

# The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

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*In the neighborhood for good!*



## Labor of Love

You will be reading this article right around the Labor Day holiday. As with many of our holidays we often gather with family and friends for good food and don't think too much about the meaning of the day. Labor Day is a celebration of improvements in working conditions for the common American worker. Great strides had been made to insure that jobs were not too physically or mentally taxing, not dangerous, not seven days a week. We have the labor unions to thank for a 40-hour work week and benefits such as paid time off, vacations, and sick leave. In other words, we take off and relax this holiday to celebrate working well.

It got me to thinking about the work God calls us to do. Too often we fear that God will call us to do something scary or too difficult or at least exhausting. Let us take a breath to remind us that God is the originator of rest and working well. Let's remember the creation story in the first chapter of Genesis, God took a break, after all of the good work, to rest. God commands that we do the same. We are called to find a balance between work and rest and play. When we stop to rest we are reminded that God is the one in control, not us, and that the world continues to turn without us. When we return to work, our good work, we are reminded that God is counting on us to continue to be partners in the building of the kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven."

Let us also remember that Jesus said, "I came that you may have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). God longs for us to live joyfully. What is it that you do in your work and in your play that brings you joy? How can you do that work for God? How can you use it to help others, to improve your community, to improve your own health and wellness? What makes you really happy? When do you feel at peace? My guess is that God called you to do those very things that make you feel those ways.

We have a lot of ways for you to be engaged in labors of love for the fall (yea, fall!). Find something to put your hands to that will further the kingdom purposes – feeding people, writing notes, mission trips, study groups, cleaning, cooking, singing, visiting, fixing, and much more. I hope that you will look them over and see what fits you, what sparks joy, what fills you up, and come and be a part of that. Find a friend or two that might join you. The more, the merrier – more joyful, more abundant. May we be about the good work of the Kingdom and fully live in God's abundance.

Peace,

*Sally*

## ... from Leslie

Hello, friends!

From Facebook to the Welcome Table to here in *The Chimes*, I'm sure you've seen and will continue to see many flyers about events and programs we have coming up. (We'll have one coming out soon for a Movie Night on September 27, too, so jot that down and keep an eye out for more!) I won't spend the time repeating myself and sharing that information here, but will point you in that direction. Make sure to read about the small groups we have coming up this Fall because there are all sorts of offerings, and we're starting back Wednesday Night Dinners in just over a month!

Our Discipleship programs would not be possible without lots of help from many people. We have many great leaders and devoted participants, and we also have tons of people helping behind the scenes. For example, George Likis, a wonderful friend of ELUMC that many of you know from way back when, recently donated dozens of really spectacular books to our Church Library. Many thanks to the Likis family for this gift. These books may turn into future discussion groups or be otherwise utilized as spiritual growth resources. If you ever want to walk through our Library collection and see what sticks out to you, let us know!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Leslie

## Updates from Sally

Have you seen the repaired and renovated window on 78<sup>th</sup> Street? It is stunning. We are so grateful for a gift in memory of Dot Batson that made this repair work possible.

We are continuing to see improvements in our bathroom renovations. With more events bringing in bigger crowds, we will certainly need more bathroom accessibility. Thank you for your patience and keep looking forward to toilets that are taller, cleaner, and in good working order! Many thanks to all who have given to increase our comfort and our hospitality through these building repair projects.

Thank you to all who stepped up and gave extra to get us through the high utility bills of the summer. We are coming out of the slump in good style. We are so grateful for an estate gift that we received from Jan and Jim Briley that will continue their faithfulness far into the future. We also received the final portion of the Employee Retention Payment (COVID money given for retaining employees during the pandemic). And we are also receiving a pension rebate from the Annual Conference for this year and next. This, along with your continued faithful giving, gives us hope for a bright future serving God and being a witness to love in this community. Keep up the "good work"! (See my article on the front page).

## Arts at ELUMC in Sept.-October



Dramatic



Musical



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(Some of) the Birmingham Community Concert Band:



And (some of) their appreciative audience:



## August was a month for music!

And ELUMC was well represented! The first event was on Friday, August 22, and we had a great crowd for the Jimmy Buffet tribute, headed up by Roger Wheeler and the Nautical Wheelers. They had **Leslie "Ponder" Adams** on the harmonica and our guard **Martez Allen** adding some special drums on several of the songs (see the photos below).

Then on Sunday, August 24, we had the Birmingham Community Concert Band here to present their program, "Marches, Movies, and Musicals." We had **standing room only** for this one. (Well, in all fairness, the 65-member band took up half of Wesley Hall, but there were still a *lot* of people there to hear them.) Their concert was wonderful! We hope they will come again so those who missed them this time can come next time (see photos at left).

The Nautical Wheelers, with Ponder Adams in the middle:



Drummer Martez (left) adds the bongos (is that what those drums are called?)

