



WORSHIP

Worship Series Contagious Faith

February 7, 2021

5th Sunday after Epiphany
OVERCOMING OUR
"EVEN THOUGHTS"

When faith gives birth...

Hope is born

11 a.m. Blended Worship &

11 a.m. Hispanic Service

Scripture: Habakkuk 3:17-18

Matthew 1:23 Pastor Chuck

February 14, 2021

The Unveiling

Transfiguration is central to
our faith!

11 a.m. Blended Worship &

11 a.m. Hispanic Service

Scripture: Matthew 17:1-13

Scripture: Pastor Monica

February 17, 2021

ASH WEDNESDAY

Drive Thru 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

On-Line Service 7 p.m.

February 21, 2021

NEW LENTEN SERIES

"Greatly Grateful
for Grace"

God's Gift... Our Response

For the grace gift to be a
gift, it must be received!

11 a.m. Blended Worship &

11 a.m. Hispanic Service

Scripture: Ephesians 2:4-9

Pastor Chuck

February 28, 2021

NEW LENTEN SERIES

"Greatly Grateful
for Grace"

Grasping for Grace

When we're gasping for
grace, look to the Giver of
grace.

11 a.m. Blended Worship &

11 a.m. Hispanic Service

Scripture: Ephesians 2:4-9

Pastor Chuck

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

MESSENGER

Volume 36, Issue 1

February / Febrero 2021

CHURCHWIDE BIBLE STUDY DURING LENT

During the upcoming **season of Lent**, I'm planning to offer (via Zoom) a churchwide Bible study on Paul's letter to the early Christians in the city of Philippi. I hope you will seriously consider sharing in this study. We all need what Philippians has to offer.

The Study will begin Wednesday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. and will continue thru March 24. Lasting about 1 hour there will be time to discuss what we have learned at the end of the session. Watch for the registration link for Philippians coming soon.



Of all of Paul's New Testament letters, his letter to the early church in Philippi is my favorite. The very things our hearts yearn for are laid out for us. After all, who doesn't desire abundant **joy**, perseverance in the race of life, a servant's heart, hope for the future, peace that surpasses human explanation, and lasting contentment?

We need to look no further than Philippians. The apostle Paul shows how we can find all of these, and more, in the person of Jesus Christ. The keynote of this letter is,

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, 'Rejoice!'" (Philippians 4:4)

Within this letter are some of the most cherished verses of Scripture – inspiring words of encouragement.

As we find ourselves in the middle of a pandemic, the dominant theme in this letter is **JOY ... Joy** in and through all circumstances. And Paul didn't write his letter of **joy** from safe and secure luxury palace. He wrote as a prisoner in chains.

It's as if the Lord is reaching out His hand to us and inviting us to enter His **joy**. No matter what we're facing today, the Lord can bring **joy**. No matter how dark the times might be, the Lord offers hope. No matter what our past might have been, our future can be filled with abundant **joy**.

Of all of Paul's letters, this is the most personal. No sharp rebukes mar its joyful spirit. No disturbing problems threaten the progress of the church. We simply encounter the heart of the greatest Christian that beats **joyfully** because of this truth:

**Christ is the main thing ...
The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing ...
And that's the main thing!**

Abundant blessings in Christ,

Chuck

*Happy
Valentine's Day!*


Worship Services continues to be offered online through the St. Luke's Web Page, YouTube Channel and Facebook Page. <http://www.youtube.com/stlukesumc2010>

Congratulation

We celebrate the birth of **Levi Matthew King** on January 11, great grandson of **Ric and Angela Vandett**. His parents are **Reagan Vandett King and Justin King**.

We also celebrate with **David and Nancy Cook** on the birth of a great granddaughter, **Emma Elizabeth Cook** on November 16 in Concord, NC. She is the daughter of **Matthew and Hannah Cook**. Her grandfather is the Rev. Dr. Eric Cook, son of David and Nancy and a former member of St. Luke's.

Mission Opportunities

Hickory Soup Kitchen - February 1st- 5th is St. Luke's week for volunteers at the **Hickory Soup Kitchen**. There are still two spaces on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday**. If you would like to volunteer serving in one of these spots please contact Pastor Monica at monica@slumc.org. Volunteers are asked to show up by 11:15 a.m. and wear a mask.

Community Blessing Food Box

- St. Luke's is blessed to have a **Blessing Box** of food, sponsored by the local Moms Group of Hickory, on the Campus. The **Blessing Box** is a place anyone in need can come and get dry or canned food and it is being used so frequently that it is hard to keep it stocked. The Mom's Group has asked our help filling the **Box**. If you would like to donate food to the **Blessing Box**, simply purchase nonperishable items and place in the **Box**. This is an opportunity for us to provide for those in need. The **Blessing Box** is located at the corner of **our Parking Lot** across from Viewmont School.



