

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

December 2024
Volume 65
Issue 12

In the neighborhood for good!



Words from the Beginning

This first Sunday of December is actually the beginning of a new year for the church. It is a time for new beginnings, even as the calendar year comes to a close. The birth of Jesus invites us to live and love in new ways even as our world seems to continue with the same old worries and woes.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, faced many trials, personal and political. But Mary had hope in a God who makes all things new for all people, shepherds and Magi, kings and peasants. All the time this world and its powers were trying to bring the story to an end. During this Advent we will be talking about beginnings, words that remind us of where we come from, to whom we belong, and how we might begin again, and again. These words of promise and beginning will be steady ground as we step out into all of our unknowns.

These words are simple, even childlike, but they are lessons we need to learn and relearn even as adults. They sound a lot like the words we say during special ceremonies or sacred rituals, like weddings or baptisms. So, let us enter a new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will encourage and hold us up for the journey ahead. As we journey through this season, let us find words for belovedness and hope. Let us find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning.

Tucked into the end of the year when it can often feel like we've run out of time, Advent invites us to begin again. In the depths of winter, and on the heels of an election season in the United States, Advent declares this is not the end, this is yet another beginning. With that hope and encouragement in mind, we remember simple truths, those that a mother might whisper to her baby. These are the same things that God wants to tell the world, and that we need to tell each other. These words that we share can be a foundation for beginning again, a foundation built on hope and love.

May these reminders give you strength, courage, comfort, and grace. Print them out, hang them on your wall, and write them on your heart so you remember that in every new beginning—and in every ending that comes before—God is already at work. Let us begin again.

Peace,
Sally

... from Leslie

Hi there!

As I'm writing this, I just finished up putting together the collection bin for the Diaper Drive, gathering the resources for the Prayer Room stations, unpacking the Advent Devotional Booklets, making gift tags to go on our Building Blessing Tree, and checking in on our Advent Sunday School leader. I probably forgot or overlooked something here or there along the way. . . but I *think* we are all set to go for Hanging of the Green this Saturday (11/30) and the First Sunday of Advent this Sunday (12/1)!

If you don't know what I'm talking about above, make sure to check out www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/advent and explore how you might grow, give, learn, reflect, discuss, meditate, and more. As always, let me know if you have questions, and I'd love to get you ready to get engaged.

THIS IS IMPORTANT! Many of our Advent things are great chances to include non-ELUMC folks. Our Christmas Pipes music program, our collection/donation opportunities on the Wishlist, and more are great things to share with friends who may not currently join us for church on Sunday mornings but may enjoy getting involved in other ways. There may even be some businesses you have connections with that would be interested in helping out with our Diaper Drive, for example! The possibilities are endless, but I hope you spend some time thinking and getting creative about how you could reach out and include more people this season.

With love and thanks,

Leslie

Attention, Ladies!

We are planning an overnight retreat at Camp Sumatanga on Friday, January 10-11, to be led by Rev. Doreen Duley. The cost per room (double-occupancy) and three meals is \$85 per person.

(See page 5)

The BELL TOWER PLAYERS present

a Jones-Hope-Wooten Comedy
Directed by Jane Phares

Dashing Through the Snow

December 6, 12, 13 at 7:30p
December 7-8, 14-15 at 2:30p

East Lake United Methodist Church • 7753 1st Ave S
Parking and entrance on corner of 78th St & 2nd Ave S
Tickets: <https://btpelumc.booktix.com> • Cash/Check only at the door

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

Advent 2024 at East Lake United Methodist Church:



WORDS
FOR THE **BEGINNING**



NOV 30 HANGING OF THE GREEN 10AM | SANCTUARY
This event, also known as Deck the Halls, consists of decorating our worship spaces and eating goodies! You're invited to bring pine branches, magnolia leaves, etc. and join us in worship the following Sunday to learn more about the symbolism behind the adornments.

DEC 21 LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE 7PM | CHAPEL
This service is a sacred space for recognition of loss and grieving during this season.

DEC 22 CHRISTMAS PIPES 2:30PM | SANCTUARY
Join us for this free musical event with familiar Christmas carols, stories, and on-the-spot composed pipe organ pieces.

DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION 5PM | SANCTUARY
At this beautiful candlelight service, we'll sing favorite hymns and take Holy Communion together.

DEC 25 CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10AM | SANCTUARY
Experience the glory of Christmas with a joyful combination of both traditional and alternative worship services.

Weekly worship each Sunday morning at 9am (Traditional) and 11am (Alternative).
(205) 836-3201 | elumccomm@gmail.com

Directions and more: www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/connect
Info on our Advent discipleship opportunities, Christmas party, church wishlist, and more on the Welcome Table, on Facebook, and at www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/advent.



East Lake UMC is a diverse and reconciling congregation in Eastern Birmingham. This means that all are embraced at East Lake UMC, no matter what. If you're looking for a loving church family that is engaged in the community, visit ELUMC this Advent season!



