



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 10

OCTOBER 2026



CELEBRATION...NOT FEAR!

Jack O'Lanterns, front porch skeletons, cotton spiderwebs clinging to garage lights...these are typical sights we start seeing in our neighborhoods at this time of year and throughout the month of October. Simultaneously, ads for Graveyard Tours, Ghost Trail Walks, and Haunted House Outings are posting constantly on our internet feeds. Most certainly, Halloween, as our consumerist culture defines it, is all around us! And there's no escaping "the spooky"! But there is actually an interesting aspect of this popular Holiday which goes much deeper than the colorful costumes and the enjoyable sugar rush.

While many of us have heard the argument that "Halloween is rooted in the occult" and thus it must be "banned from all things Christian", Halloween is, in fact, the first day of a Christian triduum called "Hallowtide", a three-day religious observance made up of Halloween, All Saint's Day, and All Soul's Day.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God". (Hebrews 12:1-2)

This Hallowtide observance is meant to urge our hearts and our imaginations toward the anticipation of the end of our lives, and the accompanying celebration of Christ's glorious defeat over sin and death! On Halloween, we are called to remember our own mortality; on All Saint's Day we are called to remember the great saints of old; and on All Soul's Day we remember our departed loved ones. Understanding Hallowtide in this way, can help us recover the original vision of this meaningful three-day observance, and re-orient our hearts toward gratitude for Christ's saving work.

"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

So instead of "dreading Halloween"...or "cursing Halloween"...or "ignoring Halloween" altogether, why don't we choose to celebrate the great Truths of our Christian faith which reside in the glorious promises of...resurrection from earthly death...and everlasting life with God!

"Be still my soul! The hour is hastening on,
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul! When change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed, we shall meet at last!"
(Be Still My Soul; von Schlegel, 1752; Sibelius, 1899; UMH #534/vs. 3)

- Pastor Kim

HELP WANTED!

St. Luke's UMC is looking for committed disciples of Christ from across the congregation to nominate themselves for service teams, committees, and Church Council - all of which are critical to the successful ministry of our church!

Here are some general rules for serving:



- Your service is strictly voluntary
- You commit to a term of service of UP TO three years
- You become eligible to serve a second three year term, however, a second term is NOT required and is at the discretion of the Nominations Committee
- Your attendance at Committee meetings is essential

Current openings include: Church Council Chair, Recording Secretary for Church Council, Worship Committee Chair, Missions Committee Chair, Project 150/Visions Committee member, Outreach Committee member, and Worship Committee member.

Spots are filling up fast! Please talk to Pastor Kim or a member of the St. Luke's Nominations Committee TODAY...to secure your spot to serve! Thank you!

Pastor Kim

St. Luke's UMC Nominations Committee:

Pastor Kim, Chair	Jane Tiffany
Ouida Dell	Michelle Cramer
Letty Husson	Michele Elek
Leslie Richards	Charlene King
Sandy Lowry	Althea Serrant
Diane Moery	Kathy Smith

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!

Using Your God-Given Gifts & Talents To Help Others

What are you good at? What do you enjoy? You may have a gift for communication. You lead others and are good at public speaking or writing. Or perhaps you enjoy researching a topic or planning events. Are you good with numbers, or better with a hammer. No matter what it is, there is something that you're passionate about or good at.

Your areas of intelligence are God-given gifts. God has blessed each of us with unique talents and gifts.

God gave you these gifts. He wants you to use them to serve others and advance His kingdom. How do you find your God-given gifts and use them to make a positive impact on the world?

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. – James 1:17, NIV

Each of our gifts and talents was given to us uniquely by God. Whether you have an idea of what your gifts and talents are or not, I encourage you to explore them deeply.



Look at your work history. What were the daily tasks involved in each of your roles? Write them all down.

Now, bucket each task based on whether you found it energizing, de-energizing, or neutral. For instance, if you worked as an office admin, you might have found analyzing data in Excel to be an energy-sucking task. But talking to prospective customers was energizing for you. Take note of this.

Be careful of these common mistakes:

One trap that some people fall into is comparing their gifts and talents to those of their friends, family, and especially their coworkers. Your talents will differ from others. God gave us our gifts not so we can compare ourselves to others, but as a blessing uniquely so that we can serve God's plan.

Another mistake we see Christians make is putting too much importance on passion. Passion can certainly hint at your gifts and talents, but it is not the sole indicator of God's purpose for your life.



For example, Moses didn't have a passion for public speaking when God called him to stand up to Pharaoh, and Jonah had no desire to carry out his vocation in Nineveh.

Focus on your passion, but also look at some important problems close to God's heart.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. – 1 Peter 4:10, NIV

God calls us to be faithful stewards of our talents, using them to serve others and bring glory to Him. Whether your talent is speaking, serving, creating, or leading, there are countless ways to use your gifts to make a difference.

Your gifts are not just for personal gain. As Christians we concentrate on the benefit to others.

What does this mean in practice? You focus on the challenges God wants you to address rather than simply following your passion.

By aligning your talents with God's purpose, you can have a massive impact on the world around you.

