



The people of The United Methodist Church

# E-MESSENGER

Open hearts  
Open minds  
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2022, No. 33

Wednesday, August 31, 2022

Available at: [www.st-luke-umc.net](http://www.st-luke-umc.net)



## *Sense, Common Sense, & No Sense*

How many times we have heard the words “It does not make any sense.” There are many things in life that don’t make sense at all. We are left wondering and asking: how can we live our lives trusting God in the midst of chaos, hardships, bitterness, wars, strife, and difficulties in the world. You and I know very well that living could be sometimes challenging, frustrating, depressing, and difficult. There are things in life that we have just accepted—unfair things, tough things, tragic things for which we have no explanation.

Life is complicated as we know it, and navigating through it may add more problems, questions, and stress. How can we live through difficulty and heartaches and all life complexities? There has to be some sort of sense in trying to live through it all. If you are like me, all of us are trying to make sense of our lives in this world that often seems senseless.

You and I have known many faithful Christians who have hopes and dreams, but they never realize them because none of those seem to make sense. Sometimes we struggle to understand the events of our lives.

The key question here is how do we tackle and live life, trusting God’s guidance and presence even when many things we experience in life don’t make sense? The Bible records people of God who faced similar questions about things that didn’t make sense. Asaph wrote, “But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.” Psalm 73:2

Other people who questioned, struggled, argued, believed, and ended doing things that did not make sense.

Noah and an ark: The bible does not say how many years it took Noah to build the ark. But when you read Genesis, Chapters 5-8, you will find a period of over 100 years that it took to build the ark.

Abraham called by God to sacrifice his own son. Genesis 22:1-19

Joseph and a wild dream. (From the pit to the prestige of Egypt.)

Moses and the exodus from Egypt. Exodus 14, Opening of the Red Sea.

David and Goliath— a big giant. 1 Samuel 17

Elijah going head to head with all the 400 prophets of Baal. 1 Kings 18:16-45

A woman who poured expensive perfume on the feet of Jesus. Matthew 26:6–13

The apostles and Acts 2. Disciples speaking in different languages.

Paul taking the Gospel to the Gentile world.

These people did things that did make sense to others and to the world. But all of them were used by God to do great things because they refused to follow normal patterns and chose instead to listen to God. When God called them ... they said “yes.” (With some nudging and hesitancy)

Taking up the Cross is all about being willing to give up everything... and picking up God’s “sense” and making your “sense” secondary.

When troubles strike close to home, we may either accept the fact that we have no answers or perhaps come up with answers that may later be proved wrong. Is it possible to find the answers we need?

1. Remember that we all have only one life to live, therefore, make it count and worthwhile, while you still can even when it does not make sense. Live your life in faith, hope, peace, forgiveness, and in love. Live life one day at a time. “If I had it to do all over again, I’d serve Jesus every day of my life for I find he alone can really satisfy and deliver me all.
2. In the midst of all that is happening today, you have to be able to prioritize what matters most to you, and pay attention only to those things. “Love God with all your heart mind, and strength, and your neighbor as you love yourself.”
3. There are some things in life that we have absolutely no control over. Rather than wasting time on things you have no control over, why not focus on the things you can control.
4. Make the effort to live a positive life with an attitude of joy. There are things that would happen that you may never stop asking all the “why” questions. People whom you thought loved you and cared so much about you would stab you multiple times in the back, that you may think you want to lose your mind. People would insult you and malign you. These things do happen, and may happen to you. But then, do not loose heart. Do not give up to life’s pressures, and wish that you would just go away. Maintain the attitude of positivity all the time.

Only when we are able to get to that place in our lives, our attitudes, our priorities, and our faith journey, do we begin to make sense of all the senselessness in the world.

*In Christian love and grace, Mel*



## Breakfast with Our Neighbors

This fall, St. Luke United Methodist Church will host a community breakfast on the second Sunday of each month beginning Sunday, September 11 and continuing through Sunday, December 11. This is a church-wide (all hands on deck) opportunity to get to know more of our neighbors and a chance to show St. Luke UMC's over-the-top hospitality. There is no cost to join us for breakfast, but donations are accepted.

### Schedule:

8:00 a.m. Start Cooking

9:00 a.m. Gathering & Coffee

9:15 a.m. Welcome from Mel Bishara

Immediately following Breakfast will be served

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service

### Menu:

Egg Casserole, Hash Brown Casserole, Biscuits w/gravy, Waffles, Fruit, Milk, Orange Juice & Coffee

We are asking all Sunday school classes to consider serving as cooks, greeters, table hosts, and clean-up help in place of their normal class meeting time. We want this to be very family friendly, so children and youth we hope you will serve as greeters and helpers too. This is only one Sunday each month and it fits in exactly with what we are called to do - to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world - and that often begins with a shared meal and a cup of coffee!