December Birthdays

1	2	3 *Carol Bullard	4 *Alex Collum	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 *Karen Brice	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 *Jesus, the Messiah	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SUPER SENIORS

Hello, friends!

The time has finally come for (Mystery) Christmas Bingo! You may remember the last few years the prizes have been hidden under Christmas wraps, so you have chosen your prize without knowing what you've won. We will continue this tradition this year, meeting on **Tuesday, December 17**, at 10 a.m. in the back room of the diner. If you want to, bring a snack to share. I'm expecting a big crowd this time, so get up and get going for loads of fun with friends!



(Jane P.)

"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:

Roy Miller
Barry Norris
Gary Sandridge

We express our deepest sympathies to the families of

Steve Lord, who passed away on November 10. Steve was a member of ELUMC for most of his life, and was a regular in the Downstairs Diner until he moved to Plantation Manor in McCalla.

Rev. James Fletcher Thorington, who was the Minister of Education here at East Lake from 1953-1960.

Please keep these families in your prayers as they go through this time of grief.

Lectionary Readings for December

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

Sunday, December 1 – First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

Sunday, December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55

Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14

Sunday, December 29 – First Sunday after Christmas Day

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

... from your Lay Leader

I have been remiss in not announcing our women's retreat next month (January 2025!). Irish tradition says that the weekend of Epiphany is a time for women, who often bore the tasks of cooking and preparing for Christmas, to take some time just for themselves. This is called Women's Christmas. Well, we had to shift our date a little, to the weekend after Epiphany. Please listen out for more details!

Cheering for you,

Jane P.



Our Hinton Team



DIAPERS & DOLLARS

a drive supporting Bundles of Hope & the East Lake UMC Food Co-op Group



All December long!
GOAL: 50 Bundles

Each Bundle consists of 25 diapers and costs about \$10.



DONATE DIAPERS:

Sizes Newborn through 6 and wipes needed.

Drop-off in the Welcome Area on Sundays or in the ELUMC Office during the week.

DONATE DOLLARS:

We can purchase diapers at a discount and stretch donations 3x as far as donors could buy at the store!

For our goal, we're counting a \$10 donation as one Bundle.

Mark your cash envelope or check memo line "Diaper Drive" and drop in the offering on Sundays or in the ELUMC Office during the week.

OR

Visit www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/give and press the orange button to use debit/credit card. Don't forget to write "Diaper Drive" in the optional note box!

Directions, hours, and more:

www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/connect
elumccomm@gmail.com | (205) 836-3201



East Lake UMC's Christmas Wishlist

- Warm clothes, blankets, gloves, and hats for us to give away to those who are cold this time of year
- Diapers (N-6) and baby wipes in support of Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank and our Food Co-op group
- Sponsorships for greenery that makes our sacred spaces so beautiful during this season



Scan this code or visit <https://forms.gle/zKV5BhDBxTs6T4Wg7> (Paper copies available upon request)

- Donations to our Love for Learning Fund that helps provide our Advent spiritual resources and materials



Scan this code or visit www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/funds to learn about ways to give & how to specify funds

- Keep an eye out for our Building Blessings Tree at church in December and choose a project to support building & ministry needs.
- YOU! There is nothing better than having you here with us. Explore our Advent calendar, discipleship opportunities, and more on the Welcome Table, on our Facebook page, and on our website.

Items can be dropped off in the Welcome Area on Sundays or in the office during the week. Directions, hours, contact info: www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/connect



EAST LAKE UMC'S

CHRISTMAS PIPES

SING YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH ORGAN

DECEMBER 22 | 2:30PM | SANCTUARY

Join us for this holiday musical event with familiar songs, stories, and on-the-spot composed pipe organ pieces!

(205) 836-3201 | ELUMCCOMM@GMAIL.COM
DIRECTIONS AND MORE:
EASTLAKEUNITEDMETHODIST.ORG/CONNECT
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL!



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

CHRISTMAS PARTY

WED. 12/18 | 5-7PM

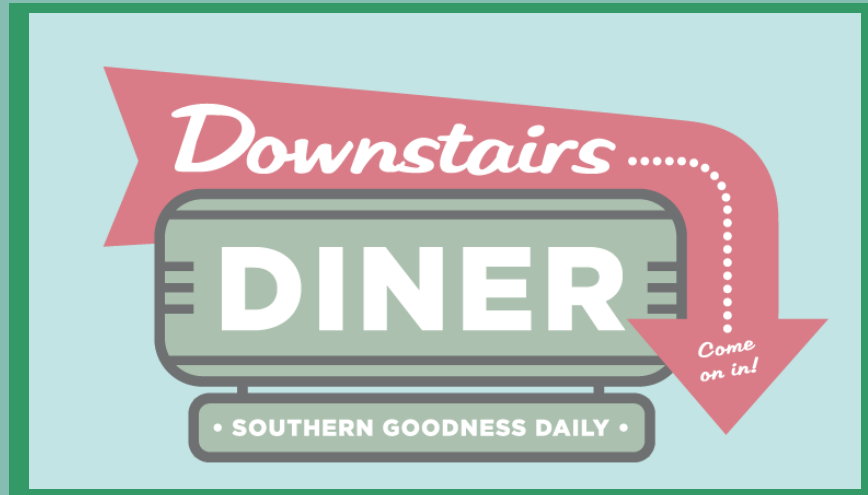
FREE FAMILY FUN!
SNACKS, CRAFTS, AND MORE!