God can use your professional life to further His kingdom. As Christians, we believe in pursuing activities that tackle real-world problems that matter to God. This could mean using your skills to address issues like poverty, disease, or spiritual darkness. Your talents can be more than just a job; they can be a powerful tool for change.

Using your gifts isn't about being perfect or always having it figured out. It's about letting God work through you, even when you can't see the complete picture.

Your God-given gifts and talents are powerful tools that can make a real difference in the lives of others. But you must use them. Wasting God's given talents is just that, a waste.

Your talents are a part of God's plan. When you use them to serve others, you are participating in His work to make the world a better place. When you use your talents in God's Church, you are truly a disciple of Jesus.

Will Ross, Council Chair

UNITED METHODISM ANYONE?

Pastor Kim will be teaching a United Methodist 101 class beginning in October. This class will cover materials for five consecutive weeks, and will include video lessons, in person discussion, handouts, and homework! The class is for anyone interested in learning about the United Methodist denomination from "square one" or simply "brushing up" on your United Methodist knowledge! An opportunity to become a member of St. Luke's UMC will also be offered at the close of the final session for anyone interested in Membership.

Class start-up date and time is still "to be determined." Pastor Kim would like to schedule the class for a time that is convenient for potential participants. So, if you would like to participate in United Methodism 101, please contact Pastor Kim directly and let her know of your availability! (843/685-3659 or lkeanes@umcsc.org)

We look forward to seeing you in class!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES THROUGH OCTOBER

As we move into the month of October, our Women's Bible Study will continue to meet on Thursday evenings from 5pm-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

October will bring to conclusion our current study entitled..."The Names of God", by author Melissa Spoelstra.

October 1st and 8th we will study Week 5: Adonai, Abba, and the Holy Spirit.

October 15th and 22nd we will conclude our study with Week 6: Jesus - Savior, Messiah, Redeemer, I Am, and Name Above All Names.

Even if you do not have a Participant Book, you are welcome to join us for fellowship, discussion, and the opportunity for personal growth.

Please contact Pastor Kim if you have any questions or if you need additional information: 843.685.3659 or lkeanes@umcsc.org.



MEETINGS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Mondays —Men's Bible Study, 8:00 AM

Tuesday—Choir Practice, 6:00 PM

Tuesday, 10/13—Trustees, 9:00 AM

Wednesday, 10/14—Missions, 1:00 PM

ALL are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, 10/28 – Blanket Ministry, 10:00 AM

Thursday, 10/22 – Church Council, 3:30 PM

Thursdays, Women's Bible Study, 5:00 PM

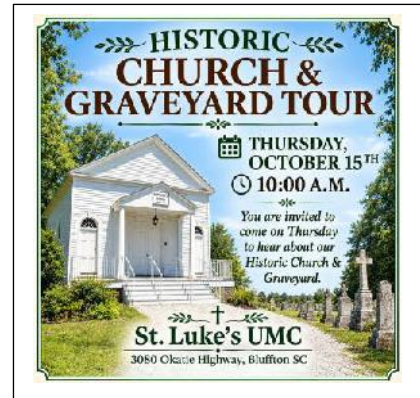
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS COMING TO A CHURCH NEAR YOU!

On Saturday, October 10th at 10 AM,

St. Luke's UMC will host a Blessing of the Animals in our Church Pavilion.

Graveyard Tour—Thurs. Oct. 15th at 10:00 AM

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



Blessing of the Animals services have a history that is centuries old. The roots go back to St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, who lived from 1181-1226. The feast day for Saint Francis is October 4th, so most blessing services take place in the Fall.

While the Blessing of the Animals service has Catholic history, Protestant churches have adopted the practice as a way to extend the love of Christ to our animal companions. The Blessing of the Animals service offers a chance to honor the love and companionship that animals provide, and to express gratitude for their presence in our lives.

The Blessing of the Animals service includes liturgy and hymns, as well as a special blessing for the animals, where humans and animals come forward together to receive the blessing. This blessing serves as a reminder that animals are part of God's creation and all of creation is God's.

The Blessing of the Animals service is not just limited to St. Luke's members and their pets. And ALL pets are welcome! So, tell your friends! Spread the word! Invite your neighbors! Questions? Contact Pastor Kim at 843.685.3659 or lkeanes@umcsc.org.

BLACK CATS - WITCHES - DANCING SKELETONS



On Sunday, October 25th, we will celebrate our Color of the Month Sunday with another creative modification!

In acknowledgement of our upcoming All Hallows Eve Holiday on October 31st, you are invited to wear your favorite Halloween/Harvest sweater/shirt/jacket/sweatshirt!

Smiling pumpkins, black cats singing to the moon...witches flying on broomsticks...skeletons dancing over graves...whatever "fun and colorful" item of clothing you have which represents Fall/Harvest/Halloween, you are invited to wear it to worship on Sunday, October 25th!

Please join us as we celebrate the season of Fall in this fun and creative end-of-the-month fellowship opportunity!



