

# The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

March 2025  
Volume 66  
Issue 3

*In the neighborhood for good!*



## Everything In Between

I told a story last Sunday about what many refer to as a “God nudge” or a “Holy Spirit nudge.” It refers to a time when we get a clear message in our heart or our head to do something or change something. Whether the message is one we hoped for or not, it is a really good thing to simply get an answer – a clear direction - when so often things are unclear and confusing, and we do not know what to do. Perhaps you, like me, long for an easy answer at least some of the time, clear direction, a clear yes or no. Too often we are stuck somewhere in the middle, where things are murky and uncertain. This realization of our common condition is the perfect environment for the season of Lent.

Lent is a time of turning, a reflection on the ways that we too often turn away from God and the realization that in spite of our waywardness and unrepentant thoughts, feelings, and actions, God is always turning towards us. God meets us in the murky, messy middle of our lives. That is what our theme this Lenten season is all about. Things are rarely black and white, this or that, either/or, but something in between. If you often feel caught in the middle, if you wonder what Christianity and Jesus have to say about the complexities of not fitting into any neat categories, this season will be a great time for you to be engaged with this community in study and worship and prayer.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn said, “The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either – but right through every human heart.” Lent is a time to search our hearts for what is not of God and to turn back to the God who is always running after us. We find God most often in the spaces between us. Lent is not only about our relationship with God, but our relationships with one another. A prayer out of the Disciples of Christ Church says, “And I have come to see the space between you and me as nothing short of holy ground. So take off your shoes and draw near. Together is where God is found.”

This Lent, let us trust that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between. Let us listen for God speaking even in, especially in, the midst of division, confusion, and the complexities of our life. Let us join together to experience a holy season of Lent that will draw us closer to God and to one another.

Peace,

*Sally*

## ... from Leslie

Hey, folks!

March is full of exciting things! Our website is down right now, but we are hoping to get it back online soon. And when we do, all this information should be on there too!

We are continuing to collect warm clothes, gloves, hats, socks, and scarves for people who are struggling with the cold weather in our area! Encourage your friends to clean out their closets, or even get together for a little shopping spree, to support this ministry!

Our theme for worship this Lent is "Everything in Between." There are flyers on the Welcome Table and on Facebook that explain what we'll be focusing on, in case you are a theological nerd like me and are eager to know more!

Ash Wednesday is a meaningful and moving worship opportunity. I hope you can join us in the Sanctuary at either noon or 6pm on March 5.

Our Wednesday Night fellowship dinners and groups will be here before you know it! Starting March 12 and continuing until Easter, we will share dinner in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30-6pm and then break into various programs from 6-7pm. You have a choice between a Mental Health group, a Spiritual Disciplines study, quiet time in the Sanctuary for individual prayer and reflection, and the continuing Luke Bible Study.

Our Lenten Sunday School Book Study kicks off on March 2! (That's actually a tad before Lent.) People who registered will get an email when books come in with more details. If you didn't register but are still interested in jumping in, let me know and I will get you fixed up ASAP!

Also on March 2, we are hoping to have Lenten Daily Devotional Cards ready for pick-up so everyone can grab theirs before the first prompt on Ash Wednesday. No need to sign up to receive them. Just swing by the church and grab a set once they're here and pay what you can (recommended donation is \$5)! If you need a digital copy, let me know.

We also have exciting things brewing in terms of new (and much easier!) online giving methods, our big Easter Eggs-travaganza kids event in April, and more!

On a more personal note, I have interviews with the Board of Ordained Ministry on March 3-4. This is a big step in my years-long path to ordination in the UMC, and I would love your prayers! I hope to have a positive update for y'all soon, and I thank you for all the ways you have already supported me in this journey!

Love and Peace,

*Leslie*

## Congratulations!



... to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Mabry, who were married in the chapel on Sunday afternoon, February 23, 2025. Reverend Sally Allocca officiated. Terry and Brenda had a number of friends and family members surrounding them and wishing them well in their long-awaited marriage.

Terry and Brenda joined the church several months ago at the 11:00 service.

Best wishes to the couple for a long and blessing-filled marriage!