WESLEY HALL AT EAST LAKE UMC

PARKING INFO AND MORE DETAILS:
WWW.EASTLAKEUNITEDMETHODIST.ORG/CONNECT



FOR MORE ON OUR PROGRAMS THIS DECEMBER, CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR WWW.EASTLAKEUNITEDMETHODIST.ORG/ADVENT



DINER OFFERINGS FOR DECEMBER 2024

Menu was not available for the month
of December

Call for daily menu
this month

From our finance folks

Many thanks to everyone who has returned a pledge card for 2025. So far we have received 32 pledges for a total of \$166,960. Our total budget for next year is \$350,000. If you still need to complete a card, please see Kay Sharp or Barry Norris. Every gift helps us fulfill our mission of being “in the neighborhood for good.”

*“Christmas Day is in our grasp, as long as we have hands to clasp!
Christmas Day will always be, just as long, as we have we!
Welcome Christmas while we stand, heart to heart, and hand in hand!” —Dr. Seuss*

Quarterly Boomer/Friday Night Fellowship event!

Yes, the long-awaited quarterly Boomer (call it Friday Night Fellowship if you want, but it’s really the Boomers) event is coming up on Friday, December 20. We’ll have a pot luck of anything you want to get from Publix, Aldi, Winn Dixie, or any other grocery store—in other words, you don’t have to cook! (You can if you want to, but why go to the trouble?)

We also ask you to bring a wrapped \$10 gift. OR, bring a white elephant, OR something you’ve gotten that is perfectly nice but you can’t use it. And yes—we’re going to play a game with these! They just need to be wrapped. And we ask that you please stick to the \$10 limit if you buy a gift.

Once again, the date is December 20. The time is 6 p.m. The place is the ELUMC Diner. Please come!

December 2024

EVERY SUNDAY IN DECEMBER:

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

Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

Additional Sunday Activities/Meetings:

Sunday, DECEMBER 8 – 2:30 p.m.

Dashing through the Snow (Wesley Hall)

Sunday, DECEMBER 15 – 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Lunch with Our Neighbors (Diner)

Sunday, DECEMBER 15 – 2:30 p.m.

Dashing through the Snow (Wesley Hall)

Sunday, DECEMBER 22 – 2:30 p.m.

Christmas Pipes (Sanctuary)

EVERY TUESDAY IN DECEMBER:

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Thrift store - open 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Exceptions/Additions to Tuesday meetings:

Tuesday, DECEMBER 17 – 10 a.m. Senior Christmas Party and Bingo (Back room of the diner)

Tuesday, DECEMBER 17 – 5:45-7 p.m. Grief Group (Parlor)

Tuesday, DECEMBER 24 – Check back to see if regular daytime activities will go on as usual

Tuesday, DECEMBER 24 – 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN DECEMBER:

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)

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

*Luke Bible Study – 6-7 p.m.

Exceptions/Additions to Wednesday meetings:

Wednesday, DECEMBER 18 – 5-7 p.m.

Church Christmas Party, Santa, and Tree-Lighting (*No Luke Bible Study)

Wednesday, DECEMBER 25 – 10 a.m.

Christmas Day Worship (Sanctuary)
 (*No Luke Bible Study)

OFFICE AND DINER CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

EVERY THURSDAY IN DECEMBER:

*Book Study – 10 a.m. (Jane Phares's house)

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Exceptions/Additions to Thursday meetings:

Thursday, DECEMBER 12 – 7:30 p.m.

Dashing through the Snow (Wesley Hall)

Thursday, DECEMBER 19 – 5:30-7 p.m.

Ponder with the Pastor (True Story Brewery)

***Thursday, DECEMBER 26** - *No Book Study meeting

EVERY FRIDAY IN DECEMBER:

No regular Friday activities

Additions to Friday activities:

Friday, DECEMBER 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Dashing through the Snow (Wesley Hall)

Friday, DECEMBER 13 – 7:30 p.m.

Dashing through the Snow (Wesley Hall)

Friday, DECEMBER 20 – 6 p.m. (Downstairs Diner) Boomer/Friday Night Fellowship Christmas Party

EVERY SATURDAY IN DECEMBER:

No regular Saturday activities

Additions to Saturday activities:

Saturday, DECEMBER 7 – 2:30 p.m.

Dashing through the Snow (Wesley Hall)

Saturday, DECEMBER 14 – 2:30 p.m.

Dashing through the Snow (Wesley Hall)

Happy Holidays!