side of these proceedings – and to resist allowing legal disputes to distract us from the mission Christ has given us.

"There remains much ministry before us," said Bishop Leonard Fairley, resident bishop of the South Carolina Conference. "People are hungry for the Gospel. Communities need healing and hope. Children and young people need places where they can discover the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Our neighbors need the church to be present with compassion, courage and grace.

"So, we will continue to seek justice faithfully, pursue the appropriate legal avenues available to us, and trust God with what lies ahead. And through it all, we will remain focused on our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

South Carolina United Methodists will move forward together – prayerfully, faithfully and with hope – trusting that God is still at work among us.

UMC SC

Epworth Children's Home – 130 year celebration!



Epworth celebrated 130 years of service to children and families October 17th and five St. Luke's family members joined in the festivities: Elizabeth Vance, Linda Fisher and sister, Barbara, Pat Simmons and Phyllis Sippel.



Despite scattered light rain and wind we had a lovely time. The uniform of the day was a blue raincoat. Blue is Epworth's color.

We enjoyed a personal golf car tour of the facility, delicious barbecue, fried chicken and YES, the peanut butter ice cream.

We had the opportunity to chat with Rev. Joens and Rev. Ken Nelson. We also met several proud alumni, one a graduate of the high school class of '59. (We learned that for the past 14 years every HS Senior has graduated!) The memorabilia on display included photos as far back as 1936.







The love and dedication of the staff and the happiness of children/families was very evident. Our contributions are appreciated and acknowledged.

I hope other members will have the opportunity to visit in the future. Attached are two photos from the past. I am certain some of you will recognize the styles of "back in the day".



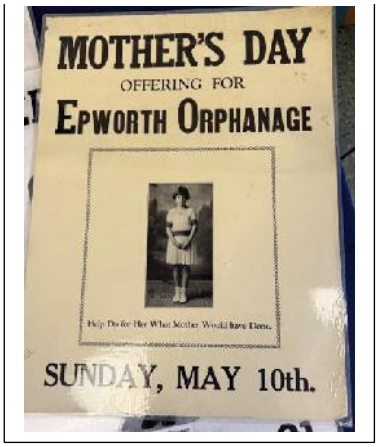
(A note from Epworth…) **We are grateful for you!**

Thank you for participating in Epworth's Work Day Offering this year.

Your generosity helps Epworth continue its mission of serving children, youth, and families across South Carolina. Each gift is a meaningful reminder of the faithful partnership between Epworth and the churches throughout our state.

For more than 130 years, churches like yours have helped make Epworth's ministry possible. We are incredibly grateful for your continued prayers, generosity, and commitment to the children and families we serve.

Thank you for being part of the Epworth family and for helping us continue this important ministry.





This is Haley, our tour guide. She did a great job!!





Phyllis Sippel,
Epworth Representative

Note emailed to Don King from Memory Matters (Group that uses our Fellowship Hall)

Subject: Checking In & Caregiver Education Opportunity

Hello Don,

How are you on this lovely Monday? I wanted to reach out and check in with you as we continue our new partnership.

We are incredibly blessed and thankful to have the Fellowship Hall space provided to us through St. Luke's Ministry. Having this space allows us to bring our Social Day Program to the community and provide meaningful support to local families.

Since starting at the end of July, we currently have **8 participants enrolled** in our Social Day Program, and we anticipate reaching our goal of 12 participants by October. That represents 12 families receiving respite and support, while their loved ones living with dementia have an opportunity to experience purpose, connection, socialization, and meaningful engagement with others.

We truly appreciate the opportunity that St. Luke's has given us, and I also wanted to check in to make sure we are caring for the Fellowship Hall in the way you would expect. Are we doing everything properly regarding setup, breakdown, and cleanliness? I want to make sure we are being good stewards of the space and meeting any expectations the church or Trustees may have.

I also wanted to ask whether the Trustees might be interested in Memory Matters offering a **Savvy Caregiver** class at St. Luke's. Savvy Caregiver is typically a 4–5 week course that meets once a week and is designed specifically for individuals who are actively caring for someone living with dementia. The course provides practical tools and strategies, education, and support in a group setting. It has truly been life-changing for many of the caregivers who have participated. I attached a flyer for you if it helped sharing the information.

I wasn't sure if this is something that could potentially be offered at the church and would be interested in hearing your thoughts. If the Trustees feel it would be a good fit, we would be happy to discuss what that could look like.

