



The Chimes

April 2022
Volume 63, Issue 4

In the neighborhood for good!

Can I Get a Witness?

Can I get a witness? Does anybody want to testify? Depending on your tradition, those questions are either inspiring and enlivening or unusual and terrifying. The stories we have in scripture for Lent and Easter, the stories of crucifixion and resurrection, call on us to notice, to be present, to go and tell, to go and live differently.

When we have had a powerful experience in our life—having a child, falling in love, the death of someone you love, an unexpected blessing—it is often difficult to put into words. We may sum it up by just saying, “You had to be there.” Scripture seems to tell us that through our faith, we were there, in a sense, at the crucifixion and the resurrection, and that we are called to be witnesses to these life changing, world altering events. We sing the song, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” Were you there to see the depth and breadth of the love God has for us that was lived out in Jesus? Were you there to see that nothing, not even death, can stop that kind of love? “Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.” The disciples, most all of them, left when the going got tough. Will we? Will we deny and betray Jesus by the words we say and how we live our lives or will we go through darkest time out of love. “Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.”

And then we find ourselves in the garden of second chances. Will we recognize Jesus as the risen Lord? Will we realize that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God? We are witnesses by faith to these events and we are called to spread the good news in word and in deed.

What news are you spreading? Do others know by seeing the life that you lead that they are loved with an amazing, unconditional love? Do others hear in your voice words of healing and peace? Do we love to tell the story of Jesus and his love? May we experience anew the wondrous story of the power of God’s love this season, and may we live it out every day of our lives.

Peace,

Sally

Easter Eggs-travaganza!



Saturday, April 16
Find out more on page 4.

There will be
Special
Holy Week
Services
the week of
April 11th

See specifics on
page 4



The Bell Tower Players’ first
post-pandemic show
opens April 28. For more
info, turn to page 3.

In Celebration and Thanksgiving

Juanita Jones came on staff to lead our kitchen team in 1990 making her our longest serving staff member, by a long shot. While she tried to retire several times in the past, we begged her to stay just a little longer. I promised after the last time, that the next time she told me that it was time for her to go, I wouldn't beg her to stay, I would just say thank you. That is our task now as a grateful church to thank her for her 30+ years of excellent service.

For much of her tenure, she primarily fed daycare children. When there were 100 children in the daycare, 30 more in the school, and even 30 more in the summers, she fed them tasty and nutritious foods for breakfast, lunch, and two snacks every day. She fixed wonderful Wednesday night dinners for large church crowds and later Wednesday lunches. She handled special dinners for Sunday School parties, teas, receptions, and funerals. She made sides for Thanksgiving and Christmas. She made the most amazing yeast rolls, cinnamon rolls, cakes, and many other baked goods. Actually, everything she makes is made with love and tastes amazing.

After the daycare closed, she handled all the paperwork and all the cooking for 100 children each summer for the federal summer feeding program, and got our Diner up and running to feed the public for lunch during the week. For all of this, she managed, not only the cooking, but the ordering, the budgeting, the serving, the customer service. She did it all out of her love for service and her love for this church and all of us. We are so grateful! We will miss her, but she has graciously stayed long enough to get our new team trained and up and running.

Please consider showing your appreciation by contributing to the love gift we will give her from the church. (Simply designate "Juanita Love Gift" on your check or envelope). We will celebrate her at a special come-and-go reception on Sunday, April 3rd from 2-3:30 (see invitation) and all week the first full week of April. Come by the Diner that week, get a great lunch, and take the opportunity to thank her again.

You are invited to
a reception
honoring
JUANITA JONES

on Sunday, April 3

2 o'clock p.m. until
3:30 p.m.

in the Parlor

Cards and hugs encouraged!

East Lake United Methodist Church

7753 First Avenue South (corner of 2nd Ave. S. & 78th)

Birmingham, AL 35206

www.eastlakeumc.net

(205) 836-3201 (office) (205) 836-3203 (FAX)

Pastoral and Program Staff:

Rev. Sally Allocca, Pastor (205) 821-8804

smcallocca@gmail.com

Mr. Barry Norris (205) 540-1820

the1220chambers@yahoo.com

Dr. Jane Phares (205) 821-8632

jane.eastlakeumc@gmail.com

Mrs. Leslie Norris Williams (205) 475-2890

leno2699@gmail.com

The Chimes is published monthly by East Lake United Methodist Church.
Editor: Jane Phares
Deadline for articles: The 28th of the month prior to publication month.

April Birthdays

					1	2 * Rhetta Tatum
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 * Randa Mosley
10	11 * Cliff Eady	12	13	14	15	16 * Connie Peek
17	18	19	20 * Dwight Anderson * Maliyah Luster	21	22	23 * Catherine DeArman
24	25	26 * Jan Briley * Rex McDonald	27 * LaTonya Brown	28	29	30

The Bell Tower Players are back!