And the crowd (below) sat in rapt attention and sometimes sang along





# September Birthdays

	1	2	3	4	5	6 *Joy Dorriety *Doreen Duley
7	8 *Jane Phares	9	10 *Bryce Phan	11	12 *Nancy Anderson	13
14 *Martha (Mosley) Kennedy	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 *Arlen Oliver	27
28 *Roger Thomas	29 *Karen Skilling	30				



Hi, friends!

We did gather on August 12 and had a great discussion on things we would like to do for our activities instead of just always watching movies or playing bingo. It was a wonderful bunch who gathered in the parlor that day, and they had an amazing list of ideas! So get ready, friends, we are about to take off!

We meet this month on Tuesday, September 9. We will not only play a different game or two, but it will be the unveiling of my proposed tentative schedule of senior activities for now through May. I say "tentative" because I need to run some dates by you before the schedule is carved in (soft) stone.

Because this month has five Tuesdays, we will also have a requested field trip on September 30. And because I'm thinking some other folks might be interested, I wrote about it on the next page, 5.

I'm excited!

*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:*

**Nancy Benjamin**

**Susie Knedlik**

**Greg Peek**

*We also extend our heartfelt sympathies to the family of*

**Roy Miller**, who passed away on August 2 at home. Roy was a fixture at the church as the chair of Trustees. If something was broken or otherwise not working correctly, Roy was here fixing it. Sometimes it seemed like we were irritating him by asking for so much, but he always betrayed any irritation by grinning after the job was done. We all loved him and will miss him so much. We already do.

Please keep Kay, and their children and grandchildren in your prayers as they make this adjustment and grieve their loss.

## Lectionary Readings for September

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

### Sunday, September 7 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Philemon 1:17-27

Luke 14:25-33

### Sunday, September 14 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:1, 10-20

Psalm 14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

### Sunday, September 21 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:8-9:1

Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

### Sunday, September 28 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

## Seniors (and anyone else)!

On September 30 of this month, our senior group invites you to join us on a trip to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute to see the exhibit entitled ***Bound Together: Threads of Remembrance***. Their website describes it this way:

*"Bound Together is a community art exhibit honoring Jefferson County's 30+ known lynching victims. The exhibit features mixed media works by local artists and community members and serves as the culminating showcase of The Jefferson County Memorial Quilt Project. Created to provide space for residents to reflect on central Alabama's history of racial violence, the project invites our community to remember, to confront, and to imagine a more just future."*

We plan to have transportation for our group from the church to the museum. We will plan to leave the church at 9:30 so we can get there by the time the museum opens. After a couple of hours there, we will go have lunch at Niki's West.

The cost of the museum for those over 65 is \$13. For others it is \$15. There will probably be a minimal charge for transportation, and then, of course, lunch.

## Boomers!

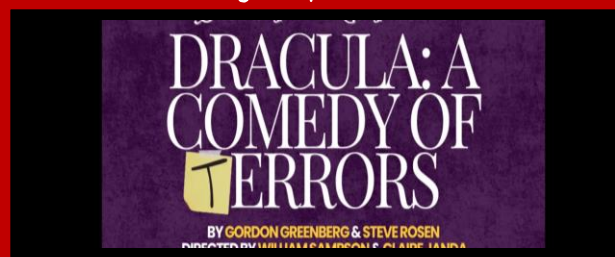
I'm not sure if this will be a popular idea or not, but we'll try it once and talk about it. It seems that several of our people don't want to get out at night (comes with age, and I totally get it!). I'm proposing that we meet for a **noon lunch** on **Friday, September 12** at the **Irondale Café**. We can discuss there whether lunch works or not, and any proposals you might have for how we want to proceed.

Hope to see you there! You'll at least have a good lunch!

*Jane P.*

Coming in October . . .

**The Bell Tower Players** present



**Yes, it's a comedy!**



# FALL 2025

## Discipleship Opportunities

Directions, contact info, and more:

[www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/connect](http://www.eastlakeunitedmethodist.org/connect)

5:30pm: Dinner in the  
Fellowship Hall (\$8)  
6-7pm: Groups

October 8-  
November 12

Childcare available!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

### LIVING OUT LOUD: A Study of the Psalms and What They Offer to Us Today

This Fall, we're focusing on the intimate relationship between God and humanity that we see in the Psalms and can experience in our own lives. We will learn more about the Psalms, share discussions together, and work on better utilizing these sacred resources. Led by Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Communications, Rev. Leslie Williams. In the Parlor.

### HEART AND HAND PROJECTS

Sometimes we need a break from our brains and want to get our hands busy. This group will spend time doing a variety of hands-on things - from group service projects to being able to work on your own crafts and DIY projects. Let's get creative and put love into action together. In Room 106.

### COMPARATIVE BIBLE STUDY

This intellectual deep-dive into the Gospels of Mark and John starts on September 10 and goes on throughout the year, but if you want to check it out this Fall, you are more than welcome to jump right in! Led by Retired Pastor, Rev. Tom Duley. In Room 104.



