

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

July 2025
Volume 66
Issue 7

In the neighborhood for good!



We Need a Little Christmas

*Haul out the holly
Put up the tree before my spirit falls again
Fill up the stocking
I may be rushing things but deck the halls again now.*

*For we need a little music, need a little laughter
Need a little singing ringing through the rafter
And we need a little snappy, happy ever after
We need a little Christmas now. (Jerry Herman)*

Just think, colder weather, gentler attitudes, music and decorations, good food and parties. Sounds like a good idea to me. How about you? When the world gets hot and mean, it's good to remember Christmas. And, not just the trappings, but the true meaning. When things were awfully troubled. When people were struggling under an oppressive government. When hope seemed lost. God sent Jesus to remind us that we are not alone. To remind us that we are so very loved. And, to remind us that there is a reason to keep going, to keep singing, to keep helping, to keep loving. I don't know about you, but I sure do need reminding sometimes.

I invite you. when things seem hazy and horrid, to picture the candlelight, to listen to the merry organ, to feel the crisp air of a December evening. Remember the meaning. Remember the music.

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing! (Edmund Sears)*

Even mid-summer, in the midst of this hot July, let us "honor Christmas in [our] heart[s], and try to keep it all the year" (Charles Dickens).

If you have joined me in my faithful imagination and have captured the Christmas Spirit, look inside to see some ways you can spread some Christmas joy.

Peace,

Sally

... from Leslie

Hi, church family!

I know you have likely already heard Sally, Jane, and I go on and on about how much we enjoyed our Annual Conference about a month ago (are you interested in joining us next year?), but there was one quotation someone shared there that is STILL resonating with me. You may have heard it before:

"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." – Howard Thurman

What an awesome quotation! I don't know about you, but I can get really overwhelmed looking at the world around me sometimes. This quote is very helpful to me in seeking to respond.

As we continue in exciting ministry this summer, and as we launch some new fun things in the fall, I hope you keep this quote in mind. We pastors and church staff members don't ever expect you to take part in literally every program, initiative, or campaign going on. But, we strive to offer a variety of ways you might like to get engaged. I hope you discern at least one new thing, maybe even a few, that you could try this summer or fall that just might make you feel more alive.

I also want you to know that I would always love to hear your input. What makes you come alive? What are you hoping to be part of or lead? Let's all be alive together.

Love and Peace,

Leslie

Prayers & Funds Requested for Texas Floods

Join us in prayer as we lift up everyone impacted by the Guadalupe River flooding. We pray for those who have witnessed the devastation, those who have lost loved ones, those who have lost security and stability, those who have lost property, those whose communities are suffering, and those who are responding and serving in disaster relief.

In addition to prayers, the Río Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church and Rio Texas Disaster Response say that one of the most effective ways we can help is through financial gifts. They have also noted that 100% of the gifts given will support immediate needs in the affected areas.

To give, you can:

- Make a check out to "Rio Texas Conference Disaster Response Advance #2050" with "Guadalupe River Flood" in the memo line. Mail it to Rio Texas Disaster Response, 16400 Huebner Road, San Antonio, TX 78248.

OR

- Make a gift to ELUMC's General Offering with any of our usual methods and make sure to write "Guadalupe River Flood" on your cash envelope, check memo line, or on the optional note box online. We will then take these gifts and mail a check from our church to Rio Texas Disaster Response. For more about our giving options and the link to our online giving, visit: www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/give

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A word from your Finance Committee:

We need to make you aware that our expenses have exceeded income for the first half of the year. We hope to avoid making any cuts in our important ministries. As you may have heard, the 9:00 a.m. service is meeting in the chapel instead of the sanctuary to try to save on our power bill. If you are able, we are asking folks to give an above and beyond offering or an extra month's pledge to help us get through the usual summer slump. Thank you as always for your generous giving and support of the ministries of our church.



12TH ANNUAL ELUMC CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, SEPT. 29, 2025

GRAYSON VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

KING RICHARD II

EDITED BY CHARLES R. FORKER



August 7-10, 14-17

Join us for a
Christmas
IN JULY

Prayer Service & Social

Sunday, July 27 | 6pm | in the Chapel
Christmas songs, symbols, reflections, & prayers

Bring something off our Christmas in July
Wishlist, wear fun Christmas gear, &
bring your favorite Christmas goodie to
share after the service!

www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/july

July Birthdays

		1	2	3	4	5
6 *Jason Hay	7	8	9	10 *Carol Hay	11	12
13	14 *Kathy Jackson	15	16	17	18 *Woni Lawrence *Shelly Ann McDonald	19
20	21	22	23	24 *Melinda Adkins *Connie Stone	25	26
27	28 *Phyllis Davis	29	30	31		



Hi, friends!