Please let us know that you will be attending the breakfast by September 4. A sign-up sheet will be available in the north foyer on Sunday mornings for reservations. Also, if you are willing to serve let us know that too! If you have questions, call the church



*Wednesday Morning Bible Study  
Book of John*

*September 7 • 10:00 a.m. • Fellowship Hall*

*We invite you to join us.*



**SAVE THE DATE! • MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!**

**FALL FEST • Saturday, November 5**

This is the time to start planning what you want to contribute to this year's Silent Auction or what items to bake for the Sweet Shop. More details to follow from the Fall Fest Committee.



### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...

**Continued Prayer Concerns:** Jeanne Anne Pharis; French Congregation & the people of the Congo; Pat Farmer; Doris Mobley's son, Don; Marilyn Smith's cousin, Kim Masters; Jack & Jerrie Lucko; Vicki Kovar; Lisel Richardson's Aunt Vicki; Sam & Ann Kiker; Ross & Betty Longeway; Sandra Mason; Byron Lechler; Sarah Harris' husband, Tom; David & Kay Stapp; Norm & Betty Turnage; Betty Holshouser; Ovella Russell; Lou Coursey; J. R. & Bettie Lennox; Anita McCullar; Alice Cook's daughter, Alice Jo; Scott Paris; Karen Angle's brother & sister-in-law, Jerry & Debbie Biles; Bill Henderson's daughter, Sandy; John Benson's son & daughter-in-law, Paul & Carolyn Benson; Burt & Marylou Moore; Buddy & DeeDee Hill's sister, Susan; Larea Phippen's sister, Lanette; Steve Johnson; Danny & Jerry Chism; Raymond Hames; Pastor Ditu's sister and brother-in-law; Patty Tucker; Bill & Pat Whisenant; Cathy & Art Gordon; Barbara Burnett's sister, Mary Neeb; Buddy & DeeDee Hills' daughter-in-law, Megan's father, Mike; Barbara Blair; Karen Rockett's with the loss of her sister, Polly Davis; Don & Karen Carter; Earline Vinnedge's daughters, Cindy & Mary & great-grandson, Lincoln; Ron & Larea Phippen's granddaughter, Kassie; Barbara Provenzano's sister, Patricia Wiles; Bill & Pat's Whisenant's daughter-in-law, Sheila Brown; Gail LaRue's family & her daughter, Maya

**This Week's Concerns:** Ruby Lane with the loss of her cousin, Betty Whitlock; Toni Hood; Wanda Calvert; those affected by flooding with the major rain August 19; those affected by wild fires; those affected by gun violence each day in our country; the people of Ukraine; prayers for our nation; those affected by COVID-19; our first responders, doctors, nurses, essential employees & frontline workers

**Military:** Ryan Kelly Hampton; Kyle Johnson; Krystal Calvert; Evan Hill; Matt Miller; Nathaniel Hill; Alex Sullivan-Green; Harrison Lenox



## The Community Table Food Pantry

Hours of Operation:  
Tuesday & Thursday:  
4:00—7:00 p.m.

If you or someone you know is in need of food, the food pantry offers the following:  
Dairy Products, Meat, Fresh Fruit & Vegetables, Bread Products, Canned Vegetables, and Non-Perishables

*There's always room at the table.*

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

## EMMANUEL CLASS:

We had ten members present to hear George Angle's lesson. We heard good news yesterday that Barbara Blair doesn't have heart problems after all, but does have blood pressure issues. We all wish her well. Prayers for Wanda Calvert who has been in the hospital, Barbara Blair's son, Scott and Buddy & DeeDee Hill's daughter-in-law, Megan.

*Mary Ross & James McDonald*

## NEW COVENANT CLASS:

Even the torrential rain earlier in the week didn't prevent eleven of us from showing up for class this morning. Karen gave a "waiting for the doctor" report on Don. Continued prayers for them both. Steve and Elizabeth are going to see her parents over the holiday weekend. Hard to believe Labor Day is almost here and another school year has begun. Remember Linda and Christina as they work through some legal issues. Larry is looking forward to visiting with his dad on his special 100th birthday. Such a joy! Susan is enjoying developing some adult friendship. Our fourth session on *Disciple* with Andy Stanley was another eye opener. Have you ever considered as a disciple of Christ, also being the salt of the earth and a light to the world as well? When you think about the ramifications of such a small amount of people believing in Christ and how they affected the entire world as we know it today, just WOW! Then, he also threw in how being raised in a Christian environment of our nation, we really do experience a different and more caring outlook than some other areas of the world. Women and children are not always treated as equals in other societies. He just gave us such a different view of being a disciple and how very fortunate we are in our homeland. I for one came out with some different views and new areas of thought. Hopefully we will all be able to take something from these sessions and become more of what our Lord wants us to be. Looking forward to next session for sure! Hope all have a safe and fun holiday.

