

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

February 2024

Volume 65

Issue 2

In the neighborhood for good!



Unbounded Love

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, is its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise. – Charles Wesley

In the middle of this month, on Valentine's Day, which falls on Ash Wednesday, we will again set our sights and our hearts on Easter. We long to fill ourselves with the joy of Easter, with the peace that passes all understanding, with a love that knows no bounds. But as yet we are far away. Easter tells of a love that is stronger than death, of a God whose love for each of us is greater than we can imagine and a with power shown in this world through the love and suffering of Jesus.

The season of Lent begins with sackcloth and ashes, with the acknowledgement and sadness that often we live our lives far away from that kind of love. We say no to the good things and yes to the bad things. We get distracted. We forget that we are named and claimed by the God of all creation. We settle again and again for being much less than Easter people.

This season we will focus on this familiar glorious hymn by Charles Wesley, the brother of John who unwittingly started what became the United Methodist Church. I invite you to read again the words printed above. Sing them, if you like. This will be our journey from our bent to sinning, to being changed from glory to glory until we are lost in wonder, love, and praise.

The ashes placed on our foreheads remind us that we are fragile and finite, but also the stuff of all creation, stardust no less. How will we choose to live our days in that knowledge? How will we see the light of glorious Easter in our future and bring it into our present days? There is a lot to deal with between here and there, a lot to go through, the valley of the shadow of many deaths – death to pride and judgment, injustice and apathy. Death to sin and oppression in all of its forms.

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... from Leslie

Hi, everyone!

It has been a busy, busy week in the life and work of a Director of Discipleship recently, and that is a good thing! We have two great discipleship opportunities coming up this Lent, and I hope you find at least one of them to be a good fit for what you're looking for. They are both chances to grow, engage in meaningful conversation, and more. I can't cover all the logistics for them here, but you can get flyers with all the details in many different ways. Pick up one (or more to share!) at worship, grab one from the church office during the week, or call/email me and I will mail/email you one.

Each Monday, starting February 19, a group will meet in the Diner to talk about their Way of Forgiveness workbooks. Forgiveness is such a powerful, transformative, life-giving part of Christianity, and I hope you can join this group on a journey towards being more forgiving, not just to others, but to YOURSELF, too.

Depending on when you read this, the window for registration for these workbooks may have closed. However, reach out to me ASAP and we can arrange for you to hop in late.

Each Sunday School hour starting February 18, we have guest speakers coming in to talk about various mission focuses connected to ELUMC. No matter if you are a decades-long member of the church, or someone just remotely curious what service/volunteer opportunities we have going on, I can guarantee you'll learn something new at these Mission Spotlights as leaders share what they do, why they do it, and how YOU can participate.

I hope you'll mark your calendar and spread the word for these opportunities and let me know how I can help you in the meantime!

A couple unrelated, random reminders I wanted to throw in:

- We still collect #5 plastics for recycling at the church. Talk to me if you need help telling what is a #5 or have questions about drop-off.
- I've been helping with the Food Co-op a bit the

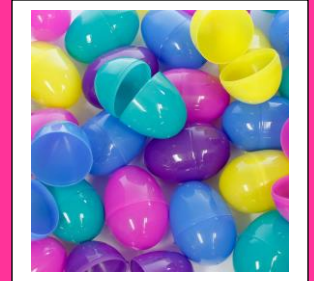
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past few months, and I think the group could benefit from having some dog food, cat food, cat litter, and baby wipes on hand. If any of these sound like something you'd like to drop off at the church from time-to-time, please do!

Love you all!

Leslie

The Easter Eggstravaganza is coming!



And we need small (to fit in a plastic egg), individually wrapped candies. Closer to time, we'll need volunteers to stuff the eggs, so put this on your radar. In the meantime, bring candy!

