



The Messenger

St. Luke United Methodist Church – February 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and Peace in the name of Christ our Lord!

Lent is a season that we turn our focus inward and prepare our hearts to witness the betrayal, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Often during this season individuals give up various things or practices in order to be more intentional in their discipleship. One of the ways to do this is by observing spiritual disciplines. During college, I was part of a small group that read, discussed, and practiced various spiritual disciplines. During the season of Lent, we will spend time looking at *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster. Foster divides the disciplines into categories of inward, outward, and corporate. Throughout Lent we will have opportunities to better understand these disciplines. The inward disciplines of meditation, prayer, fasting, and study, offer avenues of personal examination and change. The outward Disciplines of simplicity, solitude, submission, and service, help prepare us to make the world a better place. The corporate Disciplines of confession, worship, guidance, and celebration, bring us nearer to one another and to God.

If you would like to purchase the book, the link can be found [here](#). Like in previous years, I will send you daily scripture readings with prompts that focus on the Spiritual Discipline for that day. You do not need to purchase the book to take part in the daily devotionals or practice the Spiritual Disciplines.

This will be the daily discipline's during the Lenten season.

- February 15-17 Meditation
- February 18-20 Prayer
- February 21-24 Fasting
- February 25-27 Study
- February 28- March 2 Simplicity
- March 3-5 Solitude
- March 6-9 Submission
- March 10-12 Service
- March 13-16 Confession
- March 17-19 Worship
- March 20-23 Guidance
- March 24-30 Observance of Holy Week
- March 31 Celebration of Christ's Resurrection

Since the early church, Christians have intentionally observed these spiritual disciplines, especially during the Lenten season, as a way to draw closer to Christ. It is my prayer that this will be a time of inward reflection, outward service, and corporate community.

Grace and Peace,

Olivia

LENTEN BREAKFAST

ST. LUKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



REV. ASHLEY DAVIS

Assistant to the Bishop
February 15



REV. CHRISTINA SHAVER

Pastor St. Paul Gulf Breeze
February 22



DR. DAVID SALIBA

Pastor FUMC Dothan
February 29



DR. BRENNAN PEACOCK

Pastor FUMC Luverne
March 7



REV. LUCAS TRIBBLE

Associate Pastor
FUMC Montgomery
March 14



REV. STEVE RENEAU

Pastor Wesley
Chapel
March 21

Join us each Thursday during Lent for breakfast and a devotion. The breakfast devotionals are for the entire community and sponsored St. Luke United Methodist Men. Please make reservations by calling the church office.

Breakfast at 6:30 a.m.

Devotion at 7:00 a.m.



Jennifer Knox
Director of
UNITE
Student Ministry

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
Patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness and self-control. Against such
Things there is no law."
Galatians 5:21-22

Dear St. Luke brothers and sisters in Christ,

Our UNITE prayer for you and yours this month is that you will experience more and more of God's faithful love day by day. We also pray that by keeping in step with the Spirit you will discover and rediscover daily what it means to abide in the True Vine in Whom we are given strength to bear fruit. May our fruit glorify our King today, tomorrow, and from everlasting to everlasting!

Our UNITE students and I have recently taken a deep dive into our new study called, "The Fruit of the Spirit: Walk by the Spirit, Bear His Fruit." Our focus thus far has been to reflect on why Paul intentionally emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who are in Christ. We are discovering together that his words to the churches in Galatia echo the grand narrative of Scripture by affirming the Holy Spirit as our Helper (John 14:16), a Promise kept by Christ (Acts 2), and the Guarantee of our inheritance with Christ (Eph 1:13-14). We are also inspired by Paul usage of the word "and" rather than "or" when listing the fruit. Instead of giving us nine fruits to pick and choose from, Paul seems to be declaring that the Spirit-filled believer is empowered by the Spirit to live a life in which love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, **and** self-control are all equally present. Paul seems to believe that walking in obedience to the Holy Spirit changes everything! Do you agree?