## 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](mailto:smcallocca@gmail.com)

**Mr. Barry Norris, Organist and Choir Master**

(205) 540-1820

[the1220chambers@yahoo.com](mailto:the1220chambers@yahoo.com)

**Dr. Jane Phares, Office Administrator**

(205) 821-8632

[jane.eastlakeumc@gmail.com](mailto:jane.eastlakeumc@gmail.com)

**Mrs. Leslie Norris Williams, Minister of Discipleship and Communications**

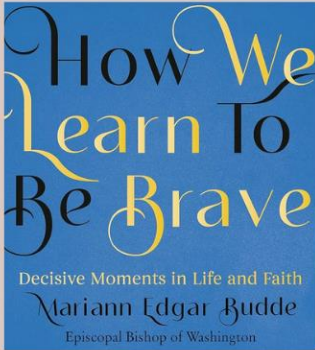
(205) 475-2890

[elumccomm@gmail.com](mailto:elumccomm@gmail.com)

EAST LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES THIS LENT**  
THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU AT ELUMC!

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
BOOK STUDY



**March 2 – April 13**  
Register by Sunday, Feb. 16

We all face crossroads in life – perhaps you're even in a decisive moment now – and are called to push past fear and act with strength. This Lent, we'll learn to respond with clarity and grace – not in one singular act, but on a continual journey of bravery.

Details:

- Group discussion on Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde's "How We Learn to Be Brave"
- Starts before Lent! Sundays at 10am in the Meeting Room
- Register by Sunday, Feb. 16 to receive a book
- Register by signing up on the Welcome Table, calling (205) 836-3201, or emailing [elumccomm@gmail.com](mailto:elumccomm@gmail.com)
- Books are \$25. If you can't pay in full, just pay what you can! If you can pay extra to help cover a friend, feel free to do so! Pay online, in the offering plate, or at the Front Desk by designating "Brave" on your cash envelope, check memo, or online note.
- Books and reading schedules will be available for group members to pick up at church after registration

WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
DINNER & PROGRAMS



**March 12 – April 16**

Join us on Wednesday Nights this Lent for fellowship and choose between several different options for spiritual and personal growth!

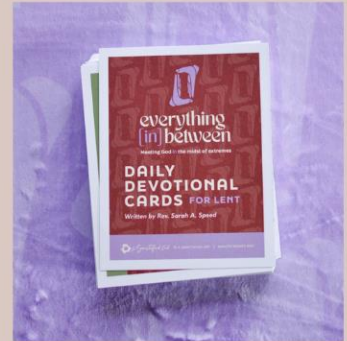
Dinner will be served for a low cost at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

From 6–7pm, we will break into various programs:

- **Spiritual Disciplines Study** in the Joy Classroom: learn some practical habits that can help you connect with God!
- **Mental Health Group** in the Parlor: Alex Collum, BSW will lead a discussion on coping strategies and pertinent Mental Health/wellness topics
- **Quiet time for self-guided prayer and reflection** in the Sanctuary
- **Gospel of Luke Bible Study** in the Meeting Room: deep dive into context, history, and theology (has been an ongoing study, but newcomers are welcome!)

No registration or resources required.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL CARDS



**Begins Ash Wed. (3/5)**  
Pick-up available in advance

Our theme for worship services this Lent is "Everything in Between." Follow along and dive even deeper with corresponding daily devotional cards. Each day between Ash Wednesday and Easter, there is a card featuring a reflection question and a prayer.

No registration required. Sets of cards will be available for pick-up at church on Sundays and in the office during the week leading up to Lent. The daily prompts can be shared digitally upon request.

A set of cards is \$5. If you can't pay in full, just pay what you can! If you can pay extra to help cover a friend, feel free to do so! Pay online, in the offering plate, or at the Front Desk by designating "Cards" on your cash envelope, check memo, or online note.

**ALL ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!**  
**PARKING AND ENTRANCE**  
at the corner of 78th Street and 2nd Ave S  
**QUESTIONS?**  
[elumccomm@gmail.com](mailto:elumccomm@gmail.com) | (205) 836-3201

# March Birthdays

						1
2	3	4	5 *Lee Hawk	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 *Jean Daily	13	14	15
16	17	18 *Billy Coupland *Martha Worrell	19	20 *Barbara Boyd	21	22
23 *Pamela Padgett *Kay Sharp	24 Barley Oliver	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## SUPER SENIORS

Can you believe it's March already, friends? Sorry I missed y'all last month, but I had unforeseen circumstances to contend with. 😊

So, given the fact that so much time has gone by since we started watching *Wicked*, what do you say to starting again, but this time starting at 9:00 a.m.? That way, we should be able to watch the whole movie. However, if you remember what happened in the part we already watched, you can come at 10 a.m. and pick up where we left off before.

