

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

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In the neighborhood for good!



Untangled New Year

When I was a little girl, I learned crafting from the women in my family—my mother and both of my grandmothers. Oddly, I didn't learn to sew on a sewing machine (apparently, I made too big a fuss about getting my fingers stuck under the fast-moving needle), but I did learn to work with papier-mâché and decoupage, quilling, cross stitch, basket weaving, needlepoint, and embroidery. My grandmother enjoyed macrame, and my great grandmother did beautiful tatting. I have yet to learn either of those skills. I most enjoyed learning to knit and crochet. I spent hours at my paternal grandparents watching football and crocheting necklaces and “granny” squares. I love to see how simple blending of colors and intertwining of yarn can make beautiful clothing or useful objects.

This Christmas time, I've been working on several lacy scarves as gifts. They are made from what is known as a yarn cake, which is a very large skein shaped very much like a birthday cake. The yarn is pulled out from the center, so there is no need to roll it beforehand. It is a variegated (multicolored) yarn that works up well, creating beautiful patterns of color. Several weeks ago, I discovered that the yarn cake had fallen off the sofa where I had left it and had pulled apart. When I picked it up, I realized I had a stubborn knot. This left me with several choices. I could cut and retie the yarn leaving a noticeable knot in the lacy scarf. I could throw the whole project out. Or I could untangle the knot. It literally took me hours. With a half-made scarf on one end and a big wad of yarn on the other, it was nearly impossible to pull either section through. The harder I pulled, the tighter the knot became. Through lots of trial and error, I learned that the only way to make progress was to relax my grip, to loosen up the yarn in order to free it from the knot.

It occurs to me that this is very much the same situation with people. As we work to intertwine diverse communities, we often find ourselves in a knot. Our tendency is to cut and run from the situation, to give up, or to tighten our grip and insist on our own way. Perhaps in the New Year, we can learn to loosen up a little, to relax our grip, to spend more time and energy on working things through. The weaving together of blessed community is a beautiful dream and is the task we have been called by God to undertake. It is worth the time and patience to spend untangling the knots that we may be knit together as the body of Christ. I'm wishing us all a blessed and untangled New Year.

Peace,

Sally

A Letter from Leslie

Hi, friends!

My family and I truly enjoyed worshipping with you all this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It was a special, meaningful, and touching experience!

As we head into the New Year, I'm sure many of us are looking at new habits we hope to form. One thing I hope to do more in the New Year is talk to people about their life experiences and spiritual lives. East Lake UMC is so special to me, and I want to always open doors so that others may find the same love and connection here that I did.

Talking to people about these sorts of things can be scary and intimidating. What if you don't have the right thing to say? What if y'all disagree? What if you hurt them in any way? These are all questions worth consideration, but I have found that people are usually much, much more open to sharing about these topics than I ever expect. It always stands out to me how much people actually seem to be craving this sort of authenticity and vulnerability.

As the New Year starts, I hope you join me in focusing on reaching out to people who may not have been connected to ELUMC in the past or whom we have not seen in a long time. Let's pour into these relationships and share the love with warm invitations and conversations.

Since this is such an important yet often intimidating task, I've decided to put on an Outreach Workshop next month to share some findings from my Outreach class in seminary and generate energy for this new goal of ours. Come join us on Sunday, February 19, for an introductory, beginner-level workshop on how to talk religion and spirituality with people and invite them to church. The agenda is this: sharing stories about the mission trip that some people will have gone on the week before, centering on Scripture as well as research to see the need of outreach, and studying new conversation-starters, strategies, and tips for reaching out in healthy and helpful ways.

I hope to see you and your family on Sunday, February 19, for the Outreach Workshop! It will be a great chance to spend time together and better ourselves this New Year. Let me know if you have any questions.

With love,

Leslie



Since 2005



Up to 2019. . .



