



The people of The United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2023, No. 26

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Available at: www.st-luke-umc.net



Reward Yourself

William Arthur Ward, also known by many as Bill, was my friend. Bill was considered one of America's most quoted writers. On my birthday, June 14, 1987 Bill and Mary, his wife, invited me to join them at the Petroleum Club in Fort Worth. We had wonderful time. Bill gave me *Reward Yourself*, a book he wrote. Bill signed the book of course and wrote the following note: "For Mel, with best wishes and prayer that this book will be Re Warding to you. Happy Birthday." Bill is the author of *Thoughts of a Christian Optimist*, *Fountains of Faith*, *Think It Over* feature has appeared daily on the front of the evening Fort Worth Star-Telegram for over 20 years, *Up Words* and co-authored many other books. **I offer you some of the inspiring words from Bill Ward.**

"The adventure of life is to learn. The purpose of life is to grow. The nature of life is to change. The challenge of life is to overcome. The essence of life is to care. The opportunity of like is to serve. The secret of life is to dare. The spice of life is to befriend. The beauty of life is to give.

Three enemies of personal peace: regret over yesterday's mistakes, anxiety over tomorrow's problems, and ingratitude for today's blessings.

Before you speak, listen. Before you write, think. Before you spend, earn. Before you invest, investigate. Before you criticize, wait. Before you pray, forgive. Before you quit, try. Before you retire, save. Before you die, give.

Every person has the power to make others happy. Some do it simply by entering a room, others by leaving the room. Some individuals leave trails of gloom; others, trails of joy. Some leave trails of hate and bitterness; others, trails of love and harmony. Some leave trails of cynicism and pessimism; others trails of faith and optimism. Some leave trails of criticism and resignation; others trails of gratitude and hope. What kind of trails do you leave?

We must be silent before we can listen. We must listen before we can learn. We must learn before we can prepare. We must prepare before we can serve. We must serve before we can lead.

The experienced mountain climber is not intimidated by a mountain - he is inspired by it. The persistent winner is not discouraged by a problem—he/she is challenged by it. Mountains are created to be conquered; adversities are designed to be defeated; problems are sent to be solved. It is better to master one mountain than a thousand foothills.

Each of us will one day be judged by our standard of life, not by our standard of living; by our measure of giving, not by our measure of wealth; by our simple goodness, not by our seeming greatness.

What you believe is more important than what you possess. What you live is more lasting than what you profess. Whom you inspire is more significant than whom you impress.

We can choose to throw stones, to stumble on them, to climb over them, or to build with them.

Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work." Blessings my friends.

In Christian love and grace, Mel



Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 6

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Our students, teachers and administrators will return back to school in the HEB ISD on August 10 and the Birdville ISD on August 17.

We will bless the student's backpacks on Sunday, August 6 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

If you or your Sunday School class would like to donate monies to help buy school supplies, contact Mary Paris at 817/688-2571.





Upper Room Devotional

Romans 7:15-25

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

There's freedom in saying, "I don't know." We can almost see Paul fall to his knees and throw up his hands in today's reading. We can almost hear the desperation in his voice: *I don't know, God. I don't understand. I. Don't. Know.*

How often do you feel the pressure to get things right? Certainty reigns supreme in our world of black-and-white thinking. Religious legalism pushes us to strive for an elusive perfection that only brings us shame—but the covenantal promise of our Creator frees us from this pressure.

In this passage, Paul is frustrated with himself. He keeps repeating the same scripts and falling into the same traps, and he's exhausted. He doesn't know why he falls into unhealthy habits, but he does. He doesn't want to keep repeating these cycles and doesn't understand why they keep happening. Throughout this passage, Paul shows he's aware of his very real shortcomings and is wrestling with himself—or as he says, "waging war against the law of my mind."

Paul knows that God is his deliverer through Jesus Christ, and yet that covenantal promise of a redeeming love does not take away the realities of being human. The good news for Paul and for us is that in every failing and frustration, we are invited to share our every anxiety and worry with a God who hears, sees, and knows. As 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you."

Just as we cannot be perfect, we don't have the perfect words to pray. God's promises do not rely on our perfect confessions. Our prayers can be honest and raw. God wants the in-process us. The real us. We can release the shame and the guilt and turn to the One who knows us intimately and loves us with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3)

O forgiving and merciful God, I don't always understand. In the unknowing, make your perfect presence and promise known. Amen.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...

Continued Prayer Concerns: Jeanne Anne Pharis; French Congregation & the people of the Congo; Ben & Pat Burt; Pat Farmer; Jack & Jerrie Lucko; Vicki Kovar; Sandra Mason; Byron Lechler; Sarah Harris' husband, Tom; Betty Holshouser; Ovella Russell; J. R. & Bettie Lennox; Scott Paris; Buddy & DeeDee Hill's sister, Karen; Raymond Hames; Burt & Marylou Moore; Amy Bibb's daughter, Lindsay Wright; DeeDee Hill's stepmother; Charlie & Pat Hooper; Barbara Jones; Linda Wills; Alice Cook; Gail LaRue's family; Dr. Martha Chapman; Bill Whisenant; Gary Wommack; Sam & Ann Kiker; Doris Crocker; Bob Watkins; David & Kay Stapp; Linda Smith; Melissa Lechler and her son, Lucas; Patsy Sullivan's grandson, Matthew Sullivan-Green; Barbara Wiles' cousin, Robert; Toni Hood's granddaughter-in-law, Christin; Buddy & DeeDee Hill's grandson, Milo; Joe Crawford; Ruby Lane's friend, Marcene; Ronnie & Larea Pippen; Gail LaRue's mother; George & Karen Angle & family with the loss of her brother, Jerry Biles; Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Beverly Bradley's family; Bill Whisenant's grandson