Yes, our drama troupe is back on stage, this time with Noel Coward's comedy, *Blithe Spirit*. A number of people, some familiar faces and some not, are working really hard to bring you this production. In the absence of our beloved director **Mitchell Nash**, who moved out of state almost a year ago, Jane Phares has taken the reins and is directing this first post-pandemic production. **Greg Boling**, costumier extraordinaire, is doing the costumes, and you'll want to come just to see them, if for no other reason! **Roy Miller** has led a team of carpenters in building the set, which we hope will also be magnificent by opening night. SO, we hope you will come and show the actors and the "crew" your appreciation for their work. You'll enjoy the play, too!

Thursday, April 28 – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 29 – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 30 – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 1 – 2:00 p.m.



We had a wonderful crowd in March at the Fish Market! The fellowship was just great, and we hope to repeat that on **April 22 at 6 p.m.**

What if we gather in the diner and have Dreamland cater our event? We can get a package for 25-30 people (let's all get to work to build the crowd even more) that includes

- 5 Slabs of Hickory-Grilled Ribs
- 5 lbs. of Hickory-Smoked Pork, Chicken, Sausage, or Boneless Rib Tips
- 2 Medium Pans of Fixin's (sides)
- 1 Medium Pan of Dessert
- 3 Gallons of Tea

The cost per person would be in the neighborhood of \$15.00, and they'll bring it to us! Let Jane know how this sounds to you.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, April 14
A service of remembrance and
recommitment
6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Good Friday, April 15
Facing the Shadows: A Tenebrae Meditation
6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Easter Egg-Stravaganza!

When: Saturday, April 16; 10 until 11:30 a.m.
(Women's Group should arrive at 9 a.m.)

Where: ELUMC

What: Fun games, sweets & treats, and an
egg-ceptionally egg-citing egg hunt!

Who: Families with children 10 and under

And it's free! Spread the word!

Music Notes 'midst Organ-izing

At different times during our Sunday morning services during Lent this year, Sally has been introducing a verse of *Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown*, by Charles Wesley, brother of John. The use of these verses will culminate on Easter Sunday, with an anthem arrangement of the hymn by our own Mimi Jackson. Carlton R. Young, editor of our last two hymnals (and close friend of Mimi's), provides much helpful information about the hymn.

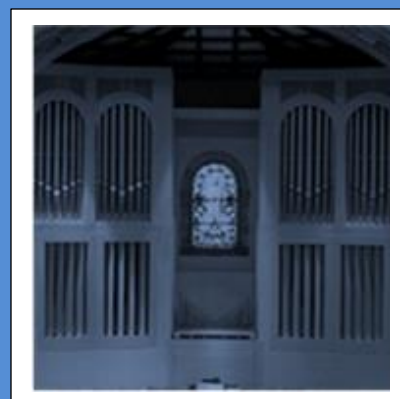
It was first published in *Hymns and Sacred Poems* in 1742, under the title "Wrestling Jacob," and is widely regarded among Charles Wesley's 6500+ hymns as his greatest one. The hymn's central theme is the intense struggle attendant in the changing of one's own heart and being. The struggle is imaged through the story of Jacob's wrestling with the angel of God at Peniel (check out Genesis 32:24-32), and at the end his receiving a new name.

Isaac Watts, author of so many well-known hymns in our hymnal, says that this hymn of Wesley's is "worth all the verses that [he himself] had written." The hymn's original 14 stanzas (on page 387 in our hymnal) are divided into two parts. Stanzas 1-8 contain the questions of one who seeks to know God's nature, and stanzas 9-14 affirm that God's "nature and name is love." Wesley's faith journey, as told through this hymn, ends with the revelation that God is "pure universal Love."

Its tune, now called CANDLER, is a traditional Scottish melody. It was given that name in our 1935 Methodist Hymnal in recognition of Bishop Warren A. Candler, the chief advocate for retaining the hymn, who had suggested the tune. Its five-note melody line was restored, and harmonized for our 1966 hymnal by (you guessed it!) Carlton R. Young, its editor.

Love,

Barry



Women's Group Update

East Lake Women's Group has had two monthly meetings so far, and it's been spectacular! This group is primarily geared towards being a spiritual formation opportunity for women who are involved at the Church or who are members of the community that do not currently belong to a Sunday School class. However, if any people who are already involved in a Sunday School class want to join us as a nice special program on occasion, then that is gladly encouraged as well.

This Spring, we have been exploring Prayer. We've discussed prayer as portrayed in the Bible, asked each other what prayer is in general, shared insights into our own personal prayer lives, talked about why different prayer practices are useful in our Spiritual lives, and practiced certain guided prayers together. While these may be new to us, some of them have been around for centuries! Others are contemporary takes on prayer that help us continue discovering and connecting with God in more modern, meaningful ways.

This group is a safe place for all women, and all women are invited. We have talked all Spring about encouraging one another, respecting one another, listening to one another, appreciating our diverse backgrounds and experiences, and being graceful and gentle to ourselves as we try new things. Please invite any friends who you feel like would be a good fit, and be in prayer for our group!

Our next meeting will be for the Church's Easter Eggs-travaganza on Saturday, April 16th. We will volunteer at the event by setting up, leading games, handing out treats, and working the Easter Egg Hunt. However, group members are asked to arrive early at 9am on the morning of the event and meet in the parlor for a quick check-in and overview of a fun, interactive prayer practice we can do throughout our time volunteering. After that, we will meet again at our normally scheduled time and place (10am in the First Floor Meeting Room) on Sunday, May 8.



