

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

July 2023
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Issue 7

In the neighborhood for good!



Are You a Scoffer?

In Matthew 9:18-26, we hear the story of a leader of the synagogue coming to Jesus to tell him that his little girl had just died. While Jesus was on the way to the house, some friends of the leader came to him to tell him that the little girl had died and there was no need for Jesus to come. Jesus continues on the way to the leader's house. When he gets to the house, he says not to worry for the girl is not dead, but only sleeping. The crowd that had gathered laughed at him. They were not laughing with joy at the thought that the little girl was alive. They were making fun of Jesus. They were mocking him. They were scoffers. Can you imagine laughing at Jesus? Holding Jesus in contempt?

I think we all have the capacity for derisiveness, for falling into a lack of faithfulness, or a lack of faith. Perhaps a difficult situation has gone on for too long and you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. Maybe you do not feel God hears your prayers and your sense of hope and possibility is gone. Maybe you've fallen into bad habits that have kept you from prayer and study and fellowship that draw you closer to God. Maybe your group of friends and colleagues are a negative bunch and their sarcasm and contempt has rubbed off on you. Have you become disillusioned and disappointed? It happens to all of us at some point. We all can get carried away with the news or the divisive spirit that our country and our larger church seem to be in. They say that misery loves company, but so does joy, and hope, and steadfastness, and kindness.

You are invited to join the people of joy! Come and be a part of those who are living in faithful hope! Luke 21:28 says that when difficult and frightening and disheartening things happen, lift up your head for your redemption is near. God loves you and will never leave you. Do not give up hope. Do not let your discouragement make you miss the wonder working power of power. Do not forget to wait for the miracle of the kingdom coming all around us. God has great plans for this church and for each one of us. Let us lean into the promise with hope and joy.

Peace,
Sally

-Idea drawn from [Disciplines: A Book of Daily Devotions 2023](#), p. 196

... from Leslie

Happy Summer, everyone!

Most of our new seasonal summer classes are now underway or starting up real soon by the time you read this! Between our Justice Book Study on *Poverty, By America*, our Sunday School study on *Messy People*, and our Thursday morning discipleship group on *Faith Unraveled*, there is lots to be excited about. Remember that it's never too late for you or a friend to jump in, even if you missed the first meeting (or a few). We are always glad to have you decide to grow alongside your ELUMC family!

I thought I'd also give you a sneak peek into what we have in the works for this Fall... (Drum roll please!).

There are still many details to iron out, but Lucy Lipp will be leading another seasonal Sunday School offering this fall for everyone! We've got a very engaging and powerful book lined up for you. Additionally, we are looking at offering a Sunday evening class on United Methodism, specifically for people who are relatively new to our ELUMC family. If you're somewhat new around the block, be on the lookout for an email invitation to this United Methodism 101 class (for lack of a better name at this point in the game).

There are certainly lots of things to be excited for and thankful for at this time. I'm saying prayers of praise myself! But at the same time, please don't forget to do your part when it comes to investing in this discipleship growth as well. If you love learning, sharing conversations, and pursuing spiritual growth as a community, then please consider supporting these programs in these ways:

1. Continually pray for our discipleship opportunities: that they may be sources of God's love, hope, and peace to many people, that we may grow closer to God and to our neighbor because of them, and that God may be present in them in special ways.
2. Continually be inviting others to take part! There are dozens... hundreds... thousands of people just in the East Lake community and surrounding areas who may be seeking something in their lives, who may be spiritually curious in some way, *(continued on page 6)*

From a Letter from Our Bishop and Cabinet

“On Friday afternoon, our Conference adopted the resolution “A Resolution Supporting the Revision of the *Book of Discipline* and the Honoring of Differing Convictions.” . . .

“We know the adoption of this resolution brings up different emotions for us as individuals and congregations. Some people are joyful or hopeful, others have mixed feelings while others feel frustrated or anxious. . .

“We also know the media coverage of this resolution may bring emotional reactions and questions from your congregation. News stories are written for the general public and don’t always adequately cover the details of our church processes and polity. If you get questions regarding this resolution . . . here are some helpful points you may want to share.

“In North Alabama United Methodism, a resolution is a formal expression of opinion or intent from the Annual Conference on a specific subject. The adopted resolution is speaking for the voting members of the 2023 North Alabama Annual Conference. It does not imply all North Alabama United Methodists are in agreement or were a part of creating or adopting the resolution.

