

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

August 2025
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Issue 8

In the neighborhood for good!



Christmas Came Just the Same

I really wasn't sure that it would work. I, the always hope-filled, eternal optimist, just wasn't sure that this Christmas in July thing wouldn't fall flat. The idea started early in the year and was to be based on a large, musical event, but the timing just didn't work out. I don't know why we didn't just drop it, but we decided it would be a good way to remind people of all of the opportunities for giving to snack bags, the Recovery Drop-In Center, and the Food Co-op.

Then things got out of hand (don't they always at Christmas), with the decorations and the piles of wrapped packages and the music. And, in spite of myself, I begin to feel it – the magic of Christmas, the magic of remembering what Christmas is really about. God sees us when we are oppressed and distressed. God always hears our cries. God knows when we do not understand, when we have almost given up. God knows us and knows when we have headed in the wrong direction on purpose or unintentionally. And God draws near. God chooses to be with us so that we can feel God's presence and remember his amazing love for us.

And it worked. I felt, we felt, the Spirit of Christmas. Not because the music was wonderful (and it was) and the decorations were beautiful (and they were), but because it is true. God longs to be with us. Too often we forget that. We need reminders, perhaps especially in the heat of summer and the burden of all that is broken and awful in the world, that we are loved and we are not alone. We need to be reminded to listen to the angels' song, to look for the star, to open our hearts to be a manger for Jesus (thank you Jamie for that image), to see the world through the eyes of a child, to believe that hope and peace and love and joy are always as close to us as our next breath.

We are back in ordinary time again where we always were. Even so, I encourage you to keep Christmas close. We all need reminding. Let us "...honour Christmas in [our] hearts and try to keep it all the year."

Peace,

Sally

... from Leslie

Hey, everyone!

There has been so much energy around the church lately. Y'all really showed out bringing items off of our wishlist in July (Don't forget that you can always see what we are currently collecting at www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/items!). Lots of learning has taken place in our Summer Discipleship groups. Our Recovery Center Gardening Program has been rocking it. I could go on and on!

I'm excited to keep this energy moving as we head into the Fall. Our Fall groups (think our full Wednesday night spread, a seasonal Sunday School study, etc.) won't begin until October, but in early September, we have a very exciting ongoing program addition.

Rev. Tom Duley is a retired United Methodist pastor and has been a great part of our church family for a long time. You've probably heard about the Bible study he recently concluded on the Gospel of Luke, which was an excellent deep-dive into Lukan context, theology, and history. **Tom is back at it again, beginning a new Bible Study on the Gospel of John and the Gospel of Mark!** It will be a comparative study of these two Gospels, seeking to under-stand the unique contribution that each gospel makes to our understanding of who Jesus of Nazareth was.

And to make things even better, there will be **two different options for you to participate.** This new Bible Study will be offered both as a:

1. midweek study (Wednesday nights at 6pm beginning on 9/10)
2. Sunday School class (Sunday mornings at 10am beginning on 9/14)

So, if this kind of Bible study seems to be something you're interested in exploring, decide which class time fits best in your schedule! If Wednesday nights are hard for you, then join the new Sunday School class! If you are already juggling too much on Sunday mornings, then come to the Wednesday night sessions! Both timeslot offerings will be ongoing classes that you can expect to take part in for many months, assuming you try it out and it turns out to be a good match for you and your spiritual growth!

There are no sign-ups or resources needed other than your Bible!

See you soon!

Leslie

The BELL TOWER PLAYERS present

RICHARD II

by William Shakespeare

directed by Andrew Duxbury

August 7-8, 14-15 at 7:30p
August 9-10, 16-17 at 2:30p

East Lake United Methodist Church
7753 1st Avenue South
Parking & Entrance on corner of 78th St & 2nd Ave S
Tickets: <https://btplume.booktix.com> or at the door

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the1220chambers@yahoo.com

Dr. Jane Phares, Office Administrator:

(205) 821-8632

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"That time" is here!

