

“For we know, brothers and sisters, beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction . . .”

Thessalonians 1:4-5a

Need a Jumpstart?

I have always been scared when one of our cars needs jumpstarting. The men in my family know just how to do it, attaching one battery that is working to a second battery that needs a charge. All I do is turn on the ignition when told and, somehow, the power from the first battery makes the second one work again. To me, this is a mystery, but the positive outcome is indisputable. There is just no doubt that the transfer of power makes a huge difference and it's functioning the other vehicle that needs to work.

As we get to the fall, there's a whole lot of jumpstarting going on, and this kind of thing doesn't scare me! That's because I'm not talking about getting near to an electrical charge. Instead, I'm talking about connecting the power of the Holy Spirit to the church. After the pandemic, with its many challenges and demands, I can see the Holy Spirit beginning to jump start the ministries of our church.

I can see it -- on fall evenings each week, as preschool and early elementary-aged children are coming for the Soccer Shots program,

As the Methodist Men make plans for the October stew and the Missions Team prepares for a bake sale!

As we anticipate the first Sunday in November, when adult Sunday school will begin again. In the return of regular bread and juice for World Communion Sunday (*the sealed wafer and juice are still available*).

In gatherings of United Women in Faith, United Methodist Men and Young at Heart.

And our fellowship cookout and children's sabbath/soccer celebration with the little ones that will happen on October 9th.

Plans are also underway for our stewardship campaign, a November evening Bible school, January Little Dancing Stars, and so much more.

The momentum that faded with the pandemic and online life is returning to us. The Holy Spirit is moving and enlivening our church and us to be active and faithful in our new world, even with a faith that is ancient, and yet withstands the test of time—even our challenging times. Thanks be to God for the Spirit and the way we can see its power providing the church with renewed strength and energy to our ministries.

Thanks be to God!

Blessings,
Pastor Lisa

Bob Ford Says...

So long, farewell, aus wiedersehen adieu . . .
as the children sing in the "Sound of Music." The children are seen the following morning as I am sure that we will see each other again.

It has been my pleasure to direct the choirs and play the keyboards for worship services at St. Luke's United Methodist Church from January 2016 through September 2022. I feel that I have been called to return to my Baptist roots as I will be assuming the role of organist/music assistant at the Huguenot Road Baptist Church effective the middle of October 2022.

I have enjoyed directing the chancel choir, brass ensembles and soloists as well as the mallet-percussion choir. Many gifted musicians set a precedent that I tried to live up to as the above-mentioned groups prepared to assist in the leadership of worship services.

Thank you for your guidance, encouragement, and support as I am sure you will give future musicians and congregational members who serve St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

Robert R. Ford, Jr. "Bob"



St. Luke's Chancel Choir members and youth musicians, along with Pastor Lisa, bidding our Minister of Music, Bob Ford, farewell at a reception in his honor

A Word of Thanks

Just wanted to thank everyone for all the cards, phone calls, the offer of food or whatever I needed, and all those who kept my work up while I have been out. Hope to be back very soon.

Margaret Anderson

From the Finance and Stewardship Committees

October kicks off St. Luke's annual Stewardship campaign. You will soon receive a packet of materials including an estimate of giving card. Please prayerfully consider your financial support of St. Luke's for 2023. Receipt of this information greatly assists in planning for the upcoming year. Thank you for your generosity.

We will collect the estimate of giving cards on October 30 with a surprise. You won't want to miss it!

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-Methodis-Church-486188658201339/>

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith
Will meet Oct 12, 2022
At 10:30 A.M. in Fellowship Hall
Special Activity and Program
by Ibbie Smith
Come and enjoy this special time
of Fellowship!

Brunswick Stew

OUR UNITED METHODIST MEN will be making Brunswick stew on October 15, 2022. If you would like to pre-order, please contact the church office (804-276-7000), Monday-Thursday, 9 am - 1 pm. The cost is \$10.00 per quart.

Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS to new parents Carly & Brian Smart! Their son, John Tucker, was born September 2nd, weighing 8 lbs., 2 oz. Woody and Debbie Smart are the proud grandparents.

Belmont Food Pantry Collection

We are asking for canned goods or dry goods that you typically see on your Thanksgiving or Christmas table. Examples from the Belmont Pantry food list include - canned fruits or vegetables, instant potatoes, rice (boxed and instant). Please donate what you can. No glass containers, please. Thank you!