Thank you again for welcoming Memory Matters into the St. Luke's community. We are so grateful for the partnership and the opportunity to serve families in the area.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts!

Respectfully,
Michelle

memory matters *PRESENTS*

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It is hard to believe that November is here! All of our students are keeping busy.



If you are looking for a fun holiday activity, please join us for Lowcountry Holiday Spectacular.

The performances are December 12th and 13th at Hilton Head Island High School.

Aaron will be on stage singing with other talented singers and dancers.



Tickets go on sale November 10th and can be purchased at 33491.danceticketing.com.

Children & Youth Ministry

Spotlight on our Youth:

As Kennedy's travel soccer season and Hudson and Dash's travel baseball seasons come to an end, we Pryor's are looking forward to the offseason. It's a time to rest, recharge, and get back to work. We believe the offseason is just as important as the season itself: a time to build better habits, work harder, and grow not just as athletes, but as good young people. We are incredibly proud of their spiritual, athletic, and everyday growth. At the end of the day, raising good, grounded kids who put God first and work hard in everything they do will always be our biggest win!













Don't forget to drop your loose change into the jar for Change for Change. The students are collecting for **Palmetto Animal League (PAL)** this quarter.

Thank you for helping our youth make a difference in the lives of animals in our community.

Michelle Cramer,
Youth and Children's Ministry

November brings two things to mind – gratitude and giving. We are grateful for the blessings God has given us. We are grateful for our Missions Committee members who plan and help carry out the missions' ministry of our church. And we are grateful for everyone who participates in the missions' programs through your service and donations.

November is also the beginning of the "season of giving." In addition to our monthly donations of food for the needy, we can share our blessings and show Christ's love through Christmas gifts for Pritchardville children in need, or through the shoeboxes with gifts for children in distressed areas of the world. We can also give our time by volunteering at Agape. Please check out the opportunities below.

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, November 1

Some of the most meaningful investments in our community are the ones whose impact is consistent. St. Luke's (YOU) keep The Market at Bluffton Self Help stocked with nutritious food for our Lowcountry neighbors every month without fail.

Every week, families walk through the doors knowing they can choose the groceries that make sense for their households, stretch their budgets a little further, and put more of their hard-earned dollars toward building stability.

The volunteers at BSH thank you for your continued generosity, care, and compassion in serving the local community's needs.

Lois Willig will be in our parking lot before each service on Sunday, November 1, to collect our donations for Bluffton Self Help. If you have items to donate later in the month, please leave them in the basket labeled Bluffton Self Help in the Fellowship Hall. This month we hope to collect items for a Thanksgiving meal, along with always needed pantry items.




Peggy donating food.

For The Thanksgiving Table

Canned Peas & Corn	Pumpkin and Cranberry Sauce
Shelf Stable Salad Dressing	Canned Yams & Dried Potatoes
Cream Soups, Broth, Gravy	Stuffing Mix
Bread & Brownie Mix	Cake Mix & Frosting
Pudding Mix	Pie Filling & Pie Crusts
Large Disposable Roasting Pans	

Everyday Essentials

Canned Tuna & Chicken	Canned Chili & Beef Stew
Hearty Soups	Canned Tomatoes (all types)
Pasta & Pasta Sauce	Velveeta & Parmesan Cheese
Taco Kits, Salsa, Black Beans	White Rice
Skillet Meal Kits	Cooking Oil, Flour, & Sugar
Mayonnaise & Ketchup	

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




Full trunk of food for BSH!

Cont'd...

cont'd...

Our next opportunity to support the families living in the shelter with dinners will be **Tuesday, November 17 and Thursday, November 19**. Please stop by the sanctuary bulletin board beginning Sunday, November 1, and sign up to help supply the items for the dinners. We will collect all the donations in the Fellowship Hall between **9:00-9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 17**. 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.

Thank you to everyone for your support for the children and their parents living at the Freedom House shelter!



PRITCHARDVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Filling An Urgent Need



St. Luke's and Lois Willig to the rescue! We received a last-minute and urgent request last month from Pritchardville's social worker for smaller-size student uniform shirts. Since St. Luke's generously funds our missions' committee, Lois was able to use those funds to quickly order and deliver the needed uniforms. (30 smaller sized dark blue school polo shirts.)