“The resolution adopted on Friday says:

1. *The voting members of the North Alabama Annual Conference support the removal of all language pertaining to homosexuality from the Book of Discipline by the next General Conference,*
2. *We affirm a continuing commitment to honor the conscience and convictions of our individual churches and clergy, along the theological spectrum, in the appointment process, and*
3. *We will “make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3), for the glory of God.*

The creators and editors of the resolution's final text represented an array of opinions and theological perspectives regarding human sexuality.

“Only the General Conference of The United Methodist Church has the authority to change the *Book of Discipline*. The resolution does not endorse any specific petition coming before the General Conference meeting in the spring of 2024.

“The resolution does not create any mandates. In fact, the resolution’s call to ‘honor the conscience and convictions of our individual churches and clergy’ is an affirmation that no church or clergy in North Alabama would be asked to act against their Biblical understanding or convictions.”

July Birthdays

						1 *Geraldo Carey
2 *Alan Godwin	3 *Rodarius McKinney	4 *Paula Boggan	5	6	7	8
9	10 *Carol Hay	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 *Woni Lawrence *Shelly Ann McDonald	19	20	21	22
23	24 *Melinda Adkins *Connie Stone	25	26	27	28	29 30 31 (no birthdays that we know)

SUPER SENIORS

Hi, Seniors!

Guess what! It's domino time! No, not the pizza, but the game. Most of us have probably played dominoes at some point in our lives, but we might not all be familiar with Mexican Train Dominoes. (I used to know how but have forgotten.) Anyway, we will gather to learn and play together on **Tuesday, July 18, at 10 a.m. in the diner.**

Hope everyone is "game" to play on this day. Please don't say, "I don't know how," or "I'm not much of a game player." Just being together is the fun part, so come be a part of a rollicking time, whether or not we follow every rule! It will be fun—I promise!

Jane P.

Friday Night Fellowship



Friends!

This month we're going to do something a little different. We're having a game night! Yes, we'll have dominoes, cards, Scrabble (warning: do not engage Carol Hay in a Scrabble game), Perpetual Commotion, and maybe others. You are welcome to bring your favorite game, too.

Of course, we can't meet without eating. For our eats, we ask everyone to bring an appetizer-type dish. If nothing comes to mind in that category, think chips and dip, chicken wings, chicken nuggets (but let's don't all get this—remember last month's chicken overload!), or something delectable that you make.

The date is Friday (of course!), **July 21, at 6 p.m.** in the diner. See you there!

Jane

Music Notes 'midst Organ-izing

For a long time, I've been wanting to do an article that involved worship in both Our services, alternative and traditional. This missive's about the liturgical colors, on our pulpits, lecterns, and most importantly, altars on Sunday mornings.

Alas, we have a trio of ceramic tabby cats on a cabinet outside the door of the choir room, and each week I put the stole of the appropriate color around the neck of the largest of the trio. Then the choir will know which color to wear atop their robes. But sometimes, I forget! So, here's a synopsis of "what color when," and perhaps even "why." Maybe it will even help erstwhile choir folk! Some colors have been around for centuries, I am told, and they are pretty much consistent amongst all mainline denominations, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, Presbyterian, (some) Baptist, and United Methodist.

There are now six colors basic, two of which are interchangeable. (Though sometimes black and pink are bad to pop up.) Since the calendar begins with Advent, I'll start there. When we were growing up, the color was purple because the four Sundays were considered a (lesser) penitential season. However, over the last few decades, more and more churches have begun to use **Blue**. It is the color of HOPE! It's also the name of one of the four Sundays of the season, along with its advent candle. Advent has become a time of preparation and anticipation, of hope, and peace, joy, and love. Then, at sunset (or thereabout) on Christmas Eve, we change colors.

White, and its alternate, **Gold**, are the colors for feast days in the Church. A feast day is defined as "any day when we remember and celebrate something or someone important to our faith."

More next month!

Love,

Barry



Feeding our friends in June!