OH, we'll do this on **Tuesday, March 11**, in the office conference room as usual.

Hope to see you there!

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:*

**Susie Knedlik  
Roy Miller  
Jane Phares  
Gary Sandridge**

*We express our deepest sympathies to **Jane Walker**, whose sister **Marjorie** passed away in Florence, Alabama, on February 19. Please keep Jane and the rest of her family in your prayers during this time of grief.*

**DON'T FORGET TO  
“Spring Forward”  
Saturday night, March 8  
Move your clocks one hour  
ahead!**



# Ash Wednesday

MARCH 5, 2025  
SERVICES AT NOON AND 6PM  
EAST LAKE UMC SANCTUARY

---

*a time of reflection, renewal, and  
the imposition of ashes*

This Lent, we will study the stories and parables that defined Jesus' final chapter in ministry in the Gospel of Luke. As Jesus makes his way toward Jerusalem, he makes clear that he needs disciples who will embody hope, compassion, and peace along the way. And so, as Lent begins, let us also ask ourselves: are we ready? Are we willing to be transformed?

Our theme this Lent is "Everything in Between." Somewhere *between* good intentions and impulsive action lies discipleship. Let's make a commitment to align our intentions and our actions.

## Lectionary Readings for March

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

### Sunday, March 2 – Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:29–35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2

Luke 9:28–36 (37–43)

### Wednesday, March 5 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

Psalm 51:1–17

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

### Sunday, March 9 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

Psalm 92:1–2, 9–16

Romans 10:8b–13

Luke 4:1–13

### Sunday, March 16 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17–4:1

Luke 13:31–35

### Sunday, March 23 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 55:1–9

Psalm 63:1–8

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

Luke 13:1–9

### Sunday, March 30 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Acts 10:34–43

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

John 20:1–18, or Mark 16:1–8

## ... from your Lay Leader ...

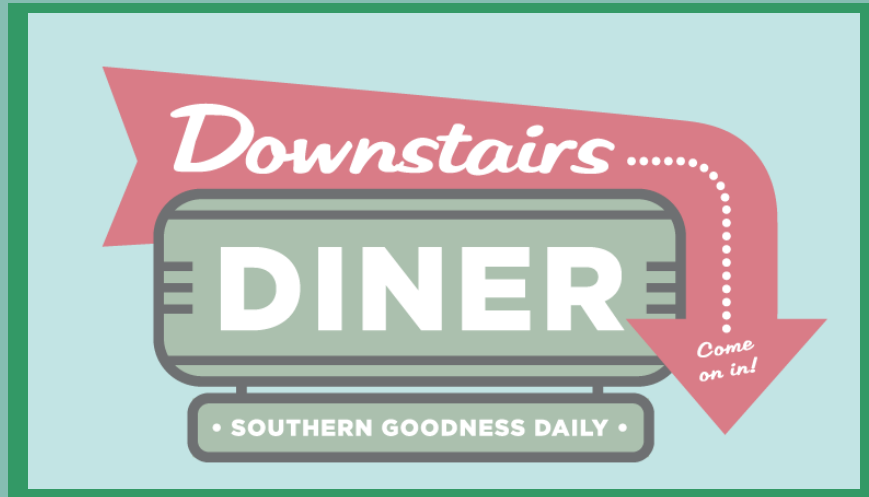
If I were a superstitious person, I would think that the beginning of February is an unlucky time for me. After all, it was four years ago on the 4<sup>th</sup>, that I had a stroke. Last year, I was recovering from Covid. And this year, on February 2, I had a hard fall and broke my neck (and my nose, but it's okay). Yes, I broke my C-2 vertebra into two separate parts. BUT, the good news is that there wasn't any damage to my spinal cord and I didn't have to have surgery! I really appreciate your prayers and texts and cards. My recovery may take a while. So I ask for your continued prayers, especially for my patience as I have to wear a cervical collar 24 hours a day, at least until I see the doctor March 21.