FREE SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS:

"Day-O: Harry Belafonte at 100"

Thursday, October 15, 2026, 7:30 pm, Martin Family Park, Bluffton

Get ready for a swinging celebration of the music of Harry Belafonte! Trinidad-born trumpeter, composer, and storyteller **Etienne Charles** and modern vocal icon **René Marie**, a two-time Grammy Award nominee, join Maestro **John Morris Russell** and the **Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra** for an evening filled with rhythms, melodies, and spirit of the Caribbean. From the beloved **"Day-O"** and **"Jump in the Line"** to **"Coconut Woman"** and **"Jamaican Farewell,"** experience the music that made Harry Belafonte a global icon—brought to life with authentic Caribbean rhythms, vibrant orchestral arrangements, and plenty of energy under the stars. Bring your blanket, lawn chair, family, and friends, and get ready to **calypso, sing, and celebrate!** To reserve a table, please call Mary O'Neill at (843) 815-2472.

Hope St. Luke's UMC people can come—it will be a great evening, and the price is right!

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, Oct. 24th, 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. Oct. 9th & 23rd – 4:30-5:30 p.m. – Girl Scout Troop 4071

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



Halloween & The Bible

Many believe that Halloween is a purely American tradition. Yet this is not true; the origins of the spooky season can be found in Europe. How old is Halloween? Well, as old as 2,000 years approximately! This means it is one of the oldest festivals of mankind. Evil spirits and supernatural beings were involved in the Celtic festival of Samhain (translation: Summer's End) which was celebrated at the end of the harvest season, respectively, the beginning of the new year, on October 31st. For the Celts, it was a magical time during which the gate to the realm of spirits was open, and ghosts, elves, demons, and other supernatural beings walked the earth. On Samhain, the Celtic druids held large bonfires to get in touch with them.

The name Halloween was established when the Catholic Church was on the rise in Europe. To gain more influence over the pagan Celts, the celebration of Samhain was given a "new look." The Christian feast of All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, was moved to November 1st. Samhain was renamed All Hallows' Eve, which was later shortened to Halloween. Both celebrations, which revolved essentially around spirits and the supernatural, thus merged into a unit.

Halloween as we know it today was shaped by Irish immigrants who arrived in the United States in the early 20th century. They brought their traditions and adapted them to their new country. About 100 years ago, Halloween celebrations in the United States became so dangerous that the holiday was known as Mischief Night. To keep the situation under control, American cities began promoting organized Halloween activities in the 1920s.

Parades, parties, costume contests, etc., are a must during today's Halloween celebrations. Places like Anoka in MN., the self-proclaimed "Halloween capital of the world," paved the way for this. In Anoka, the first official Halloween celebrations of the USA took place in 1920. Scary costumes became more popular in the 1930s, thus creating a huge market for Halloween products.

Other places to visit during Halloween is Dyker Heights in Brooklyn NY, the pumpkin flotilla in Central Park, Kenova Pumpkin House in Kenova West VA, Halloweentown St. Helens OR., Witchcraft in Salem MA.

During Halloween season, pumpkins are literally everywhere – on decorations, costumes, in cakes, and even in beer. The pumpkin as a Halloween symbol has its origin in the legend of Jack O'Lantern. It tells the story of the Irish blacksmith Jack Oldfield, who was so cunning that he even tricked the devil into not sending him to hell. However, being too much of a sinner to get into heaven, he was condemned to wander between the worlds with his lantern.

Originally, the lantern was hollowed out of turnip with glowing coal as its light source. When Halloween came to the USA, Americans replace the turnips with pumpkins because they are easier to carve and there is an abundant supply.



Bats embody Halloween like no other animal. That fact that those creatures of the night are associated with the celebration of horror can be traced back to the Celtic origins of Halloween. When ritual bonfires burned on Samhain, they attracted insects, which in turn are a food source for bats. Thus, the idea was born that bats appear when the portals to the spiritual realm are open.

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Black cats are another Halloween symbol. This superstition dates to the witch hunt in the Middle Ages. With an increasing number of alleged witches, items such as brooms or cauldrons that could be found in every household were declared tools of evil. Cats, being accustomed to staying near warm fireplaces, got under suspicion as “servants of the witches.” Black cats, creatures tinged with the color of death, were particularly frightening.



Today, people decorate their homes, fences, trees, nothing is safe on Halloween in the USA! Some decorations are quite to the extreme. The colors black, and orange stand for death and the fall. Americans decorate themselves. The tradition can be traced back to the Samhain celebration, too. The people disguised themselves to remain unnoticed by the spirits. Children go trick-or-treating for candy. This tradition goes back to the Celtic superstition that food and beverages in front of the front door will appease supernatural beings. Until the 1950s, it is common practice to distribute fruit, nuts, or even coins to children in the USA. This changed when the candy industry recognized the potential of the spooky holiday and began offering packaged candy, especially for Halloween. However, you celebrate Halloween, stay safe.

That brings me to the Bible and what it has to say about Halloween. The word Halloween isn't mentioned in the Bible, but there are principals in the Bible that can guide our views and actions related to it. Understanding these teachings can help us make choices that are both fun and aligned with our faith.

There are some key verses and ideas from the Bible that relate to Halloween. By examining these elements, we can better understand how to celebrate this holiday in a way that honors our beliefs. Let's consider how we can have fun while also being mindful of our Christian values.

Take time to read these scriptures in their entirety.