Adopt A Student(s) for Christmas



We can help assure that all the children in need near our church receive gifts this Christmas. Lois Willig works with the Social Worker at Pritchardville Elementary to get the information for the children most in need. She then organizes the Adopt-a-Student program so that we can purchase gifts for one or more of them. You may select a girl or boy by age and wants. You receive a card with their first name and age, along with the students' needs, sizes, and wishes to take shopping with you. We wrap each gift separately to help with the excitement, and place each child's wrapped items in a large, well labeled sturdy holiday gift bag that aids in delivery.

Lois will be in the Fellowship Hall with the children's names and additional information beginning Sunday, November 15th. This gives you time to include younger relatives in shopping and wrapping over Thanksgiving, if you so desire.

Your Adopt-A-Student gift filled bags are due back on or before **Sunday December 6th** in the Fellowship Hall. The school organizes all our gifts so parents can come pick them up before their holiday break and hide them until their Christmas celebration at home. For questions or to make alternate arrangements, please contact Lois Willig 843.304.1086. What a blessing to be able to fill specific needs and wishes for our less privileged local children. An extra game or treats for the entire family, along with a personal card always brings additional Christmas joy.

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.

AGAPE
Family Life Center, Inc.

Agape Family Life Center Food Pantry, Saturdays & Wednesdays, 10:00-noon

Agape is another ministry in our community helping to feed needy families and seniors. They distribute fresh vegetables, fruits, meats, and breads that are donated by local grocery stores. Help is always needed and very much appreciated. Heavy lifting is not required, but you will be standing. You do not need to sign-up in advance – just show up. You also may want to wear your St. Luke's nametag.

Agape is located at 5855 Okatie Highway, Hardeeville -- just a short drive from our church. If you have questions, please contact Leslie Richards at leslieарichards717@gmail.com.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child (10/25-11/15/26)



By filling ordinary shoeboxes full of toys and other fun items, you can be part of giving boys and girls what may be their first gift ever! Local churches in more than one hundred nations hand out these Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts at festive outreach events where the Gospel is presented in a child-friendly way. Each box bursting with items such as a soccer ball, doll, or stuffed animal becomes a tangible expression of God's love to the child, their family, and their community.

Beginning on **Sunday, October 25**, you can pick up one or more shoeboxes at St. Luke's Fellowship Hall to fill with small gifts. We have pamphlets available explaining how to pack a box. Samaritan's Purse requests a donation of $10 per box to cover shipping and project costs. If you would prefer to build a box online, the cost is $30 per box, and the directions are also in the pamphlets. Drop off filled boxes in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings from November 1-15.

Leslie Richards (leslieарichards717@gmail.com) and Jane Tiffany (jane.khair@gmail.com) are coordinating this ministry for St. Luke's. If you fill a box online, please let either Leslie or Jane know. This will help them keep an accurate count of how many boxes are donated by St. Luke's. Please feel free to contact either of them if you have any questions.

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.



The Bluffton Walk for Water took place on **Saturday, October 3**. Here are some photos of the event.



Pastor Kim opened the event with a prayer.













HISTORY HAPPENINGS

Native Americans

November is often associated with Thanksgiving, a holiday that reminds many people of Native Americans and their important role in American history. However, one of the most common misconceptions about Native Americans is that they all share the same culture and traditions. In reality, there are about 500 Native American tribes today, each with its own unique language, history, and way of life. The rich diversity of Native American cultures is especially evident in South Carolina, home to several tribes whose unique histories and traditions helped to shape the state's heritage.

The first inhabitants of South Carolina were Native American peoples who were divided into regional groups based on where they lived and the languages they spoke. These groups, known as the Eastern Woodland tribes, occupied the land long before European settlers arrived. Although each tribe had its own unique customs and traditions, many South Carolina tribes shared languages from the Algonquian language family and passed down their history, beliefs, and cultural values through the oral tradition of storytelling. This practice helped preserve their rich heritage for future generations.

The three most important tribes in South Carolina were the Cherokee of the mountains, the Catawba of the Piedmont area and the Yemassee/Cusabo who lived along the coast. Today the many places in our state that bear the names given to them by Native Americans attest to the important role these tribes played in our history.

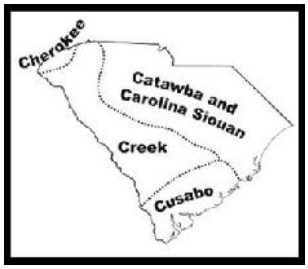
The Cherokee who were located in the northwestern part of the state near the North Carolina border, fought with the Catawba. The "real" people, as they referred to themselves, were a powerful nation and were one of the largest tribes in the United States.

