

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

March 2024

Volume 65

Issue 3

In the neighborhood for good!



Freed for Joyful Obedience

The season of Lent is often a time when we think about saying no to things—no to bad habits, no to things that distract us and pull us away from God. The week that I am writing this, the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20, is one of the lectionary scriptures. We often call these the “thou shalt not’s” for short. We see them as rules that tell us how to say no to things that pull us away from our covenant with God and our relationship with one another. Or we see them as “have to’s.” Lent is certainly a time in our life of faith that calls us to slow down, to pay attention, to be self-reflective and turn away (repent) from those things not of God. While all of that is true, I wonder if this season we could turn these ideas on their head a bit. We could look at turning from saying no to saying yes.

I just finished reading Shonda Rhimes’s (of *Grey’s Anatomy* and *How to Get Away with Murder* fame) book, *The Year of Yes*. While I had a difficult time imagining much of where she was coming from—wealth, fame, being introverted—I did find several good points in her book about saying “Yes!” She talked about saying yes to being healthy, rather than saying no to “bad” food. She talked about saying yes to challenging conversations and experiences, instead of thinking of them as things she had to do. It made me wonder if we could do the same with our journey of faith. What would happen if we focused on saying yes to that journey, instead of feeling like our path to discipleship is full of “have tos” and no’s?

The 10 Commandments are a good example. On the surface, it sounds like the Hebrews had simply gone from one type of servitude to another. They had longed so for freedom, only to be boxed by these rules once they finally got to be free. Turns out that God gave them those rules, not merely to keep them in line, but out of abundant love. Those rules were what enabled them to live a life of freedom rather than a life of chaos. These healthy rules created space for them to grow and thrive. They helped those wandering in the wilderness and us wandering in our modern-day wildernesses to relate to one another and to God in ways that build up rather than tear down. These rules become the basis for holy imagination that helped them and us to see how the world could be if we commit to these instructions.

It is the same with this faithful journey of Lent. May we continue to walk this path in the footsteps of Jesus, to say yes to all that discipleship asks of us, knowing that it is indeed this path that is the path to new life and redemption. Just say yes!

Peace,

Sally

... from Leslie

Hi, everyone!

I'm excited to report that both of our Lenten discipleship opportunities—the Way of Forgiveness group that meets Mondays in the Diner *and* the Mission Spotlights Speaker Series going on during Sunday School—have been going well over the past few weeks! People have been discussing many different ways we can love others and be the hands and feet of God. It is NOT too late to get involved in these groups! Email me today if you need more information!

As I mentioned last month, don't forget to drop off your #5 plastics at the church to be recycled with Community on the Rise (great non-profit organization downtown)! Also, don't forget that our food co-op group is always thankful to receive baby wipes, cat food, cat litter, and/or dog food in addition to the food we get from the Food Bank, so you're free to drop those any of those items off at the church as well! I am glad to answer any questions you may have about either of those opportunities.

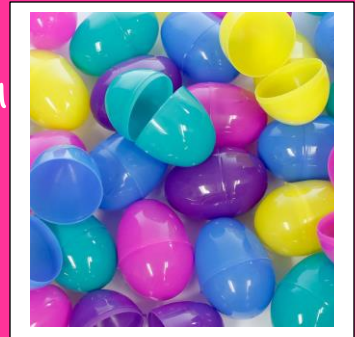
Perhaps my most important/pressing note is this: It is just about time to start figuring out what our Summer Discipleship opportunities will look like! I can't believe it is March! If you have any input—ideas, wishes, feedback, things you'd be interested in learning/leading, a willingness to lead but unsure exactly what, and so on—I would love to hear from you and talk together.

Love and Peace!

Leslie

*Our Lord has written the promise
of resurrection, not in books alone,
but in every leaf in springtime.
Martin Luther*

The Easter Eggs-travaganza is coming on Sat., March 30!



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

Contact Lucy Lipp with questions or to volunteer, or email elumccomm@gmail.com.



FLOWERING THE CROSS

Once again we will decorate the Second Avenue cross on Easter morning. Please bring flowers from your garden (or that you've bought) before either of the services that day.