To shine: Matthew 5:24

Engage in the communities around us: Isaiah 9:2

Bring hope: Ephesians 5:8

Embrace togetherness: Hebrews 10:24-25

Our Battles: Ephesians 6:12, 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

Proactive in relationships: 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

Come together: Romans: 1:12

Value of Gathering: Matthew 18:20

Importance of community: Acts 2:26-47

Encouragement: 2 Corinthians 13:11

Creativity: Colossians 3:23

God-given gifts: 1 Peter 4:10

Express our creativity: Psalm 104:24-25

Creative skill: Exodus 35:34

God's image: Genesis 1:27

Kindness: Galatians 6:10

Service to Christ: Matthew 25:40

Generosity: Proverbs 11:25

Love: John 15:12

Interaction: Luke 6:31

The way we approach Halloween can truly reflect our Christians values. By focusing on the spiritual aspects of this holiday, we can enter a mindset of joy, love, and community. Through biblical principles, we are reminded to choose light or darkness, emphasize kindness, and promote goodness during this festive time. By engaging with creativity and building relationships, we usher in the spirit of celebration rooted faith.

Let us embrace this opportunity to be a witness of God's love in our lives, even as we enjoy the fun traditions that come with Halloween. Together, we can create meaningful experiences that highlight our faith while fostering joyful connections in our communities. May we celebrate in a way that honors God and blesses others, always shining in His light.



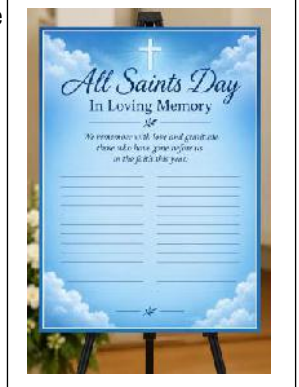
*Charlene King,
Lay Servant*

WORSHIP

Hello Church Family. I want to start off by thanking all of you who have so graciously volunteered to be Greeters/Ushers and Gospel Readers, Candle lighters Communion Stewards and Counters. These are all important rolls in making the Worship Service a wonderful experience.

The next couple of Months are special times in the life of the church. November starts off very busy. First of all, we'll be turning the clocks back 1 hour. We want to make sure that everyone makes it to church at the correct time.

Also, on Sunday November 1, 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 Bill Trainer, June Hamilton and Dave Fisher. We are going to have an addition this year to be able to honor friends and family who are not members of St. Luke's. We will have a banner displayed in the front of the church. In a container near the banner will be paper clouds which will be available for you to write the name of your loved one who has passed away this past year and you will then stick it on the banner. Hopefully this will be a meaningful way for you to honor your loved one.



Also, on Sunday November 1st there will be Annual Charge Conference held at Church of the Palms at 12:30. All are invited to attend.

With all of that going on, Pastor Kim and I decided it would be best to move Communion Sunday to the following week – November 8th. We will also be welcoming new Members and it seemed appropriate to do that on the same Sunday.

There will be more things coming up in November, but I will cover those in the November Newsletter.

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



Gracias, Merci, Danke, Grazie, in other words THANK YOU for your generosity for the annual Epworth Work Day Offering. We received **\$1,845**. As I have said before we are “small but mighty.”

This ministry, founded in 1896, is possible because of faithful supporters like you. You bring hope, faith and healing to the 2230 children, youth and families cared for by Epworth this year.

“A generous person will prosper: whoever refreshes others will be refreshed” Proverbs 11:25

LAST CALL: if you would like to attend the annual picnic on October 17th at Epworth, please contact me ASAP at 843-338-7846.

Presently, we have one seat left in the arranged carpools. The Barbecue lunch plate is \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children. Meals must be prepaid.

You can learn more about Epworth's programs online at www.epworthsc.org. A recent story, “Ann’s journey” as a single Mom is a testimony to the success of Epworth programs.

Phyllis Sippel,
Epworth Representative



**Halloween is just around
the corner and we have a
boo-tiful idea for fun!**

**Join us on October 24th at 4:00 PM
for an evening filled with
Giggles, Ghosts and Games!**

The History Committee has invited a few
of our graveyard residents to join us for a
while. After our guests have gone back to
their residences, we will have pizza and
salad.

Following dinner, we will end the evening
with Bingo, a church favorite! (Secret:
there will be prizes for the winners!

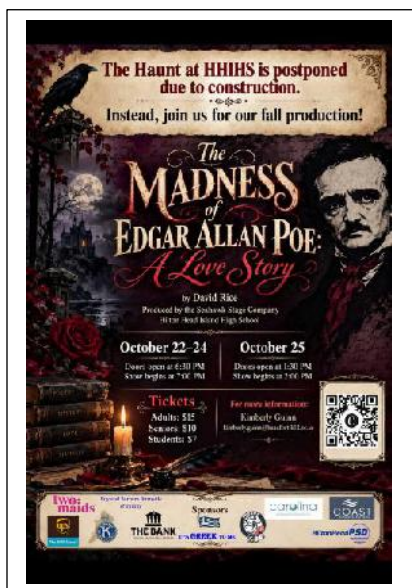
**Come and join us!
You will have a great evening!**



Spotlight on our Youth:

Our youth continue to be busy with school, activities, and plenty of adventures!