East Lake UMC Mental Health Initiative: *Demystifying Mental Health and Engaging our Community*

Join us for our first Mental Health Initiative on **Saturday, February 24, 10 a.m.-12 noon**. Dr. Taylor Preston, MD (Susan Preston's son) and our own Karen Marks, MSW, LICSW, PIP (Psychiatric Social Worker) lead a panel on the overarching issues of mental health facing communities today and how we as a church and community are called and invited to respond. Learn background information on the causes of mental illness, basic tools for hospitality and de-escalation, learn what resources are already available in our community, and get the opportunity to share your questions and concerns that will be building blocks for our next session. Questions can be emailed ahead to elumccomm@gmail.com to be shared anonymously during the session or brought up at the time.

Initiative will be held at East Lake UMC, 7753 1st Avenue South (corner of 78th Street and 2nd Avenue South) in the fellowship hall. More details to follow regarding lunch and registration.

February Birthdays

				1	2	3 *Curtis Luster
4 * Bill Self	5	6 *Lisa Heathcock	7	8	9	10
11 *Bob Chapman	12	13	14	15 *Juanita Jones	16	17
18 *Leslie Adams	19	20 *Alison Walker	21 *Jon Lott *Logan McDonald	22 *Tom Forsee	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

SUPER SENIORS

Well! I thought we had making up to do last month! Now we really need to get together and make up for lost time. What with the threatening weather we had there for a few days, and illness, and who remembers what-all, we are majorly overdue for some fun!

Our "Christmas" Bingo will now be Valentine Bingo (even if a few Christmas prizes sneak in!). We'll meet at 10 a.m. on February 13 (Fat Tuesday) for a Mardi Gras/Valentine Party. Bring a friend or two!



Friday Night Fellowship



Hi, y'all. I'm giving up on potlucks! Maybe we'll try again when the weather is nice for good, which we can't count on yet.

This month, let's just meet at Saw's in Avondale (215 41st Street South). Be sure to note our location, because Saw's has so many other ones.

When we tried the Saw's in Crestline, they wouldn't commit to the number in our crowd, so this time we will just descend upon them and make them seat us!

The date is Friday night, February 23. Let's say 5:30 p.m. to try to beat the crowd. If you can't make it til 6, we'll save you a seat!

"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 Boggan
LaTonya Brown
Carol Ruth Devore
Mattie Lou Harrison
Kathy Bassham Jackson
Lynn Miles
Patrick O'Donnell
Gary Sandridge

We extend our sympathies to

Alma Boggan, Nancy Anderson, and their family, in the loss of **Jack Boggan** on January 10. Jack was the oldest member of East Lake UMC, having reached the age of 103 on his last birthday. He leaves a legacy of love for all who knew him.

And to

Lee Hawk and his husband, Andy Page, in the loss of Andy's mother, **Rogenia Page**, on February 2.

Please keep these families in your prayers during this time of grief.

Memorials

Gifts have been received in memory of **Jack Boggan**

Martha Worrell
 Dawn Self
 Bob Chapman
 Jane Walker
 The Joy Class
 David & Michelle McGowen

Corrine King

Bob Chapman
 The Joy Class

Unbounded Love

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But there is the promise of being raised with Christ to new life and new hope, not only in glory, but here and now.

May we commit to a holy and faithful Lenten journey that we may fully celebrate the joy of Easter.

Peace,

Sally

The Bell Tower Players present

Alpine Intrigue

Written & Directed by Ichabod Temperance

February 9 & 16 • 7:30pm
 February 10-11 & 17-18 • 2:30pm

East Lake United Methodist Church • 7753 1st Ave S
 Parking and entrance on corner of 78th St & 2nd Ave S
 Tickets: <https://btpelumc.booktix.com> • Cash/Check only at the door

Tickets are \$12.00

"O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen." – Henri Nouwen

Lectionary Readings for February

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

Sunday, February 4 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 11 – Transfiguration Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 18 – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

Sunday, February 25 – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

From your Lay Leader . . .

