

# The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

October 2023  
Volume 64  
Issue 10

*In the neighborhood for good!*



## How God Sees It

It has become my practice to get up early each morning and settle in to a cup of coffee or two, cuddles with the cats, and what is often, my only quiet time of the day. I have started getting up a little earlier each morning to make the most of that time. Many of you have a similar practice of morning prayers, morning devotionals, getting your day off to the right start. I use this time to pray through my joys and the things that weigh on my heart. I send texts to people that I know are struggling or have a particularly tough or important day ahead. I read a variety of devotional texts and the scriptures that they are based on. I know that prayer works. I don't know how it works. But, I am pretty sure I know how it doesn't work. I don't think it is dependent on us being faithful enough or saying the right thing because we never are, and never will, and it would be a losing battle from the start. I don't believe it's like a wish list for Santa and if we are good, it will be granted. If that were true, you and I know many things that would have happened differently due to all the faithful people praying.

I believe God waits for us. Not waiting with arms crossed, tapping a foot and sighing, waiting until we get the answer right. But God longs for connection with us. God paces the floor like a worried parent, scans the horizon for the lost child to come home. Hopes that we will plop down on the spiritual sofa and pour out our hearts. God waits for our eyes to widen to the beauty, our ears to open to the drumbeat of justice, and our hands to reach out to grasp another's. God waits for us. God longs for us. We lean into the Presence through the act of our prayers.

When I lift the name of someone to God, I can see them in the presence of God. When I give thanks for the butterflies in my garden or the blue sky or a new friend, my awareness of beauty increases. When I cry out for help or hope, my mind and heart open a little more to the presence of the Holy Spirit and her comfort and calling. Prayer changes things. Prayer changes me. The more I pray, the more I stand in the presence of God. The more I pray the more I catch glimpses of the reality of the Kingdom of God. The more I pray, the more and more I see the way God longs for this world and me to be.

Prayer strengthens our relationship with God. Prayer opens our eyes and our ears and our hearts. Prayer brings the Kingdom nearer because we have eyes to see it. Prayer gives us glimpses of how God sees us and how God hopes things will be. Let us pray without ceasing that the Kingdom may be more and more the reality we all see.

Peace,

*Sally*

## ... from Leslie

Hey, friends!

By the time you're reading this, our UMC 101 class, our *Bible Stories for Grown-Ups* Fall Sunday School group, and our Grappling with Grace and Grief support group will be underway! There has been a lot of excitement for all of these classes and it has been fun getting them together! I hope you'll join me in praying that both of these discipleship opportunities promote growth and transformation in all the people involved. I am especially thankful for the leadership of many people that makes these groups possible. Teachers, hosts, volunteers helping pass out books, the list goes on and on.

I hope you have seen our Fall Calendar on Facebook and printed out around the church! The Halloween Carnival and Fall Bazaar are rapidly approaching, So I hope you're gathering small toys and individually-wrapped candies for the Carnival, and starting to create lots of handmade decorations/arts/crafts, homemade food, and homegrown plants to sell at the Bazaar!

We're also starting to think of what Advent discipleship may look like... A devotion booklet put together by ELUMC family members, a retreat or seasonal group, the ideas are endless! If you have an idea, a suggestion, a question, or a desire to lead something or take part in something during this Advent season, email me so we can set up a time to chat and dream together!

Here for you,

*Leslie*

## Thursday Morning Study Group

The group that meets at Jane Phares's house on Thursday mornings at 10 is about to start a new book—*Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. We are all responsible for getting our own copy. Come join us, but let Jane know if you are coming!

## Another Welcome!

Once again, we are thrilled to officially welcome new members to our church family! **Suzanne Lutfy** joined at the 11:00 service on August 27. She was introduced to us by a long-time member, **Jessica Findley**, and has since become an active part of the Joy Sunday School class. Then, on September 10, also at the 11:00 service, **Mark Edwards** decided to make the commitment of membership. Mark came to us from a church that was disaffiliating. Both of these people have been active with the "Feeding Our Friends" ("Lunch with Our Neighbors") ministry, and we are so thankful for them. Be sure to make it a point to see these folks and extend the warm hand of welcome!

