



*"The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house," says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty."*  
Haggai 2:9

## "Still a Place of Peace"

Once in a while, someone will say to me, "Well, we'll see if the church can hang on through all this . . ." And to anyone who wonders what the future holds for St. Luke's specifically, let me offer some ruminations.

True, COVID-19 has turned the tables. But, you may be surprised to learn, we at St. Luke's are faring quite well. The first issue is one of building space. You need enough room to socially distance worshipers in the sanctuary, but not so much room that you have to worry about cavernous spaces that are standing unused. Currently, congregations that have added architectural additions, and gone into debt to do so, are really struggling. Our additional blessing is that our church building is paid for, and in our programming, we carry no debt.

Next, many worry when a church has no vital ministry to connect it to its community. But St. Luke's is still a neighborhood church, with members who live all around. In addition, our reputation as one of the best preschools in Richmond grows each year. Add to our ministry of early Christian education, a church active in doing and supporting mission, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, and you have a lot of Gospel to show, despite a relatively small church budget.

Not only do we have adequate space, no debt, vital ministries and missions; there, too, is the godsend of an endowment to steady us. And blessing upon blessing, the thought of using that is not even currently necessary because, through the joint efforts of our preschool and church staff (special thanks to Michele and Scottie for spearheading the effort), we at St. Luke's received a payment from the Payroll Protection Program that will cover most of our payroll, including our preschool teachers and church staff, for two-and-a-half months. It does not include other expenses, but what we have received, together with faithfully given tithes and offerings, has enabled us to move forward through the pandemic with financial soundness. Your faithfulness in mailing in your gifts or having your bank send them to us has given this church a steady foundation!

Lastly, the pandemic has left us no choice but to get online for worship. Friends, my confession is that this was never even on my radar before the pandemic. I have never desired to be a "tele-evangelist" but in good humor, will agree how pleased I am to greet you, livestream, on Sundays! We are working to make live-streaming higher quality and permanent, with equipment and a system that will be installed in our sanctuary. Even with all these accommodations, worship will seem different when we return, likely with empty pews every-other-row, limits on singing, and one-way directions through the church, to begin with. Every day is a chance for new discernment, based on what we are learning about how to love and care for each other and stay safe ourselves.

I do expect that we Methodists will be slow to return to in-person worship. Our Bishop is very concerned that "we do no harm," to quote John Wesley, as we seek to gather once again. We are committed to keeping members safe and protected from the Coronavirus. A task force of leaders in our church is working on preparations right now for our eventual return, in accordance with guidelines provided by the Conference. These can be found at [www.vaumc.org/return](http://www.vaumc.org/return)

If you read them, you will know that our denomination is more cautious than even our Governor or the President, as we prepare to reopen.

Let us wait for that glad day with patience, knowing we have learned during this shutdown how precious and how important is the fellowship and the worship and the ministry we share. This pandemic will end, my friends, and this church will continue . . .

Thanks be to God! — Blessings, Pastor Lisa

## Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace and justice across the nation

Rev. Tom Brown	Frances Driscoll	David Higgins
George Staehle	Charles Fayle	Shirley Weade
Bernice Peatross	Debi Clements	Bettie Jones
Wayne Kinney	Jan Hall	Opal Holshouser
Marie Goodwyn	Dean Smith	The Radgowski's
Bonnie Urbanski	JoAnn & Tony	Leslie Howser
Nancy Ladd	Jean Cox	Della Phillips
Joan Bowker	Wilmer & Phyllis Downs	
<b>The deKrafft and Sorensen families, and their babies due soon</b>		

### Our Military

Robbie Bowen	Aaron Frankey	Holden Russell
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## Music Notes

We wish to thank Steve Taylor, Andrew Russell, Andi Sorenson, Marcia Grubbs and Jane Barto for joyfully singing from Palm Sunday through Pentacost. They greatly enhanced our on-line virtual worship experiences for March, April and May.

As summer approaches we ask volunteers wishing to help lead musically to contact Pastor Lisa or the Director of Music to arrange practice and worship participation times. We are turning over a lot of new leaves and there is a large supply to choose from. Let us assist you in discovering that inner voice.

