

# The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

May 2023  
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Issue 5

*In the neighborhood for good!*



## Living Stones

I've always had a fondness for rocks – big rocks, little rocks, smooth rocks, pretty, colored rocks. As a child I would give them to my mother as precious found treasure. As a young adult, I would often carry one around in my pocket, and later my car, as a worry stone or a reminder of something or the other. I love climbing over rocks, tentatively walking over slippery rocks in a creek bed, sitting on a large rock deep in the woods or overlooking a stream, just listening to the sounds of nature.

I've always had a fondness for rocks. I guess that's why I'm so drawn to this passage in Psalm 31 about God being our rock, our fortress, and our might. Something to stand on. Something to hang on to. Something permanent and timeless, a refuge and a fortress. When all around is shifting sand, God is our rock. When it seems that everything and everybody is against us, God is our refuge.

Find a rock. Carry it with you. Place it somewhere that you will see it often. Let it be a reminder to you of God's presence and God's promise. And then, ponder this: In Peter's first letter in chapter 2:1-10, he says that we are to be living stones (1 Peter 2:2-10). We are being built into a living, holy structure for God that shows the whole world this hope and this promise. We, too, are to be stones, living stones, the image of God for the world.

We are being built into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood. Once we were no people, but now we are God's people. How do we grow into this salvation that this passage talks about? How do we offer sacrifices that are holy to God like I once offered precious found treasures to my mother, a reminder of constancy and holy presence, a gift given back to the foundation of my life? Perhaps we should begin by being still, sitting still on a big rock, listening for the sound of God's voice, feeling the wind of the Spirit blow through our hair. Then perhaps we should be curious, tentatively walk over the slippery rocks in the creek, ask God the big questions, who am I and what are you calling me to do for you. Then we begin to lay the groundwork, to do things that are foundational to being built into a holy structure. We do the heavy lifting and the climbing. We practice being steadfast when everything else is spinning and whirling around us. We practice kindness and mercy when all around is angry and mean. We practice thinking before we speak and doing acts of love at every opportunity. We, too, will become a rock and a fortress for a world in need of something to hang on to.

I have always been fond of rocks. Maybe you are too. May it be a sign to us and to the world of the mighty presence and the promises of God.

Peace,

*Sally*

... from Leslie

Hi, friends!

Wow, there is much to talk about!

One of my favorite things recently has been sending out care packages to the college students in our church who are entering final exams.

Another favorite thing has been hearing wonderful things about our Lenten Sunday School class on Adam Hamilton's book on the Gospel of Luke. About 18 people have gathered for meaningful discussions the past several weeks! Many more church members have expressed a call to lead a new seasonal small group too! I hope you all consider getting involved in these groups or even consider if God is calling you to lead one too!

This summer, Susie Knedlik will lead a seasonal discipleship group on the book *Messy People: Life Lessons from Imperfect Biblical Heroes*. The group will meet during the Sunday school hour from July 2 through August 6. The group is open to all who are interested, so you do not have to be a member of Susie's Joy Class to take part.

Jane Phares will also lead a seasonal discipleship group this Summer that will take place on midweek mornings. Stay tuned for more details. We are also looking to offer a seasonal class on United Methodism for our new members that may take place in the Fall.

If you are looking for a consistent Sunday school class to attend between these seasonal offerings, I hope you'll reach out and learn more about our year-round classes or think about building your own. I have recently learned more about the rich history that many of these groups share. For example, the Joy Class, which Susie currently teaches using United Methodist curriculum, has remained a staple for many years even though it has cycled through many different names (the Faith Class, the Alma Boggan Class, the ABC Class, the Innovators Class, the Joy Class, and so on). How interesting!

The above are all examples of how our church family grows closer to God and one another. However, there is another important side of the equation. How are we getting closer to the people outside of our church family?

One way we will focus on reaching out will be through the Farmers' Market this Summer. The First Saturday of each month (starting May 6), we will have Kids' Corner at the Market, through which we will build relationships with children and

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## Called Charge Conference!

There will be a Called Charge Conference on Sunday, May 21, at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel to vote on releasing three funds from the Methodist Foundation for greater accessibility and use for mission and ministry. Our District Superintendent will lead the meeting and all church members are welcome to attend and to vote. Please check with any members of the Leadership Team for more information or if you have any questions.

