

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

April 2025
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In the neighborhood for good!



Working Beneath the Surface

Throughout the Old and New Testament, our world, our individual lives, and our hope are described as gardens – fresh and new, overgrown and trampled, promised and perfect. In the story of scripture, we begin and end in a garden again and again. Hope and opportunity to tend and nurture, disappointment in neglect and disobedience, hope in fertilization and replanting. Our life experiences, and our relationship to faith repeat like seasons of the year.

Gardening, like farming, is hard work – tilling, planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting. For all of that, for working with the unpredictable weather and the bugs and critters who want the harvest for their own, for the timing and the diligence of the work, perhaps it is the unknown that is the hardest, the waiting, the trusting, that something is at work beyond our sight, beyond our control that is burrowing, bursting, blooming into something beautiful, something vital, something delicious.

This spring, I have had the opportunity to participate in the Clinton Foundation's course for Empowering Faith Leaders to work in communities impacted by substance abuse, addiction, and overdose. (You will hear more about this work in the coming months.) The leaders have stressed how important it is to understand addiction not as a moral failing, but as a disease, and the path of recovery as nothing less than transformation of individuals and of communities. I am reminded of our discussions of Lent this season, of the fig tree in the parable that the gardener wanted to give a little more time to see if it would bear fruit. We often waste our precious time on shame and guilt while God continues to offer us time for growth and patience and renewal. We have the chance to focus not on what have we done wrong, but on what is God working within us to make us new. What do we need to weed out to give light and space to that work? How can we rest in the assurance that God is tending and nurturing our souls?

A scripture that always surprises and delights me is in the gospel of John's description of the resurrection. Mary in the garden, devastated with grief and despair, is seeking her Lord; seeing someone in the distance, "she mistakes him for the gardener." I picture Jesus in overalls with a bandana in his pocket, perhaps handing it to Mary for her to wipe her tears. And, then he calls her by name. God is working within us, in ways seen and unseen, to renew, restore, and transform us into new creatures.

In ourselves this season of Lent, may we let the seeds of hope and love, justice and peace be planted in our lives, that we may know with confidence and joy, as the promise of Easter grows, that nothing can separate us from the love and care God has for each one of us.

Peace,

Sally

... from Leslie

Hey, friends!

I come bearing good news! In case you haven't already heard, I recently passed my first round of Board of Ordained Ministry interviews! The path to ordination in the UMC is long, but this is a big step. I will be "Commissioned" as a Deacon in the North Alabama Conference this May. In general, deacons are pastors that usually focus on particular service/community ministries as opposed to church leadership (so a little different than what Sally does). This makes ELUMC the perfect place for me to be! I will spend a couple more years as a resident and then have another big go-around of paperwork and interviews.

I say all of this because I want you all to feel included. Many of you played a big role in this. I was deeply moved by the support, prayers, and words of encouragement I graciously received leading up to my interviews. This was not an accomplishment of my own. It was a product of God's provision and a result of all the love you have poured into me. I cannot thank you enough. So, celebrate yourself!

As always, there are several things coming up around the church that I hope you'll take part in. Our Easter Eggs-travaganza is coming up on Palm Sunday, April 13, from 3-4:30pm. We need people to spread the word in your circles. We need donations of small, individually-wrapped candy. We'll need help stuffing eggs leading up to the event. We'll need people on April 13 to help set up before the event (we need both decorators AND people who may not be fond of decorating but can move tables and chairs!), oversee simple crafts and games during the event, and clean up after the event. Please let me know what sounds doable and enjoyable to you and we'll make sure you're in the loop!

I'm also really excited about our new online giving platform (HUGE thanks to Kay Sharp for her work on that!!!), our Wednesday Night groups going on (join us!), our Summer Discipleship groups that should be announced later in April (stay tuned! They're good!), and more!

Thankful for you,

Leslie

Just when the caterpillar thought
the world was over, it became a
butterfly. - Chuang Tzu

It's not too late to join the Hinton team!

Yes, you can still join our team of 13 going to Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, North Carolina. This year's spring trip will be April 24-27, Thursday through Sunday.

The team, so far, is made up of oldtimers, but it is definitely not a closed group! You can talk to any of these oldtimers about what the trip involves: Melinda Adkins, Sally Allocca, Tom Duley, Jackie Folk, Carol Hay, Jason Hay, Bruno Hughes, Mike McCleskey, Wendy McCleskey, John Milledge, Robert Milledge, Jane Phares, and Sam Williamson. If you will join us, tell Jane Phares!



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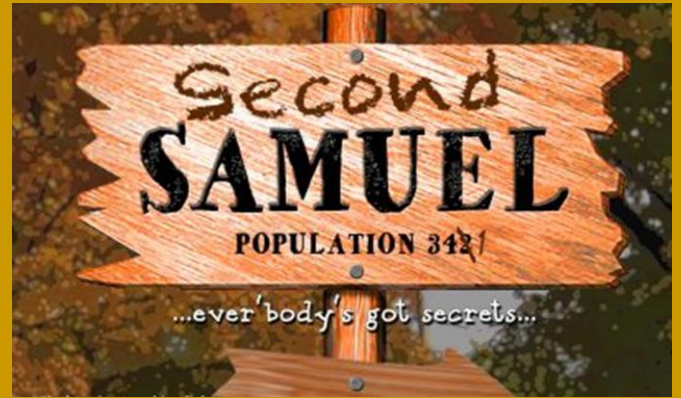
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ONLINE GIVING IS NOW LIVE!