This will make a beautiful backdrop for Easter photos! Thank you, **Jerry Handley!**

East Lake United Methodist Church

(205) 836-3201 (office)

(205) 836-3203 (Fax)

Pastoral and Program Staff:

Rev. Sally Allocca, Senior Pastor

(205) 821-8804

smcallocca@gmail.com

Mr. Barry Norris, Organist and Choir Master

(205) 540-1820

the1220chambers@yahoo.com

Dr. Jane Phares, Office Administrator

(205) 821-8632

jane.eastlakeumc@gmail.com

Mrs. Leslie Norris Williams, Minister of Discipleship
and Communications

(205) 475-2890

elumccomm@gmail.com

Ms. Laila Sears, Children's Ministries

lailasears6@gmail.com

March Birthdays

					1	2
3	4	5 *Lee Hawk	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 *Jean Daily	13	14	15	16
17	18 *Billy Coupland *Martha Worrell	19	20 *Barbara Boyd	21	22	23 *Pamela Padgett *Kay Sharp
24	25	26 *Barley Oliver	27	28	29	30
31						

SUPER SENIORS

It's movie month! One of our most time-appropriate choices is one called *Chocolat*, nominated for five Academy Awards in 2002. It tells the story of a mysterious woman and her daughter who open a chocolate store during Lent in a very conservative French town. This causes turmoil with the moral-minded mayor as the citizens are tempted by the sweet confections that magically change their lives.

Chocolat stars Dame Judi Dench and Johnny Depp. Come join us for this comedy-fable! March 12 at 10 a.m. in the Office Conference Room.



Friday Night Fellowship



How about something easy for March, my Friday Night Fellowship friends?

This month we'll meet up at the Paw Paw Patch on Greensprings Highway in Homewood for some good "Country Cooking" that none of us has to prepare.

We'll meet on Friday, March 15 (beware the Ides!) at 6 p.m. By then, we'll be on Daylight Savings Time, so we all ought to make it home before dark. (The Patch closes at 8 p.m., so it's not exactly a late-night place, and they serve cafeteria style, so it's pretty quick.)

Mark your calendars! We need all you absentees back!

“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
Carol Ruth Devore
Kathy Bassham Jackson
Gary Sandridge

We extend our sympathies to

The family and friends of **Mattie Lou Harrison**, who passed away on February 22. Mattie Lou was a long-time member of the church, of the choir, and saw three iterations of what is now the Joy Class (previously the Alma Boggan Class, before that, the Susannah Class). She was active in senior activities until she was no longer able to come. Her encouragement, support, positive attitude, and hearty laugh will be missed by church staff and all who knew her.

Mattie Lou’s service will be Sunday, March 3, on what would have been her 95th birthday. Visitation is at 1 p.m., with her service following at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Please keep the Harrison “children” and their families in your prayers during this time of grief.

Memorials

Gifts have been received in memory of

Jack Boggan

Chuck and Joyce Boggan
 Sonny James
 Betty King

Mattie Lou Harrison

The Joy Class

Mary Keith Osborne

Barbara Killam

Music Notes 'midst Organ-izing



It’s Lent, and as with Christmastide and Epiphany, I continue to be so very thankful for so many things. One of those things here at East Lake, is the Wednesday morning Bible Study, at which Sally asked me to take the helm a few years ago. For a number of years prior to that, she’d asked me to sub for her when she was out of town, as well as when someone had a particular point of history he or she wished for clarification. I think y’all know how I love European (especially British) history, and also Biblical history and geography. We are still going over about how Galilee, where Jesus lived, was in northern Palestine, with Samaria south of it, and how Judea, where the Temple in Jerusalem, Bethany, and Bethlehem were, was even farther down. But I digress.

In our Wednesday study, one of the things we’ve been consistently discussing is Forgiveness. It is something that is sometimes hard for all of us to accomplish. I love the old Chinese proverb that goes something like this: “When we refuse to forgive, we destroy the bridge over which we ourselves must travel.” Another topic that often comes up is Gratitude and Sadness. It is one of many approaches to the subject: when we are hurting, it sometimes helps to just be still and start listing blessings, and listening!

This Lent, my musical contribution is a different tune (BRAENWERN) to “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.” It’s one that the Brits like to use. Check U-Tube for recent weddings, funerals, and Commonwealth services. It’s not hard to find. It’s also a ballad, as opposed to the march-like character of some of the other tunes. I hope you’ll come to love the tune as much as I do!

Love,

Barry

Lectionary Readings for March

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

Sunday, March 4 – Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Psalm 19

John 2:13-22

Sunday, March 10 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9

Ephesians 2:1-10

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 17 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:5-10

Psalm 51:1-12

John 12:20-33

Sunday, March 24 – Passion/Palm Sunday

Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11

Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a;

Philemon 2:5-11

Psalm 31:9-16

Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

Monday, March 25 – Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42:1-9

Hebrews 9:11-15

Psalm 36:5-11

John 12:1-11

Tuesday, March 26 – Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Psalm 71:1-14

John 12:20-36

Wednesday, March 27 – Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Hebrews 12:1-3

Psalm 70

John 13:21-32

Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, March 29 – Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Hebrews 10:16-25

Psalm 22

John 18:1-19:42

Saturday, March 30 – Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14

1 Peter 4:1-18

Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

Matthew 27:57-66, or John 19:38-42

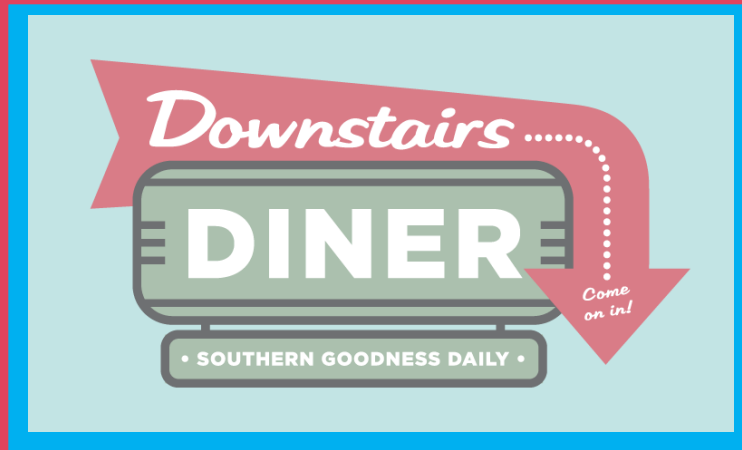
Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8



Diner Offerings for March 2024

Friday, March 1	Chicken patty with bun, green beans, French fries
Monday, March 4	Hamburger steak with gravy, rice, roasted vegetables,
Tuesday, March 5	Chicken Alfredo, green beans, salad
Wednesday, March 6	Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, roasted vegetables
Thursday, March 7	Baked chicken, rice, green beans
Friday, March 8	Fried or baked fish, coleslaw, baked beans
Monday, March 11	Pork chops, roasted vegetables, mashed potatoes
Tuesday, March 12	Meat or veggie lasagna, salad, corn
Wednesday, March 13	Chicken sandwich with bun, baked beans, French fries
Thursday, March 14	Fried or baked fish, coleslaw, green beans
Friday, March 15	Chicken wraps, chips, fruit salad
Monday, March 18	Baked chicken, rice pilaf, roasted vegetables
Tuesday, March 19	Taco salad with rice and pinto beans
Wednesday, March 20	Macaroni and cheese, cabbage, butter beans, cornbread
Thursday, March 21	Chicken tetrazzini, salad, corn
Friday, March 22	Cheeseburger, baked beans, French fries
Monday, March 25	Spaghetti, salad, corn, roll
Tuesday, March 26	Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, Brussels sprouts
Wednesday, March 27	BBQ Chicken, coleslaw, baked beans
Thursday, March 28	Macaroni and cheese, collard greens, blackeyed peas
Friday, March 29	Fried or baked fish, fried okra, coleslaw

March 2024

Sunday, March 3

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

Monday, March 4

The Way of Forgiveness study – 11 a.m. (Diner)

Tuesday, March 5

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

Wednesday, March 6

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

Thursday, March 7

Thrift store – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, March 10

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
 Leadership meeting – 2 p.m. (Office Conference Room)

Monday, March 11

The Way of Forgiveness study – 11 a.m. (Diner)

Tuesday, March 12

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

Wednesday, March 13

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

Thursday, March 14

Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Friday, March 15

Friday Night Fellowship – 6 p.m. – The Paw Paw Patch in Homewood

Sunday, March 17

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)

Monday, March 18

The Way of Forgiveness study – 11 a.m. (Diner)

Tuesday, March 19

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

Wednesday, March 20

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

Thursday, March 21

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

Sunday, March 24

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, March 25

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

Tuesday, March 26

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

Wednesday, March 27

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

Thursday, March 28

Thrift store – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Maundy Thursday Service – 6 p.m. (Chapel)

Friday, March 29

Good Friday Service – 6:30 p.m. – Avondale UMC
 (joint service with Avondale and Woodlawn)

Saturday, March 30

Easter Eggs-travaganza – 10 a.m. (1st floor meeting room)

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Day

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



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!