**There's still time to see  
Agatha Christie's  
The Mousetrap  
Presented by the Bell Tower Players  
See page 4 for details!**

### East Lake United Methodist Church

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# May Birthdays

	1	2 *Eric Christian	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 *H.N. Gibson	10	11 *Danielle Self	12	13
14	15	16 *Kay Miller	17	18	19 *Wesley Harbin	20
21	22	23	24 *Sally Allocca	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 *Alma Boggan			



Seniors!

I think it's safe to say we all enjoyed seeing *Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris* last month. But guess what! Now it's Bingo time!

We'll meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 16, because it's Taco Salad Day in the diner. And we'll be finished in time for the crochet-ers to get downstairs, get their lunch, and pick up their hooks and yarn.

We always have fun with Bingo—so bring a friend and come on! We also need to discuss your ideas for what you want to do next, so put your thinking caps on and bring those ideas!

See you on the 16<sup>th</sup>!

Jane P.



Back in the 1990s, there was a sitcom called "Dinosaurs" that featured an animatronic family of—you guessed it—dinosaurs. The baby of the family referred to his father as "not the mama." It looks like, for right now, this fellowship group needs to be called "not the Boomers" (even though it includes many Boomers). We could call ourselves "Boomers" and "Boomers wannabes" or "Boomers wish they weres," but that's kind of condescending or presumptuous, or something like that. Keep the name suggestions coming. But enough of that.

So the "not the Boomers" will have a pot luck at the church on Friday night, May 19, starting at 6:00 p.m.. We will start a new tradition for our group, celebrating the birthdays occurring during the month, this time May. And who knows? If you're lucky, Jane might have some exciting and fun games to play! Y'all come!

**"Feeding Our Friends"  
moved to 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday (May  
28) this month!**

### Needs for Community Ministries

<b>Snack bags:</b>	Snack crackers	Fruit cups
<b>Food Co-op:</b>	Cleaning supplies	Paper goods
<b>Wellness Pantry:</b>	Bar soap	Toothbrushes
	Toothpaste	Shower gel
	Mouthwash	Deodorant
	Band-Aids	Lotion
	Vaseline	Baby Aspirin
	Toilet Paper	Paper Towels
	Feminine Hygiene Products	
	Baby and Adult Diapers	
	Hydrogen Peroxide Wipes	

### "The Mousetrap" run continues!

There are still four more performances (five more if you receive this issue of *The Chimes* by email) of Agatha Christie's famous mystery *The Mousetrap*, presented by the Bell Tower Players. The first performances have gone great—audiences have raved! You'll laugh, maybe even cry, but either way you will be gripped by the mystery! Come see if you can solve it!

Remaining performances:

Saturday, May 6 – 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday, May 7 – 2:30 p.m.  
Thursday, May 11 – 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, May 12 – 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, May 13 – 4:00 p.m.

### Music Notes 'midst Organ-izing

Here's an important commercial! Our choir continues to be doing well, and we welcome some new folk. It isn't a rigorous commitment. We rehearse for 45 minutes prior to the 9:00 service, and have some Saturday morning rehearsals prior to the Lenten music in the Springtime, and to Lessons and Carols in the Fall. We do mostly classical sacred anthems along with some hymn-tune arrangements thrown in for good measure. It's a wonderful fellowship of people. We have fun, and it's a very optimistic way to start your week. Please pass the word!

Did you know that our cantor, Lee Hawk drives up from Montgomery for every service and rehearsal, and he's been with us almost as long as I have! Jane Walker and Connie Peek (and Mattie Lou Harrison from the wings!) have been in the choir longer than I. Jay Thornley's been around for more than 15 years this time around, Shelly Ann McDonald for more than ten, and Tonya Brown and Susan Preston for more than five years. Peggy Gilman, Lucy Lipp, and Greg Boling joined up when we came back from Covid. Lynn Miles graces us whenever she can. Aren't we blessed? I certainly am!

The choir sings a brand new anthem this Sunday, the 7th, a new musical setting to "Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life," and we've fallen in love with it! We've elected to do a different anthem on the Sunday after Jesus's ascension, one that honors his being enthroned in heaven. On Trinity Sunday, we sing the most ancient text, "I bind myself to thee this day, the strong name of the Trinity." The next week is "With a Voice of Singing," because the Psalm that Sunday is about singing!

Happy later on in Eastertide!

