

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

January 2025
Volume 66
Issue 1

In the neighborhood for good!



What'd You Get?

As we are all readjusting to normal life and normal scheduling after the holidays, I was reminded of a fun memory of my childhood. I was blessed with several sweet, tried-and-true friends with whom I spent much time playing and laughing from elementary school through high school. I hope you have those pleasant memories of good friends, as well. I had a tradition with one friend, Karen, that lasted all through those school days and even beyond until we grew up and were out of college. On Christmas morning, after giving time for the Christmas morning chaos to wind down, one of us would call the other, and the other would answer the phone and say, "What'd you get?" Our long friendship saw us through the answers of dolls and toys, books and clothes, even engagement rings.

I'm not sure what this Christmas was like for you, full or quiet, happy or longing, busy or still. I'm not sure what you wanted or what you got. I know for most of us, our lists get shorter and change qualitatively as we age. We now wish for kindness and peace, friendship and understanding and the like more than things. This year, when we are asked the question, "What'd you get?", the writer of Colossians reminds us that we can all say, "Clothes!"

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. – Colossians 3:12-17

In this new year, when anyone, a friend new or old, asks us what our resolutions or plans are, we can say that we plan to clothe ourselves with these gifts from God. None of these things can be bought, but they will each cost us something. They each deal more with how others will receive them than how we will look in our Christ-like fashion statement.

Wearing these new clothes will remind us that we are called to live well with one another. We are dressing not for success but to reflect the life of Jesus Christ. May we be those who wear it well in this new year. (Idea attributed to a devotional written by Larrin Robertson in The Upper Room's Devotional book 2024.)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Sally

... from Leslie

Happy New Year!

I am so thankful to have closed out and to be entering another wonderful season together.

This Advent:

- We had a super-fun Christmas Party with dozens of new and excited faces
- We dedicated significant time and energy to beautifully adorning our worship spaces with faith-full symbols, thanks to the support of people near and far
- We concluded our Advent Sunday School class after four weeks of deep and moving conversations
- We had great participation in our Diaper Drive and are already thinking about exciting initiatives in 2025 to continue to raise support for our Food Co-op Diaper ministry and our partner organization, Bundles of Hope
- We gave away about a hundred articles of warm clothes, hats, gloves, socks, and blankets, and are continuing to hang things on our fence every few days that can be taken by anyone who needs them

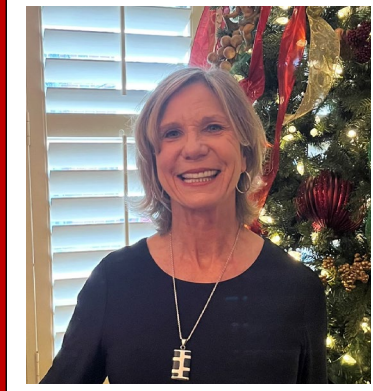
I could keep going... There are so many good things to celebrate!

Perhaps the best news is that even though we've made our way through Advent, it isn't too late to get involved or to continue your involvement in many of these things! For example, we are continually collecting items that were on our Christmas Wishlist such as materials for our Food Co-op and our Warm Winter Clothes ministry! If you happen to have access to some spare baby diapers, we can always put them to good use. You can read about all the items we collect at www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/items.

Perhaps the most important way you can support us is to spread the word and let others know what we are looking for!

Peace to you,

Leslie



Welcome, "new" member!

It is with great joy that we officially welcome **Belynda Adams** into our church family.

Belynda has been a part of us for several months now, but wanted to wait until the first of the year to officially move her church letter of membership from Woodlawn UMC to East Lake UMC. She joined at the 9:00 service on January 5.

She brings all her gifts and graces to ELUMC, and she comes ready to serve! She has already been involved in a number of ministries and activities. We are thrilled that she has decided to make her home with us!

We might also be seeing Belynda's partner, **Laura Hinton**, on occasion, although she regularly attends St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. You're welcome anytime, Laura!

