

## A Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

February 25, 2022

Dear Virginia Annual Conference-

Alongside many nations, communities of faith, and people throughout the world, United Methodists join in praying for peace as tensions and violence mount with Russia's invasion of Ukraine yesterday, February 24.

Let us be especially mindful of the humanity caught in the middle, the tens of millions of men, women, and children whose lives are undergoing upheaval, with many in peril. We pray for the Ukrainian people. We pray for an end to the threats to their lives and well-being.

We pray for the families who have already lost loved ones to this war. We pray for the healing of the wounded.

We pray also that this conflict does not escalate to further military conflicts in Europe and that Americans be united in praying for peace.

May that peace we pray for so fervently inspire world leaders to take the actions necessary to promptly ensure peace and healing.

Peace and Blessings,  
Bishop Sharma D. Lewis



## “A Time Apart”

*The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.*

*Mark 6:30-32*

**Thanks be to God  
for our safe return  
to in-person worship!**

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Peace and quiet. The pandemic has quieted the world but brought no peace. Peace and quiet. A new baby can bring a transcendent sense of peace but very little quiet sometimes. There are times in our lives when we crave one or the other, and there are times, like our incarnate Lord, when we need both.

Being a pastor gives my soul a sense of peace. Its responsibilities are joys to me. But for me, the pastorate is seldom quiet. With the exception of prayer, I find few times of quiet. Since I was ordained in 1990, I have pastored uninterrupted for nearly 32 years, with the exception of maternity leave. But now I find myself needing a time of both peace and quiet to devote to my family. It’s hard to describe the effects this pandemic has had on so many, and especially disabled children.

My son with autism, Wesley, has experienced the world shrinking, and he is not as able as you or I, to pick up where he left off. So the Sykes family has come to the time, as most families with an adult disabled child do, of discerning it’s the right time for Wesley to move to a new home, with a young energetic staff and friends his own age.

This transition will happen in the coming months, and in order to give Wesley the support, and this process, the care it deserves, I will be taking renewal leave from after Easter through the summer. The United Methodist Church provides for this time apart, in my case to focus on my family and rest, and some much-needed renewal for ministry.

While I am away, the church will continue in ministry and mission. There will be a variety of laity and clergy, including Rev. Dr. John Peters coming for a casual celebration of the church’s anniversary on May 22nd! Pastoral care for serious hospitalizations and emergencies will be covered by my Methodist clergy colleagues in the area. So many have graciously recognized my need to take this time apart, including our District Superintendent, our Staff-Parish Committee, our Council and Lay Leader.

I cannot thank them and you enough! I am convinced that when I was appointed to St. Luke’s in 2011, the Holy Spirit sent me not just to a church I could care for, but to a church that would care for me, too. How blessed am I in this!

Grace and peace . . . and some quiet to you, too!  
In Christ,  
Lisa



## Music Notes – March 2022

### Sanctuary Choir

March 02, 2022 - Assist in 7:00 Ash Wednesday service.  
Warm-up at 6:30.  
Choir rehearsal resumes following.

March 09, 2022 - 1st Wednesday rehearsal.  
3:30 p.m. This is in addition to our  
regular evening rehearsals.

March 09, 2022 - 2nd Wednesday rehearsal.  
7:30 p.m. This is our standard evening  
rehearsal.

*This schedule will continue through March 30, 2022, which is in preparation for the Easter cantata to be presented on Sunday, April 03, 2022.*

### Mallet-percussion choir

March 13, 2022 - Classes resume at 11:45.

This schedule will continue through March 27, 2022 in preparation for playing in the Easter celebration.

## Endowment News 2/24/2022

In June of 2019 we received our first statement from the Virginia United Methodist Foundation showing a beginning balance of \$236,112.21, and our current statement for January 2022 shows a balance of \$302,888.79. This is an increase of about 28%.

Of the \$302,888.79 the interest or dividends amount to \$10,496.91.

There is some previous interest or dividends from previous investments, which I don't have the figures for, although for 2018 the interest was \$4,902.40.

The Endowment Committee recently voted to approve paying for the HVAC repair work of approximately \$4,000.00 from the Endowment Fund.

Endowment funds will also be used to cover the cost of any current roof repairs that may be necessary in the office area. This cost is yet to be determined.

Withdrawing money from the Endowment Fund is done with great discernment, and we are fortunate that this funding source is available when no alternative exists.

## February-March Outreach Opportunity

We will be collecting soup during February and March for the Belmont Food Party. Thank You for your donations.

### Hallelujah!

Covid rates are dropping, and our return to in-person worship February 27th is just in time for Lent. For those not yet ready to return, our on-line option is always available.

### Confirmation Class Reminder

Confirmation will continue through Easter. Please keep the confirmands in your prayers, Mabel Rose Cassada, Jean-Kathryn Cassada, Cameron Jones and Sadie Jones. Also keep their mentors, Haley & Chris deKrafft, in your prayers.

### Looking Ahead

The Healthy Church Team (HCT) Committee is pleased that our closure plan for the last month seemed prudent, giving the curve time to go down.

We look forward to a busy Lenten season, and will have an Ash Wednesday service March 2nd at 7pm.

Bonnie and David Urbanski's granddaughter, Riley Grace, will be baptized March 13th. Jessie and Rick Buncy are the proud parents.

The choir will resume in March and present special music on April 3rd. A Maundy Thursday Communion Service is planned for April 14th. We will be confirming young people on Easter Sunday morning, April 17th.

### Easter Flowers

Information about Easter flowers will be in the April newsletter and an email will also be sent out.

## 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 send our sympathy, love and prayers to Anne Harrell and family. Anne’s brother David claimed the promise of resurrection on Sunday, February 13, 2022.

We send our sympathy, love and prayers to Linda Stephens and family. Linda is the wife of Bob Stephens, who has preached at St. Luke’s. Her brother-in-law, Paige Brannon, claimed the promise of the resurrection on February 21, 2022. Also keep his wife Betty and sister Eunice in your prayers.

## Upheld in our Prayers

### Prayers for peace, unity and justice across the nation

Wilmer & Phyllis Downs	Lois Kinney
Gayle McGonigle	Annie (Rosemarie’s sister)
Bob & Jan Hall	Katherine Peterson
Dianne Rust	Ronnie & Shirley Weade
Sennie Case	Ibbie Smith
Jim Raines	Bettie Jones
Terry & Louise Kyle	Jim Brantley
Chuck Fayle	Deannie Reynolds
Curtis Perry	Katherine Peterson
Opal Holshouser	LuAnn Courtney
Bill Cregar	Joan & John & Roger Crawford
Florence & Marion & Joan (Margaret’s sisters/sister-in-law)	

### Our Military

Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey, Larry Russell

We send our good wishes to Sydney Kaeser, hoping she’s fully recovered from Covid and feeling much better.

Ibbie Smith asks that you remember Dean’s cousin, Charles Bell, and his family. They ask for prayers for themselves and for all of the Ukraine. It is believed that they are safe at the moment. Charles, his wife and two sons (ages 13 and 16), at last word, were within an hour of the Romanian border. Please ask God’s every blessing upon them, and pray for their continued safety.

See our weekly Tuesday email for a complete listing of all prayer requests.

## March Birthdays

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

## St. Luke’s Soccer is back

Join us March 16th as we kick off an 8-week soccer program at St. Luke’s UMC!

Children ages 2-6 can learn the fundamentals of soccer and learn life skills.

This will be a fun and interactive session and we would love to have you. There is a limited number of spots, so sign up and see you soon!

There is a Facebook group organized by one of our moms, please request access to join to socialize and talk with the other parents who have kids playing this year.

Click here to sign up:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/561666258494059>



St. Luke’s seeks to be a spiritual community where all God’s children experience Christ’s love and redemption and where we share this through worship, fellowship, education and mission for the community and the world.

[www.stlukesumconthehill.org](http://www.stlukesumconthehill.org)

**Pastor**  
The Rev. Lisa Sykes  
[stlukespastor@verizon.net](mailto:stlukespastor@verizon.net)

**Shirley Gary**  
Office Manager  
[stlukesumc@verizon.net](mailto:stlukesumc@verizon.net)

**Bob Ford**  
Minister of Music  
[stlukesmusic@verizon.net](mailto:stlukesmusic@verizon.net)

**Margaret Anderson**  
Financial Secretary  
[stlukesfinsec@verizon.net](mailto:stlukesfinsec@verizon.net)

**Scottie Kyle**  
Treasurer  
[stlukestreas@verizon.net](mailto:stlukestreas@verizon.net)

**Michele Hart**  
Preschool Director  
[director@stlukespreschoolva.com](mailto:director@stlukespreschoolva.com)

**Ray Jenkins**  
Superintendent of  
Sunday Schools



## Collaborative Art From Our Preschoolers!

“There is great value in having the children work toward a common goal.” Miss Jen, St. Luke’s art teacher.

Stop by the showcase outside the Sanctuary for the newest Earth collaboration! We are grateful for the creative talent of Miss Jen! She gives meaningful art experiences to over 100 children each week!