This Week's Concerns: Darren Isbell; Michael & Claudia Turner's daughter, Jeri with the loss of her husband, Jason; Mary Ruth Ellis; Betty Ann Carter; Ed Baker; Bill Worthington; Bill Reeves; Cathy Gordon; those affected by the conflict in Sudan; those affected by isolation & loneliness; those affected by gun violence each day in our country; the people of Ukraine & the world; prayers for our nation; those affected by COVID-19; our first responders, doctors, nurses, essential employees and frontline workers

Our 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 nine members present and two visitors this Sunday to hear Larry Mathewson's lesson on Spirit. Larry will be teaching our class next Sunday as well. It was so good to have Joyce Seat and her daughter, Susan in class this week! Prayer Concerns: Ed Baker, Bill Worthington, Bill Reeves, Cathy Gordon and Ruby's friend Marcene along with another friend who is in need of your prayers.

Mary Ross

GENESIS CLASS:

Small group Sunday for large discussion. We'll move on to chapter 7 this next week. Prayers for the Turner family with the loss of Jeri's husband, Jason. Keep the Hill's in your prayers as they travel and with Cathy that she feels better. Have a blessed week and see you Sunday.

Doughnuts: 7/16—Michael & Claudia Turner

Anita Bookout

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. Nine members and one visitor were present on this Lord's Day. We welcomed the refreshing rain and the cooler temps. We thank Cindy Lasiter for the delicious treats and Earline for her devotion titled "Stay with Us" from the book, *Truth for Life*. The story depicted the walk with Christ on the Road to Emmaus based on Luke 24:28-29. Thank you, Earline for this wonderful message. Our morning prayer was delivered by Gloria Lechler thanking God for the joy of fellowship and the love of caring friends. Our prayers go out to Mary Ruth Ellis, Doris Crocker, Alice Cook, Byron Lechler, Charlie and Pat Hooper, Sam and Ann Kiker, Tony Bonner, Robert Hughes and his wife Barbara, Matthew Lasiter, Melissa and Lucas Lechler, Anita McCullar, Ronnie Pippen, Betty Carter, Betty Holshouser, Bonnie Richards and Christin. Thank you, Virgil, for another good lesson from Matthew 7:15-28.

Birthdays: Ann Van Schuyver - 7/14; Sam Kiker - 7/16; Ken Slaughter - 7/25; and Debbie Chapman - 7/28.

Resale Shop: \$400.90

Prayer Meeting: Jack and Lorna Bostick—5:15 p.m.

Devotion/Refreshments: Toni Hood

Lesson: Matthew 1:1-24

Gloria Lechler

Youth News:



This Sunday we shared with the youth about kindness. Kindness is a virtue that the Lord wants his children to have. Jesus said that when you do good to your fellow brother or sister, you have done it unto him. This world is so full of hatred that a little kindness from each child of God can make the world better. Showing kindness does not require a lot. As a Christian it should naturally flow from your heart. One day as I was driving my car, I parked at a gas station and a homeless man that was completely drunk jumped on top of my car and wanted to fight me for no reason. People around me started to capture the scene on video as they thought that I was going to fight him. I just told him sir, get out of my car. He removed his clothes and came at full speed right in front of me to attack me and I just ignored him and started praying for him in my heart. After a few minutes, he came down then I drove off. I could have responded but the spirit of God is a spirit of love and kindness, and we really need to know how to operate in this wicked world if we are truly the light. Amen.

Stanislas Ndecky



Please keep those who are traveling this summer in your prayers.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Gospel of John

July 19 • 10:00 a.m.

We invite you to join us.



The *E-Messenger* Newsletter will not be published next week, July 19.

Please submit items for the next newsletter on Monday,

July 24, 2023 by 9:00 a.m.

Thank you! Susan Briles



Jason Pollei

Son-in-law of Michael & Claudia

Turner passed away Thursday,

July 6. His memorial service will

be at Gospel City Church,

2221 W. Park Row Drive,

Pantego, Texas 76013

11:00 a.m. • Saturday, July 15.

Please keep the Turner's daughter, Jeri Turner Pollei and their extended family in your thoughts and prayers.



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

Editor: Susan Briles
 Fax: 817/838-7631
 E-mail: office@st-luke-umc.com

Central Texas Conference website: www.ctcumc.org

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

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

French Worship Service • 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



Sunday, July 16, 2023

7th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday, July 17, 2023

9:00 a.m. Newsletter **DEADLINE**—no newsletter next week
 10:00 a.m. Care Connection

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

4:00 p.m. Community Table Food Pantry Distribution

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Youth Activities
 6:00 p.m. French Congregation Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, July 20, 2023

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

Friday, July 21, 2023

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, July 22, 2023

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, July 23, 2023

8th Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 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, July 16, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.
 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost***

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance

Wednesday Bible Study • July 5—0

Wednesday Night Youth Activities • July 5—12

United Methodist Men Breakfast • July 6—0

July 9, 2023 • St. Luke UMC • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School—47

In-Person Worship—38

Online Worship—82

French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—47

French Congregation Bible Study—10