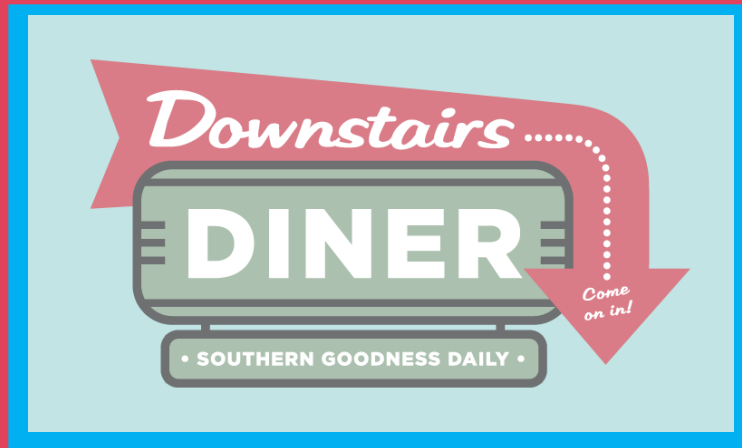
As I've often had to do, I'm apologizing for your *Chimes* being late, but I have a good excuse—Covid finally got me. Unlike many folks, I avoided it (miraculously) when it first was at pandemic levels. Even when it was passed around the office a few months ago, I didn't get it. But this time, seemingly out of the blue, I got it. It had to have been a mild case, due to all my vaccines and boosters, etc., but it still laid me flat for over a week.

But that's not what I want to write about, exactly. I want to tell you how thankful I am to be feeling good again. Yes, Covid left me as fast as it hit me, just this past Thursday. I came to work Friday and am here on Saturday to do some catchup work. There's nothing like getting well after sickness to bring out the feelings of gratitude for health and wellness. It's a wonderful feeling! Of course you'll still see me in a mask on Sunday, but that's a small price to pay to make sure I don't spread anything.

I also need to observe that three years ago on Sunday, February 4 (except it was a Thursday), I had a stroke that could have devastated me. You may know the story of how everything I needed to avoid such a fate fell into place that day, and I was back to normal the next day. I continue to be thankful for that, and see February 4 as a birthday of sorts. Every time I remember, I am overcome with gratitude!

Let's encourage each other to be thankful when the Lord brings us through! Cheering for you,

Jane Phares



Diner Offerings for February 2024

Thursday, February 1 Friday, February 2	Chicken, broccoli & rice casserole, garden salad, roll Beef hot dogs, coleslaw, fries
Monday, February 5 Tuesday, February 6	Salisbury steak with gravy, rice, roasted vegetables, roll Lasagna with meat sauce or veggie lasagna, garden salad, roll
Wednesday, February 7	Macaroni and cheese, pinto beans, collard greens, cornbread
Thursday, February 8 Friday, February 9	Baked or fried fish, coleslaw, baked beans Chicken enchiladas with rice and beans
Monday, February 12 Tuesday, February 13	Fried chicken, scalloped potatoes, green beans, roll Macaroni and cheese, cabbage, sweet potatoes, cornbread
Wednesday, February 14	Meatloaf, garlic mashed potatoes, broccoli with cheese, roll
Thursday, February 15 Friday, February 16	Baked chicken breast, rice pilaf, roasted vegetables, roll Baked pork chop, potato wedges, fried corn, roll
Monday, February 19 Tuesday, February 20	Chicken patty with bun, green beans, mashed potatoes Taco salad with corn, black beans, and tortilla chips
Wednesday, February 21 Thursday, February 22	Baked chicken, rice pilaf, roasted vegetables Pot roast, vegetables, cabbage, potatoes
Friday, February 23	Fried fish, coleslaw, baked beans, roll
Monday, February 26 Tuesday, February 27	Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, corn, roll Shepherd's Pie, garden salad, roll
Wednesday, February 28 Thursday, February 29	Chili, grilled cheese sandwich, fruit Loaded baked potato with chicken or pork

Lent 2024 at East Lake United Methodist Church:

UNBOUNDED LOVE



FEB 14 **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES** NOON & 6PM | SANCTUARY

Together we will share a time of reflection, renewal, and the imposition of ashes to remind ourselves of our fragility.