Peanut butter and canned food St. Luke's collected for Walmsley

BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

Virginia Conference Response to Hurricane Ian

A Message from Bishop Sharma Lewis



As we hear and see the catastrophic destruction caused by Hurricane Ian, I am asking the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church to remember our sisters and brothers in Florida and other states bracing for this hurricane. In front of such natural disasters, we realize how fragile life can be. However, we also see how we embody the strength to overcome all disasters as people of God. Therefore I ask the Virginia Conference to *pray* and *prepare* as we approach the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.

Pray - Remember the people affected by this hurricane. Join in their loss through prayer, as it says in Romans 12:15b “...and cry with those who are crying” (CEB). We ask churches to remember the people as we worship the Lord who makes us one. You may use this prayer written and presented by the Rev. Crystal R. Sygeel, Associate Director for Call and Candidacy of the Virginia Conference.

God of the Seas, God of the Wind,
Our Scriptures tell of an awful flood.
Of waters that overwhelmed the earth.
It was you who called your servant Noah
to build an ark, a vessel of rescue
for the people, the animals of your creation.

Today, we face another water event of cataclysmic proportion.
Before Hurricane Ian ever made landfall
coastlines and city streets,
factories and fields,
houses and hot spots
were torn up, blown down, and washed away.

As Ian makes tracks, we remember your word,
"You were not given a spirit of fear but of love."
We mobilize to tie down, board up, and lash together.
We help pack clothes, food, pets, and phones.
We get families on the road.
We lend helping hands to those that remain.

Even before the torrents subside, we give you thanks:
for first responders who will answer emergency calls
for volunteers who will be a wave of a second response
for service providers who look to a time to offer meals, shelter, and aid.
We remember Christ's words,
"When you helped those in need, you helped me."

We lift your people who are suffering from Ian's devastation:
those without water, electricity, or sanctuary from the storm..
We ask your hand be upon them as we offer our own hands in service.
For the lives already lost, we remember your promise,
"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."
For their loved ones, we ask for your comfort and peace.

In the time of Noah,
You dried up the water, you placed a rainbow in the sky
In our time, we ask the same
That the land return, that homes are restored
That work resumes, that "the ties that bind" endure,
That your banner of grace and love remains over us always.

In your holy name, we pray,
Amen.

Prepare to help

1. UMCOR Disaster Response Advance We are all connected through the grace of God. We are also Committee on Relief (UMCOR) offers relief to the people devastated by the hurricane on behalf of the local church. To help UMCOR become the hands and feet of Jesus this time, remember that you can join their effort by giving to the US Disaster Response and Recovery Advance # 901670. Churches can send a second-mile giving to the conference center, which will be delivered directly to UMCOR.
2. 2022 Cleaning Kit Collection - Virginia Conference responded to UMCOR's call in early September to replenish the cleaning kit stockpile in UMCOR storage. The cleaning kit, also known as the hurricane bucket, is an essential tool in the aftermath of a hurricane. We ask churches to continue collecting the cleaning kits so that UMCOR can continue their work. For more information about the kit collection and how to join, visit www.vaumc.org/2022cleaningkit
3. Recovery Effort - Recovery effort takes a long time. We ask all churches to use this time to be patient and advise them not to make hast decisions, such as self-deployment. When there is a call from our neighboring conferences, we will make announcements for any needs. In the meantime, we ask our churches to utilize the resources available through the VAUMC Disaster Response team. How Can Our Church Respond to a Disaster

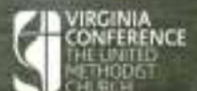
We are thankful for your prayers and preparation as we walk with the ones affected by Hurricane Ian.

Grace and Peace,
Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

[View on website](#)

Pray and Prepare

HURRICANE IAN AFTERMATH



Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace, unity and justice across the nation

Florence & Marion	Peggy Uglow
Wilmer & Phyllis Downs	Lois Kinney
Opal Holshouse	Annie (Rosemarie's sister)
John & Joan Crawford	Bob & Jan Hall & Family
Dianne Rust	Ronnie & Shirley Weade
Sennie Case	The Beeckler Family
Annie Davis	Bettie Jones
Terry & Louise Kyle	Ronnie & Dixie Bowman
Chuck Fayle	Deannie Reynolds
Curtis Perry	Katherine Peterson
Clinton Gary	Margaret Anderson
Wesley Sykes	Glenn Waugh
Harry Guckert	Gayle McGonigle

All victims of Hurricane Ian

Our Military

Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey, Larry Russell

Ibbie Smith asks that you continue to remember Dean's cousin, Charles Bell, and his family. They ask for prayers for themselves and for all of Ukraine. Ibbie hopes an update on their current whereabouts will be coming soon. In the meantime, 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.