Care Opportunities

Caring for one another is one of the Great Commandments that Christ gives to us. One of the many ways St. Luke's is caring for others is offering encouragement through cards. The **Prayer Team and Card Connection Ministry** are working diligently and prayerfully to extend a note of care and encouragement to our neighbors.



In **February**, the **Caring Congregation Team** is raising the bar in trying to build our **Card Connection Team**. Do you or someone you know like to write cards? Do you have the gift of encouraging others? Have you received a card from someone you see the gift of encouragement in? Make a list of names that come to mind when reading this and share this with Pastor Monica monica@slumc.org, or Beth Osbahr beth.osbahr@charter.net. We want to grow in our love for our neighbor and offer words of grace and peace to all people.



St. Luke's United Methodist Women met on January 12th via ZOOM, with 14 members present, for our annual Pledge to Mission Program. Pledges are divided 60/40 with 60% going to the district for state, national and worldwide missions; and 40% staying here for local missions. If you would like to help support UMW missions by making a pledge this year please contact Susan Griffis, UMW treasurer, at sggriffis@gmail.com. Our next **ZOOM meeting will be on March 11th**. If you would like to be added to our email list please contact Susan Griffis, Frances Garrard or Louise Humphrey.

The UMW is taking RADA orders. You may go on the RADA website and look at items that you might want to buy and call me at 828 256-9778 or email me at garrardfam@hotmail.com to place your orders. Thanks, Frances Garrard

IN MEMORIAM

William "Judd" Jerial Lawing July 18, 1939 - January 19, 2021

"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 Judd Lawing on the occasion of his homegoing.

Christian Sympathy of the pastors and congregation to the family of: **Rebecca McLeod** in the death of her mother, **Helen Lister** of Hendersonville, NC on December 25; to the family of **Eddie White** brother of **Judy Cain, Nancy Pittman** and **Michael Pittman** and uncle of **Catie Cain**; in his homegoing; to the family of **Ann Hundley** in the homegoing of her father, **Daniel Webster Rudy** on December 28 of Martinsville, Virginia; to the family of **Joyce Ann Barrs** in her homegoing on December 23 in Hickory; to **Gary Henson** in the homegoing of his sister, **Marlene Henson Shull** of Hudson; to **Tanya Harkins** in the death of her mother **Margie Belle Sigmon Bowman**; to **Kelly Smith** in the death of her mother **Margie Putnam**; and to the family of **Judy Ollis** in the death of her sister, **Joyce**.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity. 2 Corinthians 9:11

Your continued generosity is shown in your financial support of the mission and ministries of St. Luke's! Even in a pandemic, you remained generous and your gifts allowed us to finish 2020 well. Your Ministry Staff has worked diligently this year to continue to support you, minister to you, encourage and include you in the life of the Church. Your love for the Lord and your love for St. Luke's is reflected in the way you responded.

Thank you, thank you!

2020 Total Income	\$ 972,851
2020 Total Expenses	\$ 955,199
	\$ 17,652

Lisa Lail, Church Administrator

Also For Your Information

Donations to your **Sunday School Class Treasury** need to be made directly to your Class Treasurer. The Church Office does not serve as a pass-through nor write checks to a Sunday school class. This is policy is from the **Finance Team**. The only exception is if the Church Administrator holds your class funds in a dedicated account. Check with your Class Treasurer about the best way to make your donation.

There are times when the Church may focus on one of our local ministries and ask for donations. However, at all other times, if you wish to make a donation to one of the local area ministries (i.e. Hickory Soup Kitchen or CCM), please donate to them directly. They will send a contribution receipt. Please do not use the Church Office as a pass-through for your donation. *Thank you.*



Spirit of King Organization Award

About 8 years ago, the presidents of Hickory Area Ministers and the Greater Hickory Ministerial Alliance proposed to the clergy in our area that they come together for a study and dialogue on "Race and Christianity." Two study groups were formed by over 20 local clergy. These groups began to meet regularly to talk about race and faith through sharing personal experiences, examining current events, reading articles and books, and going to movies and exhibits together. Over time understanding and relationships grew among those who attended. Soon others in the community joined the discussion, including elected officials, local police leadership, city and county personnel, leaders in the arts, education, and the non-profit community, as well as interested citizens. Over the years vital connections and deep friendships were formed as members learned from each other... eyes were opened as honest and open discussion led to more in depth understanding. Those attending supported each other to act justly in their own areas of influence in our community. Solid relationships were built that have helped our community work together to find solutions to the issues of race that we face every day.