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# October Birthdays

1	2	3 *Jackie Folk *Roy Miller	4	5	6	7
8 *Laure Smith	9	10	11 *Susie Knedlik	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 *Tom Duley *Bronwyn Lovelace
29	30	31				30

## SUPER SENIORS

Hi, my sweet friends.

Last month I said we would watch a movie this month, and I asked for suggestions. Well, I only got one, so we'll go with it! Jane Walker suggested the movie "Poms," described as "an uplifting comedy about a woman (played by Diane Keaton) who moves into a retirement community and starts a cheerleading squad with her fellow residents." Doesn't that sound fun?

Let's meet together on Tuesday, October 17, at 10 a.m., in the office conference room. Then, after the movie, those who would like to can go down to the Diner for taco salad. And then crochet . . . or thrift-store shopping . . . there are many possibilities!

Plan to bring a friend to the movie, maybe someone who needs to be "uplifted"!

*Jane P.*

## Friday Night Fellowship



Friends! This month we are working to beat a deadline! Many of you have probably seen the announcement on Facebook or elsewhere that Lloyd's is closing on October 15. LLOYD'S! A Birmingham/280 institution.

Friday Night Fellowship must go one more time, since this has been one of our favorite spots. We'll have our fellowship a little earlier than usual in October and go to Lloyd's on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Hope you will join us! Jane will send an email for reservation purposes, but if you don't get it and want to go, just tell Jane.

*“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:*

- Jack Boggan**
- Carol Ruth Devore**
- Mattie Lou Harrison**
- Greg Jones**
- Audrey Odom**

*Our prayers and sympathies are with Jan Briley, Jody, Kristi, and Paul, in the death of **Jim Briley** on August 30. Jim was beloved by all of us at the church, for his sense of humor, kindness, and singing. We will miss him.*

*And with*

*The family of **Rev. Jim Barrow**, who died on September 6. Jim was East Lake Associate from 1978-1981.*

*Please keep these families in your prayers.*

### Memorials

Gifts have been given to the church in memory of

#### Jim Briley

Bob Chapman

Roy Stewart

#### Evelyn Lindsay

James Smith

### Needs for Community Ministries

**Snack Bags:** Fruit cups      Vienna sausages  
 Water                      Granola bars

**Food Co-op:** Cleaning supplies      Paper goods  
 (toilet paper, paper towels)

**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



*Drive by often and watch the progress!*

### Update on the ParSONage renovation

The porch is opened back up. New windows. Signs of bright, new possibilities!



## Lectionary Readings for October

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

### Sunday, October 1 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost/World Communion Sunday

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

### Sunday, October 8 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4  
Psalm 19

Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

### Sunday, October 15 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14  
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14

### Sunday, October 22 – Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23  
Psalm 99

I Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

### Sunday, October 29 – Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

I Thessalonians 2: 1-380  
Matthew 22:34-16

*Our Fall Bazaar is  
coming!*

*November 4,  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
And we need:*

**Hand-crafted items of all  
kinds!**

**Homemade food items  
(goodies of all kinds)  
AND YOU!**

**(Contact Jane Phares to volunteer)**

## Halloween Carnival!

As usual:  
On Halloween evening 5-7 p.m.  
We need individually wrapped candy and  
small toys  
And we need volunteers! Let Sally know if  
you'll help.





All are welcome! Regardless of where you are physically or spiritually, whom you love, what you do for work, whether or not you play video games, or whether or not you attend church, this community is for you.

Rev. H.N. Gibson is launching a new virtual community of faith on October 1. This Discord-based faith community is open to anyone who has a desire for community to discuss their faith and be in fellowship with others seeking to follow Christ's example for our lives.

## Tenth Golf Tournament is another success

Yes, our 10th annual charity golf tournament on Monday, September 25, went exceedingly well. While we had fewer golfers this year, the generosity of many of our church members, plus golfer fees and other corporate and friend donations, made it quite successful. We don't have a total yet, but we'll announce it as soon as we do. For now, let's thank those from the church who helped at the event: Bob Chapman, tournament chair; Jane Phares, Bob's assistant; Sally Allocca, who always sends the golfers off to play with a prayer; Roy Miller and Barry Norris, who spent lots of time riding golf carts around to put out and take up signs, etc.

## From your Lay Leader . . .

I hope y'all will forgive me if I wait till next month to continue my series on our creed and how we can do what it tells us to do. There is just so much coming up that's so exciting!

Leslie catalogs several things—classes and the like that are coming up or continuing—and I will add the book study that has been at my house since mid-July. It has been such a blessing to me! We are starting a new book as the announcement says on page 2—a good time to join!

Then there's the bazaar, one of my favorite events of the year. I am working on some craft items, and I know some others are, too. I hope we'll have a lot of things to sell—crafts and goodies (and if we're lucky, Susie Knedlik will bring more of Larry's snack mix, hint, hint). And of course, we need volunteers. Those who've done it before know that most of it is not strenuous work—it's sitting at a table with for-sale items and listing them on the customers' purchase sheets. But we also need people in the kitchen to serve soup (and maybe even make it), and people to take money. It's a great time to visit with friends, shop, and help us make money for church ministries!

But let us not forget the Halloween Carnival, which is one of the best-attended events we have at the church. It's truly a gift to the community of a safe place to have fun and get candy! This takes a lot of volunteers, too.

I'm curious about H.N.'s new community (see this page, column one). I don't know if it's for me, but let's all pray that they can reach new people for Christ and help build God's kingdom here and now.

And then there are the celebrations—the old parsonage renovation, the golf tournament, new members—so many good things happening around here! Get involved, and you'll catch the excitement!

Cheering for you!

*Jane Phares*



## Every-Day Diner Offerings for October 2023!

Tuesday, October 3	Baked chicken, rice pilaf, green beans, roll
Wednesday, October 4	Cheeseburgers, baked beans, potato salad
Thursday, October 5	Lasagna, green salad, fresh fruit
Friday, October 6	Baked or fried fish, coleslaw, fried okra
Monday, October 9	Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, corn, roll
Tuesday, October 10	Taco salad with corn, pinto beans, fresh fruit
Wednesday, October 11	Macaroni and cheese, butter beans, cabbage, cornbread
Thursday, October 12	Baked or fried fish, potato salad, baked beans
Friday, October 13	Chicken salad, sliced tomatoes, crackers, fresh fruit
Monday, October 16	Hamburger steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll
Tuesday, October 17	Taco salad with rice and pinto beans
Wednesday, October 18	Baked ham, yams, lima beans, cornbread
Thursday, October 19	Cubed steak with gravy, rice, mixed vegetables
Friday, October 20	Baked or fried fish, scalloped potatoes, green beans
Monday, October 23	Cheeseburgers, baked beans, French fries
Tuesday, October 24	Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans
Wednesday, October 25	Barbecued pork chops, macaroni and cheese, cabbage
Thursday, October 26	Baked chicken, rice, mixed vegetables
Friday, October 27	Baked or fried fish, coleslaw, baked beans
Monday, October 30	Cold cut subs, pasta salad, fresh fruit
Tuesday, October 31	Chili with beans, grilled cheese, fruit

If you're looking for a sweet treat for a gift, or meals to take to friends or neighbors in need, check out the Downstairs Diner. We're here to serve you!

### Apology

We offer our sincere apologies for leaving Mr. Arlen Oliver (Grimes) off the birthday calendar last month. He celebrated his 1<sup>st</sup> birthday on September 26.

# October 2023

## Sunday, October 1

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

## Tuesday, October 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, October 4

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

## Thursday, October 5

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

## Saturday, October 7

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

## Sunday, October 8

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

## Tuesday, October 10

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, October 11

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

## Thursday, October 12

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

## Friday, October 13

Friday night fellowship meets at Lloyd's – 6 p.m.

## Saturday, October 14

**Final East Lake Market Day for this season –  
 8-noon (small parking lot)**  
 Thrift Store – 9 a.m. - noon

## Sunday, October 15

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. (Diner)

## Tuesday, October 17

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

## Wednesday, October 18

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)  
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
 Luke Bible Study – 6 p.m.

## Thursday, October 19

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

## Sunday, October 22

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

## Tuesday, October 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, October 25

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)  
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
 Luke Bible Study – 6 p.m.

## Thursday, October 26

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, October 29

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

## Tuesday, October 31

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
 Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
 Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)  
 Halloween Carnival – 5-7 p.m. (Wesley Hall)