



The Season of Return

"To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under Heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1



Fall is nearly here, summer is winding down, and it's time to wrap up vacations, travels, and get back to school, work, and Church life. The teachers are back, getting ready for the students' return to pre-school. The hustle and bustle now feels a world apart from the calm of the summer months.

I'm getting ready for a year full of Chapel time stories, Evening Bible School, and many sermons for our upcoming Sunday services. It feels good to return to the daily rhythms of ministry and to share in the life and faith of our congregation.

This summer, we had the pleasure of welcoming Miss Virginia State University, Sarai M. Findlay, and Mr. Virginia State University, Melvin Cooper, Jr., along with the Student Government Association. Their visit was a wonderful celebration of leadership and achievement. They were preparing to return to campus to begin their classes and continue their reign together.

Summer has been a season of restoration and renewal, a quiet pause while our preschoolers have been away. I have also assisted in the homegoing of those who have gone on to the promise of resurrection. In this, I am reminded that every season has its return, for this is the rhythm God has woven into life itself. Just as we are born into this world, so too are we called, in God's perfect time, to return home to Him.

As Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, *'To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.'* May we embrace each season with gratitude—rest when God grants us rest, work when He calls us to labor, and always trust the promise of our eternal home with Him. (AI-assisted)

From The Finance Committee, A Letter – Dear Friends

Our church is so much more than a building where we meet on Sundays. It's a community where lives are changed, prayers are heard, and God's love becomes real in so many ways. Every single week, people are uplifted, kids learn about Jesus, families find strength, and we support our neighbors in need. None of this would be possible without the generosity of people who believe in our mission—people just like you.

When you give, you're not just helping us pay bills or keep the lights on. You're directly fueling our ministry. Your contributions create a space where we are inspired by worship, strengthened by fellowship, and able to extend God's care far beyond our doors. A simple offering, in God's hands, becomes food for the hungry, comfort for the grieving, and hope for those who are searching. The Bible reminds us that giving is both a responsibility and a joy, and that God loves a cheerful giver. We give not because we have to, but because we are so grateful. God has already given us so much—life, grace, forgiveness, and countless blessings. Our generosity is one way we get to say "thank you" to God.

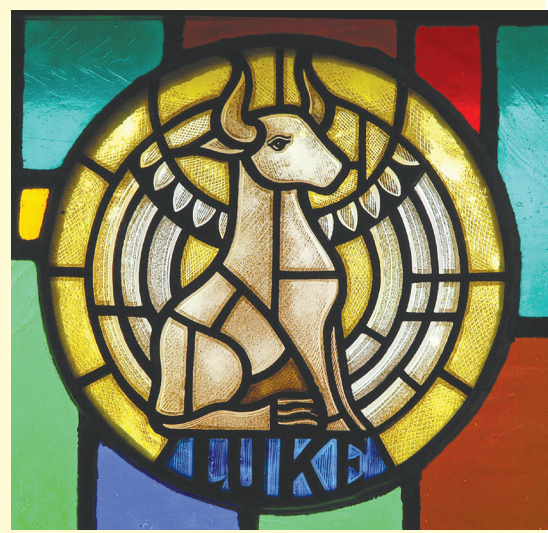
Every gift you make, no matter the size, truly makes a difference. If you've ever seen a child's smile as Pastor Tracey teaches them about Jesus and love during Children's Time, felt your spirit lifted by our music, or watched our church help someone in the community, you've seen your giving at work. Together, our gifts create a church that is vibrant, welcoming, and actively making a difference in the world.

We know that times can feel uncertain, but giving is an act of trust. It's a way of saying that we believe in God's provision, even as we share what we have. Again and again, those who give find that generosity brings its own blessings: peace, joy, and the deep satisfaction of knowing you are part of something bigger than yourself.

As we look to the future, our church needs all of us to do our part. Whether it's a one-time gift, a weekly offering, or a regular pledge, your support ensures this ministry stays strong for today and for generations to come. Please take a moment to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to give. Thank you for your prayers, your presence, and your gifts.

Together, we are building a community of faith, hope, and love.

With gratitude,
Bill Brown, Chair



Worship Committee Make a Joyful Noise! Like to sing? Join the choir! All voices welcome. First rehearsal of the Fall is Wednesday September 3 at 7:15 p.m.

United Women in Faith United Women in Faith will Meet September 3, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. In the Church Parlor
Program: What is Faithfulness to You? Welcome back from Summer Break

CONGRATULATIONS! to Abigail Muthoni and Jonathan Coffey who were married on Saturday, July 26, 2025. Jonathan is the grandson of Jerry & Margaret Anderson.

CONGRATULATIONS! Brian & Carly Smart on the birth of their daughter, Scotland Foxwell Smart. She was born on August 3, at 10:50 pm, weighing 7 lbs., 3 oz. The family is "over the moon" that they now have a little girl to go along with their 3 boys. Woody & Debbie Smart are the proud grandparents.

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://www.facebook.com/share/162y11mMZw/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

From Our Director of Music

As summer comes to a close I am excited to have the choir back in full swing to help make a joyful noise to the Lord. We would love to welcome any new members to our group, so if you are interested in singing with us rehearsals will start Wednesday, September 3rd at 7:15 p.m.

From Kelly Rice — Please sign

Hi- If you could include this petition in the newsletter that would be great. The college I went to as a Methodist wants to get rid of the Wesleyan name.