This gathering continues to meet bi-monthly and has become an important, substantive, and consciousness-raising discussion table for the Hickory area. If you are concerned about racism racial profiling, racial justice, and want to work toward the goal of racial reconciliation, I hope you will consider joining.

This year's Spirit of King Award Recipient...

Rev. Bill Garrard, a United Methodist minister who has spent his life working tirelessly for social justice and reconciliation among diverse groups of people. Throughout his ministry, he has sought to build what Dr. King called "**the Beloved Community**" by fostering relationships both locally and globally. In doing so, he has helped to bridge understanding across racial and economic lines here in North Carolina and our Hickory area.

It is not a stretch to say that one would have to look long and hard to find a time when this recipient had idle hands. Currently, he co-moderates the Unifour area's Racial Justice and Reconciliation Discussion Group (the group we recognized a few moments ago)... he is an Earthkeeper and founder of Foothills Creation Care Alliance... he is a member of the local NAACP; a board member for Exodus Ministries; the schedule coordinator for the Hickory Area Ministers; and is the Global Missions Coordinator for St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Hickory.

Bill's life and the ways he loves others fully embodies the spirit of Dr. King. He doesn't just talk about including people of all races and cultures; he lives it. He is wise, ready to listen, fair, and courageous to speak the truth. Our recipient has been an inspiration to me and so many others who call him a colleague, neighbor, and friend.

On April 15, 1960, Dr. King spoke in Raleigh. He said, "*There is another element that must be present in our struggle that then makes our resistance and nonviolence truly meaningful. That element is reconciliation. Our ultimate end must be the creation of the beloved community.*"



SURPRISE!!! Parents/Grandparents & Children Join us in February each Sunday 10 a.m. by ZOOM!

We will learn our Bible memory verse John 3:16. Can you memorize it before we begin?

Here are our stories: **February 7**—Born Anew- John 3:1-21—Share your favorite riddle and then visit with Nicodeumus

February 14—A Sunday of Love! We will together create cards and packages for some special people and your family will deliver them (contactless) Watch for details!

February 21—A Boy's Lunch—John 6:1-15—Let's see what you can multiply!

February 28—Jesus Walks on Water—John 6:16-25—Float Vs. Sink—What do you think? Are you curious?

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.

PRAYER LIST

All Students, Teachers, Administrators, Parents and Educators
Law Enforcement Officers

Health Care & Mental Health Workers First Responders
Families who are having financial related to the Pandemic
Healing of the division in our country

That our Staff and Church is being led by the Holy Spirit
Discerning God's will for our Church over the next few months
Our nation, leaders, both national & statewide
Protection for members, families & friends from COVID

Recent deaths:

Judd Lawing Margie Putnam, Kelly Smith's mother
Marlene Shull, Gary Henson's sister Joyce, Judy Ollis' sister
Tanya Harkin's mother, Margie Belle Sigmon Bowman
Maurilla Ibarra, sister-in-law, of Vicky Villanueva
Eddie White, family of Judy Cain, Nancy Pittman,
Michael Pittman & Catie Kale
Lawrence Campbell, Coy Hudson's niece's husband

Praises:

Thomas McBrayer graduated from ASU with MPA
Emma Elizabeth Cook, great granddaughter of David & Nancy Cook
Levi Matthew King, great grandson of Ric & Angela Vandett
Evie Henderson, home at 5 pounds, Pat McKim's friends
Aubrey Elaine Valentine Henson, granddaughter of Steve Spivey

Needing Prayer:

Aron Hall, John Hall's son Gabe Denig
Ned Hudson, Coy Hudson's brother & Frances Hudson, sister-in-law

Medical Concerns & Accident Recovery:

Helen Johnson Steve Renner Maricela Loreda
Will, John & Ann Hall's grandson
Jayme Christy's, Rev. Paul wife (1st UMC) head injury
Juanita Castillo, sister of Vicky Villanueva Jim Pendleton
Zach Childers, Tim Curtis, Pastor Monica's son & brother

Recovery from Surgery or Hospitalization

Brenda Sisk Tommy Ross, Susan Ratcliff's son

Cancer Concerns

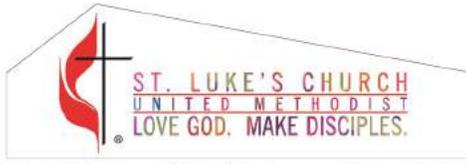
Mike Denig, Gabe's dad Lawrence Twisdale, Ann Hall's brother
Leslie Olavarra, daughter of Glenda Marti
Sue Winnell
Greg Knight
Melanie Vaughn, Pat McKim's friends
Terri Mull, Tina Lowman's sister
Donna Chipley's daughter, Debbie Hobart
Ron Hardee, Anita Knedilk's brother-in-law
Jacqui Gaffney, Beth Osbahr's sister-in-law
Sandy Estes, Monica's friend