Join us as we celebrate the launch of our new online giving platform!

- **Scan the code** with your phone camera (or visit www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/give and click the orange Give Online button).
- **Please set up a Vanco account!** Free, quick, & secure. It helps our records and will make future transactions easier for you with stored payment info.
- Vanco does it all: debit/credit cards, ACH/bank transfers (take several days to process), one time & recurring gifts, scheduling future payments, choices between general offering & specific ministry areas!
- **Every Sunday**, this code/link will be in our bulletin at the 9am service and on cards on the offering table at the 11am service. **It is always on our website and Facebook page too!**
- Cash and checks are always accepted as well.

We are so thankful that you're taking part in what we've got going on at ELUMC, and we could not do it without your generosity!



Bell Tower Players bring back a crowd favorite

Yes, the Bell Tower Players will open *Second Samuel* for the second time on May 8, 2025. First produced in 2018 and directed by Mitchell Nash, *Second Samuel* was a big hit with audience members, to the point they had to add an additional performance, even though most folks had never heard of it before the BTP production. Many came for a second time.

This time, although some cast members from the 2018 production have returned (but as different characters), there is a fresh take on this wonderful play.

Performances will be on Thursdays and Fridays, May 8, 9, 15, and 16, at 7:30. There will be matinees on Saturdays and Sundays, May 10, 11, 17, and 18. On Mother's Day, mothers get in for \$10. So take yours to eat lunch after church and then come on down for some lovely entertainment! Or choose one of the other times/performances. You won't want to miss it!

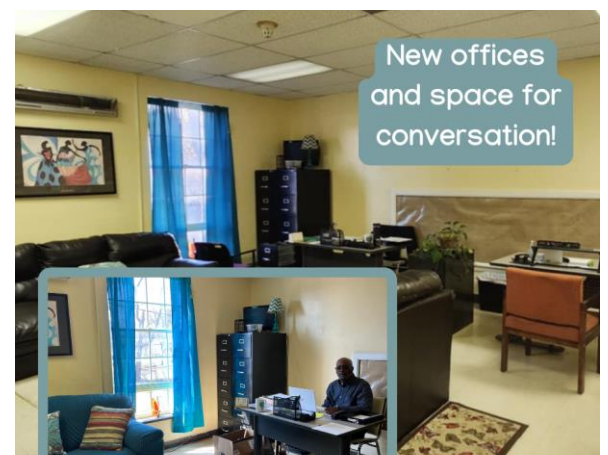
Drop-In Center gets new digs!

Yes, the East Lake Recovery Drop-in Center has moved from their first floor East wing room to multiple rooms on the first floor West wing. Here's a peek into a couple of them:

Volunteers and staff members having fun in the new community room!



New offices and space for conversation!



April Birthdays

		1	2	3	4	5 *Bruno Hughes
6	7	8 *Jerry Handley	9 *Veronica Williams	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 *Connie Peek	17	18	19
20 *Dwight Anderson *Maliyah Luster	21	22	23	24	25	26 *Rex McDonald
27 *LaTonya Brown	28	29	30			

SUPER SENIORS

Hi, my special senior friends! (I am well aware I'm one, too—if not so special 😊). You know what? I'm running out of ideas! I don't think you'd want to watch a movie every month, and (to be honest), I couldn't afford to buy Bingo prizes every month. We used to go out to eat on our gathering day, but I can't drive right now, and my car is out of commission anyway. So, what're we going to do?!

I know y'all are creative folks, so I'm going to toss it out there to you this month. First person who tells me an idea, we'll do what they say. Our day is **Tuesday, April 15** this month. Normally we would meet on the second Tuesday, but I'll be on vacation next week (March 31-April 5), so you wouldn't have much time to tell me your idea unless you text it to me, and that is an option. And if no one has texted me, on Sunday, April 6, I'm going to be listening! BUT, if no one comes up with a new idea, tell me what you'd like of the old ones, and I'll work it out.

Put on your creative thinking caps and let me know what you come up with!

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:

Nancy Anderson

Gary Sandridge

*We extend our sympathies to the family of **Danny Lee Poon**, who died around March 16. Danny helped around the church in many ways, and he is missed. His memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 5, at Pine Level Community Center, 116 County Road 40E, in Prattville, AL, visitation the hour before and repast immediately following the service. *And to**

*Susan Gann, in the death of her uncle, **Ronald Purser**. Susan's uncle was a close and kind relative to her, and his death leaves her with only cousins in her family.*

Please keep these families in your prayers.