Love y'all,

*Barry*



*“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, or who otherwise need our prayers:*

**Alma & Jack Boggan  
Doreen Duley  
Woni Lawrence  
Gary Sandridge  
Kay Sharp**

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

## Summer Day Trips?

Well, we have gone and come on our two day trips this spring. As we approach summer, we want to plan some more opportunities to be together, to laugh, to learn, to eat, etc. If you have any ideas for places we can go, that you would enjoy, that are not just places to eat, let Jane Phares know. Possibilities are the Atlanta Aquarium (we went once before, but they've added stuff since then), the Chattanooga Aquarium and/or the Chattanooga Choo Choo, the Huntsville Space and Rocket Center, or something closer like (once again) the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, this time to see the classic show, *Cabaret*.

We can also consider overnight trips if anyone is game. Please give Jane some ideas and feedback!

## . . . from Leslie

*(continued from page 2)*

families in the community through lessons, crafts, games, and more fun. You can get involved by inviting families and children you know and by volunteering to help with preparation or the event itself.

I invite all of you to lift these things up in your prayers! As we practice building relationships with our neighbors, here are a few tidbits of advice I have:

Pray about it. Be attentive to names and stories. Check in and follow up with people. Go out of your comfort zone and spend time with those not in your immediate friend circle. Think about your gifts because there are lots of different ways to serve. Approach conversations openly and organically without an agenda. Embrace silence when it is natural. Embrace light-heartedness too. Don't make assumptions about people, put them on the spot, or use churchy jargon. Embrace diversity. Be understanding if people have been hurt by the church in the past. Don't be afraid to talk about spirituality or church, because many may be hungry for deep conversations with someone who is open-minded and good at listening. Don't dominate conversations, but also don't hide your identity or what you connect with at ELUMC. Ask lots of curious, respectful questions if they are comfortable and give consent. Some of my favorite conversation starters that you may consider are below:

- What are you reading or watching these days that interests you?
- What is something you are looking forward to?
- What is something you are really passionate about?
- Have you felt the presence of God this week? Where/how?
- What was a high moment in your life the past week? What was a low moment?
- How have you been growing recently?
- What is giving you life these days?
- Are you planning to do anything out of the ordinary soon?
- What is your favorite time of the year and why?
- Could you tell me about your own journey with spirituality?
- What do you value most in life?
- What are you living for right now?
- Have you ever had a time when you felt close to God?
- Have you ever met anyone or experienced anything that made God seem real to you?

Praying for you,

*leslie*



## Lectionary Readings for May

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

### Sunday, May 7 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2: 2-10

John 14:1-14

### Sunday, May 14 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 28:13-22

John 14:15-21

### Sunday, May 21 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14

John 17:1-11

### Sunday, May 28 – Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 7:37-39

## ... from your Lay Leader

Yea! I have a space to write this month!

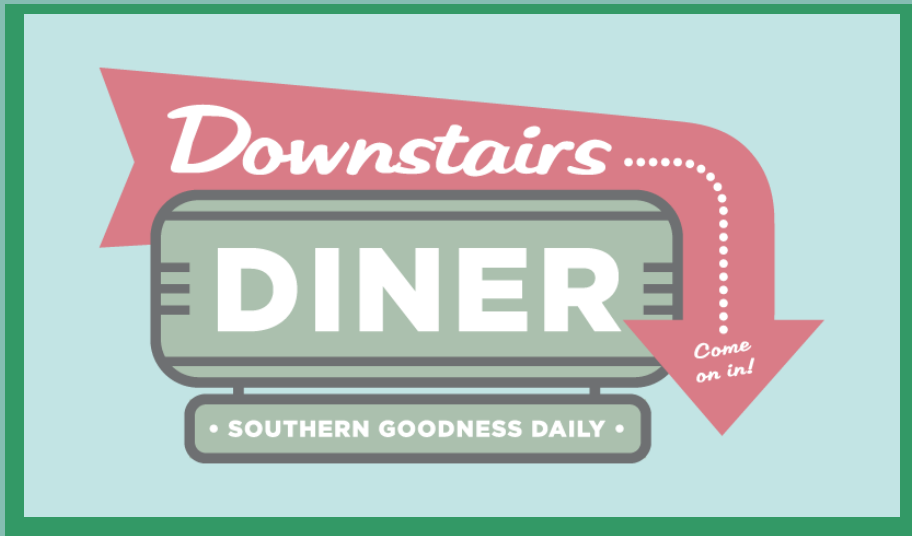
Of course, my brain is not in full working order, as I have been pretty well consumed by *The Mousetrap*, the latest Bell Tower Players production (thus the very late *Chimes*). I love doing plays and have for as long as I can remember. Someone said to me recently, "This is your passion." I have to agree, though I would say it's only one of them. Anyway, I have definitely been consumed with this one, and late-night rehearsals and performances might be catching up with this ol' girl, passion or not!