I believe the specific details of Paul's letter encourage us to prayerfully wonder: How might understanding the fruit of the Spirit expand our understanding of God's character? As we step into this month of love, what would it look like for us to keep in step with the Spirit and, in turn, be more loving, more joyful, more patient, etc.? The answer God is revealing to me is this: I AM is with you. That being said, I convinced that God is speaking to our hearts saying, "I AM Love, I AM Peace, I AM Goodness." I believe that our faithful God has given us everything we need to bear the fruit that is commanded of us...God has given us God's self!

To close, I invite you to reflect on this Truth alongside UNITE Student Ministry: Apart from Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit we can do nothing (aka we cannot truly be loving and patient nor can we have real joy and peace) ...**but** God's love for us was and is our game-changer (our life-changer). I AM is with us; therefore, we have not been abandoned to journey this life alone. The Holy Spirit, a Person of the Triune Godhead, is dwelling within you and within me! May this month and every month that follows be opportunities for us to grow increasingly in step with our Helper. To God be the glory; great things He has done! Grace and peace, Jennifer Hope Knox

UNITE February Happenings

2/11 "Last year's palms are this year's ashes" (during the Sunday school hour)

2/13 "Come to the Table" Devotion (Wild Honey @ 6 a.m.) – Valentine's Coffee Party

2/21 College Chat with Jenny Braden @ 6 p.m.



As my children get older, they have become very interested in celebrating holidays. Sometimes they are disappointed that our family does not give festivities their due (such as Groundhog Day), but that will be made up for during Valentine's Day. They usually ask about *what* they should expect to receive, but this year a new question arose that surprised me. *Why?*

I have carried on my mother's tradition of recognizing Valentine's Day with a box of chocolate for each person in the family. This year in response to their question, I was able to share that each Valentine's Day, my mother would place a Russell Stover chocolate box at each of our seats at the kitchen table. As long as we lived at the house, we knew we could expect that red heart to be sitting there to greet us first thing in the morning as we pined to open it and taste "just one".

As I think back on that tradition, I feel the sense of comfort and familiarity with which my mom recognized not just Valentine's Day, but many other celebrations. Something deeply reassuring about traditions and rituals brings us deep comfort.

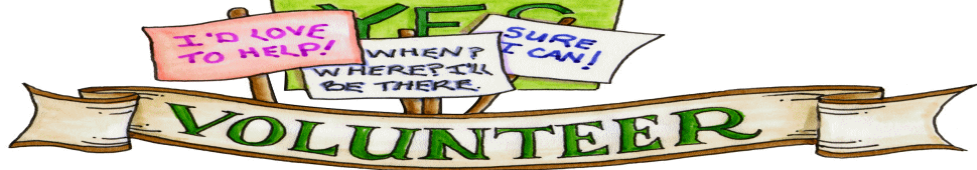
This year Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday and for those of us who have experienced enough life, we feel the tension between a celebration of love and recognizing our humanity as we enter into the season of Lent. For me, Ash Wednesday holds a deep truth that I don't want to recognize but is ever present in our lives.

As we walk as a church family into the season of Lent, I encourage you to share your stories and traditions. Why do we gather together for burnt palm branches to be placed on our foreheads? What is difficult about this time of our church year? Why is it important to be present during this season as we lead up to Holy Week and Easter?

It is my prayer that as we share our traditions and stories of faith with each other, we may continue to profess the amazing work that God has done, and continues to do, through the people of St. Luke.

Grace and Peace,

Pam



USHER LIST FOR TRADITIONAL WORSHIP AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

February 4 – Perry Vickers & Eugene Goolsby

February 11 – Harvey Watt & Tom Morrow

February 18 – Hugh Williams & Elizabeth Williams

February 25 – Jimmy Parker & Jane Parker

THE COUNT TEAM FOR FEBRUARY:

Sunday mornings

Dick Laisure &
Gayle Hottell

Welcome Team for 9 a.m. Worship in February

February 4 – Jimmy & Terri Tullis

February 11 – John & Wendy Sexton

February 18 – Freida Steward

February 25 – Amy Manfra

Acolyte Schedule For February:

February 4 – Vincent DeFeo

February 11 – Matthew Hamner

February 18 – Hudson Ellis

February 25 – Asher Parker

Crucifer Schedule For February:

February 4 – Jacob Ernest

February 11 – Zoe Biddle

February 18 – Open

February 25 – Addie Pridgen



THE HUB

Dinner at 5:00 p.m.

