

## “The Peace That Passes All Understanding... and The Storm Passing Over Us!”

*Peace I leave with you; my  
peace I give to you. I do not  
give to you as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts be  
troubled, and do not let them  
be afraid.*

*John 14:27-28*

Have you ever known someone who just seemed unshakable? A very present help in times of trouble? Someone who was filled with a calm that clearly didn't come from this world?

I ask, because our times are so turbulent, they might be compared to a raging storm at sea. In the midst of a storm, we all need a safe harbor where we can find shelter. We all need a place, or a presence, where we can feel secure, protected, and find peace while all around us the storm rages.

The greater the storm, the greater our need for such shelter. And friends, we have happened into the storm of the century, stronger even than the double hurricanes that took aim at the gulf coast last month! Jakob Topper of the Baptist News Global observes insightfully, that we now face:

“. . . a pandemic, a hyper-partisan culture, LGBTQ and BLM movements, and an upcoming election . . .”

And we United Methodists can add to this list a question of possible church schism in a few years, not to mention the restrictions to in-person worship and our changing Communion to a drive-thru event.

Had you told me when I was first ordained in 1990, that in-person worship would be interrupted for 5 months, had you predicted I would live through the perfect (pastoral and societal) storm in 2020, I would not have believed you! Who ever imagined a pandemic back then, except in the pages of a fictional paperback novel or on the silver screen? Would that it had remained so!

For us alive right now, these are the hardest times we have ever lived through as a society. My honest desire many days is to find a time machine and travel forward, safely beyond this pandemic! But that is only wishful thinking. The Christian discipline required by our hard times is not one of escape, but of intentional retreat, in the best sense of that word. Not a military retreat but a religious one, a disengaging from the things we cannot control, to the nurture of our spirit in the presence of the One who can calm it, which Christ can.

People who find peace in a storm practice sheltering. Intentional, purposeful. I will admit to you my consumption of the news on cable and internet has dropped in frequency. I spend more time than before in prayer, and in care of self and care of others. Incarnate actions to tend

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my soul and the souls of others. Like Christian mystics and monastics throughout history, the modern Christian can find strength for the journey by withdrawing for a time from the chaos of the world and spending some time, listening in the quiet for the Lord who stills the storm.

As we do that, Mr. Topper has some advice for us:

\*Remember the church is human and fallible; we love the church in spite of her imperfections.

\*The pastor is a shepherd, not THE shepherd. Not everyone will ever agree with him/her on every issue. This is not a requirement of pastoring or being a faithful church member.

\*Be devoted to prayer now more than ever before. Let the spirit fill you more completely.

\*Find safe harbor from the storm in the shelter of our congregation. Often things look different once the storm has passed. And in the midst of a storm, the precious kind of fellowship St. Luke's has within its walls and through phone and computer is a comfort and a strength to one's soul.

These are thoughts for the journey which I hope will be a help to you. Remember, I am always available by phone or, if you request, for a socially distanced visit!

God be with you, Friend, 'til we meet again . . . at church!

Blessings, Lisa

## St. Luke's UMC Mallet-Percussion Choir

ATTENTION: To keep you "in-tune" with the progress that you have made on mallet and percussion instruments, Mr. Bob would like for you to begin a body percussion class at stay-at-home. Simply go to "Ollie from 'Beat Goes On' CBeebe's 'Let's Go Club.'" Click on the video and follow the instructions for body percussion-at-home. This will greatly enhance playing of your musical instruments when we return to church.

## Live Stream Setup (Up and Running!)

The trustees met in August to discuss providing a live stream setup for at-home Sunday worship services now and in the future. Both the Trustees and Council approved this action. The equipment has been installed and all church audio people have been trained. We are already enjoying this professional setup that will serve St. Luke's well, but know how much Keith will miss patching together the prior equipment, which was as old as Methuselah! Our sincere thanks to Brian and family for keeping the sound and video for Sunday services going under difficult conditions.

To Keith, Brian and family, for extraordinary efforts, and to our congregation, whose generous giving paid for the new equipment, we are especially grateful. Your dedication to St. Luke's is deeply appreciated!

## Still In Mission

While the pandemic stops many things, it does not stop hunger. The opposite is true. People who feel the instability of these times most, need assistance more than ever. You are invited to donate boxes of cereal to the Belmont Food Pantry. Please bring your donation to Communion on Sunday, September 6th, and we will see that your generosity helps feed those who know hunger in our local community.

## BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

## Upheld in our Prayers

**Congratulations to Rachel Jenkins and Craig Cook who were wed August 22nd. We lift them and their whole family up in prayer.**

**Prayers for peace and justice across the nation**

**Prayers for our preschool, for a safe and wonderful year ahead!**

|                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Tom Brown</b>               | <b>Thelma Edwards</b>             |
| <b>Wayne Johnson</b>           | <b>Florence Smith</b>             |
| <b>Barbara Armstrong</b>       | <b>The Epps Family</b>            |
| <b>Joan Crawford</b>           | <b>Leslie Howser</b>              |
| <b>Dianne Rust</b>             | <b>Wilmer &amp; Phyllis Downs</b> |
| <b>Doris Teeter</b>            | <b>Joyce Arrington</b>            |
| <b>David Higgins</b>           | <b>Bettie Jones</b>               |
| <b>Taylorann Bradon</b>        | <b>Debi Clements</b>              |
| <b>Raymond and Chuck Fayle</b> | <b>Deannie Reynolds</b>           |
| <b>Bob &amp; Jan Hall</b>      | <b>Opal Holshouser</b>            |
| <b>Dean Smith</b>              | <b>Gayle McGonigle</b>            |
| <b>Raymond Fayle</b>           |                                   |

### Our Military

**Robbie Bowen      Aaron Frankey      Holden Russell**

## 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/>

## “Return to Worship” Survey

Our “Return to Worship” Survey reflects the ambiguity of the times in which we are living. There were 38 responses to the survey, which reflects households. We wanted to share the most notable questions/responses with you. The total number of persons selecting an answer is in **bold** at the right of each choice.

### Question 2

Once our church reopens, what best describes your attitude towards returning to worship in the sanctuary?  
(please select one)

I am ready to return as soon as possible with normal (pre-Covid 19) safeguards in place. **(8)**

I am ready to return as soon as possible, but with certain additional safeguards in place. **(3)**

I plan to wait several additional weeks before I attend. **(4)**

It may be quite some time before I feel comfortable enough to return. **(9)**

Not sure at this time. **(13)**

### Question 6

After this time of social distancing and online worship, what do you think will be the change to your pattern of worship?

In the future, I will worship ONLINE more than I did previously. **(8)**

In the future, I will worship IN-PERSON more than I did previously. **(0)**

No change, I will return to my previous pattern of worship. **(16)**

It depends on my health. **(2)**

It depends on my skill with a computer. **(0)**

Not sure at this time. **(11)**

### Question 8

Given your current understanding, when do you PREDICT you might feel comfortable attending in-person worship?

Immediately **(9)**

September 2020 **(4)**

December 2020 **(0)**

Sometime in 2021 **(6)**

Not sure at this time **(19)**

## Birthdays

|              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| September 4  | Adam Bowman            |
| September 6  | Shirley Weade          |
| September 7  | Cindy Driskill         |
| September 8  | Jared Calfee           |
| September 9  | Brady Hart             |
| September 12 | Troy Gary              |
| September 13 | Linda Engel            |
| September 14 | Reg Whitton            |
| September 15 | Sydney Kaeser          |
| September 16 | James Papczynski       |
| September 20 | Dianne Johnson         |
| September 21 | Amanda Jones           |
| September 24 | Todd Gary              |
| September 26 | Sue Fussell            |
|              | Jesse Bowman           |
| September 29 | Heather Burnett Latham |
|              | Tad McGonigle          |

## Anniversaries

|              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| September 1  | Ronnie & Dixie Bowman  |
| September 2  | Chris & Kathy Bowen    |
| September 5  | Steve & Terri Edwards  |
| September 13 | John & Joan Crawford   |
| September 19 | Chris & Haley deKrafft |
| September 26 | Clinton & Shirley Gary |
| September 29 | Mary & Pete Meador     |



The flowers on the altar are from the wedding of Rachel Jenkins and Craig Cook

## Music Notes for St. Luke's UMC Adults

**ATTENTION:** I will enjoy your telling me about your musical interests and what direction you would like to pursue. Surely there are those of you with gifts that I do not know about. Different times call for different techniques so let's get together via email or text. Please contact the church office for contact information.

Bob



## “Sorrow and Love flow mingled down”

Our love, sympathy and prayers are extended to Kay and Keith Callis and family at the death of Kay’s mother, Hisako Barker. Mrs. Barker claimed the promise of the resurrection on August 4, 2020.

Our love, sympathy and prayers are extended to Rhea and Bobbie Strum at the passing of their dear friend, Judy Epps, who claimed the promise of the resurrection on August 8, 2020.

Our love, sympathy and prayers are extended to Bob Ford and family at the death of his sister, Mary Lee Lavenstein, who claimed the promise of the resurrection on August 27, 2020.

## Our Preschool’s New Look!

We are forging ahead with our reopening of the preschool! At our summer staff meeting Pastor Lisa started us off with a much-needed devotion and pick-me-up! It set the perfect tone for our meeting as we problem-solved the new challenges ahead with creative and thoughtful ideas! This staff is amazing and we are committed to providing a safe learning environment in which we will continue to nurture and help our students grow. We will be following all guidelines provided by Virginia Department of Social Services, such as masks for teachers; social distancing; small group sizes; increased hand washing/sanitation; temp checks upon arrival; minimizing number of adults in building by having outside drop-off and pick-up; and overall increased disinfecting. I am confident we will open safely because of the awesome team here at St. Luke’s! This includes Pastor Lisa, the teachers, the preschool board, administrative council, and of course, Shirley, Margaret, and Scottie! How can you not succeed with this talented group working together? We look forward to having the little ones fill the halls once again, even if it looks a little different this year!

