

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

June 2024
Volume 65
Issue 6

In the neighborhood for good!



All in the Family of God

I have just returned from a week celebrating family, old and new, as my nephew got married and his new wife graduated from Harvard Kennedy School. There were about 30 of us long-time family and friends who might as well be family traipsing around Boston, trying to figure out where we were and where we were supposed to be. It was the strangest thing; the first few days we were all adjusting, meeting new people, trying to remember each other's names and who went with whom. And then, after a couple of days, just like magic (or more like blessing) we became family. Laughing with each other, learning new things about where we come from, sharing our hopes for the new couple and our new friendships.

It reminded me of church. One Sunday someone is a visitor. In a couple of more weeks, we're all "up in their business," praying for them and saying I love you. It's a rich blessing to know that strangers now are friends, that we have people we can count on to have our backs, to hold us up in prayer, to pick us up when we fall, and to remember us when we feel lost.

We talked in Bible study last night about the amazing inclusion of God's grace, always finding those who stray, as well as those who are cast out, and bringing them back into that ever-widening circle, those everlasting arms. People joke about our lengthy passing of the peace time in worship, but I think it is beautiful and needed. Where else do we get that—a reminder that we are precious and loved and wanted. God re-members us again and again, and strangers now are friends.

At the wedding I attended, the couple had a ritual of the blessing of water. Each person in attendance was asked to bring a small amount of water that was important to them for some reason. Some brought water from significant places. I brought paint water from some of my mom's old paint. During the service, we brought our water up and poured it in a bowl, sharing its origin with the new couple. The water from all the different places was blended together as one. The couple will keep this water reminding them of how we come as distinct personalities and, while maintaining our own uniqueness, we join like streams to a river and rivers to the great ocean.

I am thankful for this family at East Lake UMC and the United Methodist Church, and for all those who will come that I have not yet met, re-membered one to another and all to God as we are all swimming to the other side.

Peace,
Sally

... from Leslie

Happy Summer!

I'm sitting in my office on a Monday, and it is feeling weird, in the best way! If you have not heard me say it yet, I am SO excited to be now working full-time at East Lake United Methodist Church. This opportunity to do what I love with people I love is such a blessing. I am so thankful.

We have had lots of fun, engaging, and spiritually fulfilling discipleship classes over the past couple years, but I think the two groups we have planned for this summer will be some of the very best. They both are covering most-requested topics. If you have not taken part in a small group study yet, now is the time! Both of these offerings are perfect for first-timers as well as old-timers.

I'll let the posters for these opportunities do the talking, so check them out for details. One is during the Sunday School hour, and one is on a weeknight. One is perfect for people who are curious about our traditions in worship services, and one is perfect for people who are interested in exploring new ways to spiritually connect with God and their own selves. One is led by our beloved pastor, and one is led by members of our church family who you may not have gotten to learn from before. I hope you find at least one thing this summer that speaks to you.

Stay tuned next week. There is one more new offering we are hoping to put together for July and August that we are excited to share about soon.

With love,

Leslie

Editor's note: The book/discipleship study continues on Thursday mornings at 10 at Jane Phares's house. Currently we are reading *Leaving Church* by Barbara Brown Taylor, but you can easily catch up if you want to join in.

It's Bingo Time!

Do you remember where you were when you found out the world was about to shut down due to the impending Covid-19



pandemic? Many of us were here at the church enjoying a night of Bingo with Martha Mosley. Well, we haven't reprised that activity since that Friday the 13th of 2020, and it's high time we did!

So, on Friday night, June 28, we invite you to join us for a night of fun! Martha, who does estate sales, often comes across wonderful items that haven't sold, so she snags them for Bingo prizes. So not only is the game fun, but you can go home with one or more excellent treasures!

Bingo cards are \$10, with additional cards for \$5 each. A sandwich, chips, and dessert supper will be available for a nominal fee.



The games will run from 6 to 8 p.m. All proceeds will go to your church budget.

If you haven't met Martha yet, you need to! Join us on the 28th, and bring a friend!