October Birthdays

October 2	Ronnie Weade Clay Morris
October 3	Leanne Rohlk
October 5	Barbara Nunnally Jacob Proffitt Matt Strum
October 7	Rose Hudson
October 8	Cathy Lucas
October 10	Bob Ford
October 11	Rhea Calfee Terri Edwards
October 13	Adam Sykes
October 15	Meghan Gary
October 19	Roger Frankey
October 26	Rosemarie Adkins
October 29	Andrew Russell
October 31	Jean Richardson

Anniversaries

October 5	C.W. & Kelly Rice Matt & Susana Strum
October 11	Keith & Kay Callis
October 16	Steve & Nancy Taylor
October 23	Ray & Becky Jenkins
October 27	Lee & Tammy Morris
October 29	Heather & Ronnie Jones Bob & Barbara Armstrong
October 30	Wayne & Dianne Johnson

Soccer Stars

Soccer Shots kicks back into action at St. Luke's UMC! On Tuesday nights through October 18th, our little soccer stars will be in action learning the fundamentals and playing games right here at St. Luke's. Following the games, parents will bring snacks and drinks and enjoy fellowship on the playground. All church attendees are welcome to come meet these soccer families.

On Sunday, October 9th, we will celebrate Soccer Sunday and our current and former soccer stars will be recognized. Immediately following, join us in the social hall for lunch and watch the kids play!

One of St. Luke's up and coming soccer stars, has his eye on that ball!



Attending The Upper Room 5-Day Academy for Spiritual Renewal

August was full of high points! I began the month in the Outer Banks where my cousin and I parasailed in Duck, North Carolina. The view was breathtaking as we surveyed the sound, the narrow ribbon of land that is the Outer Banks, and the ocean. There is something about glimpsing a view from above that is good for our spirits.

I did not need to wait long for my next high point. It, too, gave me a view from above, but ironically, my feet never left the ground. During my renewal leave, I read several books on the Psalms in preparation for the Upper Room 5-day Academy for Spiritual Renewal. This was the first gathering of an Academy since the pandemic started.

The 5-day Academy was held at the Roslyn Retreat Center on River Road. Clergy and laity came from as far away as North Dakota and Louisiana. I was spoiled to drive 20 minutes to the destination of this Academy. On the beautiful grounds of Roslyn, I began what was a Benedictine model of worship, silence, and reflection, interspersed with lectures on the Psalms, and on pilgrimage.

Each day began with praise. Before coffee, before breakfast, before you were allowed to speak to anyone, the great silence of the night before was broken by the sound of worship. With wonderful fellowship, wonderful food, and wonderful lecturers, my soul was fed just as surely as was my body.

The 5-day Academy was the structured part of my renewal leave, and I am blessed to have been able to participate in it. There is a time to give, and a time to receive. While at Roslyn, I received so much strength, fellowship, rest, and time to think, that I am now more able to give to others in my role as a minister.

I share pictures from the Academy with you in this newsletter, and I encourage you, as laity, to consider attending an Academy yourself, if you feel called to pursue spiritual renewal for your soul. Again, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend!



BEFORE CLASS BEGINS ON A STUDY OF THE PSALMS



THE CHAPEL AT ROSLYN RETREAT CENTER.

Learning at Preschool

We're off to a great start for the 2022-2023 school year! We are fully enrolled!



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.stlukesrva.org

Pastor
The Rev. Lisa Sykes
stlukespastor@stlukesrva.org

Shirley Gary
Office Manager
stlukesoffice@stlukesrva.org

Bob Ford
Minister of Music
stlukesmusic@stlukesrva.org

Margaret Anderson
Financial Secretary
stlukesfinsec@stlukesrva.org

Scottie Kyle
Treasurer
stlukestreas@stlukesrva.org

Michele Hart
Preschool Director
director@stlukespreschoolva.com

Ray Jenkins
Superintendent of
Sunday Schools