. . . we have been taking adult mission teams to Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, North Carolina. There were 10 years between our 2005 trip and our next one in 2015, but since 2015, we took a team every 1-2 years until Covid-19 came along. Our most recent trip was in 2019, and it seems that now is the time for our next one! We are scheduled to go February 10-13, 2023 (Friday-Monday). This has always been a fulfilling and sometimes challenging experience as we have built up and torn down, cleaned out, chopped wood, and done various other tasks to help the poor residents of the southern Appalachians. Please talk to Jane or Sally if you would like to be involved in any way.

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January Birthdays

1 *Corinne King	2 *Marshall Spencer	3	4	5 *Mimi Jackson	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 *Jane Walker	16	17	18 *Mike Dorriety	19	20 *Roxane Serrano	21
22	23	24 *Mitchell Nash *Barry Norris	25 *Tracy Heathcock *Tammie Milledge	26	27	28
29	30	31 *Tallulah McDonald				



After two Bingo days in November and December, we're going to rest a little in January (at least Jane P. is!) by having a movie Tuesday. There are so many movies to choose from: newer ones, like *Where the Crawdads Sing**, *Little Women*, and *Elvis**, or oldies but goodies like *The Shop Around the Corner*, *His Girl Friday*, and *That Touch of Mink*. So what's your pleasure? Tell Jane P., and if you need to know what any one of these is about, ask her about it, too.

*These have a rating that is suitable for our group, but Jane is going to preview them to be sure they are okay for such a young audience!

Anyway, we'll meet in the office conference room on Tuesday, January 10 (can you believe we are planning for *January?*). Let Jane know your choice for our feature show!



New Year's Potluck & Bingo Party

Friday night, January 6

6:00 p.m.

in the Diner

Bring a dish to share and a wrapped prize* (\$10 limit)

Plus a "white elephant,"** also wrapped

*One per person

**This might be what you got last year if you couldn't use it! For more info, ask Jane P.

Bell Tower Players return in February with DEARLY DEPARTED

After having to cancel their December production (not really canceling, but postponing until December 2023), the Bell Tower Players will return with a comedy entitled *Dearly Departed*, directed by Dr. Andrew Duxbury.

Set in the backwoods of the Bible Belt, the Turpin family proves that living and dying in the South are seldom tidy and often hilarious. Despite their efforts to pull themselves together for their father's funeral, the Turpins' other problems keep overshadowing the solemn occasion: Oldest "child" Ray-Bud drinks himself silly as the funeral bills mount, and Junior, the younger son, is juggling financial ruin, a pack of monster kids, and a wife who suspects him of infidelity; their spinster sister, Delightful, copes with death as she does life, by devouring junk food; and all the neighbors add more than their two cents. As the situation becomes fraught with mishap, Ray-Bud says to his long-suffering wife, "When I die, don't tell nobody. Just bury me in the backyard and tell everybody I left you." Amidst all this, the Turpins turn to their friends and neighbors, a community of misfits who just manage to pull together and help the family through their hour of need, and finally, the funeral.

Mark your calendars for February 17-18 (Thursday and Friday); 23-25 (7 p.m.), and 26 (2:30 p.m.) (Thursday through Sunday). You'll want to see your friends Melinda Adkins, Greg Boling, and Jane Phares, plus several other actors you'll remember from previous productions of the Bell Tower Players, in this most hilarious production!

Music Notes 'midst Organ-izing

Right now, I'm feeling very thankful! I know I seem like a broken record, but there you have it.

All of our services are wonderful, but I especially loved the last three. Lessons and Carols returned with twenty-six singers and a good crowd in the congregation. In the midst of worries about burst pipes in my 120-year-old home, and fears of low attendance because of the cold, the two Christmas weekend services exceeded my expectations. We ran out of bulletins (fifty plus) on Saturday (Christmas Eve), and almost did on Sunday (Christmas day) (forty three). Much care was taken by Sally, Jane, and the 11:00 band to make our first blended service the great worship experience it was.

