

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

April 2024

Volume 65

Issue 4

In the neighborhood for good!



My Burden is Light

What are your burdens? What is it that weighs you down? What is it that is too heavy for you to carry? It could be physical. It could be your own body size that weighs you down or stuff that is filling your closets or your basement. Perhaps it is physical sickness or pain, or addiction. Maybe it is emotional. You could be incapacitated with the weight of grief or guilt, shame or depression. You could be struggling with unaddressed mental illness. Your burden could even be spiritual. You may be weighed down with doubt or even anger at God. Sometimes it feels that you are carrying the weight of the world, and listening to the cries and troubles of the world makes it that much heavier.

The resurrection reminds us that the worst thing is not the last thing. Like the stone that sealed the tomb, nothing is too heavy for God to move. After the world did its very worst to suck the breath out of light and love and hope and justice, God spoke a resounding NO to violence and that kind of oppressive power, and with grace and power brought Christ back alive as a sign of everlasting life and love and mercy.

I hope somewhere in your heart, you are hearing echoes of all the times God has reminded us of this promise in scripture:

I have come to bring good news to the poor, to set the captives free (Luke 4:18)

When Jesus was preaching in the synagogue, he saw a woman who was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her: "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." (Luke 13: 10 – 17)

Is there no one left to condemn you? Then, neither do I condemn you (John 8:3-11)

I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentl and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matt. 11: 28-30)

Nothing can separate us from the love of God... (Romans 8:31-39)

We have another chance to live life free of all these burdens and filled with unbounded love.

"When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, Jesus' touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green." (J. M. C. Crum)

Peace,

Sally

... from Leslie

Hey, everyone!

I want to make sure to thank all of the people who have made our Mission Spotlights Sunday School class so successful. I think many of us learned a lot and felt encouraged to get engaged with one or more of the multiple different service areas of the church. We had great presenters and hosts, but we also had incredible participants!

We didn't meet on Easter, but we will have one more meeting on the Sunday after, April 7, to recap everything and reflect.

As I've started to reflect on the many different things that have been covered, I keep thinking about Peggy's presentation last week on the relationships and connections we can build in spaces like the Diner and the Market. I think this has been on my mind a lot because of how quickly Market season is approaching! I am excited to see how the church tent, Kids' Corner, and more benefit from the new energy there.

We really are blessed to be surrounded with so many avenues to meet new people and reach out to people. I hope we use these resources well and that we stay focused and devoted towards using these spaces to make new relationships and connections with our neighbors!

Love,
Leslie

Boston Butt Sale!

Just in time for Memorial Day, members of the Fundraising Committee will be taking orders for delicious Boston butts, prepared by the professional smokers at Smokology in Trussville. The butts are bone-in and average a weight of eight pounds. The cost for a whole butt is \$40, and they will be available for pickup at the church on May 18. We'll also have barbecue plates available.



Hinton Team leaves April 25

On Thursday, April 25, our 16-member team will depart our parking lot for Hayesville, North Carolina, for another work weekend at Hinton Rural Life Center. Most of the people pictured above are returning for their third or fourth trip—helping others is addictive! Making up this time's team are Melinda Adkins, Rev. Sally Allocca, Rev. Tom Duley, Jackie Folk, Carol Hay, Jason Hay, Rev. Mark "Bruno" Hughes, Ellis Lipp*, Lucy Lipp, Mike McCleskey, Wendy McCleskey* (Sally's brother and sister-in-law), John Milledge, Robert Milledge, Jane Phares, Roger Thomas* (Jackie's husband), Rev. Sam Williamson (from Canterbury UMC).

We already have a reservation for another trip in November (November 21-24, the weekend before Thanksgiving), so if you're interested in going, tell Jane Phares.

*First-time team member

East Lake United Methodist Church

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April Birthdays

	1	2	3	4	5 *“Bruno” Hughes	6
7	8 *Jerry Handley	9 *Veronica Williams	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 *Connie Peek	17	18	19	20 *Dwight Anderson *Maliyah Luster
21	22 *Maggie Gibson	23	24	25	26 *Rex McDonald	27 *LaTonya Brown
28	29	30				



Senior friends!