Bob Ford

## A Note from Nominations/Lay Leadership

Due to the unusual circumstances of this year, where the church building has been closed for almost 3 months to in-person public worship and events, the Nominating Committee felt the best guiding principle for our work of selecting leaders, was to keep consistency in a time of uncertainty. Therefore, if you serve in an office, please be open to considering serving an extra year. We hope that experience and continuity will help us through this first time of conducting ministry amid a pandemic in a hundred years.

Thanks to all those who serve so graciously and well, in the name of Christ, in our midst.

Blessings, Pastor Lisa, *Chair of Nominations/Lay Leadership Committee*



## Our Super Cyber Guys!

Remember those cartoons, where Superman is holding up an entire building, keeping it from falling down? Well, just about every Sunday, Brian Kaeser gets asked, "Did you expect to be the one holding us together?" We cannot overstate Brian's gift to St. Luke's in this time of pandemic. He got us online within a week of in-person services being cancelled and has arrived here every Sabbath since, to moderate our worship gathering.

All our online broadcasting would be a far-off dream had Keith not seen problems with our system and coverage and worked diligently to fix them. Keith, who has been on-call for the church staff for years, has trouble-shot a herd of glitches, reboots, technical and human failures (yes, we staff are still learning) and gotten us up and running again!

Both Keith and Brian, and Wilmer too, who knows this building like the back of his hand, are consulting about what we need to remain online; and, as always, their time, expertise, and energy are priceless gifts to us all. Please thank them when you see them! We are blessed by the skills and spirits of these "super-cyber, super-good-guys!"

## St. Luke's Face Book Page

Make sure you like the St. Luke's Facebook page to keep up with everything going on at church. Also, please like and share the posts and events. The more we share and like, the more others will see what a wonderful place St. Luke's is -- and all the things that we are doing!

Here's a link to our page:

<https://m.facebook.com/St-Lukes-United-Methodist-Church-486188658201339/>

## BE INFORMED

Keep up with all that's going on within the Virginia United Methodist Conference by visiting —

<http://www.vaumc.org>



## “Sorrow and Love flow mingled down”

We extend our love and sympathy to Roger Ball and family. Roger's mother, Beatrice Peatross, claimed the promise of the resurrection on Monday, May 25th.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Richard and Jennifer Moyer at the birth of their daughter, Anna Grace. Born May 13th, she weighed 9 lbs., 4 oz. and is 21 inches long.

Dear St. Luke's Church Family,  
Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support throughout my pregnancy. Thank you too for the lovely cards! I look forward to the day when we can worship together in person again

Love,  
Jennifer



## Anna Grace Moyer

05.13.20 at 7:42 am | 9 lb, 4 oz & 21 inches

Welcomed by Richard, Jennifer, Richard & Jack

## June Birthdays

- June 3 Carla Collins
- June 4 Richard Sineath
- June 5 Shannon Bridgeman  
Donna Miller
- June 6 Michele Hart
- June 8 Betsye Russell  
Bonnie Gold
- June 9 Marcia Grubbs  
Karen Courtney  
Bonnie Urbanski
- June 10 Jennifer Moyer
- June 12 Andrew Rohlk
- June 14 Jean Martin
- June 16 Emily Anderson  
Rose Kessler  
Ashley Worner
- June 23 Jan Hall
- June 25 Mitch Glover
- June 28 Mary Meador  
Amber Gardner
- June 29 Kathy Gardner
- June 30 Dennis Haley  
Doris Jenkins

## Anniversaries

- June 6 E.W. & Linda Toney
- June 9 Bill & Andrea Brown
- June 12 Jim & Marcia Grubbs
- June 14 Brian & Rachel Kaeser
- June 16 Roland & Sue Fussell
- June 18 Bobby & Deanie Reynolds
- June 19 Jerry & Margaret Anderson  
Wayne & Katie Haley
- June 22 Kevin & Tee Leigh
- June 24 Roger & Beth Ball
- June 28 Bob & Jan Hall



Karen Miller



# 2020 Preschool Graduation

FAMILY JOINED THE GRADUATE'S BANDWAGON FROM WITHIN THEIR CARS AS THE PRESCHOOL CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATED IN THE MOST MEMORABLE CEREMONY EVER!



EVEN A PANDEMIC WON'T STOP OUR TALENTED PRESCHOOL STAFF!

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION 2020! "LIFE ISN'T ABOUT WAITING FOR THE STORM TO PASS, IT'S ABOUT LEARNING TO DANCE IN THE RAIN!"

