



Leaving the Old and Bringing In The New

As we transition from 2024 to 2025, we reflect on a wonderful year filled with rejoicing and sadness. I came to St. Luke's UMC in July bringing new expectations and a desire to give my best to the church. I rejoiced in meeting so many wonderful people welcoming me and the changes that I wanted to add to an already busy environment.

Off I went meeting new people along the way. I was greeted by a wonderful staff and a feisty Administrator, named Shirley, who has made every day full of work and laughter. I met The Young at Heart with their beautiful way of welcoming everyone. And the Women of Faith who made the ministry "Coloring with the Spirit" come alive. I met the Admin Board with all of the worker bees in it, and the Men's Ministry working on the shed outside has demonstrated how fellowshiping should be. The rejoicing has been great, but the sadness has followed with the loss of such Giants in the Faith; Shirley Jones, Peggy Uglow, Vernon King, Ronnie Jones, Opal Holshouser. and David Urbanski. They were filled with such light and shared it with everyone they met.

The New Year we hope will bring with it more times of joy and sadness because the two work together to help us remember how precious life is and how fleeting it can become. We will continue with the new Ministry, "Evening Bible School," introduce Princess Diva Girls, Coloring with the Spirit and we will restart the Dance Ministry. Paul said rejoice in the Lord always and again I say Rejoice. Rejoice because our better days have been greater than our sad days. So. Let's bring in the New Year with song and celebrating because God is Here!

Pastor Tracey B Lyons

St. Luke's helping the post office this season

Starting on Sunday, December 8, a container with cubby holes and alphabet letters on it will be in hallway leading into Fellowship Hall. Please leave your Christmas Cards for members of St. Luke's in the box with the letter of their last name and be sure to check the box with the letter of your last name and take your Christmas cards. This will be fun and saving money.



In the New Year we will continue with our new Ministry, "Evening Bible School"

Choir News from Laurel

2024 has been a hard year for my family, so we all felt that we needed Christmas early this year. So, my Christmas trees are all up, decorated, and all the presents have been wrapped and placed under the tree. All before Thanksgiving! I now have a tree in almost every room of my home because my parents gave me all of their artificial trees that were purchased for my wedding reception 20 years ago. In August I went up into their hot attic to hunt for the Christmas ornaments I grew up with. I found many vintage ornaments that decorated the trees of my youth, but I could not find the box that contains our Bradford 3 Wise Men ornaments. Each year myself, my sister, and my brother would put one wise man onto the tree. I missed those ornaments and I wanted to start that tradition with my own children. I looked everywhere, but did not find them. So, I went online to begin another search. I didn't know who the maker was, but I knew they were circa 1950. Not only did I find the maker, I found many sets available to purchase. I now own my own set of these precious ornaments, and they hang prominently on my living room Christmas tree. I found them, just as the Wise Men followed the star, which led them to the Savior, Jesus Christ. My own journey was much easier, but I am grateful for this reminder of looking for the Savior, and finding Him. May you each Find Christ this Christmas.

From the Treasurer's Office

December 1 begins our End-of-Year Giving Program for 2024. Our goal for this year is \$30,000 (includes regular December bills). Please listen to your heart and give as you are able. The Finance Committee wants to thank St. Luke's wonderfully generous congregation for its support during this year. Thank you for your regular giving and for responding to the special needs that have come up this year. We still need money to meet our expenses, but are so grateful for what you have already given. Thank you for always pulling together to meet our needs. You are a special congregation of kind-hearted people filled with the love of God. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Young at Heart

Young At Heart went to Williamsburg in November for a delightful lunch and fellowship. On 12/4 we will meet at 10:30 a.m. with The Women of Faith to assemble treat bags for shut-ins. We are collecting coats for the Belmont Cloths Closet - due by 12/15/24. On January 8th we plan to invite the older preschool children for a Get To Know hour.

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 will meet with Young at Heart Wed. Dec 4th at 10:30 a.m. to put together Christmas treat bags for Shut Ins. In November UWF had Pastor Tracey do a wonderful lesson on *Coloring with the Spirit!*

She will be offering you a chance to do the same in the coming year. Enjoy!

Helpers are needed! If you would like to help with the repairing of the shed, please let Wilmer, Clinton or Bobbie know. Hours - 9:00 am to mid-afternoon. All extra hands will be appreciated.

Good News: We have engaged the services of a new florist for our altar flowers. The cost for an arrangement on Sunday is now \$35.00. The sign-up calendar is on the bulletin board leading into the sanctuary. Please take a moment to see if the Sunday you would like is available and sign up on the Flower Calendar or call the church office (804-276-7000).



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 in Israel, Gaza and Ukraine

Prayers for our Military

Bonnie Urbanski John & Joan Crawford
James & Charlotte deKrafft Annie Davis
Wilmer & Phyllis Downs Joan Varner
Deannie Reynolds Ronnie & Shirley Weade
Isabella Jones Leanne Rohlk's daughter
Pastor Tracey's Dad Doris Jenkins
The Jones Family
Tara Biggs (Peggy Uglow's daughter)
Brenda Burch (Clinton Gary's sister)

Our Military

Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey, Larry Russell

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



"With Our Deepest Sympathy"

Our sympathy is extended to MaryKaye Cochran, District Administrative Secretary. Her father claimed the promise of the resurrection on Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Ronnie Jones. Ronnie claimed the promise of the resurrection on Friday, November 8, 2024.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Opal Holshouser. Opal claimed the promise of the resurrection on Sunday, November 17, 2024.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Vernon King. Vernon claimed the promise of the resurrection on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of David Urbanski. David claimed the promise of the resurrection on Wednesday November 27, 2024