Often, at this time of year, we begin talking about the Fall Craft Show and Sale (formerly known as and still referred to by most of us as the Bazaar). But we have changed the date for the event this year due to all the many other exciting things on our fall calendar. Most pertinently, having the Bazaar the first Saturday of November butts it right up to the Halloween Carnival. Those of us who work at both events almost didn't make it last year, and this year it would be even worse (the bazaar would be the very next day after the carnival). The Fundraising Committee decided that if we moved the Bazaar earlier, crafters could include not just Christmas crafts, but also Thanksgiving and Halloween ones, plus general fall ones. What fun!

SO. All that being said, ready, set, go! There are eight and a half weeks (plus a couple of days) until **October 4** ("B Day"), and for us working folks, there are nine Saturdays. Plenty of time to gather your supplies and get crafting! (Many of you have either been working all year, or you at least already have your items underway—way to go!)

We'll be looking for volunteers once we get closer to October, so keep the date open so you'll be available to help on **October 4!**



From Cassie Savage concerning her dad, Jim Savage

To all who know and love my dad—this is for you.

He's asked me to "let everyone know what's going on and where I am" 😊—so here we go.

About five months ago, Dad was officially diagnosed with both Alzheimer's and fronto-temporal dementia (FTD). But those of us close to him have seen signs creeping in for about five years now. FTD, in particular, is a tricky one. It changes how a person behaves, reasons, and connects with others—often long before memory loss kicks in. Right now, he's experiencing a mix of mild to moderate symptoms (stages 1-3). Thankfully, he's getting every bit of care and treatment available, but as of now, there's no way to reverse these changes—just ways to make life a little better day by day.

We've just moved Dad into Somerby of Franklin, one of the best independent living communities we could find. And yes—it also has an excellent memory care unit onsite for when the time comes.

He would absolutely love to hear from you! One major hallmark of dementia is withdrawal—pulling away from social contact. So if you haven't heard from him in a while, please know it's not personal. It's part of this awful disease. But your texts, calls, or cards would mean the world to him.

He especially wanted to send love to all his people from Centre, Fort Payne, Rainsville, Vernon, East Lake, and Hoover. He misses you, he loves you, and if he could work Facebook right now, he'd be telling you himself.

Your prayers are appreciated. If Dad played a role in your life—whether as a friend, mentor, pastor, or just a kind soul—please consider reaching out. Even if he doesn't fully remember the conversation later, the feeling it gives him sticks around. And that joy is everything right now. [See Jim's address, page 4]

Thanks for loving him. 💙

(Rev. Dr. Jim Savage was senior pastor at East Lake UMC from 1995-1997)



August Birthdays

					1 *Gary *Sandridge *Josh Hester	2
3	4	5 *Tom Preston	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28 *June Dodson	29	30



Hi, friends!

Well, it's been most of a month, and I haven't heard any ideas, so now I'm going to put you on the spot!

On **Tuesday, August 12**, let's get together for lunch in the Diner and discuss. It's Taco Salad day, which is usually a favorite. (But if you'd rather, bring a sack lunch.)

At the very least, we can enjoy each other's company! It would be a great time to invite some of the "junior seniors" we've been talking about to see what ideas they have! See you then, I hope!

Jane P.

Jim Savage's Address (see article, page 3)

870 Oak Meadow Drive

Room 3321

Franklin, TN 37064

"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

Bob Chapman

Susie Knedlik

Roy Miller

Please keep these folks in your prayers.

"

"

**TO BE SUCCESSFUL IS TO BE
HELPFUL, CARING, AND
CONSTRUCTIVE, TO MAKE
EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE YOU
TOUCH A LITTLE BIT BETTER.**

— NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

Lectionary Readings for August

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

Sunday, August 3 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 11:1-11

Psalm 107:1-9, 43

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

Sunday, August 10 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, August 17 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

Sunday, August 24 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

Sunday, August 31 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

What good does the Drop-In Center do?