The Catawba used South Carolina as their primary location. Other branches of the tribe included the Carolina Siouan found around PeeDee, Waterlee, Santee, and Waccamaw. Called the River People, they were a proud tribe and made a dangerous enemy. They fought other tribes for the British and protected the South Carolina colony from France and Spain.

The Cusabo were primarily found near Kiawah and Yemassee, living generally in the area between the Edisto and Savannah rivers. They originally were the only Native Americans who supported the colonists of South Carolina. The Yemassee in the southern portion of the state eventually fled to St. Augustine.

The Native American tribes of South Carolina played an important role in shaping the state's early history and culture. Although each tribe had its own unique traditions, languages, and beliefs, they all contributed to the rich heritage of the region. By learning about these tribes and their way of life, we can better understand and appreciate the people who first called South Carolina home. Preserving and honoring their history helps ensure that their cultures and contributions are remembered for future generations.


Cherokee




Cusabo

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 following was published in the Bluffton Packet November 23, 2016!

"Fried Chicken Anyone?"

By Jean Tanner

Thanksgiving gatherings, when family members young and old come from near and far to gather around the family table to give blessings for the meal prepared and to fellowship with loved ones they haven't seen in a while, have definitely changed since the Pilgrims landed on American soil aboard the ship, Mayflower, at Plymouth Rock.

Arguments of when and by whom the 1st Thanksgiving was celebrated could go on 'til-doom's-day', but we won't get into that, especially since as young school children we were commonly taught that it all began in 1621 with the Pilgrims, colonists and American Indians coming together to celebrate the harvests that year. Then in 1863 President Abraham Lincoln set aside the last Thursday in November of that year to give thanks and praise, but not until 1941 did congress rule Thanksgiving to be observed on the 4th Thursday of November and become a legal holiday.

For the legendary 1st Pilgrim's Thanksgiving, the meal consisted of wild game, mainly venison and fowl of some sort, not necessarily 'turkey', along with various vegetables and other grains, mainly corn, since that was their main harvest.

'Now-a-day' our younger generation has all together different preferences for their Thanksgiving meal. Since it is a day set aside when children and grandchildren make a special effort on 'planting-their-feet' under Pop and Meema's dinner table, I decided to offer on my menu dishes I prepare that I knew each one enjoy. When I forwarded my 'Thanksgiving menu' to the grandchildren listing the main meat dishes as 'Fried chicken', 'made from scratch meatloaf' and my own 'crab casserole', I got a 'rousing' approval immediately from granddaughter Cheryl with, "Wow, this menu looks absolutely amazing Meema. I absolutely LOVE that we are NOT having turkey or ham for Thanksgiving, every year you really 'out-do' yourself. I wouldn't miss that meal for anything. Tell us how we can help!!"

Of course, a half of small baked hen with cornbread dressing and plenty of 'giblet gravy' to smother it with, will be a 'must-have' for the older generation attendees, along with the standard (1955 created) green bean casserole, sweet potato casserole, macaroni and cheese, deviled eggs, oriental coleslaw, fresh-mulled down mustard greens, fluffy rice to hold some 2016 canned tomatoes, and oh, for dessert, I'm having "DIRT", which, by-the-way is better than it sounds.

Actually, an elderly gentleman and I shopping down the 'baking' aisle of the grocery store struck up a conversation on desserts and this 'dirt' recipe was one his 'mother-in-law' always fixed, placed in a 'brand-new' flower pot and served up with a garden trowel! A simple concoction containing instant vanilla pudding and crushed Oreo cookies, layered to the height of the garden container, placed in the fridge and dished up cold. I'm sharing this easy recipe and wishing everyone a very healthy and happy Thanksgiving Day!!

"DIRT" recipe

Cream together: 1 cup 10x sugar
1 (8oz.) cream cheese, softened
1 stick butter, softened
In separate bowl beat together:
2 pkgs. instant vanilla pudding
3 ½ cups milk

Add: 12 oz. Cool whip topping
Mix pudding mixture and cream cheese mixture together
Crush 12 oz. pkg. Orea cookies
Then starting with crushed Oreo's, create layers with filling and Oreo's until the container is filled.
Refrigerate until ready to serve. **Enjoy!!**

PLEASE NOTE – Don and Charlene King are the contacts for reserving the Fellowship Hall for an event or a meeting. Please contact them at Kingdc33063@yahoo.com or call (843) 368-7942.