Classes/Studies at 5:45 p.m.

Trustee Unlocking and Locking the
Church building for February:

Aaron Hamner

United Women of Faith - Ladies Game Night

Join us on Thursday, February 8th from 6-8 p.m. in Wesley Hall.

Ages 12 and up can register to attend Game Night.
Childcare for 11 & under will be provided. Be sure to sign-up on the sheet outside Wesley Hall!
\$5 donation to be collected for Missions. Thank you!



Church Leadership

Do you know what the leaders of our church do?

Would you like to learn?

Pick a Sunday and join us in the Sanctuary during the
Sunday school hour
beginning February 11th through March 3rd.

Leaders of our church will come in to answer
questions for Hugh Williams' 4th – 6th grade Sunday
school class as they learn about Church Leadership.

THE HUB

Contact the church office at 347-9023
to make your dinner reservations.

Cancellations should be made by 10 a.m. on Monday the week of.
Week-to-week reservations should be made by Monday at 10 a.m.

Cost of meals is \$6 per person for ages 13 and up,
\$4 per person for ages 3-12, under 3 is free.

MENU FOR FEBRUARY

2/7 – Lasagna, garden salad, and garlic bread

2/14 – Chicken pot pie, broccoli salad, and rolls

2/21 – Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, pinto beans, and cornbread salad

2/28 – Chili, chips, cheese, crackers, sour cream

All meals are served with a dessert and a drink.



The HUB Meal Schedule for Spring 2024

1/10 – Leadership Training – Pizza

1/17 – Hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, and chips

1/24 – Creamy baked cheesy chicken, green beans, loaded potato casserole, rolls

1/31 – Chili, chips, cheese, crackers, sour cream

2/7 – Lasagna, garden salad, and garlic bread

2/14 – Chicken pot pie, broccoli salad, and rolls

2/21 – Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, pinto beans, and cornbread salad

2/28 – Chili, chips, cheese, crackers, sour cream

3/6 – Creamy baked cheesy chicken, green beans, loaded potato casserole, rolls

3/13 – Hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, and chips

3/20 – Lasagna, garden salad, and garlic bread

3/27 – Holy week & spring break week – No HUB this week.

4/3 – BBQ pork, rice, slaw, & baked beans

4/10 – Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, pinto beans, and cornbread salad

4/17 – Lasagna, garden salad, and garlic bread

4/24 – Last night of the HUB - Hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, and chips

Monica Howard (owner of Magnolia Farms) is our caterer for spring 2024 meals other than the meals that John & Wendy Sexton are preparing on 1/17, 3/13, and 4/24 and when pizza is ordered on 1/10.