"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
Gary Sandridge**

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 July

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

Sunday, July 2 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13

Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

Sunday, July 9 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17

Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday, July 16 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112

Romans 8:1-8
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 23 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, July 30 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

... from your Lay Leader

Last month I started looking at parts of the creed that we use almost every Sunday. I talked about how we “celebrate God’s presence.” This month I want to look at how we might “live with respect in Creation.” What does this mean? The Social Principles in the 2020 Book of Discipline say,

We affirm that all creation belongs to God and is a manifestation of God’s goodness and providential care. Human beings, nonhuman animals, plants, and other sentient and non-sentient beings participate in the community of creation, and their flourishing depends on the care of all God’s creation. Rather than treating creation as if it were placed here solely for humanity’s use and consumption, we are called to practice responsible stewardship and to live in right relationship with the Creator and with the whole of God’s creation.

But again, what does this mean? Almost daily we hear about greenhouse gasses, climate change, and the warming of our globe (as I write, we are expecting a heat index of 107° today). But for the most part, these things are out of our hands, unless we support policies designed to counteract these changes in our environment and make our support known by how we vote and by letting our elected officials know. But closer to home? One thing that’s easy to do is recycle. You can even bring your recyclables to the church, and we’ll take care of them (only #1, #2, and #5 plastics and paper, please; those are the only things recyclable in our area). You can stop for a minute and be thankful for birdsong when you hear it. You might even put out some seeds for them. You can conserve by combining your trips for errands, etc. There is so much more I could say about this, so I’ll continue next month. (I have something else to write about on page 6!)

Jane Phares

... also from your Lay Leader

As Sally announced on Sunday, we are freshly back from Annual Conference, where the theme was "Offer Christ Every Day." We heard excellent speakers on how to share our personal stories of God's grace and love in our lives. We learned that our testimony can be expressed in as few as seven words, or within one minute's time.

The speakers acknowledged that many of us are uncomfortable with talking about our personal experience with God, thus the suggestions of short expressions. They didn't say this, but my thought is that if we are uncomfortable talking about our relationship with God, the next best thing is to draw people to our church where they can experience God's love for themselves and/or hear it preached.

I ran across my article from ten years ago that suggested the following: "Are you excited about the things we are doing here at the church? Do you love the sermons, or the music at the service you attend, or the people beside you in the pews? Are you involved in a ministry that really captures your heart, where you feel you are being the hands or feet of Christ? Is there a special event coming up that would be fun to share with friends? If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes,' then the next step is simple: *Talk about it.* Tell others about the things you are excited about. Ask them to join you sometime. Your excitement will be contagious! As the favorite camp song from years past says, 'It only takes a spark to get a fire going . . . Pass it on!'"

More important than ever is the need to share God's good news. We can all do this!
Cheering for you,

Jane

(continued from page 2)

and who may have no idea about the kind of place that East Lake UMC is. Spread awareness of who we are with your actions *and* your words.

3. Take time to discern where God is calling you in the relation to discipleship growth. Maybe you can think up a new opportunity that we are not currently offering. You are always free to email me and share any ideas or requests you have that we can consider going into the future. You may even discover through prayer and reflection that God is calling you to lead a group in some form or fashion! Many of our current leaders and teachers at one point weren't sure about leading something themselves, and look what God is doing through them now! I pray you'll keep a open mind and open heart. Even if you don't feel called to teach, you can always lead in other ways through hosting, providing food, and so on. Again, please email me because I would love to walk with you through this discernment and coordinate a way to help you follow this call.

4. Consider donating to the Love for Learning Fund (even repeatedly)! There are many ways to do this outlined below. It cannot be overstated how much contributions of *all* amounts make a difference in our ability to grow in our faith together. This fund provides us with small group materials, such as books, and ensures that we can continue building discipleship offerings in the future. That way, maybe if there isn't one that is a good fit for you now, you may find a good one to plug into in the near future.