Aaron will have his first performance with the Seahawk Stage Company on October 22–25. He has a few minor roles in *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe: A Love Story*. Please note that this production uses the works of Edgar Allan Poe and may be considered somewhat “dark” and not suitable for younger audiences.



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

Activities:

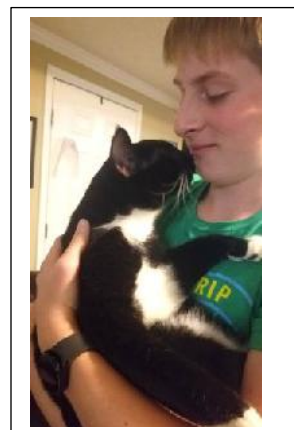
Matthew’s soccer team has won their last three games—way to go, Matthew and team! Aaron has been busy with JROTC Color Guard and has already begun moving up in rank. Kennedy, Hudson and Dash have also been keeping busy with their activities.



Change for Change is back!

We will have a jar or basket in the back of the sanctuary for your loose change. This quarter, the students have chosen to donate to **Palmetto Animal League (PAL)**.

PAL is near and dear to Matthew and Aaron’s hearts because they had the opportunity to foster kittens through PAL last summer. We also adopted our youngest cat, Montana, from PAL. Needless to say, this organization has a special place in our family’s heart!



Michelle Cramer,
Youth and Children’s
Ministry



Ready for some mission's math? If you have 18 items purchased by 15 people, what is the result? In September, the result was a plentiful dinner for 4 adults and 14 children staying at the Family Promise shelter for homeless children and their parents. The picture below shows the assembled meal that we delivered last Thursday: barbecued pork sandwiches with Cole slaw and pickles, mac & cheese, baked beans, and cupcakes for dessert! On Friday, we delivered 8 Domino's pizzas along with salad and cookies.

It's amazing how God uses our gifts, no matter the size. Our donations to Bluffton Self Help, combined with other donations, will feed families for weeks. Local elementary children will remember that the people at a nearby church cared about them. Small toys in a shoebox, sent to children thousands of miles away, may be the first or only expression of God's love they have seen. We tie fleece knots to make a blanket that will comfort someone who is ill. We support Walk for Water, and an entire community gets access to fresh water. God uses our gifts in ways that we may never see. We each do what we can, and God does the rest. That's mission's math!



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, October 4

As grocery prices rise, more families are turning to Bluffton Self Help's Market to put food on the table. Families who use the Market can save an estimated \$500 a month to use for gas, rent, and other expenses. When Lois Willig delivered our September donations, many staples were already gone. The items she delivered went directly from her car to the shelves. The staff was grateful to see her and receive St. Luke's generous donations!

Lois will be in the parking lot before each service on Sunday, October 4, 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. Although all donations are appreciated, here is a list of the most needed items:



Non-Perishable Food

Canned Chicken	Taco Kits, Salsa, Refried Beans
Canned Tuna	Pasta & Pasta Sauce
Hamburger Helper	Canned Beef Stew
Pancake Mix	Maple Syrup, Jelly
Canned Fruit	Unsweetened Applesauce
Hearty Soups	Canned Chilli
Cooking Oil	Flour & Sugar
Shelf Stable Milks	Shelf Stable Cheese (Velveeta)

Hygiene Items for Adults & Children

Shampoo, Conditioner Body Wash, Deodorant

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

Cont'd...



To support the families living in the shelter, our next opportunity to provide dinners will be on **October 22 and October 23.**



cont'd...

Please stop by the sanctuary bulletin board beginning Sunday, October 4, 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 Thursday, October 22.** 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!

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



Every child should have the opportunity to know about Jesus. When you fill a shoebox with small toys and gifts, Samaritan's Purse adds Christian literature in that child's language before delivering them to distressed areas of the world. The shoebox you fill may be the first time a child may hear the Good News or receive a Christmas gift.

Please pick up one or more shoeboxes in 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. **Filled boxes will only be accepted in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings from November 1st through the 15th.**

Leslie Richards (lesliearichards717@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.

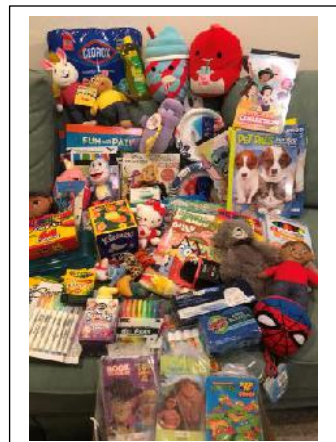


PRITCHARDVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Pritchardville Elementary Support

Pritchardville Elementary's Multi-Language Program is all inclusive encouraging the entire family to learn English. Their Family Game Nights provide positive reinforcement. Your Generosity and creativity in prizes is remarkable. Thank you for continued support.



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

Volunteers are always welcome and needed on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. to help sort and hand out fresh food to seniors and families in need. 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, on the right a few miles from the New River traffic circle. Volunteering at Agape is a wonderful way to meet the folks in our community that you are serving. Please contact Leslie Richards (lesliarichards717@gmail.com) if you have any questions about this ministry.

Blanket Ministry, Wednesday, October 28, 10:00 a.m.