SUNDAYS **WEEKLY WORSHIP** 9 & 11AM | SANCTUARY & CHAPEL

Our Lenten worship series is Unbounded Love based on the hymn, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" by Charles Wesley.

SUNDAYS **MISSION SPOTLIGHT SERIES** 10AM | 1ST FLOOR MEETING ROOM

During Sunday School, all are invited to hear how we share the unbounded, holistic love of God with others, why it matters, and how YOU can get plugged in. Guest speakers and hands-on service projects will be featured as we focus on different service areas.

MONDAYS **WAY OF FORGIVENESS GROUP** 11AM | DOWNSTAIRS DINER

Starting this Lent, class members meet up weekly in the Diner to discuss their Way of Forgiveness workbooks and journey through this transformational Christian practice.

MAR 28 **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE** 6PM | CHAPEL

We'll remember our call to love others and receive Holy Communion. "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word "mandatum" used in John's Gospel as Jesus commanded us to love others as he loves us, washed the disciples' feet, and instituted the Lord's Supper.

MAR 29 **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** TIME TBD | LOCATION TBD

We will collaborate with Avondale UMC and Woodlawn UMC to meditate on and walk through the passion of Jesus Christ as he was betrayed, arrested, and crucified.

MAR 30 **EASTER EGGS-TRAVAGANZA** 10AM | 1ST FLOOR MTG RM

A chance for families to have fun with games, crafts, an Egg Hunt, and snacks & sweets.

MAR 31 **EASTER MORNING WORSHIP** 9 & 11AM | SANCTUARY & CHAPEL

After a long 40-day journey through Lent, we will celebrate the joy of the resurrection!

(205) 836-3201 | elumccomm@gmail.com | www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org

7753 1st Ave S, Birmingham, AL 35206 | Parking lot at the corner of 78th Street + 2nd Ave S



East Lake UMC is a diverse and reconciling congregation in Eastern Birmingham. This means that all are embraced at East Lake UMC, no matter what. If you're looking for a loving church family that is engaged in the community, visit ELUMC this Lenten season!



February 2024

Thursday, February 1

Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, February 4

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

Tuesday, February 6

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

Wednesday, February 7

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

Thursday, February 8

Thrift store – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Friday, February 9

Alpine Intrigue – 7:30 (Wesley Hall)

Saturday, February 10

Alpine Intrigue – 2:30 (Wesley Hall)

Sunday, February 11

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)
Alpine Intrigue – 2:30 (Wesley Hall)

Tuesday, February 13

Senior Party – 10 a.m. (Office Conference Room)
 Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, February 14

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
 Ash Wednesday Service – Noon (Sanctuary)
 Ash Wednesday Service – 6 p.m. (Sanctuary)
 Luke Bible Study – 6 p.m. (1st floor meeting room)

Thursday, February 15

Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Ponder w/ the Pastor – 5:30-7 p.m. (True Story)

Friday, February 16

Alpine Intrigue – 7:30 (Wesley Hall)

Saturday, February 17

Alpine Intrigue – 2:30 (Wesley Hall)

Sunday, February 18

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
 Mission Spotlight Series – 10 a.m. (1st floor meeting room)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
 “Feeding Our Friends” – 12:30 p.m. (Diner)
Alpine Intrigue – 2:30 (Wesley Hall)

Monday, February 19

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENTS’ DAY
 DINER IS OPEN**

Way of Forgiveness Group – 11 a.m. (Diner)

Tuesday, February 20

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

Wednesday, February 21

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

Thursday, February 22

Thrift store – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Friday, February 23

Friday Night Fellowship – 5:30 p.m. (or when you get there) – Meet at Saw’s in Avondale

Sunday, February 25

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
 Mission Spotlight Series – 10 a.m. (1st floor meeting room)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

Monday, February 26

Way of Forgiveness Group – 11 a.m. (Diner)

Tuesday, February 27

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

Wednesday, February 28

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