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The BELL TOWER PLAYERS
present

Steel Magnolias

By Robert Harling
Directed by Mackey Atkinson

Jan. 30, 31 + Feb. 6, 7 at 7:30pm
February 1, 2, 8, 9 at 2:30pm

East Lake United Methodist Church • 7753 1st Ave
Parking & entrance on corner of 78th St & 2nd Ave S

Tickets
<https://btpelumc.booktix.com>
Cash/Check only at the door

Bell Tower Players present a favorite

Opening at the end of January, the Bell Tower Players will present their winter play, *Steel Magnolias*. We know you'll want to see this one!

Many people have seen the movie starring Sally Field, Dolly Parton, and Shirley MacLain, among other stellar actors. But you don't want to miss the play, which features some faces familiar to you (Melinda Adkins and Jane Phares), and some new ones that you will not forget! The play, although a little different from the movie in that it does not include the male characters, tells the story just as beautifully as the movie. You'll laugh, you might cry, but either or both, you'll love this production.

The director is Mackey Atkinson, whom you might remember as one of the actors from all of the 2024 shows. He is a wonderful actor and director, and brings with him amazing folks to do the set and lights.

Order your tickets online now!

... from your Lay Leader: Boomers!

As I sit in my office on Saturday after having been kept at home by snow yesterday, listening to my favorite, Dolly Parton, on the computer, and kept company by my loyal companion ChiChi, I am determined to finish up this very late issue of *The Chimes*. After the wonderful holiday busy-ness, I have had to be somewhat creative in filling the January issue, even though everything I've included is very important. And even now I remember something that didn't get its own article but that is nevertheless important—the **Boomer/Friday Night Fellowship** (choose the name you like the best) quarterly get-together.

We'll have a pot luck/trivia event on Friday night, the 17th, in the diner, at 6 p.m. Here's the deal: Don't feel like you *have* to make and bring something homemade. Something store-bought is just fine. (Of course, if you want to make something, go right ahead.)

After we eat, we'll play a rousing game of trivia. We played this on our last Hinton trip and had a good time of it, so you don't want to miss this friendly competition. Of course, the best thing about our get-togethers is our warm fellowship. Don't miss it!

Jane

January Birthdays

			1	2 *Marshall Spencer	3	4
5 *Mimi Jackson	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 *Jane Walker	16	17	18 *Mike Dorriety
19	20 *Roxane Serrano	21	22	23	24 *Mitchell Nash *Barry Norris	25 *Tracy Heathcock *Tammie Milledge
26	27	28	29	30	31 *Tallulah McDonald	

SUPER SENIORS

Happy new year, friends!

We have traditionally “stayed in the house” to watch a movie during the cold days of January, and we *really* need to stay in on these cold days. But it’s getting harder to choose a movie due not to an absence of choices, but due to the vast abundance of choices!

So I picked out a few for us to choose from for our movie day on **Tuesday, January 21**:

Hello, Dolly! – musical comedy starring Barbra Streisand

Man’s Favorite Sport? – classic comedy starring Rock Hudson and Paula Prentiss

Enchanted – a fantasy movie with Amy Adams that we’ve seen before, but need to review before seeing the sequel, *Disenchanted*

Wicked – a “back story” to *The Wizard of Oz*, the new-ish musical that is all the rage!!

Cast your vote between now and then with me (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:

Gary Sandridge

The victims and first responders in the California wildfires

We express our deepest sympathies to

Susie Knedlik, whose brother, **Jim Paramore**, passed away on this past Thanksgiving Day, in Topeka, Kansas. Please keep Susie and her family in your prayers during this time of loss.

Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers.

Kahlil Gibran

United Methodists see loss, offer relief as wildfires rage

By Heather Hahn

Jan. 10, 2025 | From an article in UM News

As wind-blown wildfires ravage Los Angeles County, United Methodists are doing what they can to offer shelter and address immediate needs.

They are also starting to count their own losses — which include the destruction of church members' homes and the buildings of at least two United Methodist churches.

"I've never seen anything like it in my life, and I've been through two earthquakes and other fires," said the Rev. Garth Gilliam, superintendent of the California-Pacific Conference's North District. "I've never seen the vast scope of blocks and blocks of homes just gone."

Since Jan. 7, firefighters in southern California have been battling to control a series of major fires, fueled by dry conditions and fanned by ferocious Santa Ana winds. They include the Palisades firestorm close to the California coast, the Eaton fire north of Pasadena, the Hurst fire in the San Fernando Valley and the Sunset fire in Hollywood Hills.

