



Faith, hope and love abide, but the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor 13:13)



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

February is the month of love, right?

So, I thought it would be appropriate to write about relationships and Jesus' call for us to love God and each other. But, then I thought about the fact that February is the month of the upcoming General Conference in St. Louis, Feb 23-26, when lay and clergy delegates of United Methodist conferences will be gathering from all around the world to discuss the future of our denomination in the wake of serious differences regarding the inclusion of the LGBTQ community. Questions of ordination and same-sex unions are at the heart of the conversation and proposals will be voted on by delegates to guide our future as a United Methodist family.

On the one hand, one could say that the topic of the General Conference is just about biblical interpretation and church polity and has little to do with love. But, the truth is, it has a lot to do with love and how we engage this conversation has everything to do with love. And we have biblical guidance for what we are dealing with. The apostle Paul wrote often to early Christian churches in conflict over various issues. When he wrote the church in Corinth he wrote to them about the importance of treating one another with honor and respect (1 Corinthians 12) in the midst of their differences. And he not only wrote to them about loving one another, he spelled out what that meant. In the 13th chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians he tells them. *Love is patient and kind, Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes, all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.* (1 Cor 13:4-7)

If the people called Methodists will gather in St. Louis this month with these words emblazoned on their hearts and in their spirits, perhaps they can collectively discern God's will AND treat one another with dignity along the way. And if we, the people called Methodists in our churches and communities can do the same, then this unique family in all

our diversity can face these challenging days knowing we have been faithful to God's call. It's a tall order to have strong feelings and remain kind and patient. It's a tall order to have strong opinions and not insist on our way. It is not simple and I am not sure how we find our way through.

That said. I do believe that it is God, who is Love (1 John 4:8) who will guide us. And I hope you will join me in praying for our delegates as they gather this month. Pray that they will embody the Spirit of Love, that they will be guided by God's hand. And pray that we all will remember Paul's admonition to the people of Corinth.

But, let me say this. Whatever happens in St. Louis, we at St. Luke's United Methodist Church will continue to gather on the corner Youree Drive and Sand Beach Blvd. We will continue to worship and study and pray and serve and love.

Because *Love never ends.* (1 Cor 13:15)



Blessings, Pastor Betsy

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A Note of Appreciation

Thanks to my St. Luke's family for all the prayers, the cards, and the wonderful prayer blanket! Feeling your support surrounding me is helping more than I can say as I face the obstacles with my health.

I love you all,
Mary Darby

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

It is very exciting in the children's area!

We have had several new friends join us for Sunday School and Children's Church.

- ◆ We have also had a wonderful response to our **SignUpGenius** volunteer app for helpers and snacks. If you are interested in working with some awesome children, please choose a Sunday and sign up!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094DAAA62CA1F85-volunteer>

- ◆ We are having a quick Safe Sanctuary training on Sunday, February 10th at noon in the Conference Room. Please meet with us if you have not been trained and if you volunteer anywhere that our children will be.

- ◆ Beginning in March we will be announcing some exciting changes with our children and youth! There will be a Children's Council/Parent Meeting on February 11th at 6 PM in the Conference Room.



- ◆ Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 13th! **Bunnies and Baskets** will be that morning from 9:30-11:30 AM! Donations of filled plastic eggs and volunteers will be needed!



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Members of the Handbells and the Chancel Choir gathered for a Twelfth Night Party at the Duets on January 5th. Lots of fun, fellowship, and food made it a great way to begin a new year! The groups are learning new music to share with the congregation and are looking forward to deepening the Sunday morning worship experiences. Both groups are welcoming new members at this time, so let Beth know if you are interested or just join us for a rehearsal at 5:30 PM on Wednesday evenings for Handbells or 6:30 PM for Chancel Choir.

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



Payton Fowler, Collin Hughes, Emily Gregory, and Hannah Rachal sang "Be Not Afraid" at both services on January 13th. This beautiful composition based on Isaiah 43:1-7 was written by Taylor Davis, a Cen-

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The best way to start a new year is to look back on last year's accomplishments as well as failures. Both are necessary for future success.

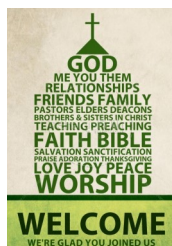
Accomplishments usually point to your strengths and to wise decisions you have made like the A on your history exam because you chose to limit your screen time and devote that time to studying. Failures are often due to un-wise choices we've made. Choosing an all-night marathon over studying ahead for your French exam may have contributed to the F you received. Both our failures and our accomplishments are learning opportunities. As we look forward to the new year, let us apply what we've learned and move ahead not looking back on our failures which could disable our progress. Beware dwelling on your accomplishments which could keep you stuck in complacency instead of moving to the next step.