East Lake United Methodist Church

(205) 836-3201 (office)

(205) 836-3203 (Fax)

Pastoral and Program Staff:

Rev. Sally Allocca, Senior Pastor

(205) 821-8804

smcallocca@gmail.com

Mr. Barry Norris, Organist and Choir Master

(205) 540-1820

the1220chambers@yahoo.com

Dr. Jane Phares, Office Administrator

(205) 821-8632

jane.eastlakeumc@gmail.com

Mrs. Leslie Norris Williams, Minister of Discipleship and Communications

(205) 475-2890

elumccomm@gmail.com

Ms. Laila Sears, Children's Ministries

lailasears6@gmail.com

June Birthdays

						1
2	3	4 *Jessica Findley	5	6	7 *Leatha Norman	8
9	10	11 *Lucy Lipp	12	13	14	15
16	17 *Ragan Boling	18 *Peggy Gilman	19	20 *Audrey Odom	21 *Jay Thornley	22 *Doris Ingram
23 *Leslie Williams	24	25	26	27	28	29 *Susan Gann
30						

SUPER SENIORS

It's Bingo month, it seems! First, we'll have our senior gathering on Tuesday, June 25 (June is a busy month, and that's the first Tuesday I can do it), at ten a.m. in the office conference room. That gives me some time to amass some fabulous prizes!

Then, on that Friday, the 28th, Martha Mosley will have one of her bingo extravaganzas as a fundraiser for the church (see more about that on page two), and talk about fabulous prizes—she'll have them!

Be thinking about a plan for next month—another lunch and learn, perhaps, or lunch out somewhere? Let me know. - Jane P.

Join us for the 2024 Central Alabama PRIDE Parade

Come walk with members of your church family in the annual PRIDE parade on Saturday, June 8. This is an awesome opportunity to support our LGBTQ+ siblings, especially since the LGBTQ+ community is facing attacks from our legislature and continues to face marginalization in the wider community. It is also a time of celebration that since General Conference, the UMC is truly a place with open hearts, open minds, and open doors.

We will find our spot and begin lining up at 7 p.m. Please be there (corner of 7th Avenue and 32nd St. S.) by 7:30 p.m. to make sure we all find each other. The parade begins at 8.

Please let Jane Phares know if you'd like to be counted among the ELUMC group!

"Keep on praying for the saints . . ."

Ephesians 6:18

Please pray for the members of our church family who have been in the hospital, who have recently had surgery, are scheduled for surgery, or who otherwise need our prayers:

Alma Boggan
Kevin Rutledge
Gary Sandridge

*And what is so rare as a day in
June? Then, if ever, come perfect
days.*

James Russell Lowell

THE CREEDS: WHAT WE BELIEVE AND WHY

No prior knowledge or
experience required! Beginners
and newcomers welcome!



WEDNESDAYS IN JULY AND AUGUST
6PM IN THE MEETING ROOM
LED BY REV. SALLY ALLOCCA

Each Sunday in worship, we join our voices and together proclaim powerful statements about who God is, who we are, and how we are invited to live in relation to God and one another. Sometimes, these creeds can be *challenging, intimidating, or difficult to understand*.

This Summer, you're invited to go back to the basics and learn about the various tools we use to express our faith like the Apostle's Creed (9am) and the United Church of Canada Creed (11am).

What are we claiming when we say these things?

Why do these words matter?

Why is it important to profess our faith?

Questions? (205) 836-3201 or elumccomm@gmail.com

Lectionary Readings for June

I keep your word close, in my heart, so that I won't sin against you.
Psalm 119:11 (CEB)

Sunday, June 2 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Mark 2:23-3:6

Sunday, June 9 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:4-20 (11:14-15)

Psalm 138

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Mark 3:20-35

Sunday, June 16 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Psalm 20 or 72

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13)

Mark 4:26-34

Sunday, June 23 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49

Psalm 9:9-20

2 Corinthians 6:1b-11

Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, June 30 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

... from your Lay Leader

We (that is, Sally, Bob Chapman, and myself) have just returned from Annual Conference 2024, and as speakers in both services last Sunday indicated, it was so uplifting and inspiring! There were a few years during the pandemic and the last year or so of disaffiliations that Conference was held over Zoom, or when held in person, it was just sad. But this year, all eyes seemed to be focused on God's future for the United Methodist Church, and wow! that future looks so bright! We were uplifted by the music, the preaching, the worship, and the fellowship of like-minded brothers and sisters. Thank you, church family, for sending Bob and me as your lay delegates. We hope, and plan, to share our experiences with you in a number of ways over the next few months.