*Wendy makes all desserts to go along with the meals.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our President and our leaders, our military, our Pastor and committee chairpersons as they pray and make decisions for our wellbeing, Ashley Wilson (Cheryl Campbell's daughter), **Fern Fairleigh, Beverly Palmer** (Sue White's mom), **Mike Gursan, Wendy Sexton, Judy McGaffey, Jennifer Knox, Joe Hazelquist** (Julie Biddle's brother-in-law), **Tom Higgins** (friend of the Braden family), **Quinton Headley, Maria Velez** (Bob Akin's niece), **Gene Faison, Kelsey Stallsmith** (JoAnn Pettengill's granddaughter), **John Chambers** (friend of Bill & Sandra Bacon), **Elizabeth Lee May, Chris Webb and family** (Cathy Gleisberg's sister & Uncle), **PJ and Dylan Key, Wilder Longsworth, Jim Bedsole, Marcia Bibb** (Wendy Sykes's mom), **Matthew Sullivant** (John & Kim Baker's nephew), **Bud Frye** (Diana Plant's dad), **Renea Ledbetter, Chris Grimsley, and Shawn Paay** (friends of Julie Biddle), **Ann Shavonaski** (friend of Bill & Sandra Bacon), **Joyce Martin** (friend of the Ernest family), **Shirley Dawson** (Carol Bass's sister-in-law), **Melissa Baum** (George's mom), **Amanda, Brett & Brindley Williams** (family of Mary Alice Logan), **Jennifer Gentry** (Ann Gentry's daughter), **Susan Parker** (Jennifer Kelley's friend), **Patrick Miller** (Butch Moody's friend), **Charolyn Leonard** (Andy Leonard's mom), **Julian Barefield** (Judy McGaffey's brother-in-law), **Lucille Walker & family, Fran Radino and Marie Berry** (friends of Cathy Gleisberg), **Butch Moody, Carol Bass, Joretta Parker, Karen Merritt, JoAnn Pettengill, Hugh Rhodes, Ann Gentry, Jack & Carolyn Oden, Barbara Arnold, Ann Dora Cook, Linda Turner, Cathy Gleisberg, C.T. & Marie Singleton, Randy Braden, Sherry Watt, Marilyn & Haywood Watkins, Wade Spivey, Rev. Collins Etchi Ako** – **Missionary in the Democratic Republic of Congo.**

Military – **Samantha Soverns, Davey Webber, Raleigh Clark, Brandon Baum, Travis Howland, Elisjsha Sexton, Phillip Hernandez, Brad Foley, Olivia den Besten, Bobby Abrams, Ethan Smith, Nathan Laisure, Jake Plotsky, Jordan Smith, Thomas Couch, Mitchell Baker, Robert Baker, Paul DeFeo.**

Assisted Living/Hospitals - **Ruby Carnes Enterprise Nursing Home.**

Prayers for our College and University Students - **Jacob Braden** [The University of Alabama Huntsville], **Sam McHenry** [University of Central Arkansas], **Courtney Solie** [Jones Law School in Montgomery], **Victoria Cote** [Troy University], **Eleanor Covington and David Covington** [Auburn University], **Requel Johnson** [Troy University], **Nate Webber** [University of Alabama], **Jackson Biddle** [Troy University], **Drew Braman** [Central Alabama Community College], **Jules Heninger** [University of South Alabama], **Hannah Kelley** [University of Alabama Honor College], **Collin Tullis** [University of Kansas], **Ryan Howard** [University of Florida Graduate School].

FEBRUARY 2024 EVENTS

- Sunday, February 4:** Missions Committee Meeting at noon in the Asbury room
- Monday, February 5:** United Women of Faith Meeting in the Asbury room at 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 7:** The HUB (Dinner at 5 p.m. with classes/studies at 5:45 p.m.)
- Wednesday, February 7:** Ten Cities Band Practice at 6 p.m. in Wesley Hall
- Wednesday, February 7:** Chancel Choir practice at 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 7:** UNITE Praise Band Practice at 7 p.m.
- Thursday, February 8:** Men's Breakfast 6:30 a.m. in the Asbury room
- Thursday, February 8:** UWF Ladies Game Night from 6-8 p.m. in Wesley Hall
- Sunday, February 11:** Church Council meeting at noon in the Asbury room
- Tuesday, February 13:** UNITE Student Ministry-Come to the Table Devotion at 6 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 14:** Ash Wednesday Service at 6 p.m.
- Thursday, February 15:** Lenten Breakfast & Devotion
(Breakfast at 6:30 a.m. Devotion at 7:00 a.m.)
- Monday, February 19:** Church office closed for President's Day.
- Sunday, February 25:** Trustees Committee meeting at noon in Life Song classroom
- Sunday, February 25:** Worship Committee meeting at noon in the Asbury room
- Wednesday, February 28:** UNITE Student Ministry College Chat with Jenny Braden
- Thursday, February 29:** XYZ Senior Group dinner at 5 p.m. show at 7 p.m.