## SUNDAY MORNINGS

Between our worship services on Sunday mornings (10-11am), we have a variety of ongoing opportunities you can be a part of. Similar to the Wednesday Night "Heart and Hand" offering above, there will be rotating **service projects** happening in Room 106. The **Joy Class** meets in Room 103. The Sunday Morning version of the **Comparative Bible Study** (described above) meets in Room 104. There's also always good conversation happening in the Parlor! Childcare available.





## DINER OFFERINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Monday, Sept. 1	CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY
Tuesday, Sept. 2	Meatloaf, green peas, macaroni & cheese, roll
Wednesday, Sept. 3	Lemon rosemary chicken, rice pilaf, roasted vegetables, roll
Thursday, Sept. 4	Grilled porkchops, yellow rice, green beans, roll
Friday, Sept. 5	Fried fish, fried okra, coleslaw, roll
Monday, Sept. 8	Pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, fresh fruit
Tuesday, Sept. 9	Taco salad w/ beef, kernel corn, tomato, cheese, Mexican rice
Wednesday, Sept. 10	Baked Italian chicken, blackeyed peas, mashed potatoes, roll
Thursday, Sept. 11	Macaroni and cheese, butter beans, collard greens, cornbread
Friday, Sept. 12	Fried fish, sweet potato fries, green beans, roll
Monday, Sept. 15	French toast, scrambled eggs, turkey sausage, fruit
Tuesday, Sept. 16	Burrito bowl with chicken, rice, black beans, corn
Wednesday, Sept. 17	County fair casserole, green peas, roll
Thursday, Sept. 18	Grilled porkchops, saffron rice, green beans, roll
Friday, Sept. 19	Fried fish, au gratin potatoes, fried okra, roll
Monday, Sept. 22	Salmon croquettes, white rice, broccoli Normandy, roll
Tuesday, Sept. 23	Beef enchiladas, dirty rice, black beans
Wednesday, Sept. 24	Chicken salad, sliced tomatoes, crackers, fresh fruit
Thursday, Sept. 25	Turkey sandwich w/ lettuce, tomatoes, onions, cheese, chips
Friday, Sept. 26	Fried fish, saffron rice, coleslaw, roll
Monday, Sept. 29	Fried chicken biscuit, hashbrowns, fresh fruit
Tuesday, Sept. 30	Fiesta chicken soup with corn, salad, garlic bread

# September 2025

## Monday, September 1 – LABOR DAY

CHURCH OFFICE AND DINER CLOSED

## Tuesday, September 2

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

## Wednesday, September 3

Book Study – 10am(Red Bike Coffee)

Adult Bible Study – 11am(by phone)

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Old Testament Overview – 6pm (1<sup>st</sup> floor)

## Thursday, September 4

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm

## Saturday, September 6

Farmers Market – 8am – Noon

Thrift Store – 9am – Noon

## Sunday, September 7

Traditional worship – 9am (Sanctuary)

Sunday School – 10am (various classrooms)

Alternative worship – 11am (Chapel)

## Tuesday, September 9

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Senior Games – 10 am – Office Conference Rm.

Thrift store - open 11am – 1pm

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

## Wednesday, September 10

Book Study – 10am (Red Bike Coffee)

Adult Bible Study – 11am(by phone)

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Bible Study: Mark and John – 6pm (1<sup>st</sup> floor)

## Thursday, September 11

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm

## Saturday, September 13

Farmers Market – 8am – Noon

Thrift Store – 9am – Noon

## Sunday, September 14

Traditional worship – 9am (Sanctuary)

Sunday School – 10am (various classrooms)

New Class: Mark and John (1<sup>st</sup> floor mtg. room)

Alternative worship – 11am (Chapel)

Finance, Leadership meetings – 1 and 2

## Tuesday, September 16

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

## Wednesday, September 17

Book Study – 10am(Red Bike Coffee)

Adult Bible Study – 11am(by phone)

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Bible Study: Mark and John – 6pm (1<sup>st</sup> floor)

## Thursday, September 18

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm

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

## Friday, September 19

The Beatlads – 7pm (Wesley Hall)

## Saturday, September 20

Farmers Market – 8am-Noon

Thrift Store – 9am - Noon

## Sunday, September 21

Traditional worship – 9am (Sanctuary)

Sunday School – 10am (various classrooms)

Alternative worship – 11am (Chapel)

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

## Tuesday, September 23

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift store - open 11am – 1pm

Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

## Wednesday, September 24

Book Study – 10am (Red Bike Coffee)

Adult Bible Study – 11am(by phone)

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Bible Study: Mark and John – 6pm (1<sup>st</sup> floor)

## Thursday, September 25

Downstairs Diner – open 11am – 2pm

Thrift Store – 11am– 1pm

## Saturday, September 27 (See Sat., Sept. 20 above)

## Sunday, September 28 (See Sun., Sept. 21, above)

## Monday, September 29

Twelfth Annual ELUMC Golf Tournament (all day)

## Tuesday, September 30

Group outing to the Birminham Civil Rights Institute and lunch – leave the church at 9:30

(Other activities as on Sat., Sept. 23)