Well, since you (or someone) asked, in the past year, the Center can boast of the following key achievements:

- * Over 12,000 hot breakfasts and lunches served
- * Hygiene and clothing access via bags, showers, and closets
- * More than 800 Narcan kits distributed, directly saving lives
- * Over 1,000 peer-led recovery groups and services facilitated
- * Transportation, documentation, and benefit access support
- * Referrals and navigation to detox, inpatient treatment, mental health services, housing, and crisis stabilization

Memorials

Gifts have been received by the church since the first of the year in memory of

Corrine Averitt

by Barry Averitt

Mattie Lou Harrison

by the Harrison family for
the HOPE Fund

Tom & Edna Mosley

by Terry Osberry

Chris Gilmore

by Ed & Lila Hardin

Evelyn Lindsay

by James Smith, for
Mother's Day

Charles Walker

by his girls, for his birth-
day

Donna Benjamin

by Bob Chapman

Alma Boggan

by Martha Worrell

Jay Thornley

by Bob Chapman
Reid Crotty

MUSIC @ EAST LAKE

**22
AUG**

**JIMMY BUFFETT
TRIBUTE NIGHT ***

WITH THE NAUTICAL WHEELERS
7PM | \$10 tickets

**24
AUG**

**BIRMINGHAM
COMMUNITY
CONCERT BAND ****

3PM | Free and open to the public!

**19
SEPT**

THE BEATLADS *

A BEATLES TRIBUTE BAND
7PM | \$10 tickets

**11
OCT**

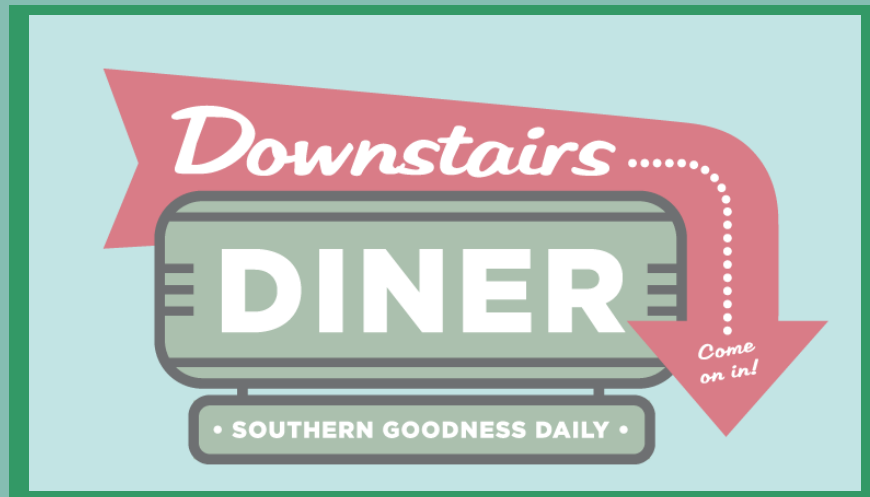
**JOHN PRINE
TRIBUTE NIGHT ***

7PM | \$10 tickets

All events at ELUMC's Wesley Hall. Directions, contact info, and more:
www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/connect

* Purchase tickets at the door (cash, check, online/card). Doors open at 6pm.
Concessions will be available. This event supports ELUMC's feeding ministries!