I am terribly late getting *The Chimes* done for this month, so we have actually already had our senior activity for July, as of today. Peggy Gilman, Jane Walker, and I gathered and watched *9 to 5*, with Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, and (my favorite) Dolly Parton. We got some laughs, and we agreed that laughing is good for the soul. Wish more of you could have been here to laugh with us!

I'm really trying to think of different activities that might attract more of our folks. To be quite honest, I think a lot of us (and I mean to include myself in this group) don't want to admit that we fall in the senior category. We still see ourselves as young adults! So help me find a way to gently invite them personally to join us in some fun. But first, let's think of some activities they might be interested in: Day trips? Weekend outings? Going to a cool restaurant for lunch or dinner? Card or board games? You tell me. And hopefully these are things that interest you regulars, too. I'm listening.

Jane P.

"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

Roy Miller

Greg Peek

Please keep these folks in your prayers.

*We also extend our sympathies to Becky Thornley and her girls in the death of **Jay Thornley** on June 13. Jay was the long-time minister of music here at East Lake UMC during the sixties and early 70s. After stints in other churches, he returned to ELUMC as a choir member and a regular in the Diner. In recent years, he had moved to the Veterans' retirement home in Pell City. Many of us hold Jay "Mr. Thornley" close in our hearts, especially those who sang in his children's and youth choirs during the years he was at East Lake.*

Lectionary Readings for July

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

Sunday, July 6 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30

Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sunday, July 13 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-27

Sunday, July 20 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52 or 82

Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, July 27 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85

Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

... from your Lay Leader

Many of you know that I, along with Sally, Lee Hawk and Andy, Kay Sharp, Peggy Gilman, and Connie Peek (plus two other friends of Lee and Andy) have recently returned from a cruise around the British Isles. We all returned home at different times, as everyone had different plans after the cruise was over. Sally told about some of her adventures in London in her sermon on July 6, as only Sally can do. But to sum things up, it was a wonderful trip, and a good time to recharge. However, I think jet lag still has a hold on me and won't let me go! But now that we're all back, I am trying to get caught up on everything that happened or should have happened while we were gone (e. g., the *July Chimes*). I appreciate y'all's patience. But it's important to read this issue carefully, as some events and deadlines are coming up quickly.

Jane P.

Our Christmas in July Wishlist!

As you know, we have a variety of ministries that continually celebrate Christ's presence in the world and in each individual. We want you to take part in sharing hope, peace, joy, and love (Sound familiar? 😊) in the East Lake community this summer. Our Wishlist and instructions are attached. You can buy from wherever you prefer, but here is an Amazon link with some examples in case it's helpful to you: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/10OADLD2VO4B7?ref=wl_share

See also the flyer on the next page, as well as the announcement on page 2 about the "Christmas in July" prayer service. Lots of ways and opportunities to give!



CHRISTMAS IN July



EAST LAKE UMC'S WISHLIST

Washcloths

for our Recovery
Drop-in Center

Vienna Sausages

for our snack bags

Baby Wipes

for our Food Co-op

Goldfish Snack Packs

for Kids Corner at the Market

Capri Sun Roarin' Waters

for Kids Corner at the Market

Men's Underwear (New)

for our Recovery
Drop-in Center

Snack Crackers

for our snack bags

**Donations to a ministry
area that speaks to you**

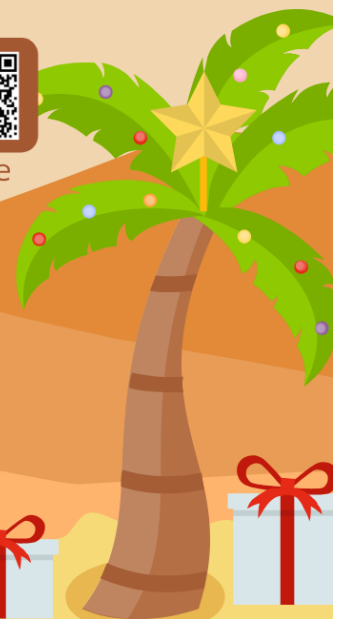


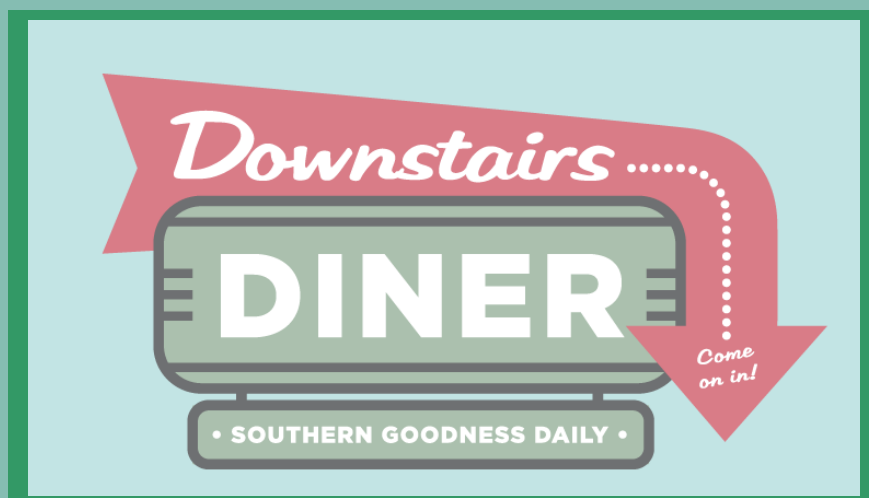
www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/give

Items can be dropped off in the Parlor on Sundays
or in the office during the week.