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Wednesdays:** The HUB – Dinner at 5 p.m. Classes/Studies at 5:45 p.m.
- Wednesdays:** Ten Cities Band practice at 6:00 p.m. in Wesley Hall
- Wednesdays:** Chancel Choir practice at 7 p.m.
- Wednesdays:** UNITE Student Ministry Praise Band practice at 7 p.m.
- Thursdays:** Men's Breakfast 6:30 a.m. in the Asbury room



Ministry Opportunities

Homebound Communion

The Worship Committee has started a program where volunteers take communion to our homebound monthly. If you are interested in participating, contact Pastor Olivia Poole at (334) 462-7055.

Enterprise Health & Rehabilitation Worship Service with Communion 1st Sunday of each month

Contact Kim Baker at (334) 475-0559

Volunteering with Operation Christmas Child

Contact Kim Hoobler at (334) 390-0204 for details.

New Brockton Farm Center Food Distribution

Food is distributed beginning at 10 a.m.
on the last Tuesday of each month.
You can just show up and volunteer!

Long -Term Discipleship Classes

The Wesley Lamplighters Class

This class is comprised of retired women who follow a traditional Sunday school curriculum. They meet for discussion and study on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Asbury Room. The class is led by Judy McGaffey, a retired educator, who is passionate about biblical studies and discipleship. In addition to their Tuesday morning class, they gather for fellowship. You can often find the Wesley Lamplighters enjoying Sunday lunch at a local restaurant.

FISH – Friends in Service to Him

This is a class for all ages and stages of life. Our regulars range from singles, newlyweds, new parents, and grandparents! We primarily focus on how to grow in our relationship with Christ, while enjoying group activities from time to time. As we grow together in friendship through our studies and service, we strengthen our bonds in marriage, grow and develop as parents and increase our faith and dedication to Christ. This class meets Sunday Mornings at 10: 00 a.m. in the Asbury Room.

Sweet friendships refresh the soul and awaken our hearts with joy, for good friends are like the anointing oil that yields the fragrant incense of God's presence. – Proverbs 27:9

Pairs and Spares

This is an adult small group that meets on Sundays between the Contemporary and Traditional worship services. We use Bible based curriculum in different formats, primarily books and video series. Class discussion is an important part of our studies and encouraged. As our name implies, Pairs and Spares is a diverse group of couples and singles who are widowed, divorced, or never married. We are a group that understands and embraces the trials of life. It is our responsibility, with Christ's guidance, to help each other grow through Scripture and from sharing our experiences. We enjoy getting together socially, and welcome anyone to join us Sunday mornings at 10:00 as we study, worship, and grow together into the Christians we were created to become.

Life Song Sunday School

God created a diverse world and Life Song Class members seek to openly embrace others with His love. We are a multi-generational class that enjoys lively discussions as we learn and grow, applying God's Word to the very real joys and challenges of life today. Our group supports each other as prayer warriors, provides practical help to one another and enjoys spending time with each other during potlucks and social activities.

UNITE Sunday School

At UNITE Student Ministry, we spend our discipleship time on Sunday mornings deeply engaging with God's Holy Word. During these moments together, we combine a multitude of spiritual practices: Prayer, spiritual reflection, journaling, lectio divina, and intentional Bible study. We desire to grow closer to God and to one another: UNITED in Christ.

*We do not aim to merely know about God. Our goal is to know Him personally as the One who we seek above all else.

SLK Sunday School

Here at St. Luke Kids, we strive to serve God by loving others and making disciples! We have two Sunday School classes, Pre-K/Kindergarten, and 1st-6th grade. In each class we make studying the Bible a priority and make sure to also have a little fun with activity sheets and games. We'd love for you to join us at 10:00 on Sunday mornings in the Education Hall.