I also hope you are energized by the number of new studies and activities coming up in June and beyond. Just flip through this issue and you'll find something wonderful to participate in, whether it is the prayer study, the creeds study, or even our Bingo fundraiser (the 28th) or the PRIDE Parade (the 8th)—we try to cover all the bases! And don't forget our regular activities (Lunch with Our Neighbors and/or Ponder with the Pastor) . . . Join in on any or all of these, and let's do our part to make the future of East Lake United Methodist Church bright, both on the corner where we are planted and beyond!

Cheering for you,

Jane Phares



*New Sunday School
group this Summer!*

prayerful meditation

Sundays in July and August | 10am in the Meeting Room | Nursery available

breathing, guided imagery, self compassion...

This class is about using meditation as a form of prayer. The type of meditation we will use is called mindfulness meditation, inviting participants to focus their attention on something specific for a few moments and be open to God's presence. Self-compassion is an important component of our meditation practice, and so everyone is welcome to do it at their own pace. **No prior knowledge or training in meditation is needed.** It is easy to learn and easy to do, and we will use **multiple techniques** so that each participant can use whichever ones they prefer if they practice on their own, outside of class (which is encouraged but not required). **While each session will focus on a different technique and participants do not have to attend every session to follow along, attendance at the first introductory session (July 7) is highly encouraged as we set the stage for our journey together.**

(205) 836-3201 | elumccomm@gmail.com



Diner Offerings for June 2024

Monday, June 3	Hamburger patty with gravy, roasted potatoes, green beans
Tuesday, June 4	Baked chicken, roasted vegetables, rice pilaf
Wednesday, June 5	Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, collard greens
Thursday, June 6	Baked pork chop, rice, roasted vegetables
Friday, June 7	Loaded baked potatoes with chicken, cheese, sour cream

Monday, June 10	Chicken salad, sliced tomatoes, fruit
Tuesday, June 11	Taco salad with corn, Spanish rice
Wednesday, June 12	Macaroni and cheese, butter beans, cabbage
Thursday, June 13	Salmon croquette, rice pilaf, green beans
Friday, June 14	Fried or baked fish, coleslaw, baked beans

Monday, June 17	Baked chicken, roasted vegetables, rice
Tuesday, June 18	Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans
Wednesday, June 19	BBQ Chicken, potato salad, baked beans
Thursday, June 20	Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, garden salad
Friday, June 21	Fried or baked fish, potato salad, fried okra

Monday, June 24	Cold cuts sub, pasta salad, chips, dill pickle spears
Tuesday, June 25	Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, garden salad
Wednesday, June 26	Baked pork chop, roasted vegetables, potatoes
Thursday, June 27	Salisbury steak, scalloped potatoes, green beans
Friday, June 28	Chicken salad, sliced tomatoes, fruit

June 2024

Saturday, June 1

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)
Thrift Store – 9 a.m. – noon

Sunday, June 2

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

Tuesday, June 4

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, June 5

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 6

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 8

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)
Thrift Store – 9 a.m. – noon
PRIDE Parade – See details, page 3

Sunday, June 9

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
Leadership Team meeting – 2 p.m. (Office Conference Room)

Tuesday, June 11

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, June 12

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 13

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 15

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)
Thrift Store – 9 a.m. – noon

Sunday, June 16

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
“Lunch with Our Neighbors” – 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 18

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, June 19

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 20

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Ponder w/ the Pastor – 5:30 (True Story Brewery)

Saturday, June 22

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)
Thrift Store – 9 a.m. – noon

Sunday, June 23

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

Tuesday, June 25

Senior BINGO – 10 a.m. (Office Conference Room)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, June 26

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 27

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Friday, June 28

Bingo fundraiser – 6 p.m. (Wesley Hall)

Saturday, June 29

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)
Thrift Store – 9 a.m. – noon

Sunday, June 30

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)