Directions, hours, contact info, and more:
www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/connect

You can also use our Amazon Wishlist!
Access via www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/july
or QR code:





DINER OFFERINGS FOR JULY 2025

Tuesday, July 1	Chicken Alfredo, broccoli Normandy, baby carrots, yeast roll
Wednesday, July 2	Grilled pork chops, yellow rice, squash, green beans, roll
Thursday, July 3	Macaroni & cheese, black eyed peas, cabbage, cornbread
Friday, July 4	CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY
Monday, July 7	Breakfast: sausage, eggs, grits, biscuits, and fruit
Tuesday, July 8	Taco salad with black beans, kernel corn, tortilla chips
Wednesday, July 9	Chicken salad, tomato slices, crackers, fruit
Thursday, July 10	Baked ham, mashed sweet potatoes, macaroni & cheese
Friday, July 11	Fried fish, au gratin potatoes, green beans, yeast roll
Monday, July 14	Bacon, eggs, grits, and waffles
Tuesday, July 15	Salmon croquettes, white rice, fried okra, roll
Wednesday, July 16	Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green peas, roll
Thursday, July 17	Baked chicken, black eyed peas, baby carrots, cornbread
Friday, July 18	Fried fish, baked beans, coleslaw, bread
Monday, July 21	Eggs, breakfast sausage, hash browns, and pancakes
Tuesday, July 22	Beef enchiladas, dirty rice, and black beans
Wednesday, July 23	Chicken, broccoli, and rice casserole, fruit, and roll
Thursday, July 24	Grilled pork chops, roasted potatoes, green beans, roll
Friday, July 25	Fried fish, au gratin potatoes, fried okra, yeast roll
Monday, July 28	Egg omelette with tomatoes, bell peppers, and onions, bacon, biscuits
Tuesday, July 29	Fried chicken, macaroni & cheese, pinto beans, yeast roll
Wednesday, July 30	Hamburgers w/ lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, French fries
Thursday, July 31	Spaghetti with meat sauce, garden salad, corn, roll

July 2025

Tuesday, July 1

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift store - open 11am – 1pm

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, July 2

No book study at Red Bike this morning

Adult Bible Study – 11am (by phone)

Downstairs Diner – open 11am til 1pm

No Old Testament Overview tonight

Thursday, July 3

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift store - open 11am– 1pm

Saturday, July 5

Farmers Market – 8am-Noon

Thrift Store – 9am - Noon

Sunday, July 6

Traditional worship – 9am (Sanctuary)

Sunday School – 10am (various classrooms)

Sabbath Economics class – 10am (1st floor meeting room)

Alternative worship – 11am (Chapel)

Leadership Team meeting – 2pm (office)

Tuesday, July 8

Senior movie – 10am – noon (office)

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, July 9

Book Study – 10am (Red Bike Coffee)

Adult Bible Study – 11am (by phone)

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Old Testament Overview – 6pm (1st floor)

Thursday, July 10

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm

Saturday, July 12

Farmers Market – 8am – Noon

Thrift Store – 9am – Noon

Sunday, July 13

Traditional worship – 9am (Sanctuary)

Sunday School – 10am (various classrooms)

(Continued)

Sunday, July 13 (Continued from last column)

Sabbath Economics class – 10am (1st floor meeting room)

Alternative worship – 11am (Chapel)

Lunch with our neighbors – 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Tuesday, July 15

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift store - open 11am – 1pm

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, July 16

Book Study – 10am (Red Bike Coffee)

Adult Bible Study – 11am (by phone)

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Old Testament Overview – 6pm (1st floor)

Thursday, July 17

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm

Ponder with the Pastor – 5:30pm (True Story)

Saturday, July 19 and 26

Farmers Market – 8am – Noon

Thrift Store – 9am – Noon

Sunday, July 20 and 27

Traditional worship – 9am (Sanctuary)

Sunday School – 10am (various classrooms)

Sabbath Economics class – 10am (1st floor meeting room)

Alternative worship – 11am (Chapel)

Christmas in July Prayer Service - 6pm (Chapel, on the 27th)

Tuesday, July 22 and 29

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift store - open 11am – 1pm

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, July 23 and 30

Book Study – 10am (Red Bike Coffee)

Adult Bible Study – 11am (by phone)

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Old Testament Overview – 6pm (1st floor)

Thursday, July 24 and 31

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm