

VACCINATED!

On a rainy Saturday, February 27th, the entire St. Luke's Preschool Staff, including Pastor Lisa, was vaccinated by Chesterfield County.

Chesterfield Fire and EMS



**Vaccine Clinic
for
Daycare and Private
Schools
By Appointment Only**

The Longest Lent

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations,

"The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Psalm 126:1-5

Things I might wish would last a year: a trip to the beach or a vacation in Europe, 12 months of the prettiest sunsets ever, a reunion with family, the visit from a mountaintop, beautiful times of worship, gourmet dinners prepared and delivered, time staring into the eyes of a newborn.

Things I would never wish to last even a day: separation from family and friends, the strange feeling that the world is an inhospitable place, physical restrictions on worship, no hugs, financial distress, loss of identity, an inability to travel, too few opportunities to teach children.

This is only a partial list, but it captures my longest Lent. For me, this year's Lent began March 15 of last year. Ask me then what I was giving up for Lent, and the list would have been short and non-cataclysmic. Had you seen my list and offered me the epic surrender of all the pandemic would demand, I would have laughed in disbelief and walked away.

In the past year, I've been surrounded by the family that resides in my house and my mom still. I've had the company of church staff and the experience of online worship. For me, even in this longest Lent ever, there has been consolation and comfort. I've learned from many of you who live alone how much more difficult this longest Lent has been. Your isolation has been even greater. Many have had this separation from family and community complicated by illness or grief. COVID has tested our limits and tried our faith in many instances.

Yet, here we are, awaiting Easter again. New Hope. New Life. New Promise. All in a season where this part of the world is coming into bud, and vaccines against this illness are now available to many. The Spirit encourages us in this last stretch of our captivity, not to surrender. Not to give up. Consider this: the more intense our Lent, the greater our losses, the deeper our solitude, the greater, the more joyful, the sweeter our resurrection song!

After a Lent like no other, may your joy, your Easter celebration, your restoration and your spiritual heart, in 2021, after a year of involuntarily rendering up more than you might ever have offered, know joy like you might have never imagined . . .!

Peace and Hope, Pastor Lisa

"Sorrow and Love flow mingled down"

We extend our love, prayers and sympathy to Doris Teeter and David Higgins and Family. Doris' daughter, Sharon Edwards, claimed the promise of the resurrection on February 1st, 2021.

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/>

50th Wedding

Anniversaries Celebrated

Asking God's continuing blessings upon them, we heartily congratulate Ray & Scottie Kyle and Karen & Reg Whitton who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries at St. Luke's on Sunday, February 14th, 2021!

Soup for Belmont Food Pantry

When you come to drive-thru Communion on March 7th, our mission stop will be for cans of soup. Soup is a warm and substantial meal in cold weather. Please bring a can, or more than one, to share with those in need through the Belmont Food Pantry.

Music Notes

Virtual Choir Members

A big thank you goes out to these folks whose diligence has added to our online worship experiences that began one year ago. Your efforts to "keep singing" will hopefully bring us back together to rehearse come fall of 2021 to start preparing for the Christmas season. Let's all pray that it will be "safe and secure from all alarms" as we "lean on those everlasting arms."
Bob Ford

Mallet-Percussion Choir

These bright, young musicians would really like to play and sing on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021. In order to do so will require classes on Sundays, March 7, 14, and 21 from 11:45-12:30. Please have the kids practice the words that were sent out in late February. We will usher in Holy Week with a "triumphal offering."

Dates to Remember

March 7 – COMMUNION SUNDAY
(SOUP FOR BELMONT
FOOD PANTRY)

March 14 – DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

March 17 – ST. PATRICK'S DAY

March 20 – FIRST DAY OF SPRING

March 28 – PALM SUNDAY

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

Prayers for peace, unity and justice across the nation



Scottie & Ray Kyle	Sennie Case
Wayne Johnson	Florence Smith
Barbara Armstrong	Kevin Updike
Jim Brantley	Matt Stowers
Doris Teeter	Wilmer & Phyllis Downs
Tom Brown	Joyce Arrington
David Higgins	Bettie Jones
Taylorann Bradon	Chuck Fayle
Bob & Jan Hall	Deannie Reynolds
Dean & Ibbie Smith	Opal Holshouser
Bob Gary	Gayle McGonigle
Our Military	
Robbie Bowen	Aaron Frankey
	Holden Russell

Alan Huffman, a former member of St. Luke's, is hospitalized with several medical issues.

Please remember the family of Charles Dabney, his wife, Alita, and their sons. Charles, just a couple months shy of his 49th birthday, died from COVID. He gave much of himself through little league sports.

A Month of Sundays (and more!)

Hey Everybody,

Here's a question: when did we last open the sanctuary for worship?

We had to look at our calendar to figure out . . . Between Covid closures and many Sunday snow days in February, we've been "online only" for more than a month of Sundays.

For those of you who prefer in-person worship, it's been an unwanted interruption in the process of getting back to normal! So, come the first Sunday of March, the 7th, at 11 am, Lord willing, we will once again have an in-person option along with online worship!

In case you've forgotten, here are some helpful reminders as we get back to life in our new normal:

- Even if you've had a vaccine, masks are still required
- As this is communion Sunday, in person participants may take elements (bread/juice) home
- Online worshippers may come to drive thru communion from 12:30-1:30 pm.
- If you'd like to catch up your giving from all our missed in-person Sundays, offerings may be left in the sanctuary or at drive-thru Communion (Thanks to everyone who mailed them in!!)
- Our mission stop for the whole month of March is cans of soup; please remember soup as a donation for the Belmont Food Pantry
- Our Lenten Bible Study via zoom continues Tuesdays at 7 pm

We hope to see you Sunday, online, in-person or in your car!

March Birthdays

March 1	Tommy Driskill
March 6	Steven Grubbs
	Charlotte deKrafft
March 7	MaryJo Jones
March 10	Beth Ball
March 12	Christopher Hedrick
March 15	Kathy Bowen
	Elijah Jones
	Scott Brown
March 18	Eric Jones
March 19	Ronnie Jones
March 21	Elton Gardner
	Andrew Proffitt
March 24	Steven Hudson
March 26	Deanie Reynolds
	Cody Russell
	Ken Knust
March 30	Debbie Smart
March 31	Bobbie Strum

Anniversaries

March 25	Bobbie & Rhea Strum
March 26	Patrick & Carolyn Beeckler
March 29	Andrew & Sevda Russell

Thanks to the Prosecution!

During the weeks of Lent, six biblical characters have been on trial; So far, the disciples have been tried for defaming the women who anointed Jesus;

Peter, James and John have been tried for dereliction of duty since they fell asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane; And Judas has been tried for treason.

Huge thanks to our prosecutors and lay liturgists to date: Ray Kyle, Bill Brown and Bobbie Strum.

Don't miss an episode . . . er . . . a service . . . of courtroom drama and suspense on the way to the Cross!

Easter Flowers

From Shirley Gary: "Information regarding Easter flowers will be sent out in a forthcoming email. Thanks."