Virginia Wesleyan University voted to rename the college to Batten University and get rid of the Wesleyan name. This is so alarming for us as Methodists to have the Wesleyan name stripped. We are asking all Methodists to sign this petition to say you are against removing the Wesleyan name.

https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-renaming-of-virginia-wesleyan-university?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR6C-T5SdvnclbMqa_nZ-5icl3gJ2zgevpkmm3B67inM0CIBArUB_Pwljt9m2g_aem_uPsTd8U5BCr35WCJfyZ2Gw

Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace in Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine
Prayers for our Military

John & Joan Crawford

Doris Jenkins

Wilmer & Phyllis Downs

Deannie Reynolds

Bobbie Strum

Pat Knust

Diocelo

Dianne Johnson

Lisa Wells

David Smith

Karen Courtney

Craig Cook

Deorio Lewis

Dennis Haley

Richard and Susan King

Wes Nolan

Holly Parrish Phillips

Dela Mae, Holly Phillips daughter

Charlotte deKrafft's sister Carolyn

Linda Jones, Katie Haley's niece

Mary, friend of Wendy Patterson

Our Military

Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey

Bonnie Urbanski

Zeb and Hazel Saunders

Bill & Andrea Brown

Shirley & Ronnie Weade

Bob Hall

Scottie and Ray Kyle

Cantrice Mayfield

Chadd Ray Kyle

Lynda Richardson

Patty Smith

Ibbie Smith

Bobby Rice

Chris Bowen

Wayne Haley

Jimmy deKrafft

Josh Gunn

September Birthdays

September 4	Adam Bowman
September 6	Shirley Weade
September 7	Mary Wise
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

	Douglas Lucas
September 21	Amanda Jones
September 24	Todd Gary
September 26	Jesse Bowman
September 29	Heather Burnett Latham
	Tad McGonigle

Anniversaries

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	Pete & Mary Meador

Thank You!

A Ray and Scottie Kyle would like to thank the members of St. Luke's for their many prayers and well wishes during Ray's nephew, Chadd Ray's recent surgery for a mass on his brain. The mass was so big that the surgical team got the critical part out and will go back in 5-6 weeks for another 6-hour surgery to clean up the rest. No doubt, I will be calling upon St. Luke's prayer warriors again. Thanks so much.

St. Luke's UMC has been enrolled in the give back program at Christian Books. We will receive 4% on all purchase from members if you search for St. Luke's UMC.

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

Thank You!

Zeb & Hazel Saunders would like to thank the members of St. Luke's for the telephone calls, visits, and great food. To reach out to my dear Hazel, and me, is a wonderful feeling.

We do not know who was behind this act of kindness but thanks a bunch. It was a true Christian act.

For the past 62 years, Hazel and I have been off and on members of St. Luke's United Methodist Church on Fordham Road, North Chesterfield, Virginia. In that period of time, we have lived in several different towns in Virginia, but when we finally moved back to Chesterfield County, we returned to St. Luke's.

In the past year, health problems have caused us to be somewhat home bound.

The love extended by the church membership has been very humbling and the meals brought to us for the past three weeks, have really touched our heart. Thank you SLUMC members.



"With Our Deepest Sympathy"

Our sympathy goes out to John Crawford and family.

His son, Shane, who resided in Florida, claimed the promise of the resurrection



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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Ray Jenkins
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Sunday Schools

St. Luke's Calendar Important Dates — September 2025

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| Sept. 1 | Labor Day- Church Office Closed |
| Sept. 3 | 7:15 pm - Choir Practice
7:15 pm Administrative Council Meeting by Zoom |
| Sept. 7 | Sunday – 9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship Service |
| Sept. 9 | Tuesday – 7:00 pm – Finance Committee by Zoom |
| Sept. 10 | Wednesday- 7:15 pm - Choir Practice |
| Sept. 14 | Sunday – 9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship Service |
| Sept. 16 | 7:00 pm – Adm |
| Sept. 17 | Wednesday – 10:30 am – Coloring With the Spirit with Pastor Tracey
7:15 pm – Choir Practice |
| Sept. 19 | 10:00-12:00 Noon – Quilting Group |
| Sept. 21 | Sunday – 9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship Service |
| Sept. 24 | Wednesday – 7:15 pm – Choir Practice |
| Sept. 28 | Sunday – 9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship Service |

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Charge Conference will be held on October 6, 2025, 7:00 pm at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 11551 Lucks Lane, Midlothian, VA. 23114. Please try to attend. If you have never attended a Charge Conference, you will find it very informative.

Church of the Nazarene Calendar Important Dates — September 2025



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| Sept 1 | Report figures to Shirley |
| Sept 5, | Friday - 7:00-9:30pm Discipleship class |
| Sept. 6, | Saturday - 8:00-11:30am Morning Prayer |
| Sept. 7, | Sunday - 1:30-5:30 Install Instruments and worship service |
| Sept. 8, | Monday - Report figures to Shirley |
| Sept. 12, | Friday - 7:00-9:30pm Discipleship class |
| Sept. 13, | Saturday - 4:00-6:00 Band Practice |
| Sept. 14, | Sunday - 1:30-5:30 Install Instruments and worship service 5:30-7:30 Board meeting once a month |
| Sept. 15, | Monday - Report figures to Shirley |
| Sept. 19, | Friday- 7:00-9:30pm Discipleship class |
| Sept. 20, | Saturday - 1:30pm Sweet 16 celebration, No band practice |
| Sept. 21, | Sunday - 1:30-5:30 Install Instruments and worship service |
| Sept. 22, | Monday - Report figures to Shirley |
| Sept. 26, | Friday - 7:00-10:30pm prayer service at end of month |
| Sept. 27, | Saturday - 4:00-6:00 Band Practice |
| Sept. 28, | Sunday - 1:30-5:30 Install Instruments and worship service |
| Sept. 29, | Monday - Report figures to Shirley |