

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

November 2023

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Issue 11

In the neighborhood for good!



Our Burden is Light

At the gym, I find that I often compare the weight that I am lifting to how much weight others around me are lifting. (Sidenote for those of you who might be new to my stories. I have been going to a small gym and lifting weights for the last couple of years. Before this, I have never found any exercise that I enjoyed and was willing to maintain.) Even after a couple of years of lifting, it is still challenging. I will work and work to lift heavier weights only to find that my form is wrong and that I am risking an injury or at least not getting the full benefit of the exercise. Then, I need go back to a much lower weight to work on my form. Just as I find I am using better form, I end up with my knee or my shoulder hurting, not from something at the gym, but from wearing bad shoes or picking up something the wrong way. And I'll need to start over again, a seemingly never-ending cycle.

Like I said, as I'm going through this cycle, I start to look around and see who's lifting more than me, who's doing "better" than me. There are people older than me lifting more than me. People the same size as me lifting the same as me. If I'm not careful, I can get discouraged. And then, someone invariably will come alongside me and give me a word of encouragement and I'll remember that my goal is to lift the weight correctly that I can lift and not be bothered comparing myself to others particularly when I don't know their story or their journey. Instead of comparing, I could come alongside them and encourage them in their goal to be stronger and healthier. This story about weightlifting applies to all kinds of struggles and endeavors that we engage in.

I read a message the other day that reminded me that we are all in this together.

Same. I still haven't figured out how to keep my shower floor clean or make morning smoothies or respond to stress calmly. *Same, same, same* my friends tell me, a love note of sorts. Maybe the world doesn't need us to cut down on carbs or make more money or waste less time. Maybe instead it needs us to reach those who feel alone in their messy homes or difficult relationships or unresolved issues. To impress less and connect more. To share one simple message: *Same. Same, same, same.* - @hannahrowrites

We have different gifts and skills. We have different backgrounds and experiences. The truth is, we all struggle. We are all on this same journey of life. When we stop comparing, stop our jealousy and our pride, when we work together, and when we encourage one another, we lighten the load. How can you share light and love today?

Peace,

Sally

... from Leslie

Happy November!

Although I'm still soaking up every bit of Fall (my favorite season) and am not rushing into the Christmas season just yet, I am getting things set for Advent when it comes to discipleship offerings. Instead of a class or group this season, we're trying something new!

I'm working on building an East Lake UMC Advent Daily Devotional Booklet! It's hard to tell exactly what it will look like before it comes together, but I can guarantee that it will include lots of perspectives on spiritual matters from people all around East Lake UMC. This discipleship resource will be available to take with you a week or two before Advent begins on December 3 so that everyone has it in their hands and is ready to start reading the daily devotions once the season begins. We hope you not only use this booklet for your own centering moments and spiritual growth throughout the season, but maybe even grab a few more copies to share with others in your life that you think would appreciate one.

The booklets will be available leading up to and at the beginning of Advent. There will be printed copies ready for pick-up at church on Sundays and in the office during the week. We are also planning to mail a few to some of our ELUMC family members who aren't able to get out or live far away. We are also hoping to have some sort of electronic version that people can subscribe to via email as well.

As always, I would love to hear all of your hopes, dreams, ideas, and suggestions, especially when it comes to Spring discipleship offerings! Don't hesitate to shoot me an email at elumccomm@gmail.com. I hope you'll join me in prayer over these things and that you'll consider how the Spirit may be calling you to lead or take part.

Another thing that we have been excited for is selling the vintage ELUMC collector's ornaments! I think this is such a cool keepsake and gift idea for loved ones, and it supports the church! I'm definitely going to have one on my tree this year, and I plan to get one for some others too.

Alright! Enough Winter talk! Enjoy your Fall!

Leslie

**Come to the
BAZAAR**

**this
Saturday!**

9-1

**You'll be home
in time for
football!
More photos
page 4!**



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November Birthdays						
			1	2 *Susan Preston	3	4 * John Milledge
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 *Betty King	13	14 *Lillian Nelson	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 *Ichabod Temperance	25 *Genie Christian *Ja'Leshia Luster
26	27	28	29	30 *Keith Fine		



We had a wonderful gathering to watch a wonderful movie, *Poms*, last month. It was sad at times but very uplifting in its message, and I wish everyone could have watched it with us.

This month I had teased that we would eat together either in the diner or elsewhere. Seems the last few times we went out we had trouble getting drivers, so this month we will eat in, at our Diner. I don't have the menus for November as I write this, but if it winds up being something you don't care for, you are invited to bring a sack lunch and join our "Thankful" lunch (it's two days before Thanksgiving, after all). We'll meet in the back room of the diner. Get your lunch and let's meet as soon after 11:00 as you can all get through the line.

When you get there, you'll find out what I mean by a "Thankful" lunch, although you can probably guess. Maybe there'll be a surprise or two, though.

Wink, wink,

Jane P.

Friday Night Fellowship



Well, lunch at Lloyd's turned out to be a dud all the way around. So this month, we're going to try a place we've never been before, at least not as FNF. On Friday, November 17, we'll meet at Marty's GM in Irondale. (If you can tell me what the GM stands for, you win a prize.) Anyway, it is in the strip mall where long ago there was a Walmart. It's not a large place—and very casual—but word on the streets is that they have the best hamburgers in town. They have a vegetarian burger, but they also have salads, wings, and other things. Hope you'll join us and bring someone new!

The Bazaar Is Here!

This Saturday, November 4

Wesley Hall

9 a. m. til 1 p. m.

Soup & cornbread lunch \$7

Wonderful craft items like these!



"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:

Dwight Anderson
Nancy Anderson
Alma Boggan
Jack Boggan
Jan Briley
Carol Ruth Devore
Mattie Lou Harrison

*Our prayers and sympathies are with Steve Price in the loss of his mother, **Barbara Hudson** on October 26. Steve was very close to his beautiful mom and will surely miss her.*

The family of **Diana Khalaf Faulkner**, who died on September 28. Diana and her husband, Salem, raised their family in the church, thus being members for many years.

Please keep these families in your prayers.

Warm Friends!

We've just had our first cold snap, and chances are there will be others. While most of us have warm homes and more than one coat, some of our unhoused friends need something to keep them warm during the cold. If you have any extra **gloves, toboggans, or scarves** around your house, please bring them to the church so we can give them out to those who truly need them. Thanks!

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	

Lectionary Readings for November

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

Sunday, November 5 – Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 3:7-17

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday, November 12 – Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalm 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, November 19 – Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

Thursday, November 23 – Thanksgiving Day

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Psalm 65

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, November 26 – Reign of Christ/Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1: 15-23

Matthew 25:31-46



COMMUNITY OF HOPE

A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY



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 launched 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.

*Discord is a newish platform on the Internet where people can chat and "hang out," ask questions, discuss various topic, grow together, etc.

"Be present in all things and thankful for all."

Maya Angelou

Music Notes 'midst Organ-izing

I try to interject a spirit of thankfulness into most all of my missives, but it is November; it's that special time! I reckon our church is at the top of my list. Our ministries are expanding significantly, and we had a net increase in membership this year. I'm celebrating my 22nd anniversary here at East Lake Church right now, and I don't recall that a net increase has happened since before I came along! Besides my joy with the newer folks in the church and choir, I glory in all of you with whom I've had the privilege to journey these two decades plus.



I'm loving leading our small Wednesday morning study group. Y'all are keeping me on my toes! The occasional assist to Lucy is also wonderful. I love taking food to folks and visiting for a while. My work as your church accountant keeps me sharp and gives me a lot of happiness; I'm in my fifth year doing such. For the first time in my life I'm using both of my college degrees in the same place, at the same, and what better place and time than right now at ELUMC! That brings me around to my first pride and joy, our choir. Even though a few have retired, we are still going strong; thank y'all for your steadfastness. I must also mention my deep gratitude for our staff: Sally, Jane, Leslie, H. N., Laila, along with those who are a part of P.E.E.R.

Please stay tuned for some brand-new information about our Christmas music. Yes, John Schwandt will be returning, and we will again be meeting on the third Sunday of December, the 17th, at 2:30. However the format will something completely new! Ask me anytime and I'll fill you in.

Love,

Barry

From your Lay Leader . . .

Hello, beloved friends! This place has really been abuzz lately—planning and doing the Halloween Carnival *and* the Bazaar (both in the same week), the Hinton Mission trip the next week, and Thanksgiving a couple of weeks later, and *then* (or soon thereafter) it's Advent, the Bell Tower Players' Christmas play, and Christmas itself—whew! It would be easy to be overwhelmed, but your church staff gets excited about these things every year as if each element is brand new and has never been done before!

But I'm supposed to be writing about the part of our Sunday creed that says as part of being the church, we are to “seek justice and resist evil.” What does that mean to you, especially the “seeking justice” part? This could be an interesting discussion! When we think of the INjustice in the world—for instance, the slaughtering of Israeli, Palestinian, and Ukrainian civilians, the deprivations they face if they *do* survive—we are prone to throw up our hands and say, “What can I do?” Well, maybe in the short run there isn't anything to do. However, we *can* affect how these terrible things are handled by our elected officials. But first, we must know where a particular candidate stands on the issues before us. We are also prone to vote for a party rather than a person, without doing careful research and study of where they stand on aid for war-torn countries, on help for our own disadvantaged citizens, on *seeking justice* for all members of our society, not just those who look or act like us. The Bible gives very clear instructions on how we are to treat the poor, the immigrant, etc., but sometimes we like to ignore those verses. To be just, though, we can't ignore those passages, nor pick and choose whom they might apply to. As the church, we say we “seek justice and resist evil.” Let's do it! I'm cheering for you!

Jane Phares



Every-Day Diner Offerings for November 2023!

Wednesday, November 1	Salisbury steak and gravy, mashed potatoes, lima beans
Thursday, November 2	Chicken Alfredo, salad, corn
Friday, November 3	Salmon croquettes, rice, roasted vegetables
Monday, November 6	Chicken supreme casserole, garden salad, roll
Tuesday, November 7	Lasagna with meat or vegetables, corn, garden salad
Wednesday, November 8	Stuffed chicken, steamed cabbage, macaroni and Cheese, cornbread
Thursday, November 9	Baked or fried fish, potato salad, baked beans
Friday, November 10	CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY
Monday, November 13	Chicken Alfredo, steamed vegetables, garden salad
Tuesday, November 14	Taco salad with tortilla chips, rice, and corn
Wednesday, November 15	Beef stew with rice, cornbread
Thursday, November 16	Turkey with gravy, dressing, greens, sweet potato casserole
Friday, November 17	Chicken salad with crackers and fruit
Monday, November 20	Chicken sandwich, baked beans, potato salad
Tuesday, November 21	Taco salad, pinto beans, rice
Wednesday, November 22	Chicken and dumplings, vegetables, cornbread
Thursday, November 23	CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING
Friday, November 24	CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS
Monday, November 27	Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll
Tuesday, November 28	Neck bone soup, cornbread
Wednesday, November 29	Baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, lima beans
Thursday, November 30	Cabbage soup with vegetables, cornbread

DON'T WAIT TO ORDER HOLIDAY SIDES!

Deadline for Thanksgiving orders - November 10

Last day to pick up - Nov. 17

Deadline for Christmas orders - December 10

Last day to pick up - Dec. 20

November 2023

Wednesday, November 1

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

Thursday, November 2

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

Saturday, November 4

Bazaar! – 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (Wesley Hall)
DON'T FORGET TO "FALL BACK" TONIGHT!

Sunday, November 5

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

Tuesday, November 7

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

Wednesday, November 8

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

Thursday, November 9

Hinton team leaves for mission trip – 8:30 a.m.
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Friday, November 10

CHURCH AND DINER CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY

Sunday, November 12

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, November 14

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

Wednesday, November 15

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

Thursday, November 16

Book study – 10-noonish (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)

Friday, November 17

Friday Night Fellowship – Meet at 6 at Marty's GM in Irondale

Sunday, November 19

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, November 21

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Senior "Thankful" Lunch – 11 a.m. (Back room of Diner)
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, November 22

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

Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24

**CHURCH AND DINER CLOSED FOR
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS**

Sunday, November 26

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

Tuesday, November 28

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

Wednesday, November 29

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

Thursday, November 30

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