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 not as a community center but as a "Christ Center" for the community!

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
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. Nov. 20th 4:30-5:30 p.m. – Girl Scout Troop 4071
Fridays 6:00-7:45 p.m. – Depth & Weight AA Group
Sat. Nov. 21st, 12:15 – 4:00 p.m.– Pamela Carter - card making

Miscellaneous photos



Chancel Choir practicing for Cantata.



Our new signage!





What can you see in our pond? Look closely, there may be some crosses.

A LOOK BACK AT OCTOBER 2026

Saturday, Oct. 10th Blessing of the Animals















Monthly tour of historic church & graveyard.













MORE FROM OCTOBER…

Oct. 17th Jack Reed's son had his wedding at St. Luke's UMC.





Our Social Event on Oct. 24th was very entertaining and interesting to learn about some of our former members now residing in the graveyard!



Shirley Stark, Don King, Chris Hauck, Jim Smith, Tina Topoleski & Kathy Smith.









AND MORE ...











And...there were other costumes...















Pastor Kim blessing the meal.

A good time was enjoyed by all who attended! Following the Skit from the History Committee...we had pizza & salad & played BINGO.



MORE!!



Some played Mexican Train while others played BINGO.





Pastor Kim called the BINGO numbers and we enjoyed pizza and salad.



Worship on Sunday, Oct. 25th the attire theme for the day was wear your favorite Halloween/Harvest sweater/shirt/jacket/sweatshirt!















The Historical Skit was performed again for Tina Topoleski's neighborhood group.





Can you see a ghost?













Not sure what was so funny!





Prayer Requests

MEMBERS & CONGREGANTS

Andy & Sharon Makarick Chick & Mim Mazon Linda O'Connor Ouida Dell
Shirley Hamilton Francine Iacovo Helen Van Veen John Hubbard

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CONGREGANTS

Steve Nelson, friend of Marie Baldauf
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
June, sister of Janet Jacoby
David Sharp, son of Beverly Cook
Colton, friend of Michele Elek
Debbie, friend of Michele Elek
Bergen Smith, niece of Linda Metcalf
Fred and Lisa, brother and sister-in-law of Elizabeth Vance, their family and grandchild, Silvia
Penny Christianson, friend of B.J. Scholer
Judith, friend of Fran Iacovo
Allison Scrabis, friend of Marie Baldauf
Diana Smail, extended family of Jim and Kathy Smith
Jim Derma, friend of Jane Tiffany
Gayle Malphus and her husband, neighbors of Beverly and Thomas Cook
Nikki Stover, friend of Michele Elek
The niece of Jerry Vagnier
Frank Archer, cousin of Nancy Sariscak

In Christian Sympathy

Our deepest prayers and sympathy to Allyn Perdue and family on the passing of his mother, Rosalyn, 10/21/2026.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to John Hubbard, and the family and friends of John's brother Wallace, on Wallace's recent passing.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of baby Brooklyn, granddaughter of friends of Ouida Dell, on Brooklyn's recent passing.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of James Downes, brother-in-law of Diana Hamilton, on James' recent passing.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to Susie Brown, family and friends of Michael, her husband who passed on 10/27/2026. A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, Nov. 6th at 3:00 p.m. followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.



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

Jean Shaffer, 1110 Marshall Road, Greenwood SC 29646





NOV BIRTHDAYS

04 Bud Silcox
05 Jane Tiffany
10 David Hamilton
10 George Ulrich
13 Margo Cservek
16 Phil Mitchell
18 Ouida Dell
21 Darrell Cady
21 Jon Hoin
21 Jim Shearer

DEC BIRTHDAYS

05 Kirk Gay
06 Don Gaddo
06 Don King
07 Bev Witzel
08 Judi Landin
09 Carl Rogers
10 Bill Metcalf
11 Don Witzel
12 Kathy Smith
18 Marnie Beebe
18 Nettie Peck
22 Cathy Hamlin
25 Jennifer Bernhard
25 Carol Rossa
30 Sharon Gaddo

NOV ANNIVERSARIES

07 Judi & Gary Landin
08 Margie & Bill Steffes

DEC ANNIVERSARIES

09 Janet & Dave Jacoby
23 Jeananne & Gary Cranston





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