COVID Diagnosis:

Serina Lor
Heidi Bedington
Vince Mells
Ed Henson

Susan Anderson
Frances Stafford
Mildred Roberts
Marty & Kelly Cook
Julie Kerley Ollis
Wendy Hinson, Pat McKim's sister
June Hartzell, Nancy Hartzell's sister
Eddie Hartzell, Nancy Hartzell's brother-in-law
Marla Hernandez & fiancé, Kyle Anderson
Michelle Cortez, Westview

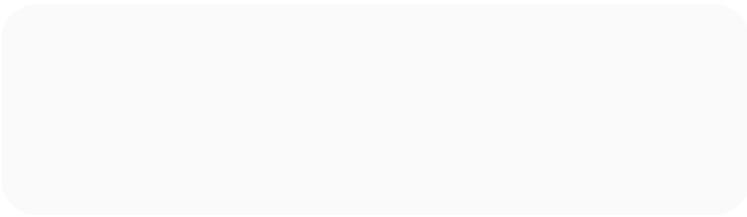
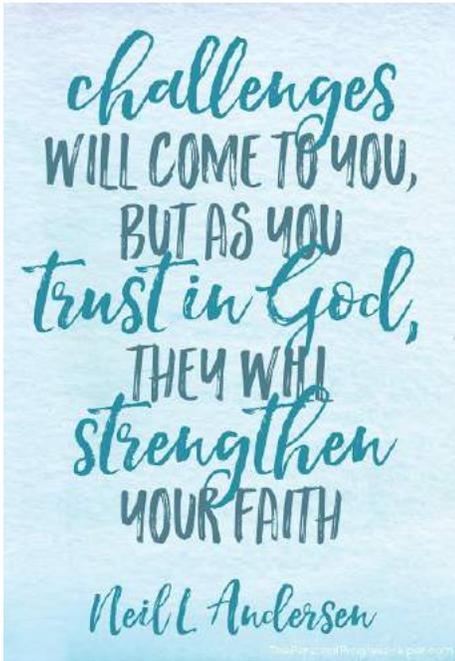




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MESSENGER

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St. Luke's United Methodist Church
52 16th Avenue NW, Hickory, NC 28601

St. Luke's United Methodist Church Staff

- Chuck Baker, Senior Pastor
- Raymundo Villanueva, Hispanic Pastor
- Monica Childers, Associate Pastor
- Pat McKim, Director of Children's Ministry
- Charlie Brown, Director of Youth & College Ministry
- Marie Denig, Director of Music & Arts Ministry
- Jessica Stamey, Associate Director of Music & Creative Arts
- Lisa Lail, Church Administrator
- Paulette Gregory, Church & Membership Secretary
- Steve Spivey, Hospitality Coordinator
- Cindy Schonewolf, Childcare Coordinator
- Garry Hill, Building & Grounds Maintenance
- Greg Knight, Pianist
- Tom Spiggle, Organist

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone 828) 327-9837 Fax: 828-327-4043
 Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5 pm
 Church Office Hours: Church Office is currently closed to public.
 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday before printing
 Bulletin/ Eblast Deadline: Wednesday, 4 p.m.

Lent Bags- Spreading the Gospel of Christ in a Creative Way!



- February 17 begins the season of Lent, a forty day period of focus, self-reflection and spiritual preparation for the Resurrection Event of Easter. This year we recognize the Church Body of Believers are gathering in homes and other places. So we have created a **Lenten Bag** for individuals and families to use during the 40 days of Lent. The bags include Scripture devotions for each week, activities for each person/family to enjoy, and tools to share with others.
- These **Lenten Bags** are available to anyone and everyone! They can be picked up at **St. Luke's starting Tuesday, February 16th** outside the Church Office, during **ASH Wednesday Outdoor Event**, or can be mailed or delivered if necessary. Contact the Church Office if you would like a packet mailed or delivered to you or a neighbor.

The Re-Opening Team met Wednesday, January 27 and assessed the current state of the Pandemic in North Carolina and have decided that it is in the best interest of the Church and Congregants to remain closed through the month of February 2021.

Reminder: The Church Offices remain closed to the public, which means the Ministry and Support Staff are working from home. If you need to speak with someone from Staff, please leave a phone or email message and someone will be back to you soon. Also you may drop your correspondence or offerings through the mail slot in the front door of the Administration Building. It is safe to do so. If you need information or an **Upper Room, call the Office and we will leave a copy for you in the box at the door or mail it. Thank you!**