Everyone is invited to help make no-sew blankets in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 28. We spend about an hour cutting fleece and tying simple knots. The finished blankets are given to our church family and friends who are experiencing health issues. Please consider bringing a bag lunch and joining us afterwards for a brief time of food and fellowship. This will be the last meeting of the Blanket Ministry for 2026. 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 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.



On Sunday, October 4, we will join United Methodists around the globe in celebrating World Communion Sunday. As we share in the bread and cup, we also share in a mission: building a church where leadership reflects the full body of Christ. Your gift changes lives with scholarships and training to empower students from underrepresented communities to serve and lead the church into the future.

To donate, please make your check payable to St. Luke's United Methodist Church, and note “World Communion Sunday” on the memo line. We will have a special offering envelope in the bulletin for your check or cash donation.



HISTORY HAPPENINGS

"America the Beautiful"

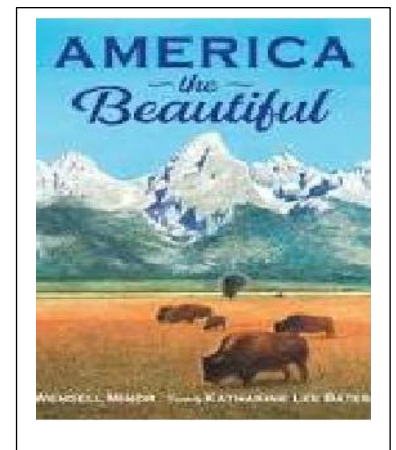
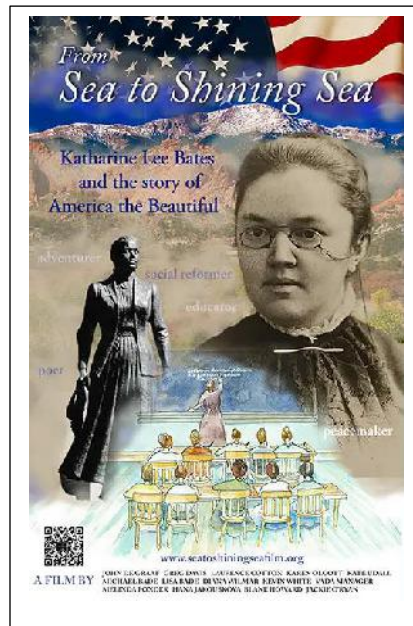
"America! America-God shed His grace on thee and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!"

These words from "America the Beautiful" echoed in my brain last week when Jim and I traveled by train to the top of Pike's Peak in Colorado. When we reached the top, I saw the tribute to Katherine Lee Bates. (Now, that's not the actress, Kathy Bates.) Katherine Lee Bates was a poet. She was born in Falmouth, MA in 1859. She graduated from Wellesley College and became an English professor at that college. She was known as a trailblazing American academic, a social activist and an author. She wrote, edited, or contributed between 30 to 49 books. The books included poetry collections, children's literature, travelogues and prose and textbooks.

In 1893 she went on a cross-country train ride. She climbed Pike's Peak, riding in a prairie wagon and on mules to get to the top. She was inspired to write a poem reflecting what she saw on this trip. This poem, "America," was first published in a weekly newspaper. She received the magnificent sum of \$5.00. Over the next twenty years she gave hundreds of free permissions for her poem to be included in church hymnals, Sunday school song books, etc.

Samuel Ward, an American composer, is remembered for the tune, "Materna," which he intended to use for the hymn "O Mother Dear, Jerusalem." It was published in 1892. In 1903, after Ward had died, editors combined Ward's hymn, "Materna," with Bates' poem, "America" to create the beautiful song, "America the Beautiful." The first combination that combined the two was published in 1910. Interestingly, Bates and Ward never met.

Bates hoped to inspire moral strength, unity, and gratitude for our country's blessings with her words. She believed that America's enduring "hold as it has upon our people, is clearly due to the fact that Americans are at heart idealists, with a fundamental faith in human brotherhood."



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.

“Black Cats & Jack-O’-Lanterns”

By Jean Tanner

October, being the first full month of fall, besides bringing in cooler temperatures, brings dazzling colors of yellows, oranges and reds we see on leaves, vibrant sunrises and sunsets, fruits ready for picking, including apples and various fall vegetables, especially ‘pumpkins’.

Pumpkins play an important role on a very special day, October 31st, Halloween! Although when pumpkins are harvested and ‘spring-up’ in displays, ranging from country roadside markets and the neighborhood grocer, appealing to the person searching for the ‘perfect’ size pumpkin to carve the ‘perfect’ Halloween Jack-o’-Lantern, the cook of the home is picking one out to set aside for Thanksgiving pumpkin pies.



There are two general groups of pumpkins, the big orange-colored stock pumpkin and the finer textured straw-colored cheese pumpkin. The cheese pumpkin is used for commercial canned pumpkin. The big, orange-colored pumpkin was brought to a high degree of perfection by the Indians before America was settled by Europeans.

Pumpkins often have been mentioned in songs, stories and poems. John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892) in his poem, “The Pumpkin”, refers to their use as jack-o’-lanterns when he wrote in one verse: “Oh, fruit loved of boyhood! The old days recalling, when wood grapes were purpling and brown nuts were falling! When wild, ugly faces we carved in its skin, glaring out through the dark with a candle within!”