December Birthdays

December 2	Larry Batten Laura Jarrett William Warriner
December 3	Kevin Jenkins
December 4	Tom Rohlk
December 6	Suzanne Steinhorst Pastor Tracey Lyons Jennifer Frankey Isabelle James deKrafft
December 8	Ray Kyle
December 9	Chelsea Bowman
December 10	Sarah Estes
December 17	Susan Wertz
December 18	Annie Davis Robert White, III
December 20	Conner Skeen
December 22	Austin Morris Pat Knust
December 23	Gordon Reed John Crawford
December 27	Karla Lacy
December 28	Michael Pearse Luke Daniel Boykin
December 30	Kevin Parrish Marie Dunlap
December 31	Reagan Gary

January Birthdays

January 1	Barbara Armstrong
January 2	Anna Hart
January 3	Elizabeth Thomas Debbie Tatum
January 4	Steve Taylor Karen Whitton Sarah Allen Adam Warriner Matt Strum
January 6	Audrey Vogen
January 7	Kent Calfee
January 11	Justin Stoneberg
January 12	Brenda Staehle
January 14	Paul Brown Faye Sisson
January 15	Nancy Allen Krystal Worner
January 19	Ibbie Smith
January 20	Yvonne Morris Bradley Smart
January 22	Wendy Brown White
January 23	Cheryl Sanker Adam Jones
January 26	Joe Lyons, Jr
January 29	Jerry Anderson
January 30	Sheri Stoneberg
January 31	Erin Cowardin Jacoby

Anniversaries

December 16	Roger & Jennifer Frankey
December 20	James & Charlotte deKrafft
December 31	Gordon and Susan Reed
January 2	Jim & Cindy Self
January 31	Ray & Scottie Kyle

*In a sacred season,
because of a silent night,
in the love of God made real,
a holy birth to set our wrongs right...
Do we wish you the Peace, Hope, and Love
and the Gift of the Christ Child,
to fill your heart and your lives!*

Merry Christmas!

Tracey Lyons, Pastor, Shirley Gary, Office Manager,
Laurel Jones, Director of Music, Michele Hart, Preschool Director,
Margaret Anderson, Financial Secretary, Scottie Kyle, Treasurer



Important Dates — December 2024

December 1 – 9:30 am. Sunday School
 10:30 am. Worship Service
 11:30 am – Choir Practice
 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm – Church of the Nazarene

December 2 – 10:00-10:15 am. – Preschool Chapel

December 3 – 10:00-10:15 am. – Preschool Chapel

December 4 – 10:30 am. – Women in Faith & Young at Heart

December 6 – 10:00-2 pm- Home Schooling
 7:30-9:30 pm – Church of the Nazarene

December 7 – 8:30-11:30 am. – Morning Prayers – Church of the Nazarene

December 8 - 9:30 am. Sunday School
 10:30 am. Worship Service
 11:30 am – Choir Practice
 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm – Church of the Nazarene

December 10- 7 p – Finance Committee Meeting by Zoom

December 13 – 10:00-2 pm – Home Schooling

December 14 – 4:00-6:00 pp – Band Practice – Church of the Nazarene

December 15 - 9:30 am. Sunday School
 10:30 am. Worship Service
 11:30 am – Choir Practice
 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm – Church of the Nazarene

December 17 – 9:45 am. Christas Preschool Program
 7 pm – Administrative Council – 7 pm by Zoom

December 18 – 9:45 am. – Christmas Preschool Program

December 19 – 5:30-7:30 pm – Evening Bible School

December 22 --9:30 am. Sunday School
 10:30 am. Worship Service
 11:30 am – Choir Practice
 1:30 pm – 4:40 pm – Church of the Nazarene
 4:40 pm – Christmas Dinner-Fellowship Hall

December 24 – 5:30 pm - Christmas Eve Service

December 25 – Merry Christmas!!

December 29 - 9:30 am. Sunday School
 10:30 am. Worship Service
 11:30 am – Choir Practice
 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm – Church of the Nazarene

Important Dates — January 2025

January 1 – 10:30 pm – Women in Faith

January 3 – 10- 2 pm – Home Schooling

January 4 – 8:30-11:30 am – Morning Prayer – Church of the Nazarene

January 5 - 9:30 am. Sunday School
 10:30 am. Worship Service
 11:30 am – Choir Practice
 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm – Church of the Nazarene

January 8 – 10:30 – Young at Heart

January 9 – 10:-2 pm – Home Schooling

January 10 – 4-6 pm – Band Practice

January 12 - 9:30 am. Sunday School
 10:30 am. Worship Service
 11:30 am – Choir Practice
 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm Church of the Nazarene

January 14 - 7 pm Finance Committee Meeting by Zoom

January 17 – 10-2 pm -Home Schooling

January 18 - 9:30 am. Sunday School
 10:30 am. Worship Service
 11:30 am – Choir Practice
 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm – Church of the Nazarene

January 19 — 9:30 am. Sunday School
 10:30 am. Worship Service
 11:30 am – Choir Practice
 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm – Church of the Nazarene

January 20 - Martin Luther King's Birthday – Church Office Closed

January 21 – 7 pm Administrative Council Meeting by Zoom

January 24 – 10-12 Noon- Quilting Group
 10-2 pm Home Schooling

January 26 - 9:30 am. Sunday School
 10:30 am. Worship Service
 11:30 am – Choir Practice
 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm – Church of the Nazarene

January 31 – 10:2 pm Home Schooling



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

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