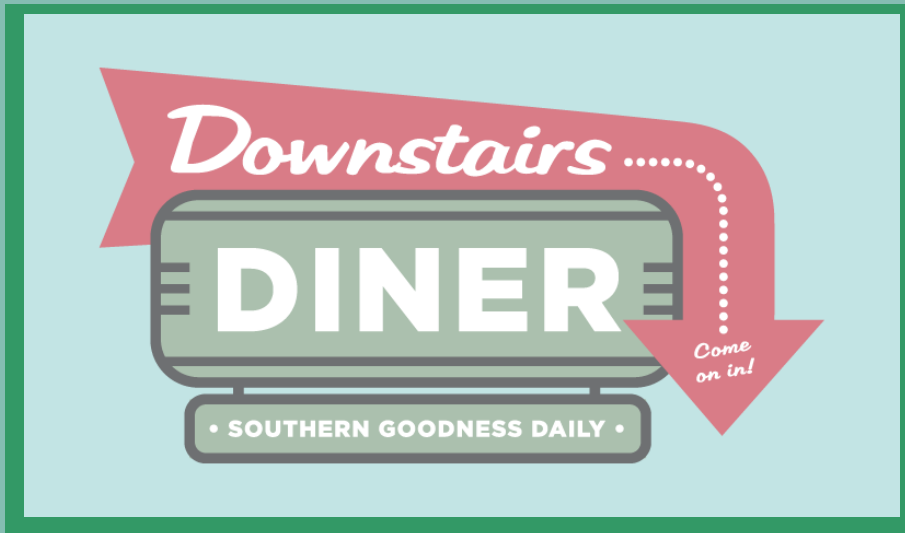
(Note: If you're able to contribute and are looking for guidance, most books cost about \$18. We especially appreciate donations that could help cover the cost of someone else's book as well as your own.)

Ways to give:

--- Put cash in an envelope and write "Love For Learning" on the envelope. Then put it in the offering plate or basket in worship.

--- Write "Love For Learning" on the memo line of a check, and then put it in the offering plate or basket during worship.

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Menus for July 2023

Tuesday, July 4	DINER CLOSED
Wednesday, July 5	Taco salad with Mexican rice, pinto beans
Thursday, July 6	Fried or baked fish, cole slaw, baked beans, French fries
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Tuesday, July 11	Baked chicken, roasted veggies, wild rice, roll
Wednesday, July 12	Mac and cheese, butter beans, cabbage, cornbread
Thursday, July 13	Cheeseburger, baked beans, potato salad
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Tuesday, July 18	Salisbury steak w/ gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans
Wednesday, July 19	Baked pork chops, sweet potato casserole, mixed vegetables
Thursday, July 20	Cold cut subs (turkey or ham), pasta salad, chips
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Tuesday, July 25	Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, garden salad, corn, garlic bread
Wednesday, July 26	Mac and cheese, field peas, sweet potatoes
Thursday, July 27	Chicken salad, sliced tomatoes, fruit

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--- Visit our website, go to the GIVE tab, and click on our church PayPal link. When filling out your online donation information, don't forget to write "Love For Learning" in the note section! (Using your smartphone camera to scan the QR code here also takes you to our church PayPal.)

In closing, I just want to remind everyone (myself included!) of this: Time and time again throughout Scripture and Christian history, we see examples of people who have given generously and in response have received abundantly, far beyond what they could imagine. We often find growth and fulfillment in acts of generosity in and of themselves. I pray that you find ways to give that bless you infinitely in return. Though generosity is not one-size-fits-all and not many people will be able to take on all four of the giving possibilities I outlined above, I pray you discover a way to give that feels good to you, yet still stretches, challenges, and engages your soul in new and beautiful ways.



leslie

July 2023

Saturday, July 1

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)
Thrift Store – 9 a.m. – noon

Sunday, July 2

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

Tuesday, July 4

**CHURCH OFFICE AND DINER CLOSED FOR
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Wednesday, July 5

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, July 6

Book study– 10-11ish a.m. (Jane Phares’s house)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Saturday, July 8

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)
Thrift Store – 9 a.m. – noon

Sunday, July 9

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
Staff-Parish Meeting – 2 p.m. (Office Conference Room)

Tuesday, July 11

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Senior Dominoes – 10 a.m. (Diner)
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, July 12

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

Thursday, July 13

Book study– 10-11ish a.m. (Jane Phares’s house)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Saturday, July 15

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)
Thrift Store – 9 a.m. – noon

Sunday, July 16

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

Tuesday, July 18

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

Wednesday, July 19

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, July 20

Book study– 10-11ish a.m. (Jane Phares’s house)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Ponder with the Pastor – 5:30-7 p.m. (True Story Brewery)

Friday, July 21

Friday Night Fellowship Games – 6 p.m. (Diner)

Saturday, July 22

East Lake Market – 8-noon (small parking lot)
Thrift Store – 9 a.m. – noon

Sunday, July 23

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

Tuesday, July 25

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

Wednesday, July 26

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

Thursday, July 27

Book study– 10-11ish a.m. (Jane Phares’s house)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, July 30

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