You can't win a race looking back and you can't win by standing still. Keep moving!

Paul tells us in Hebrews 12:1 ... "And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus."

Senior High Prayer Breakfast continues to be a strong encouragement to our youth. They arrive every Thursday morning before school for food and fellowship. We share prayer requests and have a short devotional. As one youth said, "It helps me finish the week strong."

Look for big changes in the coming year!! 2019 will be the best year yet!
Momma T



NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS

If you have joined the church in the past year or enjoy visiting worship services, you are invited to attend the NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON on Sunday, February 24th from 12 – 1:30PM. Learn more about St. Luke's while sharing food and fellowship!



Healthy Lifestyles Meetings

What is Healthy Lifestyles all about? Healthy Lifestyles is about more than just what you eat. It involves food for your body, your mind, and your spirit. Please join us at 2 PM on the second Sunday of each month as we explore these topics. We will begin each monthly meeting with an easy 15-minute exercise routine, then move into our discussion. All are welcome to join us! We will have fun and learn also as we journey into 2019!

Debbie Laffitte



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

MARCH 6TH, 12:15 PM AND 5:30 PM



St. Luke's Book Club

Our selection for February is *Hiking Through* by Paul Stutzman. Join us on February 17th at 3:00 p.m. in the St. Luke's library as we discuss his remarkable hike along the Appalachian Trail. His search for peace and a renewed sense of purpose promises to be both fascinating and illuminating. Those who love nature and adventure and all who seek a new understanding of God's grace and guidance will find this book a very good read!

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



FEBRUARY 2019

SUNDAYS

FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 24

WORSHIP, 8:30 & 10:45 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 AM
YOUTH GROUP, NOON - 2 PM
BIBLE BLITZ 5 PM (3:30 PM ON 3RD,
NO MEETING ON 10TH)
AA, 7 PM

FEBRUARY 10

COMMUNICATION, NOON
SAFE SANCTUARY TRNG, NOON
HEALTHY LIFESTYLES, 2 PM
CIRCLE SERVICE, 5:15 PM
BOOK CLUB, 3 - 5 PM
VALENTINE'S DINNER, 6 PM
NEW MEMBER LUNCH, 12 - 1:30 PM

FEBRUARY 17

FEBRUARY 24

MONDAYS

FEBRUARY 4, 11, 18, 25

AA, 8 PM
COMPANIONS IN CHRIST, 5:30 PM

FEBRUARY 4

FEBRUARY 11

FEBRUARY 11

MISSIONS, 5:30 PM
PARENTS/CHILDREN'S COUNCIL, 6 PM
TRUSTEES, 7 PM

TUESDAYS

FEBRUARY 5, 12, 19, 26

STAFF MEETING, 10:30 AM
CENTERING PRAYER, 4 PM
YOUNG ADULTS, 5:45 PM
(12TH IS TACO TUESDAY)

FEBRUARY 5

FEBRUARY 12

FEBRUARY 26

WORSHIP COMMITTEE, 2 PM
FINANCE COMMITTEE, 6 PM
CHURCH COUNCIL, 7 PM
COMMUNICATIONS, 7 PM

WEDNESDAYS

FEBRUARY 6, 13, 20, 27

KOINONIA, 7 AM
ENNEAGRAM GROUP, 4:30 PM
HANDBELLS, 5:30 PM
CHANCEL CHOIR, 6:30 PM
AA, 7 PM

THURSDAYS

FEBRUARY 7, 14, 21, 28

YOUNG ADULTS, 6:50 AM
LECTIO DIVINA, 8 AM
COMPANIONS IN CHRIST, 9 AM
CRAFTERS, 10 AM
AA, 7:30PM

FEBRUARY 14

FEBRUARY 21

FEBRUARY 28

UPPER THIRD, 11:30 AM
WOMEN'S MINISTRY, NOON
CRAFTERS4MISSION, 5:30 PM
UMM, 6:30 PM

FRIDAYS

FEBRUARY 1, 8, 15, 22

LOW KEY SERVICE, 6 PM
AA, 8 PM

SATURDAYS

FEBRUARY 2, 9, 16, 23

AA, 10 AM
ALANON, 10 AM

FEBRUARY 16

SRSg, 10 AM - 2 PM