



LOVE, NOT JUDGEMENT, IS FOUND HERE.



DECEMBER 2018



## KEEPING CHRISTMAS...

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE



It is a good thing to observe Christmas day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the

supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow-men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind

the things that other people have to bear on their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world--stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death--and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.

*Henry Van Dyke, 1905 (The original version of this was published in 1905 by Charles Scribner's Sons.)*



**Blessings, Pastor Betsy**

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# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

***December is an exciting time for our children! We will be learning all about the birth of baby Jesus while participating in crafts & games.***

**Breakfast with Santa** will take place on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 AM.

- ▶ Join us for a great time with Santa & Mrs. Claus! There will be crafts, photo ops with Santa & Mrs. Claus, an Elf Yourself station, & reindeer food. Each person will also receive a door prize ticket. This is always a wonderful time for friends & family. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
- ▶ Cost is \$5 per person with a maximum of \$15 per family for yummy pancakes, sausage, and juice.



**BREAKFAST** *with* **SANTA**  
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***Thank you for your support! Christy Terrill, Director of Children's Ministries***  
***318-470-0779 / cwt125@bellsouth.net***

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# MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

***St. Luke's Music Ministry is celebrating Advent and Christmas by preparing special offerings to enrich worship during the coming month!***

St. Luke's Handbell Choir will ring in the Advent season on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> with renditions of "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" and "O Come, Christmas Joy."

The Chancel Choir invites you to attend "Nativity," a Christmas Musical Drama, during both worship services on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Opening with the proclamation from Isaiah, "Unto us a Child is born," it begins with the beloved manger scene. After the quiet, prayerful opening, a marvelous blend of carols spreads the good news of Christ's birth. The final scene is of the shepherds in the field. Joining the Chancel Choir will be our Christmas Singers; the voices of our children's duet, Aeryn Brannon and Ava Smith; our narrator, Leslie Nolan; our soloists, Zippora Hyman and Calvin Davis; and our guest accompanist, LaWanda Blakeney. Please join us and feel free to invite family and friends!



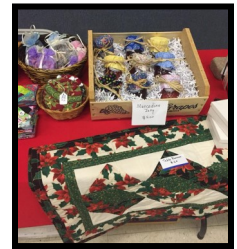
***Beth Duet, Director of Music Ministry***  
***admin@stlukesumc.community***



# MISSIONS



- ▶ **We are still collecting items for Common Ground's out-door friends.** They need any kind of food that opens with a pull tab, Kleenex, toilet paper, deodorant, socks, socks and more socks, and at this time of year probably gloves, maybe those without finger tips and possibly blankets.
- ▶ **We are also collecting gifts for all ages from now until December 10th for Common Ground's Christmas Market.** We need unwrapped gifts costing \$25 or less for all ages. How it works: they "sell" these gifts at the Christmas Market in December. The community can come and shop for gifts that cost them no more than \$ 5. Volunteers then wrap the gifts for them and they go home with real presents for each other. They may also need wrapping paper, boxes and ribbon. I'm going to try to have boxes in the narthex and the back hallway area. I, personally plan on working the market if they need help and would welcome anyone else who would like to participate.
- ▶ **The Holiday Boutique was a great success. The vendors all had a great time and made some money too.** The boutique itself raised over \$ 500 from booth rentals, the raffle, and from the items sold from the Crafters booth. It is yet to be determined exactly how this money will be distributed but historically we donate the booth rental to the Mission Committee, often earmarking it for a specific project. Eugene was a great photographer and I would love to publicly thank her for all her help and support in setting up, arranging the crafters' booths and breaking them all down again. It is a ton of work in a very short time frame and, without some help, it's too much for one person to do. I would also like to thank Marsha and Debbie for helping me mark the spaces, move the tables and put away the excess chairs. Plus, we had two awesome young ladies from Southwood who worked the raffle all day long and manned some of the booths so that the owners could step away for a bit to get something to



eat.

- ▶ **A group of our ladies attended a fundraising dinner for the Hub.** It was a very good meal; they provided lots of information about the history and current projects. This is a group we might want to consider for future mission projects. I have a picture I'm attaching. Those in attendance were Debbie Laffitte, Marsha Parham, Beth Fisher, Janice Boller, Eugene Smith, Connie Calhoun and Linda Neagle.



**Linda Neagle, Chairwoman, Missions Committee**





## UMW

### Significant Changes Coming for United Methodist Women



***Change is never easy! In January, St. Luke's United Methodist Women is changing to "Women's Ministry" and will no longer be under the guidelines of the United Methodist Women as a whole.***

We will continue to focus on issues that affect women and children, to offer a monthly program and occasionally to offer a study of interest.

I would like to invite all the women of the church to join us on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, at noon for a planning session to discuss the how, what and wherefore of the new group, our goals for women's ministry, and possible expansion to a nightly or Sunday afternoon group to include those who work during the week. Bring your favorite salad.

We hope that you will join us in this new direction for the women of St. Luke's!