Leslie



Hi, my Senior friends!

Last month, we had a small crowd for our viewing of "Desk Set," but what a cute movie that was! I'm sorry we didn't have more people, but Linda Pierce, Jane Walker, George Coward, and I enjoyed the gathering. Maybe next time we can have more of our regulars back.

This month, how about we go to the Chicken Salad Chick for lunch (we were supposed to go there two years ago, and then, you know, the pandemic hit). So let's make up for it on Tuesday, the 19th. We'll meet at the church at 11 a.m. I'm excited! - Jane P.

"Keep on praying for the saints . . ."

Ephesians 6:18

There are many unspoken prayers in our congregation, but no other specific requests that we have been made aware of.

Please continue praying for

Our world leaders

The people of Ukraine and all affected by the war

And pray for

Those in our neighborhood who suffer from mental illness or disability

Those who are grieving

Those who struggle to have enough food to eat

Our church staff and leaders

Those who need a church home

Lectionary Readings for April

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

Sunday, April 3 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Sunday, April 10 – Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 19:28-40
Luke 22:14-23:56

Thursday, April 14 – Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, April 15 – Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

Sunday, April 17 – Easter Day

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Acts 10:34-43
1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Luke 24:1-12
John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 24 – Second Sunday of Easter

Psalm 150
Acts 5:27-32

Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

from your Lay Leader . . .

Greetings, family! I am so excited that we are back to our full *Chimes*! I was afraid we wouldn't have enough to fill six pages, but here we have eight pages full! It's very exciting that we have this much going on again after two years of shut down and slowly opening again.

Speaking of which, I can't wait for everyone to see the Bell Tower Players production of *Blithe Spirit*. It's very funny. Some of you may remember when we did this play about 17 years ago. This has a brand new cast, though, most of which have come to us through word of mouth, or people knowing people. They're wonderful! We have been practicing since February 24, and have three more weeks to go. Hope you'll come!

More next month.

Cheering for you,

Jane (Phares)



April 2022 Menus

Tuesday, April 5	Chicken tenders, French fries, corn, roll
Wednesday, April 6	Baked pork chops, roasted veggies, rice, cornbread
Thursday, April 7	Baked or fried fish, green beans, salad, roll
Tuesday, April 12	Baked chicken, broccoli & rice casserole, roll, fruit
Wednesday, April 13	Taco salad, kernel corn, tortilla chips, fruit
Thursday, April 14	Baked or fried fish, French fries, cole slaw
Tuesday, April 19	Spaghetti w/meat sauce, salad, roll
Wednesday, April 20	Macaroni & cheese, collard greens, pinto beans, cornbread
Thursday, April 21	Baked or fried fish, French fries, baked beans, roll
Tuesday, April 26	Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll
Wednesday, April 27	Macaroni & cheese, butter beans, cabbage, cornbread
Thursday, April 28	Baked or fried fish, rice, steamed veggies, roll

**Food
for
Thought**

**Even if
we disagree
about everything,
we can still respond
with dignity, respect
and kindness.**

God, help me never to make false assumptions about people I've never met, circumstances I've never known, and events I've never experienced.

April 2022

Saturday, April 2

Thrift Store – open 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, April 3

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
 Reception for Juanita Jones – 2-3:30 (Parlor)

Tuesday, April 5

Thrift Store – open 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6

Adult Bible Study - 11 a.m. (Parlor and by phone)
 Evening Bible Study – 6-7 p.m. (1st floor meeting room)

Sunday, April 10

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
 Finance Committee meeting – 10 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

Tuesday, April 12

Thrift Store – open 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13

Adult Bible Study - 11 a.m. (Parlor and by phone)
 Evening Bible Study – 6-7 p.m. (1st floor meeting room)

Thursday, April 14

Maundy Thursday Service – 6 p.m. (Chapel)

Friday, April 15

Good Friday Service – 6 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Saturday, April 16

ELWG – 9 a.m. (Parlor)
 Easter Egg-Stravaganza – 10-11:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 17

Easter Sunday

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

The Lord Is Risen!

Monday, April 18

Easter Monday – **CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**

Tuesday, April 19

Seniors outing to Chicken Salad Chick in Trussville – Meet in the office at 11 a.m.
 Thrift Store – Open 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (Fireside Room)
 Evening Bible Study – 6-7 p.m. (1st floor meeting room)

Friday, April 22

Boomers dinner event – 6:00 p.m. (details to be decided and announced)

Sunday, April 24

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

Tuesday, April 26

Thrift Store – open 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wednesday, April 27

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (Fireside Room)
 Evening Bible Study – 6-7 p.m. (1st floor meeting room)

Thursday, April 28

Friday, April 29, and

Saturday, April 30

Blithe Spirit - 7:00 p.m. (Wesley Hall)

Sunday, May 1

Blithe Spirit - 2:00 p.m. (Wesley Hall)