The pumpkin, a member of the squash family, besides being a good source of vitamins A & C, is also a fair source of energy, but when Halloween arrives most young’uns have but one specific goal in mind for the pumpkin, and that is to carve the perfect, most scariest and original Jack-O’-Lantern! The jack-o’-lantern is a hollowed-out pumpkin which has eyes, nose and a mouth carved in on one side, then set to a warm glow from a candle placed inside that highlights the carved-out features, a perfect “welcome-light” to place on the doorstep for trick-or-treaters’.

If you don’t own a black cat as a pet to curl up on the step by the jack-o’-lantern to add a little ‘black-magic’ for your candy seeking guest, make a silhouette of one yourself out of heavy cardboard spray-painted black to ‘spook’ up the occasion. Although some persons believe black cats are unlucky, others claim black cats have brought them a fortune, so when your “trick-sters” drop by give them a “fortune” of treats to make them feel lucky for a happy Halloween!



Jean’s Front Yard Decoration



For those of you who may have missed Pastor Kim's Bluffton Sun article in the September 1st edition.

The heron, the egret, and the alligator



I am a newcomer to the Lowcountry. I am also an avid walker. This combination, then, has afforded me the delightful opportunity to get familiar with my new neighborhood — on foot! So, if the evening storm clouds aren't already brewing, I come in from work each day, immediately lace up my walking shoes and hit the pavement, eagerly awaiting the beautiful sights and sounds I will witness all around me as my Fitbit simultaneously clicks the steps off!

What I am privileged to see on any given evening of my walking adventures are Eastern gray squirrels and Southern fox squirrels, antlered white-tailed deer and speckled, curious little fawns, colorful backyard birds and slimy, slithering snakes, along with dark, stealthy alligators and stoic great birds of the Lowcountry! It is this last set of “creature discoveries” that causes me the deepest daily reflection ...

You see, as I watch the great blue heron perched at the edge of the same pond where a ginormous black alligator has beached himself a mere 40 yards away, or as I watch the great white egret stand serenely in the calf-high water of the very same creek in which a midsize alligator maneuvers herself downstream, I wonder ... how do they do it? How can they share the same space without attacking each other over territorial rights? How can they coexist in the same environment without trying to control or dominate the other's turf? How can these creatures be so radically different from each other and yet inhabit the same area so peacefully and/or peaceably?

This willingness to “live and let live” despite differences is an excellent lesson — and example — for us flawed human creatures! Throughout the month of August, the church I serve has been focusing upon the New Testament book of Romans. Just this past week, the Revised Common Lectionary has brought us to the 12th chapter of Romans — specifically, verse 18 — which reads as follows: “If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people” (CEB). In this verse, we find a recognition that getting along with some people in this world is often difficult, if not impossible! The Apostle Paul, who composed this letter, understands that our relationships with others are two-way streets. And there is only so much we can do! We cannot change the hearts of other individuals. We cannot force others to be like us or to give us the benefit of the doubt. Despite our best efforts, there will still be people who oppose us even when we go the extra mile to get along with them!

That reality, as the Apostle Paul continues to explain, should not stop us from continuing to strive for peace with others. Rather, we are called at all times and in all circumstances to be peacemakers and live harmoniously with others — as long as we do not compromise God's truth in the process.

But again, there is only so much we can do. And so “to the best of our ability,” God calls us only to do what is ours to do, namely: to apologize when we offend people unnecessarily, to seek the well-being even of our enemies and to make sure that we do not erect stumbling blocks to living at peace with others. If we do these things, we can be confident that we are doing what our Creator requires.

So...whether you are an egret, a heron or an alligator, just live your life in this sacred space we call “community,” and “if possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people.” Amen.

Rev. L. Kim Eanes is pastor at St. Luke's UMC in Okatie.

A **LOOK** BACK AT SEPTEMBER 2026

Some came out for our 'workday' to get ready for Music on the Grounds!



Ouida Dell & Judi Landin in their black & gold!



A great way to move picnic tables!!



Sandy Lowry cutting moss, so it didn't hang on the parked cars!!



Alan and Carole Bethel took part in getting the moss and sticks to the fire pit!



Bill Husson gathered downed limbs for the fire pit!



Nice Fire!

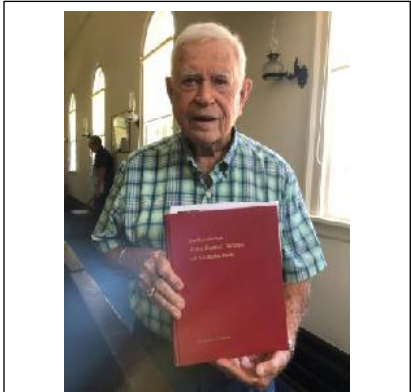


HOW CAN WE HELP?

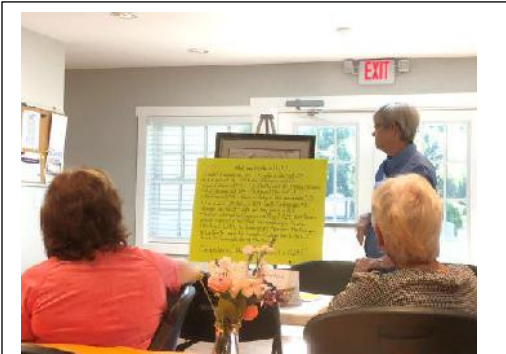


MORE FROM SEPTEMBER...