Three more things must be mentioned. Our choir and guest singers worked very hard and deserve our deepest gratitude. Secondly, all of you, along with some of our friends, have been very generous with your financial gifts this year. Thank you for keeping your pledges up to date. And lastly, I must mention our beloved pastor, Sally! She does so much for all of us, much of which we don't even know about. Thanks be to God for her, all of our staff, and for all of you!

Merry Sixth Day of Christmas!

Love,

Barry



“Keep on praying for the saints . . .”

Ephesians 6:18

Please pray for the members of our church family who need our prayers:

Alma & Jack Boggan

Gary Sandridge

All in our church family who are missing a loved one this holiday season

Those whose lives are being torn by war, storms of snow and rain, and other disasters

We extend our sympathies to

Rex and the McDonald family, in the death of Rex's mother **Cindy Keith** on December 6; and to

Leatha Norman, in the death of her father, **Joseph Norman**, on November 4, in Columbus, Mississippi.

Please keep these families in your prayers as they go through this time of grief.

Memorials & Honoraria

Gifts have been given to the church in memory of

Evelyn Lindsey

James Smith

Sara Wright

Bob Chapman

June Chapman, on her birthday, December 8

Bob Chapman

Frances Killingsworth

Judy Killingsworth Sharpe

Gifts have been given to the church in honor of

Rev. Sally Allocca

Bob & Susan Phares

Jane Phares

Bob & Susan Phares

Spring Day Trips in Planning Stages

Members and friends are invited to participate in some day trips coming up in the next few months. Since we no longer have a bus, we will either rent one, or we will use a transportation service like we have done before, depending on costs and the number of people who want to go. Please let Jane Phares know which of these you are interested in so she can investigate the specifics:

Lynchburg, Tennessee, and Miss Mary Bobo's Boarding House – Miss Mary's Boarding House is more than 100 years old, but "midday dinner" is still served every day but Sunday. We will go directly to Miss Mary's for a delicious Southern lunch, and then there will be time to roam the delightful small town of Lynchburg, home of the Jack Daniels Distillery.

Montgomery, Alabama, and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice (and Museum) – As an Annual Conference in 2021, we passed a resolution advocating that every congregation make a visit to this national landmark informally known as the "Lynching Museum." Most of us have at least heard of this memorial to the many African Americans who have been lynched across our country during our history. People who have been there say that it provides a stark vision of the cruelty in our past and a reminder that not all Americans have enjoyed "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" that the Declaration of Independence promises. Sometimes we'd rather avoid or deny this knowledge, but we need to open our eyes to the sad reality, and this museum/memorial helps us do just that.

Montgomery (again) and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival – Many wonderful productions are coming up, but the timing seems right to see *The Million-Dollar Quartet*, a musical play about an accidental 1956 meet-up between Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley.

If you have suggestions for other day trips, let Jane Phares know. And don't forget to let her know if you would like to go on any of these trips.

Lectionary Readings for January

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

Sunday, January 1 – First Sunday after Christmas, Epiphany of the Lord (Observed)

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 8 – Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, January 15 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 22 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday, January 29 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

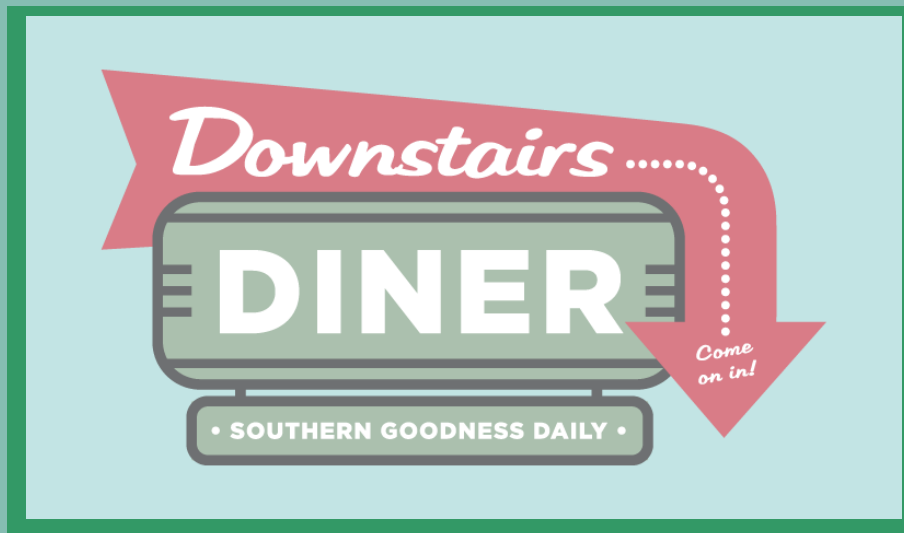
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