** Doors open at 2:30pm.



DINER OFFERINGS FOR AUGUST 2025

Friday, Aug. 1	Fried fish, coleslaw, fried okra, roll
Monday, Aug. 4	Breakfast: sausage, eggs, grits, biscuits, and fruit
Tuesday, Aug. 5	Lemon rosemary chicken, roasted vegetables, rice, roll
Wednesday, Aug. 6	Macaroni and cheese, butter beans, collard greens, cornbread
Thursday, Aug. 7	Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green peas, roll
Friday, Aug. 8	Fried fish, mashed sweet potatoes, green beans, roll
Monday, Aug. 11	Pancakes, eggs, bacon, grits, and fruit
Tuesday, Aug. 12	Taco salad with black beans, kernel corn, tortilla chips
Wednesday, Aug. 13	Chopped steak, mashed potatoes, green peas, roll
Thursday, Aug. 14	Meatballs, roasted potatoes, sauteed squash, roll
Friday, Aug. 15	Fried fish, au gratin potatoes, fried okra, roll
Monday, Aug. 18	Waffles, breakfast sausage, eggs, and oatmeal
Tuesday, Aug. 19	Chicken Marsala, broccoli, mashed potatoes, roll
Wednesday, Aug. 20	Fried pork chops, yellow rice, green beans, roll
Thursday, Aug. 21	Baked ziti, garden salad, corn, garlic bread
Friday, Aug. 22	Fried fish, coleslaw, blackeyed peas, cornbread
Monday, Aug. 25	French toast, sausage, grits, eggs, and fruit
Tuesday, Aug. 26	Burrito bowl with chicken, rice, black beans, tomatoes, and cilantro
Wednesday, Aug. 27	Chicken Alfredo, broccoli Normandy, garlic bread
Thursday, Aug. 28	Hamburgers w/ lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, French fries
Friday, Aug. 29	Fried fish, baked beans, potato salad, roll

August 2025

Saturday, August 2

Farmers Market – 8am-Noon

Thrift Store – 9am - Noon

Sunday, August 3

Traditional worship – 9am (Sanctuary)

Sunday School – 10am (various classrooms)

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

Alternative worship – 11am (Chapel)

Tuesday, August 5

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, August 6

Book Study – 10am(Red Bike Coffee)

Adult Bible Study – 11am(by phone)

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Old Testament Overview – 6pm (1st floor)

Thursday, August 7

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm

Richard II – 7:30pm (Wesley Hall)

Friday, August 8

Richard II – 7:30pm (Wesley Hall)

Saturday, August 9

Farmers Market – 8am – Noon

Thrift Store – 9am – Noon

Richard II – 2:30pm (Wesley Hall)

Sunday, August 10

Traditional worship – 9am (Sanctuary)

Sunday School – 10am (various classrooms)

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

Alternative worship – 11am (Chapel)

Richard II – 2:30pm (Wesley Hall)

Tuesday, August 12

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift store - open 11am – 1pm

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, August 13

(Same as Wednesday, August 6 above)

Thursday, August 14

(Same as Thursday, August 7, at left)

Friday, August 15

Richard II – 7:30pm (Wesley Hall)

Saturday, August 16

(Same as Saturday, August 9, at left)

Sunday, August 17

Traditional worship – 9am (Sanctuary)

Sunday School – 10am (various classrooms)

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

Alternative worship – 11am (Chapel)

Lunch with Our Neighbors - Noon – 1pm (Diner)

Richard II – 2:30pm (Wesley Hall)

Tuesday, August 19

(Same as Tuesday, August 5 and 12 at left)

Wednesday, August 20

(Same as Wednesday, August 6, at left)

Thursday, August 21

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm

Ponder with the Pastor – 5:30pm (Cahaba Brewery)

Friday, August 22

Jimmy Buffet Tribute – 7pm (Wesley Hall)

Saturday, August 23

Farmers Market – 8am-Noon

Thrift Store – 9am - Noon

Sunday, August 24

(Same as Sunday, August 3, at left, plus:)

Birmingham Community Concert Band – 3pm (Wesley Hall)

Tuesday, August 26

(Same as Tuesday, August 5 and 12 at left)

Wednesday, August 27

(Same as Wednesday, August 6, at left)

Thursday, August 28

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm

Saturday, August 30

(Same as Saturday, August 2, above left)

Sunday, August 31 (Same as Sun., Aug. 3, above left)