This month, we’re going to do something we’ve never done before! Isn’t that exciting?!

On Tuesday, April 16, we’ll gather together for “Lunch and Learn” in the back room of the diner. I know that each one of you is “wise and wonder-ful,” and I think it will be fun for each one of us to share our knowledge with the other members of our group. It’s sort of a “show and tell” for adults! For instance, you might show how to do some-thing that is a hobby for you (but not crochet, since several of you know how to do this). Do you read all constantly? Share about some of the best books you’ve read. Do you like to cook? Bring a recipe and tell us all how to make it.

Or, this could be something from your past, that you learned as part of your work—a skill that you could share or just tell about. **Carol Hay**, could you share about medicine interactions, or something else pharmaceutical? **Nurse Zan Lufti**, how about first aid skills we all need to know?

Give it some thought—I know you have hidden knowledge or skills that we’d all love to hear about!



For our Friday Night Fellowship this month, we’ll go to Miss Myra’s Pit Bar-B-Q in Cahaba Heights. Food Network has said they have the best barbecue in the state. We’ll meet at 6 on Friday night, April 19. (We’ll be home before dark.) For directions, a menu, and more info, go to www.missmyras.com.

"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

Juanita Jones, in the death of her sister,
Please keep the Juanita and her family in your prayers during this time of grief.

Memorials

Gifts have been received in memory of

Jack Boggan

Kay Sharp

Mattie Lou Harrison

Karen Brice

Bob Chapman

James & Staci Harris

Kay Sharp

Don & Judy Sharp

Mary Messer

Janice Minor

Danny & Linda Carter

Mark, Rima, & Emilia Hamblen

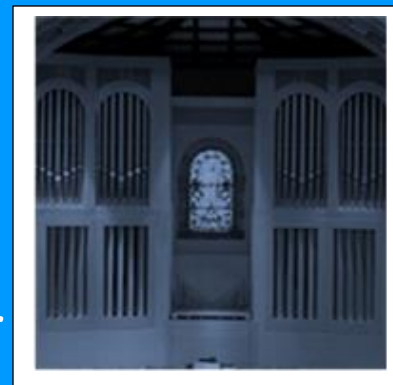
"What happened on that day (of Easter) became, was and remained the centre around which everything else moves. For everything lasts its time, but the love of God—which was at work and was expressed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead—lasts forever. Because this event took place, there is no reason to despair, and even when we read the newspaper with all its confusing and frightening news, there is every reason to hope." ~ Karl Barth, theologian (1886-1968)

Music

Notes

'midst

Organ-izing



The season of Easter, of course, began this past Sunday when we celebrated our risen Lord! We sang "Christ, the Lord, Is Risen Today" and the "Day of Resurrection." The choir sang a new setting of "The Strife is O'er." Shelly Ann sang a Barry favorite, "In the End of the Sabbath," Lynn played a beautiful setting of "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise," and I played the "Chorale," by Joseph Jongen, which starts softly, but builds to a joyful end, using "full organ," indicative of Jesus's bursting out of the tomb on Easter morning! There was also the Widor Toccata, which I love to use each year at the end of the service. But it's not over!

Though his day is considered the most important feast day of the church year, the feast goes on! We continue on in Eastertide through the Sunday of Pentecost. This word comes from the Greek "pente-koste," which means 50, five times ten (It has the similar prefix to our country's five-sided Pentagon). We know that Jesus walked the earth for forty days prior to his ascension, followed by ten days of waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit, hence the 50 days, Easter Sunday through Pentecost Sunday, sometimes called "The Great Fifty Days."

During this time the choir sings of doubting Thomas ("O Sons and Daughters"), and about the fruits of new creation with a new anthem called, "Eden's Song." You'll recognize its tune. There's also the familiar "This Joyful Eastertide." A setting of "Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us" goes along with Psalm 23 on the fourth Sunday of Easter; and the anthem on Pentecost, "If Ye Love Me," by Elizabethan composer Thomas Tallis, remains the most-sung anthem of any on this day!

Happy Eastertide! I love you!

Barry

Lectionary Readings for April

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

Sunday, April 7 – Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 14 – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 21 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Sunday, April 28 – Fifth Thursday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

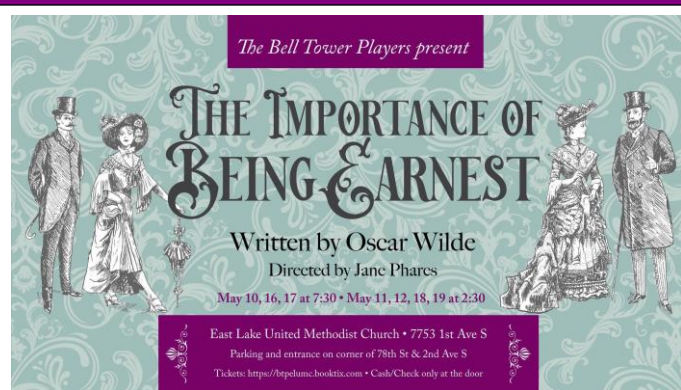
You
are
so
loved!



For several weeks now, our church family has been giving away little handmade crochet hearts (see photo), and it has resulted in some really positive, life-giving interactions. We want to feature some of these stories in the May edition of our *Chimes* newsletter (and maybe more throughout the summer if we have enough)!

If you have a story about giving one of these hearts away that you'd like to share, please email it to Leslie at elumccomm@gmail.com or give it to Jane Phares by FRIDAY, APRIL 26!

Thank you for your participation in this project, and we can't wait to hear from you!



If you've been through Wesley Hall lately, you might have noticed the latest installment of Ichabod Temperance's handiwork. It is all for the upcoming Bell Tower Players' production of Oscar Wilde's play *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which will be presented the second and third weekends in May, the 10-12 (watch for the Mother's Day Special!), and the 16-19. Weekend matinees have proven popular, so all Saturday and Sunday performances are at 2:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$15.

While you will recognize some of our cast members, several of them are new to us, and you'll love watching them perform. Make your plans to see this Wilde-ly funny show!

from Your Lay Leader . . .

I might have mentioned before that I was participating in the conference-wide “Read Together” initiative, through which participants read through the entire Bible during the course of a year. Because everyone is reading the same chapters each day, a community of sorts is being formed, even though we don’t meet together in person.

We have now reached 1 Samuel. I have read and am reading the biblical stories that I only knew through childhood Sunday School, picture books, flannel boards, and other such media. Genesis and Exodus are rich with stories of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and his brothers, and then Moses, the deliverer of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Leviticus and Numbers are about laws and, well, numbers (census, etc.). I must admit, I didn’t much like Joshua because of all the battles and general violence. But in Judges, I learned about Deborah, Gideon, and Samson, plus numerous other “judges” I had never heard of. And then came the lovely story of Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi, Ruth’s marriage to Boaz, and the continuation of the genealogy that led to Jesus. Now here I am at 1 Samuel and the appointing of the first king of Israel, Saul.

Yes, I have learned a lot of facts I didn’t know, gained a lot of “head knowledge.” But more importantly, I have gained “heart knowledge” that shows the presence and involvement of God throughout history, through all generations. While it seems a lot of the time that our God is a vengeful and violent God, we know that this is only part of the story. It will be awhile before I get to the good news of the gospels, but I guess that’s why it’s best to know the end of the story before reading all the history that leads up to the New Testament.

I must admit that I have been surprised also by the discipline that I have developed through this systematic reading of the Bible. I read the day’s assignment after getting in bed at night, and most of the time, I am eager to go to bed just so I can read it.

If you don’t read your Bible regularly, I encourage you to do so. Find a translation you can really understand, not just admire for the beauty of the words. I encourage you to read it as a discipline, with regularity, so that God can touch you through its words. Question what you read, if you need to. Ask questions (I’ve written all through the scriptures I’ve read). Even rant and rale if you need to. God’s big enough to take it!

Above all else, remember that “you are so loved!”

Cheering for you,

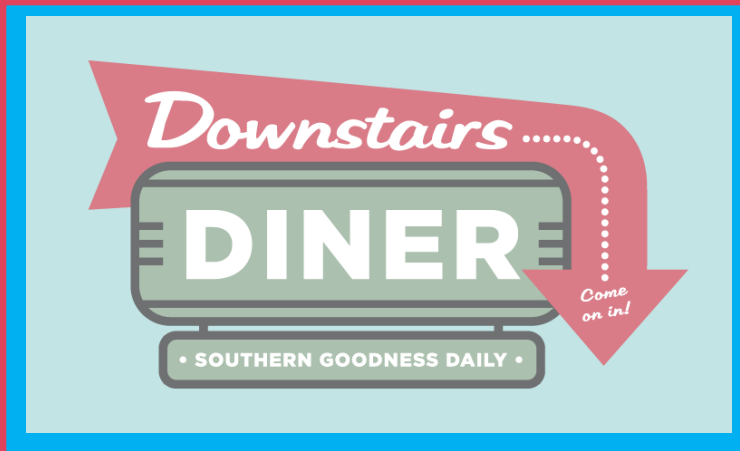
Jane P.

Don’t forget our community ministries

Snack Bags: Fruit cups Vienna sausages Water Granola bars
Peanut butter or cheese crackers

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

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



Diner Offerings for April 2024

Monday, April 1	CLOSED FOR EASTER HOLIDAY
Tuesday, April 2	Taco Tuesday! Taco Salad with corn and Spanish rice
Wednesday, April 3	Macaroni and cheese, cabbage, butter beans, cornbread
Thursday, April 4	Pork roast, roasted vegetables, and potatoes
Friday, April 5	Loaded potato with chicken or pork, cheese, sour cream
Monday, April 8	Fried chicken, cabbage, sweet potatoes
Tuesday, April 9	Lasagna, garden salad, roll
Wednesday, April 10	BBQ Chicken, potato salad baked beans,
Thursday, April 11	Meatloaf, cabbage, macaroni and cheese, cornbread
Friday, April 12	Fried or baked fish, fried okra, salad
Monday, April 15	Chicken tetrazzini, corn, salad, roll
Tuesday, April 16	Salisbury steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, cabbage
Wednesday, April 17	Macaroni and cheese, cabbage, butter beans, cornbread
Thursday, April 18	Taco Salad with corn and Spanish rice
Friday, April 19	Cold cut subs, pasta salad, chips, dill pickle spears
Monday, April 22	Chicken supreme, steamed broccoli, roll
Tuesday, April 23	Loaded smoked sausage, French fries, coleslaw
Wednesday, April 24	Spaghetti with meat sauce, garden salad, roll
Thursday, April 25	Macaroni and cheese, collard greens, pinto beans
Friday, April 26	Fried chicken, scalloped potatoes, green beans
Monday, April 29	Cold cut subs, pasta salad, chips, dill pickle spears
Tuesday, April 30	Taco Tuesday! Taco Salad with corn and black beans

April 2024

Monday, April 1

**CHURCH AND DINER CLOSED FOR
EASTER MONDAY**

Tuesday, April 2

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

Wednesday, April 3

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

Thursday, April 4

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

Sunday, April 7

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

Monday, April 8

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

Tuesday, April 9

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

Wednesday, April 10

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

Thursday, April 11

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

Sunday, April 14

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

Monday, April 15

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

Tuesday, April 16

Senior Lunch and Learn – 10 a.m. – Back room of Diner
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, April 17

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

Thursday, April 18

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

Friday, April 19

Friday Night Fellowship – Meet at Miss Myra's Pit
Bar-B-Q in Cahaba Heights at 6 p.m.

Sunday, April 21

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
"Feeding Our Friends" – 12:00-1 p.m. (Diner)

Monday, April 22

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

Tuesday, April 23

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

Wednesday, April 24

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

Thursday, April 25

Hinton Team leaves for Hinton – 8:30 a.m. (Small parking lot)
NO BOOK STUDY this week
Thrift store – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 28

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
Hinton Team returns from work weekend

Monday, April 29

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

Tuesday, April 30

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