On another note, you might have seen some new faces around the church. We have a new kitchen manager, LeShaun Fitts. Juanita Jones has been training him, but she says LeShaun is doing all the cooking now. If you have eaten in the diner lately, you'll know he's doing a great job! Also, we have a new farmers market manager, Sidney Richards. She's in the office most days, so stop by and meet her. If you can't do that, you'll be sure to see her at the market, which will start before we know it.

Oops. Out of space. I am cheering for you!

Thankfully,

**Jane P.**



## DINER OFFERINGS FOR MARCH 2025

Monday, March 3	County Fair Casserole, baby carrots, roll, fruit
Tuesday, March 4	Pulled pork, baked beans, coleslaw
Wednesday, March 5	Fiesta Chicken soup, grilled cheese sandwich, fruit
Thursday, March 6	Raja pasta, garden salad, baby carrots, roll
Friday, March 7	Fried or baked fish, au gratin potatoes, fried okra, bread
Monday, March 10	Baked ham, roasted vegetables, sweet potatoes, bread
Tuesday, March 11	Chicken salad, sliced tomatoes, crackers, fruit
Wednesday, March 12	Beef patty with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans
Thursday, March 13	Pork chops, yellow rice, broccoli Normandy, roll
Friday, March 14	Macaroni and cheese, butter beans, collar greens, corn-bread
Monday, March 17	Hamburgers with lettuce and tomato, French fries
Tuesday, March 18	Meatballs, pasta salad, egg rolls
Wednesday, March 19	Chicken/broccoli/rice casserole, roll, fruit
Thursday, March 20	Taco salad with black beans, whole kernel corn, tortilla chips
Friday, March 21	Fried or baked fish, fried okra, coleslaw, roll
Monday, March 24	Red beans and rice, smoked sausage, coleslaw, roll
Tuesday, March 25	Salmon croquettes, rice, roasted vegetables, roll
Wednesday, March 26	Chicken Devon, broccoli Normandy, garden salad, roll
Thursday, March 27	Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green peas, roll
Friday, March 28	Baked chicken, turnip greens, blackeyed peas, roll
Monday, March 31	Chicken salad, sliced tomatoes, crackers, fruit

# March 2025

## Sunday, March 2

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)  
 Lenten study: *How We Learn to Be Brave* –  
 10 a.m. (1<sup>st</sup> floor meeting room)  
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

## Tuesday, March 4

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

## Wednesday, March 5 – Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday service - Noon (Sanctuary)  
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. til 1 p.m.  
 Ash Wednesday service – 6 p.m. (Sanctuary)

## Thursday, March 6

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

## Saturday, March 8

**SPRING FORWARD TONIGHT!**

## Sunday, March 9

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)  
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)  
 Lenten study: *How We Learn to Be Brave* –  
 10 a.m. (1<sup>st</sup> floor meeting room)  
 Leadership Team meeting – 2 p.m. (Office  
 conference room)

## Tuesday, March 11

Senior movie – 9 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, March 12

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)  
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. til 1 p.m.  
 Dinner – 5:30-6 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  
 Various classes begin – 6 p.m. (see flyers for  
 locations)

## Thursday, March 13

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

## Sunday, March 16

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)  
 Lenten study: *How We Learn to Be Brave* –  
 10 a.m. (1<sup>st</sup> floor meeting room)  
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

## Tuesday, March 18

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

## Wednesday, March 19

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)  
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. til 1 p.m.  
 Dinner – 5:30-6 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)  
 Various classes begin – 6 p.m. (see flyers for  
 locations)

## Thursday, March 20

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
 Thrift store – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
 Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)  
 Ponder with the Pastor – 5:30 p.m.

## Sunday, March 23

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)  
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)  
 Lenten study: *How We Learn to Be Brave* –  
 10 a.m. (1<sup>st</sup> floor meeting room)

## Tuesday, March 25

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

## Wednesday, March 26 – See March 19 above

## Thursday, March 27 – See March 13 above

## Sunday, March 30

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)  
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)  
 Lenten study: *How We Learn to Be Brave* –  
 10 a.m. (1<sup>st</sup> floor meeting room)