Another thing I'm really excited about is the group I'm planning to start on Thursday mornings this summer. We'll meet at my house, which is near the church, have some light refreshments, and then have our time of sharing and learning. Right now, I am planning to use one of the late Rachel Held Evans's books, but I haven't decided which one yet. I hope this won't be a time-limited thing. My hope is that the people in the group will form a bond where we can share together, lift each other up, and grow in our faith in an ongoing way that won't interfere with Sunday studies, etc. Consider joining me on Thursdays. Oh, by the way, I am envisioning this as a women's group, but we won't turn anyone away (unless you're a preacher; then we'll need to talk! 😊 wink, wink)

This is the final element for this issue of *The Chimes*. The rest is filled, so I will close this article and get the May issue sent to you by email, and print the copies to be ready for pickup at church tomorrow. I hope I see you there.

Cheering for you,

Jane Phares



## Menus for May 2023

Tuesday, May 2	Baked chicken, roasted vegetables, au gratin potatoes
Wednesday, May 3	Macaroni & cheese, steamed cabbage, butter beans, cornbread
Thursday, May 4	Stuffed bell peppers with meat sauce, roasted vegetables
Tuesday, May 9	Hamburger w/ gravy, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole
Wednesday, May 10	Macaroni and cheese, collard greens
Thursday, May 11	Fried or baked fish, broccoli slaw, baked beans
Tuesday, May 16	Taco salad w/kernel corn, tomatoes, pinto beans
Wednesday, May 17	Chicken and rice, corn, green beans
Thursday, May 18	Cold cut sub sandwiches, pasta salad, chips
Tuesday, May 23	Chicken Alfredo, steamed vegetables, garden salad
Wednesday, May 24	Pork chops, wild rice, roasted vegetables
Thursday, May 25	Chicken salad, sliced tomatoes, fruit
Tuesday, May 30	Spaghetti with meat sauce, garden salad, roll
Wednesday, May 31	Baked chicken, broccoli with cheese, rice
Thursday, June 1	Baked or fried fish, cole slaw, baked beans

Food  
for Thought

"FOOD IS SYMBOLIC OF LOVE  
WHEN WORDS ARE  
INADEQUATE."

Alan D. Wolfelt

**POVERTY IS A VERY  
COMPLICATED ISSUE, BUT  
FEEDING A CHILD ISN'T.**

— JEFF BRIDGES

# May 2023

## Tuesday, May 2

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

## Wednesday, May 3

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

## Thursday, May 4

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
 Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
*The Mousetrap* – 7:30 p.m. (Wesley Hall)

## Friday, May 5

*The Mousetrap* – 7:30 p.m. (Wesley Hall)

## Saturday, May 6, 2023

Opening day East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)  
*The Mousetrap* – 4:00 p.m. (Wesley Hall)

## Sunday, May 7

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)  
 Adam Hamilton Luke Study – 10 a.m. (1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room)  
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)  
*The Mousetrap* – 2:30 p.m. (Wesley Hall)

## Tuesday, May 9

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

## Wednesday, May 10

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

## Thursday, May 11

*The Mousetrap* – 7:30 p.m. (Wesley Hall)

## Friday, May 12

*The Mousetrap* – 7:30 p.m. (Wesley Hall)

## Saturday, May 13, 2023

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)  
*The Mousetrap* – 4:00 p.m. (Wesley Hall)

## Sunday, May 14

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

## Tuesday, May 16

Senior Bingo – 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, May 17

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

## Thursday, May 18

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
 Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
 Ponder w/ the Pastor – 5:30 (True Story Brewery)

## Friday, May 19

Boomers Potluck – 6 p.m. (Diner)

## Sunday, May 21

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)  
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)  
 Called Charge Conference – 3 p.m. (Chapel)

## Tuesday, May 23

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

## Wednesday, May 24

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

## Thursday, May 25

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

## Sunday, May 28

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)  
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)  
 “Feeding Our Friends” event – 12:30 p.m.

## Monday, May 29

**CHURCH CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY**