

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

May 2023
Volume 64
Issue 5

In the neighborhood for good!



The Courage of God

I've been thinking about courage. Perhaps it was because Memorial Day was coming up. I wonder what enables someone to run into danger, to go towards trouble. What must they tell themselves? How does one steel body and mind to fight the impulse to flee, the better judgement of waiting on someone else, or thinking it was someone else's problem. I've never been good at physical bravery. I tend to move to flight rather than flight and wondering what third options God might give us.

I have read and often thought that courage is not about not being afraid. It's about being afraid and still being willing. To not be afraid, in some cases, means to not have good sense. Scripture never tells us that there are not reasons to be afraid. It just says, again and again, "Fear not." "Perfect love casts out all fear."

When I think of courage, I think most often of police officers, fire fighters, soldiers, who put their lives on the line every day for the sake of others. But, I know that there are other reasons to be afraid besides war and violence and catastrophes. There is loneliness, sickness, loss, major life changes, heartbreak and on and on. When I think of those things, it puts courage in another light. Having taken care of someone with dementia, I know a bit of the frustration, the exasperation, and the sadness of losing what you knew of someone all too soon. After my mother died, it occurred to me that for all that she had lost, what she had gained was an amazing courage. Imagine bravely going through life when everything has changed. Things don't look the same, people don't act the same, you don't remember things, and yet, you carry on.

It is the same with grief and illness. Something is lost. Things are different, will never be the same, and yet, somehow, we carry on. I think about our neighbors who live on the streets. Rarely getting a kind word, not knowing where their next meal will come from, not knowing where they will sleep or if they will be safe. And yet, they keep at it. They have a will to live and love and participate in this crazy life.

Joshua 1:9 says, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified. Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." The Spirit of the Lord will guide us and be with us whatever the danger we face, whatever we fear. We will not be alone.

Let us face each day with confidence remembering this powerful Presence. Let us treat each other gently, remembering that we do not know what others are going through. Let us be grateful. Let us be kind. Let us be filled with the courage of God to be God's people in this world.

Peace,

Sally

... from Leslie

Happy Summer!

I'm going to be short and sweet this month. I'm super excited about the Summer Discipleship groups we have coming up, but I'll let the poster on page 6 do the talking. Check it out and email me if you have any questions. The main thing you need to know is that you are not expected to be at *all* of these offerings. We have worked on providing a wide array of options so people can choose what speaks to them and works in their schedule best. I do hope you find *something* to plug into. And, you should consider inviting a new friend to join you at whatever you choose.

Love and peace,

Leslie

Church Work Day
Saturday, June 24,
8-noon

Bring yard/garden tools, gloves, etc.
 Water will be provided!

Come.
 Holy
 Spirit



"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, are scheduled for surgery, or who otherwise need our prayers:

Alma & Jack Boggan

Doreen Duley

Woni Lawrence

Gary Sandridge

Kay Sharp

Gifts have been received by the church in memory of

Evelyn Lindsay, by Jimmy & Carole Smith, for Mother's Day

Charles Walker, by his girls, for his birthday

And a gift has been received in honor of

Rev. Sally Allocca, by Bob Chapman, for her birthday

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Ms. Laila Sears

lailasears6@gmail.com, Children

June Birthdays

				1	2	3
4 *Jessica Findley	5	6	7 *Leatha Norman	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 *Ragan Boling
18	19	20 *Audrey Odom	21 *Jay Thornley	22 *Doris Ingram	23	24
25	26	27 *Jack Boggan	28	29 *Susan Gann	30	

SUPER SENIORS

Hi, Seniors!

Last time we met for Bingo, we had a brief discussion of any ideas you might have for monthly activities. If I remember correctly, we didn't have any except Mexican Train Dominoes. Keep thinking!

This month, then, we'll have a movie day. Some of you have probably already seen *Eighty for Brady*, starring Jane Fonda and Sally Field, among others. But having not seen it myself, I'm thinking there are more of us who haven't seen it than have. So on **Tuesday, June 20**, we'll meet at 10 a.m. to watch this (by all accounts) funny and cute flick.

Then next month, get ready for dominoes! If you don't know how, someone will teach you!

Jane P.



Since we had some chicken at last month's potluck (if you were there you know what I mean), along with some very delicious other dishes, we're heading out this month to one of our favorites—**DeVinci's in Homewood**. **The date is Friday, June 30**. That's late in the month, I know, but Annual Conference is the week before, so blame the Bishop! (Sally and I have to go to Huntsville, so I guess you can blame us, too, but personally, I just couldn't stand to miss our wonderful fellowship!

We will need to at least prepare them for our coming (I can't remember if they take reservations), so I'll be *checking the week before* to see who's coming (Joy, please remind me if I forget). Make plans early this month!

I think we'll have to stick with "Friday Night Fellowship" as our name for now, until someone comes up with another name that doesn't include the word "boomers." Remember, we'd like to get away from age-exclusive names (or inclusive, depending on how you look at it). See you on the 30th. Jane

INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE

Thursday, June 8th at 6:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

2100 4th Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35203



Please join us for the annual Interfaith PRIDE Service on June 8. This will be a time to celebrate and affirm the place of ALL in our faith communities.

Can you believe it's been 15 years . . .
. . . since 36 "Joymakers" and friends went to the Atlanta Aquarium?
. . . that a young lady named Cheryl Smith joined our staff?
. . . Sally was awarded the Louise Branscomb Barrier-Breaker Award at Annual Conference, and we celebrated it with a dinner at the church?
Time flies when you're having fun!



EAST LAKE MARKET

Saturdays, 8-noon
Fresh produce from local farms!
The best in B'ham!

Join us for the 2023 PRIDE Parade

Let's march together in the annual PRIDE parade on June 10. This is an awesome opportunity to show up and support our LGBTQ+ siblings. Especially during this season when the LGBTQ+ community is facing attacks from our legislature and continues to face marginalization in the Church and wider community. We will find our spot and begin lining up at 5 pm. Please be there by 7:30 pm as the parade begins at 8. Please text or email Rev. H.N. Gibson to receive updates and info regarding where to meet.

Rev. H.N. Gibson
(205)790-3514
h.n.gibson@umcna.org

Needs for Community Ministries

Food Co-op: Cleaning supplies Paper goods

Wellness Pantry:

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	

Lectionary Readings for June

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

Sunday, June 4 – Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, June 11 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 33:1-12

Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sunday, June 18 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)
Psalm 16:1-2, 12-19

Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

Sunday, June 25 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

... from your Lay Leader

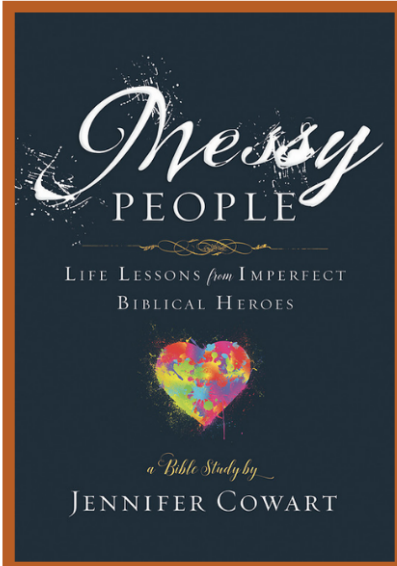
There are many things I could write about this month—the upcoming Annual Conference meeting in Huntsville, my in-the-works discipleship group starting in July, the next Bell Tower Players production, etc. But for a couple of months I have been thinking about the creed that we say most Sundays, from the United Church of Canada. I've especially been thinking about the part that begins, "We are called to be the church . . .," and I wanted to explore what follows. This month, I invite you to think with me about what it means "to celebrate God's presence." We often think about Communion as the main way we do this, but does that mean we only celebrate the Presence once a month? I doubt it. How do you do it? In prayer, in sharing ways God has made God's self evident in your life? In starting each day with words of thanks for all the gifts God has given to you, all the blessings God has showered on you, your family, your loved ones? Reading Psalms or other scripture passages that celebrate God—like Psalms 7, 34, 89, 92, 95, 100, 106:1-3, 107:1-3, 111, 136, 138—there are a lot of choices! What about singing your favorite hymns? "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" ("What a fellowship, what a joy divine!"), or "There's Withing My Heart a Melody" ("Jesus, Jesus, Jesus—sweetest name I know. Fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go"), "How Great Thou Art" ("Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee") or again, any of your favorites or any of hundreds of others that celebrate God's presence.

You probably have other ways that you celebrate—not simply acknowledge—God's presence in your life. I invite you to share them with me if you will, so I can pass them on to others in our congregation. Next month, we'll look at how we "live with respect in Creation." Meanwhile, I am

Cheering for you,

Jane Phares

Summer Discipleship Groups at East Lake UMC



Messy People Devotional Group

Sundays 10-11am | July 2-mid Aug. | 1st Floor Meeting Room

Susie Knedlik will be leading this seasonal Sunday school offering that examines people in the Bible who also navigated struggles, pain, conflict, and hurt.

Yet, God worked in them just like God can work in us.

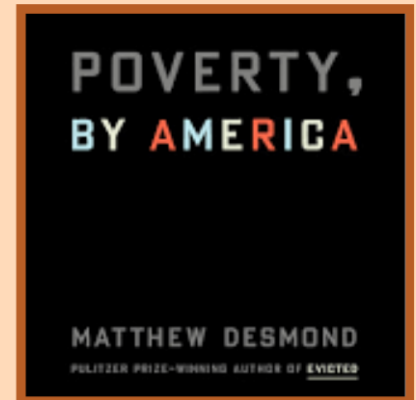
Participants will read five brief devotionals at their own pace throughout the week and then discuss with the group. You can either borrow/return a book (make notes in another notebook) or get a copy of your own. Sign-ups and both borrowed & personal copies will be available for pick-up at the church office or at Sunday worship leading up to the meetings, along with the Love for Learning donation basket that funds small group materials.

Justice Book Study

every other Wed., 6-7:30pm | June 7-Aug. 16 | 1st Floor Meeting Rm

Lynn Miles will share handouts, main points, & facts about the book while posing questions & facilitating discussion.

Although books are not mandatory, participants are encouraged to get the book on their own and read along in preparation for sessions. Reach out via email below for help finding new or used copies online or if cost is a barrier. Sign ups via email below.



Thursday Morning Discipleship Group

Thursdays at 10am | starts July 6 | Jane's house (close to church)

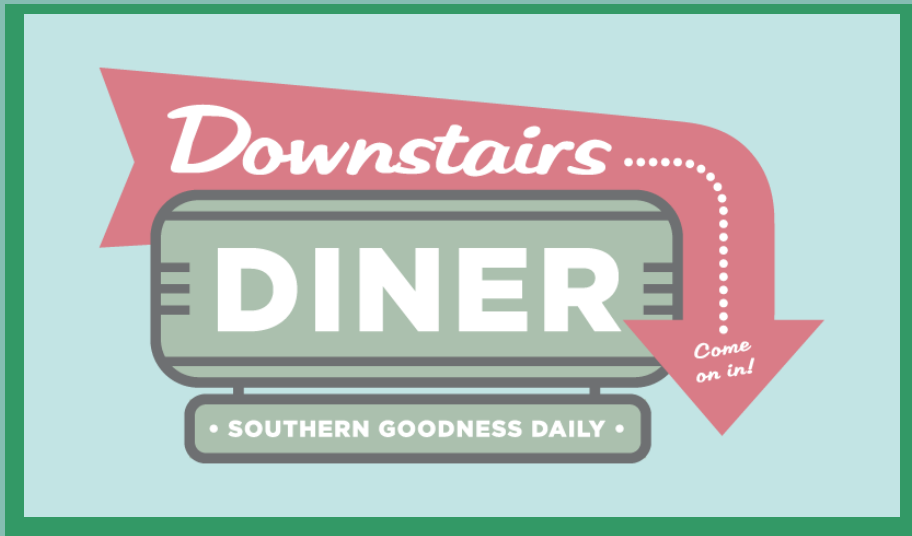
Jane Phares will host/lead this group, primarily geared towards lay women who aren't already part of a group, but open to all. There will be a Rachel Held Evans book to focus conversation on, and there will be light snacks!

Participants will read assigned chapters of the book at their own pace throughout the week and then discuss with the group. Sign-ups and copies of the book will be available for pick-up at the church office or at Sunday worship leading up to the meetings, along with the Love for Learning donation basket that funds small group materials.



Check out our Facebook page or email us for more information about our continuous discipleship offerings.

✉ : elumccomm@gmail.com 📘 : [@EastLakeUMC](https://www.facebook.com/EastLakeUMC)



Menus for June 2023

Tuesday, June 6	Taco salad w/kernel corn, tomatoes, pinto beans
Wednesday, June 7	Macaroni & cheese, steamed cabbage, butter beans, cornbread
Thursday, June 8	Fried or baked fish, cole slaw, fried okra
Tuesday, June 13	Salisbury steak w/ gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans
Wednesday, June 14	Chicken salad, sliced tomatoes, fruit
Thursday, June 15	Baked stuffed chicken, mac & cheese, collard greens
Tuesday, June 20	Lasagna, garden salad, corn, roll
Wednesday, June 21	Baked chicken, rice, roasted vegetables
Thursday, June 22	Pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans
Tuesday, June 27	Pot roast with vegetables, rice, roll
Wednesday, June 28	Meat loaf, scalloped potatoes, cabbage, roll
Thursday, June 29	Chicken salad, sliced tomatoes, fruit

Food
for
Thought

This is the Place
THERE IS NO PLACE
QUITE LIKE THIS PLACE
ANYWHERE NEAR THIS PLACE
SO THIS MUST BE THE PLACE

June 2023

Thursday, June 1

Downstairs Diner – **Closed today**

Saturday, June 3

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)

Thrift Store – 9 a.m. – noon

Sunday, June 4

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)

Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

Tuesday, June 6

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, June 7

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Book study – 6 p.m. (1st floor meeting room)

Thursday, June 8

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Interfaith PRIDE Service – 6 p.m. (see page 4)

Saturday, June 10

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)

Thrift Store – 9 a.m. – noon

PRIDE Parade – Arrive between 7:00-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 11

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)

Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

Tuesday, June 13

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, June 14

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 15

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)

Saturday, June 17

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)

Thrift Store – 9 a.m. – noon

Sunday, June 18

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.

Tuesday, June 20

Senior movie – 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, June 21

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Book study – 6 p.m. (1st floor meeting room)

Wednesday, June 21-24

Annual Conference in Huntsville

Thursday, June 22

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 24

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)

Thrift Store – 9 a.m. – noon

Church work day – 8 a.m.- noon

Sunday, June 25

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)

Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

Tuesday, June 27

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, June 28

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 29

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Friday, June 30

Friday Night Fellowship: DeVinci’s in Homewood –
6 p.m.