



MESSENGER

Volume 35, Issue 7

August / Agosto 2020

WORSHIP

Upcoming Worship Services

NEW SERIES BEGINS

“Practicing God’s Promises”

August 16, 2020

“But God...” Our seeming obstacles are God’s gleaming opportunities. Psalm 66:16-20, Mark 10:24-27 Pastor Chuck

August 23, 2020

“Trusting God’s Heart” When we cannot see God’s hand, we can trust God’s heart.

Proverbs 3:5-6, John 9:12-12 Pastor Chuck

August 30, 2020

“Joy of the Lord” Christ remains in relationship with us so we may know true JOY” John 15:9-11 Pastor Monica

September 6, 2020

“In a Constantly Changing World...” Through the constant changes in life, we have the unchanging Constant of life. Hebrews 13:8 Pastor Chuck

September 13, 2020

“Adjusting Our Sails” Our God Engages Us for Our Good Romans 8:28-29 Pastor Chuck

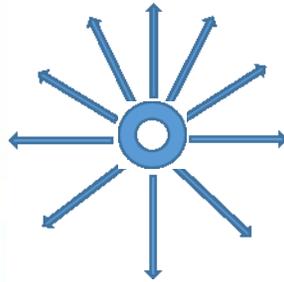
(Please note: we leave room for the Holy Spirit to adjust the above schedule.)

Wednesday Evening Drive-In Worship at 7:30 p.m.

You may stay in your vehicle or bring your lawn chairs.

Worship Services continues to be offered only online through the St. Luke’s Web Page, YouTube Channel and Facebook Page.

<http://www.youtube.com/stlukesumc2010>



St. Luke’s Wheel of Care

St. Luke’s is a **Caring Congregation** that provides wonderful support and care for folks through Barnabas Ministry, Prayerful Stitchers, the Bereavement Team, Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry Hospitality Team, Prayer Team, Monday Visitation Team, and so many more. Currently these ministries are silo ministries that operate somewhat independently and do not overlap, connect or partner in anyway with each other in offering care.

Because caring for people is a collective effort of the church, St. Luke’s is implementing a **Caring Congregation** model written and developed by Rev. Karen Lampe, Minister of Congregational Care, at Church of the Resurrection. This model streamlines congregational care ministries under one unit as one comprehensive wheel of care for the whole congregation and community. At the center of the wheel is the pastoral staff and a coordinator that will help push information, offer training, and communicate with each spoke of care.

Beth Osbahr is a certified Parish Nurse and working on becoming a Certified Lay Ministry. In using her gifts, Beth will oversee the **Congregation Care Ministry** by working with the pastors to ensure every care need is communicated and tended to. Beth will meet with leaders from each area, **Congregational Care Ministers (CCM’s)**, on a monthly basis and share important information and needs, as well as, equip them on new ways to cross care for people. Because caring for others is an intimate task, leader (s) for each care ministry spoke are vetted, trained, and equipped to lead their specific area of care ministry.

On July 24 and 25 eight staff and fifteen vetted leaders from St. Luke’s attended the **Caring Congregation Virtual Workshop** along with 64 additional people from around the Western North Carolina Conference. This training taught us that prayer is the first and most essential factor of care. In addition, since each **CCM** will be living out their baptism in being a priest (the presence of the Holy Spirit) to others, participants were given tools of theology of care, Scripture that provided peace for numerous situations, and information that will allow them to walk people through tough situations. Whether a congregation care team is using their gifts by writing cards, making calls, fixing meals, and/or visiting people in homes or at the hospital, each person is part of a holistic group of care in which everyone has the same knowledge and tools.

At this training each participant was given an opportunity to know and share their life story. A person’s life story comes from experiences, sets the tone for who they are and why and how they care for people. This exercise proved to be very holy and meaningful as participants from St. Luke’s shared their story which brought new ideas for care for our church and bonded the group. Out of the stories, God is calling people to lead grief care, Bible studies at senior citizen facilities, start a card ministry in addition to the Prayer Team, and Crisis Care ministry for those walking through tough situations. The Holy Spirit continues to stir in the heart of these fifteen people since the training. So where do we go from here?

First, **we ask the congregation to PRAY!** Ask God how you might be being called to care for people or where you see care is needed. In the meantime, Beth and I will be working with these fifteen individuals to help them use their passion in forming new care teams, developing guidelines for care, and building a team of people with the same gifts and passion. Stay tuned to hear more about how God is calling and using people at St. Luke’s to care for our neighbors.

Pastor Monica Childers

MISSION STATEMENT “Living to Communicate God’s Love to Our Neighbors”

VISION STATEMENT “Meeting the Earthly and Spiritual Needs of All People Through the Transforming Work of Christ”

Greetings Church Family,



These first five weeks have passed so quickly. It has been a pleasure meeting some of you (mostly outside at our Wednesday worship and various Zoom meetings). I'm looking forward to getting to know many more of you when we're able to

re-open the church. Further, it has been a blessing to share in ministry with the dedicated staff at St. Luke's.

Through our initial worship series, we have tried to encourage one another to practice a more deliberate prayer life by considering a few of the reasons we are "propelled to pray".

It has been inspiring as we have taken note of several instances where the Holy Spirit is confirming this emphasis on prayer.

We will soon embark on a new worship adventure with a series entitled, "**Practicing God's Promises**". Each week, from **August 16 – November 15**, we will delve into God's uplifting promises to us. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will lead us deeper beyond an intellectual belief to the actual practice of these promises in our lives. Our hope is that each of these promises will speak to both the common situations and the unique circumstances that we're facing. So, fellow Christians, hear the Good News: "**For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding 'Yes!'**" (2 Cor. 1:20a, NLT)

Standing on the promises, **Chuck**

How do we measure our giving during this time of cancellations, postponements, virtual meetings and general upheaval?

This is the question the St. Luke's Finance Team is asking. We have a duly approved budget for 2020, but expenses this year will be radically different than expected. We set funds aside for retreats and Vacation Bible School, but we won't be able to gather in person for these. We've had to change the way we worship and communicate, so we have to allocate more funds for these areas. One thing that has remained is your giving. Some of you have even been able to increase your gifts during this time, some have remained at pre-Covid amounts, and all of you have been faithful. Thank you for being so faithful and consistent in your tithes and offerings, and to St. Luke's!



YTD Income: \$518,203.63 YTD Expense: \$554,217.8
(-\$36,04.18)

St. Luke's and Resource Warehouse are Partnering to Help Others. Resource Warehouse has started a new program that offers churches and community organizations rewards for donations. St. Luke's has been the pilot church in kicking off this program. All we do is invite the congregation and community to take furniture, household items, dress clothing, books, etc. to Resource Warehouse and in turn quarterly they will give the Church back a percentage of the total amount donated. The first month St. Luke's received \$20.00 in gift cards to give to those in need. Since COVID, St. Luke's has been collecting clothing to give away at the Hickory Soup Kitchen. The clothing is sorted and given away and in cases where we receive prom dresses, suits, dressy clothing or high heels we donate to Resource Warehouse. In turn, Resource Warehouse donates back to us over goods of hygiene products that we can give to those in need. You are invited to join this beautiful partnership.

IN MEMORIAM

Joann Billingsley

December 18, 1944 - August 12, 2020

"Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord for they cease from their labor and their works do follow them."

Sincere sympathy of the pastors and the congregation is extended to the family of Joann Billingsley on her homegoing.

Christian Sympathy of the pastors and congregation to the families of **Travis Langford** in the death of his brother **David Aubrey Langford, Sr.**; to the family of **Lisa Lail** in the homegoing of her father, **Leonard Ledford** of Connelly Springs; and to the family of **Marcia Sinclair** in the death of her father, **Don Jones** of Marion. Condolences also to the family of **Jane Golden**, who died in Asheville, She was the widow of **Pastor Jake Golden** who served St. Luke's from 1958-1965.

"Thank You St. Luke's UMC!"

Dear Friends, Lori and I would like to express our gratitude for all your many acts of kindness shared with us during my transition into retirement. Your cards, gifts, video presentations, and financial contributions to the St. Luke's staff healthcare fund are greatly appreciated. Most of all, we would like to thank you for the love you shared with us over the past four years. You are a special congregation that has impacted our lives in many significant ways. We wish you all the very best and look forward to traveling back to Hickory someday to attend a Sunday morning worship service at St. Luke's.



Blessings and love, **Joe & Lori Westfall** (Their new address is 1279 Micol Lane, Kernersville, NC 27284)

Sunday School Classes that are meeting

Journey Class - Sundays 10:00 a.m. Downtown Hickory Under the Sails - Contact Gerry Johnson at grjohnsonak@gmail.com

Agape Class - Sundays at 10 a.m. at St. Luke's on the lawn outside the Youth Building. Contact Louise Humphrey at louisehum@gmail.com

CORE Ladies' Coffee Fellowship - Fridays 10 a.m. meet in person at a local park. Contact Shari Jones if you want more information charliecjsj@aol.com

CORE Men's Coffee Fellowship - Thursdays 10 a.m. meet in person outside at **Tasteful Beans** in downtown Hickory. Contact John Hall john.hall1swg@gmail.com.

CORE Class - via ZOOM, Sundays at 10 a.m. Contact Dan Causey dpcausey@charter.net.

Koinonia Class- Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. via ZOOM. Contact Bill Roberts war4171@charter.net.

Friendship Class - Starting via ZOOM soon. Contact Rose Arant rosearant37@gmail.com

Joy Class - Sundays - via ZOOM at 10:30 a.m. Contact Ernie Sills ecsills@charter.net.

Seekers Fellowship Class - Sundays 10 a.m. via ZOOM. Contact Pastor Bill Garrard wgarrardjr@gmail.com.

Children's Sunday School- Sundays 9 a.m. via ZOOM pmckim@slumc.org.