September's church and graveyard tour...it was a little warm, but not as hot as the August tour!
 Invite friends for our October 15th tour at 10:00 AM.



All who attended were very interested in John Hubbard's special book on family ancestry.



They were also interested in Shirley Stark's posters of facts and pricing from 1824.



This is one of our mystery headstones...Twin sisters born on April 29, 1909...Margart Pope died on March 22, 1953, but there is no death date for her twin, Allie Mae. Does anyone know?



SEPTEMBER 19TH, MUSIC ON THE GROUNDS!
 It was a little warm (hot!) but still a beautiful day!!



FOOD TRUCKS



VENDORS





Enjoying good food from Pete's Food Truck



Parking attendants solution to carrying two coolers full of ice and water bottles!

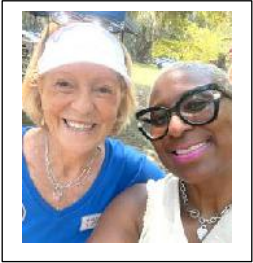


Our Dancing Girls!



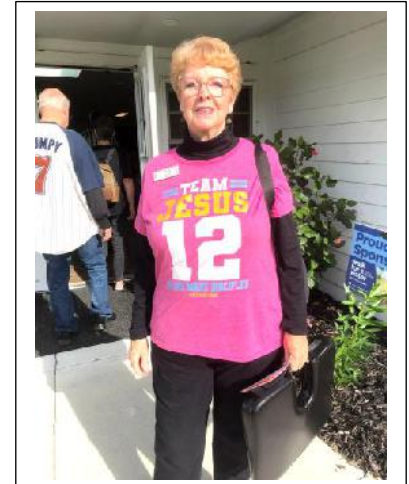
Look closely and you'll see a "photo bomb!" (Thompsons & Hesters)

More “Music on the Grounds”



A FUN DAY OF GREAT MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP!

JERSEY SUNDAY, 9/27/26





MEMBERS & CONGREGANTS

Andy & Sharon Makarick

Chick Mazon

Linda O'Connor

Shirley Hamilton

Michael Brown

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

Kathy Haseem, friend of Nancy Sariscak

Dick, neighbor of Judi Landin

Colton, friend of Michele Elek

Debbie, friend of Michele Elek

Bergen Smith, niece of Linda Metcalf

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

Vance, their family and grandchild, Silvia

Mickey Yew, husband of Linda Fisher's niece

Penny Christianson, friend of B.J. Scholer

Carol Thompson, friend of Nancy Sariscak

Judith, friend of Fran Iacovo

Martha, friend of Fran Iacovo

Allison Scrabis, friend of Marie Baldauf

Karen, friend of Tina Blount

Diana Smail, extended family of Jim and Kathy Smith

Brooklyn, granddaughter of friends of Ouida Dell

Rosalyn Perdue, mother of Allyn Perdue

John Trotter, care receiver of Charlene King

Jack Butt, brother of Linda Metcalf

Harlan Butt, nephew of Linda Metcalf

Cindy, cousin of Jane Tiffany

Jim Derma, friend of Jane Tiffany

Let us remember with cards, and prayers...

CHURCH MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES,

ASSISTED LIVING OR HOMEBOUND

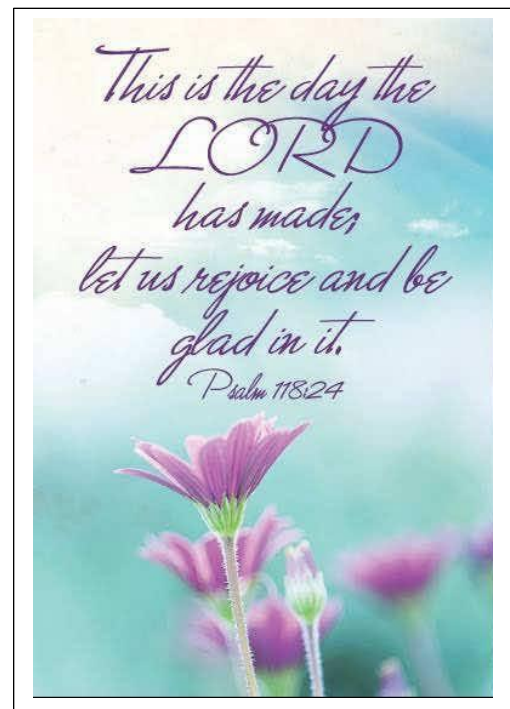
Ruth Dolan,

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

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 Blosser
14 Chris Hauck
17 Carole Bethel
18 Bill Halstead
20 Peggy Firtion
24 Emma Jo Busby
25 Vickie Hoin
29 Jerry Wick

NOV BIRTHDAYS

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

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

NOV ANNIVERSARIES

07 Judi & Gary Landin
08 Margie & Bill Steffes



Courtesy of Lois Willig – Beautiful Sunrise 9/30/26



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**