From your Lay Leader . . .

Happy New Year, church family! Wow . . . until the week of Christmas, I was thinking that my prayers for time to go slowly were actually working, but then the week before the 25th hit, and it started zooming by! And here it is, already after New Year's Day. Just a reminder to us to make the most of our days!

Some of you know that we had a special called Annual Conference at the beginning of December to vote to allow churches who wished to disaffiliate from the *United Methodist Church* to do so. It was both a sad, and an exciting time, as we said goodbye and but also envisioned a bright future for the UMC going forward. Rev. Brian Erickson, senior pastor at Trinity UMC, spoke to those of us who remain with challenging and inspiring words. I don't have room here for all the quotes I wrote down, so I plan to continue this line of thought in future *Chimes* articles. But for now, I'll give this one quote from Brian's talk. He said, referring to Revelation 21:5, "God doesn't make all new things; God makes *all things new*." So rather than think, Whew, all this division stuff is over, which it isn't, we should see this as a wake-up call to redouble our efforts to reach people for Christ. He said much more about the laity's responsibility in this, but I'm out of space. More next month. Til then, I'm cheering for you. **– Jane P.**



Menus for January 2023

Tuesday, January 3 - Baked chicken, mixed vegetables, rice pilaf

Wednesday, January 4 - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans

Thursday, January 5 - Soup, tossed salad, grilled cheese

Tuesday, January 10 - Beef tips with gravy, rice, cabbage, cornbread

Wednesday, January 11 - Taco salad, corn, tortilla chips

Thursday, January 12 - Barbecue pork sandwich, baked beans, potato salad

Tuesday, January 17 - Jambalaya, corn, green peas

Wednesday, January 18 - Salisbury steam mashed potatoes, green beans

Thursday, January 19 - Baked or fried fish, baked beans, cole slaw

Tuesday, January 24 - Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, roll

Wednesday, January 25 - Mac & cheese, cabbage, butterbeans, cornbread

Thursday, January 26 - Pork chops, wild rice, steamed vegetables

Food
for
Thought

Food for the body
is not enough.
There must be food
for the soul.

Dorothy Day

BrainyQuote



January 2023

Sunday, January 1

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

Tuesday, January 3

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

Wednesday, January 4

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday, January 5

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

Friday, January 6

Boomers Potluck and Bingo – 6 p.m. (Diner)

Sunday, January 8

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
 Leadership Team meeting – 2 p.m. (1st floor meeting room)

Tuesday, January 10

Movie Day (for seniors and others) – 10 a.m.
 (Office Conference Room)
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, January 11

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Luke study – 6 p.m. (First floor meeting room)

Thursday, January 12

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

Sunday, January 15

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

Monday, January 16

**CHURCH AND CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR
 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

Wednesday, January 18

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Luke study – 6 p.m. (First floor meeting room)

Thursday, January 19

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

Sunday, January 22

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
 Finance Committee meeting – 2 p.m. (Office Conference Room)

Tuesday, January 24

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

Wednesday, January 25

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Luke study – 6 p.m. (First floor meeting room)

Thursday, January 26

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

Sunday, January 29

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

Tuesday, January 31

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