***Debbie Laffitte***

## STAFF

**Reverend Betsy Eaves**

Pastor

**Beth Duet**

Director of Music  
Office Administrator

**David "Bing" Bingham**

Lay Pastor, AMOR

**Ashley O'Quinn**

Treasurer

**SueEllen Coleman**

Music Accompanist

**Momma T (Tania Lang)**

Spiritual Director of Youth

**Christy Terrill**

Children's Ministry Director

**Brittany Richardson**

Nursery Coordinator

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## WORSHIP

SUNDAYS, 8:30 & 10:45 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
9:30 AM

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## CONTACT ST. LUKE'S

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# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

## ***Our youth have had a busy November!!!***

Great time bowling with the youth November 4th. Momma T could use a little more practice!! Great big thanks to Teri Durel for opening her home to all the youth for a fun day of fishing on the Bayou. Coltin Stutts was the grand champion fisherman. Thanks to Mr. Larry & Mr. Tim for all their help cooking hamburgers & for sharing their fishing gear. We ended the month of November with a new tradition "a youth thanksgiving lunch" which included chicken nuggets, burritos, Alfredo, broccoli cheese rice, & (to keep it healthy) green beans & corn!!

***Senior High Breakfast has been changed to Thursdays. We meet at St. Luke's at 6:50 am. Momma T will give rides to school.***

As we look toward Christmas may we be reminded of the words of Isaiah, "For a child is born to us, a son is given to us," Isaiah 9: 6. God chose a manger for a throne. The King of all Kings born in a stable. How many of us would choose to lower ourselves to be born in a barn?

- ▶ December 16th we will be traveling to Marshall, Texas for our traditional Ice Skating Event.
- ▶ Also we will help Common Ground to set up the Christmas Market 12/14/18.

***Momma T, Spiritual Director of Youth***  
***tanialang50@gmail.com***



## AMOR at St Luke's

***We're gonna love ya –  
and there ain't nothing you can do about it!***

The Low Key Thanksgiving Feast was awesome. Once again, St Luke's hospitality at its best. We thank God for all of you who were so generous with food and volunteer service. We had about 75 people who shared our Friday Thanksgiving. The room was full of joy and gratitude from members, guests, new-comers, and Low Key regulars. It is obvious that we do meals and hospitality really well. It is one of our spiritual gifts. I'm sure there will be more to come. Watch this space!

A special invitation to all of you who may have family visiting over the holidays. Bring your guests to Low Key. It is a wonderful experience of the service ministry that defines the life of St Luke's.

Grace and peace,

***BING***  
***SHARE THE WORD. INVITE A FRIEND. FRIDAY AT 6:00.***





# DECEMBER 2018

*Appalachian Christmas Trip | Dec. 5th - Dec. 10th*

## SUNDAYS

**DECEMBER 2, 9, 16, 23, 30** WORSHIP, 8:30 & 10:45 AM  
( ONE SVC., DEC. 30TH)  
SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 AM  
YOUTH GROUP, NOON - 2 PM  
AA, 7 PM

**DECEMBER 2** UMW CHRISTMAS PARTY, 2 PM  
**DECEMBER 9/16** YOUTH GROUP, NOON MARSHALL  
ICE SKATING  
**DECEMBER 16** BOOK CLUB, 3-5 PM  
**DECEMBER 16** CIRCLE SERVICE, 5:15 PM  
**DECEMBER 16** "NATIVITY" CHANCEL CHOIR

## MONDAYS

**DECEMBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**  
AA, 8 PM

**DECEMBER 3** MISSIONS, 5:30 PM  
**DECEMBER 3** SPRC, 6:30 PM  
**DECEMBER 17** TRUSTEES, 7 PM  
**DECEMBER 24** CHRISTMAS EVE SVC., 5:30 PM

## TUESDAYS

**DECEMBER 4, 11, 18, 25** STAFF MEETING, 10:30 AM  
YOUNG ADULTS, 5:45 PM  
(11TH IS TACO TUESDAY)

**DECEMBER 4** WORSHIP COMMITTEE, 2 PM  
**DECEMBER 4** COMMUNICATIONS, 6 P  
**DECEMBER 25** OFFICE CLOSED

## WEDNESDAYS

**DECEMBER 5, 13, 19, 26** KOINONIA, 7 AM  
CENTERING PRAYER, 10 AM  
CHANCEL CHOIR, 6:30 PM  
AA, 7 PM

**DECEMBER 26** OFFICE CLOSED

## THURSDAYS

**DECEMBER 6, 14, 20, 27** LECTIO DIVINA, 8 AM  
CRAFTERS, 10AM  
SR. HIGH PRAYER BREAKFAST, 6:50 AM  
AA, 7:30PM

**DECEMBER 27** OFFICE CLOSED

## FRIDAYS

**DECEMBER 7, 15, 21, 28** LOW KEY SERVICE, 6 PM  
AA, 8 PM

**DECEMBER 28** OFFICE CLOSED

## SATURDAYS

**DECEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** AA, 10 AM  
ALANON, 10 AM

**DECEMBER 8** BREAKFAST W/SANTA, 9 - 11 AM  
**DECEMBER 8** RED HAT CHRISTMAS, 5:30 - 8 PM  
**DECEMBER 15** SRSG, 10 AM - 2 PM  
**DECEMBER 29** OFFICE CLOSED