Hispanic, Vineyard, Youth, Golden, Grace (Joe's Class) are not meeting at this time.

Pastor Monica Childers

Family Fun Day at Tekoa Foothills August 1



Nicaragua Mission News

God's is with the people as they struggle

As reported in the recent update on how St. Luke's still blessed with receiving financial resources to continue the ministry of our congregation in spite of the effects of the coronavirus, we rejoice that we are able to continue our support of our missionaries in Nicaragua, **Ronnie and Angi Hopkins**.

The needs continue to be great for the people there as the virus has hit them hard. They were already on the edge economically and their health care system, although free and universal, often lacks the resources and equipment to treat the most severe kinds of illnesses. So the people do their best with what they have and seek God's healing grace.

The Hopkins are there helping the people they minister with both medical guidance (Angi is a nurse practitioner) and with economic aid for just the basics like food, many times by offering people some sort of work in helping with the mission.

We have also developed personal connections with many of the people through mission teams who have gone over the years. When we were working in the small farming village of San Diego, we met a young woman Silenia who was unable to have children. Because Silenia had not been able to have children, her husband had not treated her well. When she finally was able to get pregnant, there was much joy and our team members during a trip visited her home and participated in her baby shower.



The baby was born with serious problems. In spite of Angi trying to get specialized medical help, the child died not long after birth. The local church, the Hopkins, and members of the St. Luke's team reached out to support her in her grief.

Several years ago, she finally left her husband and moved to the larger city of Esteli. We learned this week that she died from COVID.

We are indeed so sad about her but rejoice that we can join God's love and care as we work with Ronnie and Angi and their Nicaraguan co-workers. We continue to partially support the Hopkins through our giving to the general budget of the church. And if you would like to help with any relief efforts they are giving to those who need direct help, you may send your donations to Acts 1:8, P.O. Box 23, Cedartown, GA 30125.

Please make your check out to "Acts 1:8", and designate "Relief" (Acts 1:8 is a 501(c)(3)). For more information on the Hopkins work, check out www.slumc.org under Giving/The World.

Someday we will be able to go again to be in mission with our missionaries but for now we can support them with our prayers and resources. Pray for strength and protection, especially for Angi's mother Lettie who is 95, in frail health, and lives with them in Nicaragua.

Bill Garrard, Global Mission Coordinator
For the Nicaragua Mission Planning Team

St. Luke's Lifters Reunion Group

The **Lifters Reunion Group** consists of St. Luke's men who previously participated in a 3 day Emmaus Walk. The group began meeting twice monthly for an hour in September 2019. In mid March, because of COVID-19, the group met weekly via Zoom until the end of June 2020. The group will resume meetings this fall after further information is obtained about the virus and its effect on in-house worship/meetings or continuing requirements for virtual meetings.

The **Emmaus Reunion Group** is an accountability group who desire to continue their pursuit of a life lived wholly in the grace of God. The meetings consist of participants sharing stories of their faith walk with Christ since the last meeting. The gift of God's love in Jesus Christ becomes a lifestyle of Christian discipleship through piety, study, and action. Members assist each other with their daily walk through accountability, encouragement, and support. Contact Coy Hudson at clhudson@charter.net.





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CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone 828) 327-9837 Fax: 828-327-4043 web: slumc.org
Church Office Hours.....Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 am - 5 pm
CLOSED FRIDAY
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.....Thursday before printing
Bulletin/ Eblast Deadline.....Wednesday, 4 p.m.

New Online Prayer Request - St. Luke's recognizes that there are many prayer needs in our Church and community. We are now offering an online platform for individuals to submit prayer requests to the pastors, **Prayer Team** and/or the **Church Prayer List**. Visit this link for [Online prayer tutorial](#) or visit <https://slumc.org/home/online-prayer-requests> to submit your request.



WESTVIEW FELLOWSHIP
A PLACE FOR CHRIST-CENTERED CHURCH MEMBERS

Westview Fellowship Worshiping Parking Lot

Tuesday, August 4th, **Westview Fellowship** re-started serving dinner and worshiping in the parking lot at

Westview United Methodist Church. Volunteers gathered to rethink how to distribute food and offer fellowship safely with their friends Twenty-three gathered for fellowship around the parking lot and stairwell, dinner was served in to-go boxes, and a devotion on prayer was shared before the rains came and sent everyone home for the evening.

Navigating ministry in the midst of COVID is new and can be a daunting task. But as we look at how to love others during COVID, we are reminded that we have to think outside the box, pray for God's help and open ourselves to new and creative ways that do no harm to others in the process. **Join us on Tuesday's at 5 p.m. for worship and dinner.** Masks required and provided.

Reminder: The Church Offices remained closed to the public, which means we will not be opening the door to visitors. Our Re-Opening Team is working on best practices in order for us to open safely. In the meantime, please drop correspondence or offerings in the mail slot of the front -door. If you need information or an **Upper Room**, please call the Office at 828 327-9837 and we will leave a copy for you in the box at the door. Thank you for understanding.