*Leslie Duncan*

## UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. We had nine members present on a beautiful Sunday morning. We were all very thankful for the rain, but were very saddened by those who had tragic experiences due to the inordinate amount of rain within a 24 hour period. We are looking forward to our Labor Day class party, 5:30 p.m. at Mary Ruth's. Our menu will consist of barbecue, smoked brisket, potato salad, baked beans and banana pudding for dessert. Yum, yum. The food will be furnished, so don't feel like you need to bring anything. Hope everyone can come. Ronnie Pippen reported that Upper Room Class had purchased \$200 worth of composition books for Cheney Hills Elementary School. We feel extremely blessed that we were able to help the students in this way. Our prayers this week go out to Ronnie and Larea Pippen and their granddaughter; Gail LaRue's family; Cindy and David Lasitter; Toni Hood; Bill Whisenant's daughter-in-law, who lives in Virginia; and Robin, a friend of a lady who frequents our Resale Shop almost weekly. Also, we want to pray for those whose

## UPPER ROOM CLASS continued:

pray for those whose homes were flooded last Monday from the torrential downpour. We are thankful that Burt Moore is doing much better and that Cindy Lasitter is feeling better from her surgery. Time will tell if it was successful. Birthdays for September are: Mary Khoury 9/15, Libby Conant 9/17, Suzanne Nickel 9/27, and Toni Hood 9/30.

Resale Shop: \$301

Prayer Meeting: Jack Bostick 5:15 p.m.

Devotion/Refreshments: Ronnie and Larea Pippen

Scripture Lesson: Psalms 6:1

*Gloria Lechler*

## Youth News:



This Sunday we shared with the youth about kindness. This article spoke directly to me as well as the Bible verse where the apostle Paul was saying to his disciples, "As long as it depends on you, be at peace with everyone." Sometimes, as a child of God, people can mistake your kindness as a weakness, but it is greater than weakness. The spirit of God is a kind, gentle spirit, it is not a rough spirit, and those who are led by the spirit reflect the fruits of the spirit. If the world is taking kindness as a weakness, as a child of God we should emphasize kindness because, in a world full of hatred, weakness, incomprehension, and hopelessness, the Lord wants us to share his kindness, his love, he wants us to tell somebody that yes, there are still genuine people that are kind on this earth. Amen.

*Stanislas Ndecky*



## Holy Communion † Sunday, September 4

Communion will be served during our in-person worship service. We will invite all who are able to come to the altar to receive communion. As usual during our online worship service we will invite you to participate in communion by having your own elements ready.



## Second Chance Resale Shop Needs Volunteers!

The Resale Shop is in need of volunteers to work Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. to help with pricing and moving merchandise. We also need volunteers to work Friday and Saturday!



Church Office Closed  
Monday, September 5  
In observance of Labor Day



St. Luke United Methodist Church  
3200 Denton Highway  
Haltom City, TX 76117  
*Open hearts, open minds, open doors*

The *E-Messenger* newsletter is published weekly online. Deadline for submission of articles is 9:00 a.m. every Monday. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mel Bishara  
Phone: 817/838-6834  
Website: [st-luke-umc.net](http://st-luke-umc.net)

Editor: Susan Briles  
Fax: 817/838-7631  
E-mail: [office@st-luke-umc.com](mailto:office@st-luke-umc.com)

Central Texas Conference website: [www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org)

Sunday Services: Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

In-person and Online Worship • 10:30 a.m.

French Worship Service: In-person and Online Worship • 2:00 p.m.

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Community Table Food Pantry Open Tuesday & Thursday • 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

NEWSLETTER ONLINE AT:

[www.st-luke-umc.net](http://www.st-luke-umc.net)

**Sunday, September 4, 2022**  
***13th Sunday after Pentecost***  
***Communion Sunday***

9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
2:00 p.m. French Worship Service

**Monday, September 5, 2022**

*Church Office Closed—Labor Day Holiday*

**Tuesday, September 6, 2022**

9:00 a.m. Newsletter **DEADLINE**  
4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Community Table Food Pantry Distribution

**Wednesday, September 7, 2022**

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study  
6:00 p.m. Youth Activities

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, September 8, 2022**

9:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast - Bluebonnet Café  
4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Community Table Food Pantry Distribution  
5:15 p.m. Prayer Group

**Friday, September 9, 2022**

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

**Saturday, September 10, 2022**

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

**Sunday, September 11, 2022**

***14th Sunday after Pentecost***  
9:00 a.m. ***Breakfast with Our Neighbors***  
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service  
2:00 p.m. French Worship Service



*Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.  
for In-Person Worship or via our  
Facebook page & You Tube:*

***SLUMC—Haltom City***

***Sunday, September 4, 2022 • Communion Sunday***  
***13th Sunday after Pentecost***

***Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.***

***Weekly Attendance***

***Wednesday Night Youth Activities • August 24—11***

***Wednesday Bible Study • August 24—11***

***United Methodist Men Breakfast • August 25—6***

***Sunday, August 28, 2022***

***St. Luke UMC • 10:30 a.m.***

***Sunday School—58***

***In-Person Worship—48***

***Online Worship—205***

***French Worship Service***

***In-Person Worship—28***