The flames already have consumed thousands of structures across more than 50 square miles. Roughly 400,000 California customers have experienced power outages, and more than 180,000 people have needed to evacuate. At least 10 people have died.

New conflagrations are still igniting. Meanwhile, the California-Pacific Conference — which encompasses United Methodist churches and ministries in the region — is already feeling the impact of the blaze.

On Jan. 8, flames engulfed the buildings of both Altadena United Methodist Church, north of Pasadena, and Community United Methodist Church of Pacific Palisades. At least five other United Methodist churches also were under evacuation orders.

The Rev. John Shaver of Community United Methodist and the Rev. Paige Eaves, the assistant to the bishop, have both lost their homes Conference leaders expect many more church members also have lost their homes.

The conference also said that Church of the Foothills in Duarte and other church buildings have sustained damage from the strong winds. Los Angeles meteorologists have measured wind gusts up to 75 miles per hour this week. That's the strength of a Category 1 hurricane.

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank, who leads the conference, has been offering daily updates and sharing her prayers.

"I am praying for you, bringing you before God, our Creator, saying, 'I know who you are. ... The United Methodists are people who do the work during times like this and care for each other,'" Escobedo-Frank said in a Jan. 8 video message. "So don't give up. Go ahead and grieve. Feel all the feels. And then continue to do the work of sharing meals, opening homes and being Christ's avenue of love in this day."

For now, the best United Methodists outside of the affected region can do to help is to pray for all dealing with the ongoing disaster, including first responders, and to donate financially.

"Money is the best thing right now because I don't know what else I'm going to need," said the Rev. Denyse Barnes, the conference's director of justice and compassion. At the time she spoke with United Methodist News, she was working to get shipments of drinking water for the affected communities.

Donate to the United Methodist Committee on Relief's response to the fires and other U.S. disasters at

<https://bit.ly/umcorusdr> UMCOR is already coordinating with the conference for the long-term recovery ahead. But the denomination's relief arm is not a first-responder agency. The fires will need to be extinguished and the immediate response completed before United Methodist volunteers can help

A number of United Methodist churches in the Los Angeles area opened their doors to those displaced by the fires to offer a place to recharge spiritually and, in the cases of their phones, literally. Among those offering hospitality is Pasadena's First United Methodist Church, which is within walking distance of the city's convention center that has been serving as an emergency shelter for evacuees. Ashley Slade, the church's communications director, said the church has mainly served as a resource center for people to get support and N95 masks because the air quality is so terrible. The church also has been hosting a dozen or so church members and others overnight.

Hollywood United Methodist Church also had been serving a similar role on both its campuses until the development of the Sunset fire forced the church's Hollywood campus to evacuate. The Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner, the church's senior pastor, said she and other church staff are doing what they can to keep in touch even though many are dealing with a lack of cell service.

"There are people within the conference who have lost everything, and the city will never be the same again," she said. She also asked people to keep in mind that among the first responders are around 800 state prison (continued next page)

Lectionary Readings for January

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

Sunday, January 5 – Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 12 – Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, January 19 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

Sunday, January 26 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

(Fires, continued)

inmates, who are specially trained to respond to a variety of disasters. They are embedded alongside nearly 2,000 California firefighters.

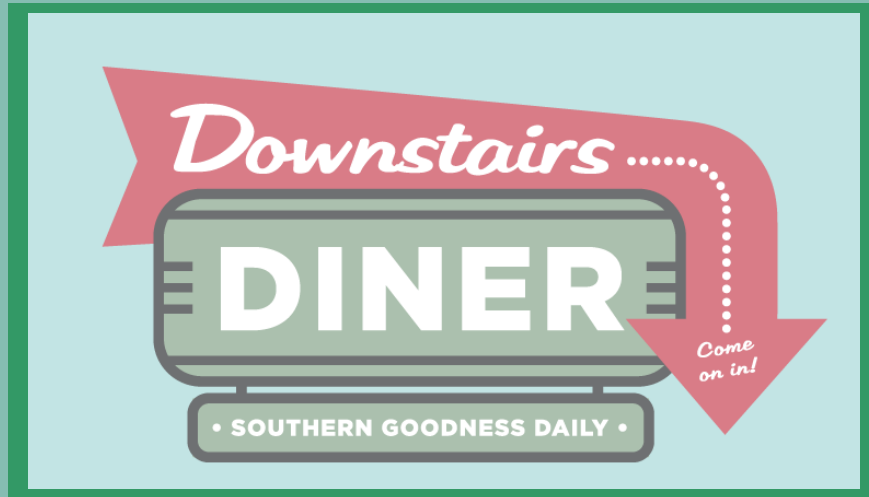
"We are all just waiting to find out how we can love one another well in this moment, once we get past the initial crisis stage," she said. "I think everybody is just wanting to know how they can support one another well in the weeks and months to come."



The sign still stands for Altadena United Methodist Church in Altadena, Calif., but not much else after wildfires devastated the area. Photo by the Rev. Garth Gilliam, district superintendent, California-Pacific Conference



Smoke reaches high into the sky behind Hollywood United Methodist Church in Los Angeles. Photo courtesy of the Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner, Hollywood United Methodist Church.



DINER OFFERINGS FOR JANUARY 2025

Wednesday, January 1	CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY
Thursday, January 2	Baked or fried fish, garden salad, fried okra
Friday, January 3	Chicken Alfredo, roasted vegetables, bread roll
Monday, January 6	Enchiladas w/ dirty rice, corn
Tuesday, January 7	Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, garden salad, corn, rolls
Wednesday, January 8	Chicken broccoli & rice casserole, bread roll
Thursday, January 9	Raja pasta, bread roll
Friday, January 10	Chicken Devon, garden salad, crescent roll
Monday, January 13	Pork chops w/ rice & gravy, dinner roll
Tuesday, January 14	Taco salad w/ black beans & whole kernel corn
Wednesday, January 15	Baked ziti, corn, & garlic bread
Thursday, January 16	Baked chicken, sweet potatoes, cabbage, cornbread
Friday, January 17	Chicken Alfredo, salad, bread rolls
Monday, January 20	Chopped steak, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, roll
Tuesday, January 21	Hamburger, french fries, okra
Wednesday, January 22	Raja pasta, garden salad, roll
Thursday, January 23	Baked or fried fish, fried okra
Friday, January 24	Enchiladas w/ dirty rice, corn, roll
Monday, January 27	Baked or fried chicken, macaroni & cheese, green beans, roll
Tuesday, January 28	Baked pork chops, yellow rice, green beans, dinner roll
Wednesday, January 29	Baked ziti, garden salad, & garlic bread
Thursday, January 30	Baked or fried fish, garden salad, fried okra
Friday, January 31	Chicken Alfredo, roasted vegetables, dinner rolls

January 2025

Wednesday, January 1

Church Office and Diner closed for
New Year's Day

Thursday, January 2

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, January 5

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various class-
rooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
Staff-Parish Committee meeting – 2 p.m.
(office conference room)

Tuesday, January 7

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, January 8

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. til 1 p.m.
Luke Study – 6 p.m. – 1st floor meeting
room

Thursday, January 9

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, January 12

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various class-
rooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
Leadership Team meeting – 2 p.m. (Office
conference room)

Tuesday, January 14

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, January 15

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

Wednesday, January 15 *(continued)*

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. til 1 p.m.
Luke Study – 6 p.m. – 1st floor meeting
room

Thursday, January 16

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.

Friday, January 17

Boomer/Friday Night Fellowship Pot Luck
and Trivia Night – 6 p.m. (Diner)

Sunday, January 19

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

Tuesday, January 21

Senior Movie – 10 a.m. (Office conference
room)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, January 22

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. til 1 p.m.
Luke Study – 6 p.m. – 1st floor meeting
room

Thursday, January 23 – See January 16 above

Sunday, January 26 – See January 19 above

Tuesday, January 28 – See January 14 above

Wednesday, January 29 – See Jan. 22 above

Thursday, January 30

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)
Steel Magnolias – 7:30 p.m. (Wesley Hall)

Friday, January 31

Steel Magnolias – 7:30 p.m. (Wesley Hall)