## Gim’me That Ole Time Religion!

We have a tentative date for some old fashioned, OUTDOOR worship.

Our Healthy Church Taskforce isn’t yet recommending indoor worship, but it is unanimous in feeling outdoor worship, beneath a hopefully sunny blue sky, on Sunday evenings, just might be a good way to get acquainted with the blessing and privilege of in-person worship and socially distant fellowship.

Assuming our proposal is approved by our Superintendent, we will gather for Sunday evening vespers at 5 pm beginning September 13th. We will continue these informal outdoor vesper services on a weekly basis as long as weather permits. \*  
(We will continue our Sunday morning live stream preaching service and add the in-person vesper service!)

### ***If approved, here are some rules that must guide us:***

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Take your temperature before you come. It must be under 100.4 degrees F.
- Bring your own chair(s)/picnic blanket (families can sit as a group).
- Observe social distance, from the time you park your car to the time you leave.
- Wear a mask; bring your own hand sanitizer.
- No singing but you can hum!
- 1 soloist is permitted.
- Bathrooms will be open but their use is discouraged.
- Expect to answer basic health acknowledgment questions.

If all is approved, expect a call from church the week before. I hope it happens because I miss the joy of greeting each of you and joining our hearts and souls in praise. Pray that we are able to begin worship again outdoors, in addition to our Sunday morning live stream preaching service!

- In case of rain, service will be cancelled.

**(Please note:** Vesper service will not be held on Communion Sundays.)

## Thank You

Once again, we have been blessed by generous congregational giving. Your gifts have made it possible to keep all our bills paid in a timely manner. In addition, we have received most of the funds to pay for equipment necessary to live stream our services. The abundant kindness of the St. Luke's family is unsurpassed. Thank you so very much!!

Scottie Kyle  
Treasurer

## September 6th Communion

In-person and Online Consecration, with Drive-Thru Distribution at St. Luke's UMC

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we get ready to celebrate the sacrament after a four-month wait, here is some explanation of our three-part\* worship service scheduled for September 6th.

For the first part of worship, at 11am, many will gather online and those involved in leading worship will gather in the sanctuary on September 6th. All, whether in-person or online, will speak the bolded parts of our liturgy and share in the consecration of the elements.

With the consecration of the bread and the juice accomplished, the 11 am worship service will conclude with an invitation to "Come to the Table of the Lord."

The distribution will be the second part of worship. It will take place in the upper parking lot, after the conclusion of our online service, from noon until 1:30 pm. I hope all of you who share in our 11 am worship, whether online or in person, will join us to receive communion!

Those of you sharing in the service from home will get in your cars and drive-up to the church carport, the first station, to receive the individually pre-packaged, sealed elements while in your car.

Directional signs will guide you on how to approach the carport from the street entrance furthest from Hull Street, and the elements will be offered to you from 6 feet away, using a basket with a long arm.

I will say, "The body of Christ" and "the blood of Christ" as you partake in your car, and then offer

a prayer.

After receiving communion, if you wish, you may stop at the second station and leave your offering, once again using a basket with a long arm.

A third MISSION STOP\* has been added as we are collecting boxes of cereal for the Belmont Food Pantry. We hope you will be able to participate in this endeavor.

With this drive-thru communion, there is no need for anyone to get out of their vehicle or to be nearer than 6 feet to one another. If you wish to park and "meet and greet" you can park in the lower lot, one space away from other vehicles, after communing.

I hope receiving Communion and seeing others again, even if from cars in the church parking lot, will be a blessing. This is another continuing step toward getting back to normal. We know there will be more along the way. May we draw nearer to God with each step we take.

With thanksgiving for you, and thanks to God,  
Pastor Lisa

7/25/2020



*If Ever a Mortal Heard an Angel's Voice, It would be in a Garden in the Cool of the Day.*

Dear Church Family,

Even though we cannot be together at this time, we would like to thank you for all your prayers and concerns during and after my surgery.

The cards and phone calls that I have been receiving have helped me during my recovery time.

Again, thanks for all of your thoughtfulness. I am improving every day.

Love, Barbara and Bobby



*The Marriage of  
Rachel Elizabeth Jenkins  
and  
Craig Steven Cook  
took place August 22, 2020  
at five o'clock in the afternoon  
At Celebrations at The Reservoir  
officiated by  
Pastor Lisa Sykes*





12211 Iron Bridge Road  
Chester, VA 23831

*August 10, 2020*

*St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Young At Heart  
4101 Fordham Rd  
North Chesterfield, VA 23236-1135*

*Dear Donor,*

*There is no way to express the gratitude that we feel for individuals who are helping us provide for those who are in need in our community. We are stretching every dollar that we received to the max, for the need is great.*

*Without you we could not do what we are doing. All we can say is Thank You, Thank You so very much.*

*The Staff at the Chesterfield Food Bank*