Scriptures for Saturday, April 19, Easter Vigil

Old Testament Readings & Psalms:

Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 136:1-9, 23-25, or Psalm 33

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 and Psalm 46

Genesis 22:1-18 and Psalm 16

Exodus 14:10-31; 14:20-21 and Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18; Isaiah 55:1-11 and Isaiah 12:2-6;
Ezekiel 6:24-28 and Psalm 42

Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 143

New Testament Reading and Psalm:

Romans 3:6-11 and Psalm 114

Gospel:

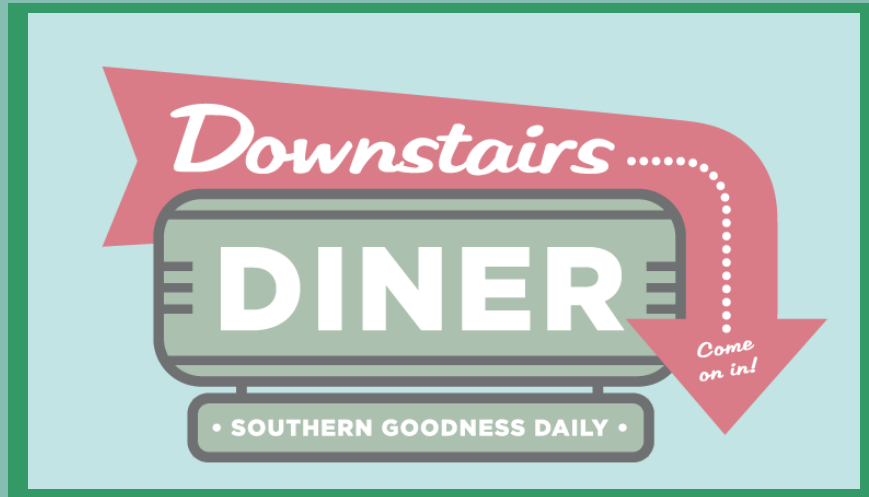
Luke 24:1-12



Holy Week Service

Friday, April 18 at 6pm in the East Lake UMC Chapel

This is your invitation to a space in between power and weakness,
fear and hope, innocence and guilt, life and death.



DINER OFFERINGS FOR APRIL 2025

Tuesday, April 1	Spaghetti with meat sauce, garden salad, garlic bread
Wednesday, April 2	Macaroni & cheese, turnip greens, blackeyed peas, corn-bread
Thursday, April 3	Beef patty with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans
Friday, April 4	Fried fish, French fries, coleslaw, bread
Monday, April 7	Pulled pork, baked beans, garden salad
Tuesday, April 8	Hamburgers w/ lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, French fries
Wednesday, April 9	Salmon croquettes, rice, roasted vegetables, fruit
Thursday, April 10	Taco salad w/ black beans, kernel corn, tortilla chips
Friday, April 11	Fried chicken, rice pilaf, green beans, roll, fruit
Monday, April 14	Baked ham, roasted vegetables, sweet potatoes, bread
Tuesday, April 15	Baked ziti, garden salad, garlic bread, fruit
Wednesday, April 16	Chicken Alfredo, broccoli Normandy, bread, fruit
Thursday, April 17	Pork chop, yellow rice, roasted squash, roll
Friday, April 18	Fried fish, fried okra, au gratin potatoes, roll
Monday, April 21	DINER CLOSED! HAPPY EASTER!
Tuesday, April 22	Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green peas, roll, fruit
Wednesday, April 23	Raja pasta, garden salad, roll, fruit
Thursday, April 24	Baked chicken, turnip greens, blackeyed peas, roll
Friday, April 25	Jambalaya, fried okra, blackeyed peas, cornbread
Monday, April 28	Chicken salad, sliced tomatoes, crackers, fresh fruit
Tuesday, April 29	Taco salad w/ black beans, kernel corn, tortilla chips
Wednesday, April 30	Chicken, broccoli and rice casserole, roll, fruit

April 2025

Tuesday, April 1

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

Wednesday, April 2

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 – 6 p.m. (see flyer for locations)

Thursday, April 3

No Thursday study group at Jane Phares's
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 6

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. (1st floor meeting room)

Tuesday, April 8

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, April 9

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 – 6 p.m. (see flyer for locations)

Thursday, April 10

Study group at Jane Phares's home
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
 Lenten study – 10 a.m. (1st floor meeting room)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
 Staff-Parish meeting – 1 p.m. (Off. conf. room)
 Easter Egg Hunt – 3-4:30 p.m. (Meeting room)

Tuesday, April 15

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

Wednesday, April 16

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 – 6 p.m. (see flyer for location)

Thursday, April 17

Study group at Jane Phares's home
 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.

Friday, April 18

Holy Week service – 6 p.m. (Chapel)

Sunday, April 20 – EASTER DAY

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
 Lenten study – 10 a.m. (1st floor meeting room)

Monday April 21

CHURCH OFFICE AND DINER CLOSED FOR EASTER MONDAY

Tuesday, April 22

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

Wednesday, April 23 – See April 16 above

Thursday, April 24 – See April 10 above

Sunday, April 27

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
 Lenten study – 10 a.m. (1st floor meeting room)

Tuesday, April 29 – See April 22 above

Wednesday, April 30 – See April 16 above