



ST. LUKE'S UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
DENTON, MD

THE VOICE

MAY 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MEET THE PASTOR	2
UPDATE REGARDING COVID 19	3-6
VBS UPDATE	6
NEEDS OF THE CHURCH	7
ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES	7
GRADUATE RECOGNITION	7
FINANCIAL REPORT	8

FROM OUR PASTOR, REV. KAREN HANDY

Who would have ever thought! When 2020 began, we looked ahead to a year filled with hope. Little did we know what was ahead of us.

Today, we are living in the midst of a strange and peculiar time. We have “Stay Home” orders. (I could have used a few days of that, but now it is getting longer and longer.) We wear masks that hide much of our face. We have jobs that have been determined as “essential” and “non-essential.” To top it all off, our school buildings will remain closed and virtual learning will continue through the end of the school year. A year filled with hope has turned to one that feels odd, and for some, full of fear.

This reminds me of a

story in the Bible. It can be found in Matthew 14:22-36. The disciples had just witnessed the miracle of Jesus feeding 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fish.

(Sounds like a great start of something.) He sent the disciples to cross the lake at night while he stayed to pray. During the night, a storm came up with great winds. The calm sea now had heavy and high waves. (This was scary!) Jesus came walking out on the water to the disciples. Peter asked to be able to walk on the water like Jesus. He does get out of the boat. He walked a little ways, but then remembered and saw the giant swells. He started to sink and cried out and Jesus reached out to him.

There are a couple of things that might help us during the COVID-19

crisis. First, Jesus did not first calm the storm, but came to his disciples in the storm. God knows what you are experiencing and He is right there with you in the midst of it! Second, keep your eyes on Jesus. Peter didn't begin to sink until he took his eyes off of Jesus.

When Peter and Jesus got back in the boat, the storm subsided. This storm and crisis will subside as well. If we learn to trust Jesus by keeping our eyes on him and realizing he is with us even in our storms, this may still be the year filled with hope to which we looked forward. We may find in this storm, our greatest hope is in Jesus.

*Pastor
Karen*

(**Note: This article was prepared for our publication and then I was asked to fill in for a pastor who had a death in the family so you may have seen it in the Times-Record)

Even in these uncertain times, the church needs your support to continue its ministries. To help our church family with this, we have included a self-addressed envelope. Please consider mailing a check with your offering or give online. Thank you in advance for your faithfulness and support!

Meet Your Incoming Pastor and Family

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ:

Missy and I are looking forward to being a part of the St. Luke's Church Family. Some of you may know that we reside in Denton in a home I purchased in 2012, while I was serving Union UMC in Federalsburg and dating Missy. In 2014, we gathered with our families and were married in the backyard where my good friend, Bishop George Clark officiated. Missy is a Dental Hygienist and works at Eastern Shore Smile Solutions in Cambridge. While Missy and I are newlyweds (when considering our respective ages) we have known each other and our families since the 1980's from our home church in North East, Maryland. We have 3 grown sons, Danny, Nate, and Cam and have been blessed with 5 grandchildren. Danny who is 40, lives with his wife Kris, in North Carolina, with their 3 children, Kat (17), Maddy (14), and Issac (13). Nate who is 33, lives with his wife Cristy and their two children, Jaxon (8) and Cadence (7 months) in Elkton, Maryland. Cameron currently resides in North East, Maryland. Distance and careers and numerous sport activities limit our visits with Kat, Maddy, and Isaac, but we usually try to take them on a yearly vacation and visit on holidays. We are able to see Jaxon and Cadence regularly and you will meet Jaxon at church after one of his sleepovers with Grammy and Baba.

We are rather simplistic in our nature. We love the Lord, each other, our families and relish in our time together, and the blessings of which are many God has bestowed. Free time, when we are not with family, is usually spent enjoying our home, doing projects and relaxing with our two small dogs, Krump and Preston.

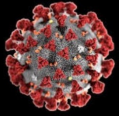
I have been in ministry 25 years and St. Luke's will be my 7th appointment. My initial call into ministry was at the age of 11. I ignored God's calling, and pursued a secular career and achieved rapid success by worldly standards. By the age of 30, I was an Executive Director (CIO) of American Mirrex Corporation. I believe that my rapid success was not of my own doing. God is sovereign and by allowing me to experience what the world said was needed and good, he also allowed me to see how empty my life was when I was not following the will of God. I love studying the Word and it is always exciting and good because it cannot be exhausted. God continues to reveal his will and desire for us grow closer in our relationship with him and each other.

We look forward to experiencing that which God has prepared and planned for us in ministry together.

Peace.

Pastor Dan & Missy





St Luke's UMC COVID-19 Phase 1 (Low-Risk) Re-Opening Plan

The “Stay Home” order from the Governor as a response to COVID-19 has been unprecedented. It has impacted all aspects of our day-to-day living, including participating in the worshipping community. St. Luke's has sought to care for our neighbors by taking a conservative approach to encourage social distancing in order to limit the spread of the virus in accordance with guidelines from the State of Maryland. On May 13, 2020, Governor Hogan announced that we would begin the “Roadmap to Recovery” on Friday, May 15, 2020 at 5pm. Utilizing both the “Roadmap to Recovery” and a document provided by a Faith-Based group that worked with the Governor and his team on how to re-open churches, St. Luke's has laid out some of the following guidelines in order to resume worship when it is appropriate. Please understand that this is a plan and it will be adjusted, changed, or refined as we live into the orders and suggestions of the State and Federal Government. We have done our best to think through various expected situations, but as we all know this is a strange time. We appreciate your patience as we work together.

Our Sexton, Denny Weaver, has been working hard to disinfect and deep clean the various rooms throughout the building.

Phase One (Low-Risk): Worship can Resume at 50% Capacity

While the “Stay Home” order will be lifted in this phase, we are given an option of outdoor worship or in our facility at 50% capacity. Therefore, we will begin worship at a 50% capacity in our facility on Sunday, May 24, 2020. Our leadership believes that we will be able to gather with social distancing guidelines adapted for worship. Those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 will be encouraged to stay at home and utilize the online worship services through Facebook and the church website (www.stlukesdenton.org/sermons). Access to the online worship service will be St. Luke's Facebook page and the church website (www.stlukesdenton.org/sermons) and available at 10am each Sunday.

We will resume our regular worship times with some strict guidelines in place.

We ask that each person planning to attend worship self-check their temperature at home prior to arriving. If your temperature is elevated, please remain home and utilize our online worship option. Worshippers are also required to wear a mask while in the building.

Continued on pg. 4

St Luke's UMC COVID-19 Phase 1 (Low-Risk) Re-Opening Plan Continued...

The 8:30am and 11am Service worship in the Sanctuary:

Entry: Please enter the building at the opened door which will be closest to the sanctuary on the back side of the church facing the Armory. (The entrance facing 5th Avenue will not be open.) We will offer signage to help you with your entry. You will enter the Sanctuary at the single door which will also be open for you.

Seating: Seating will take place in every other pew. (Pews will be taped off to help us maintain this and we ask that you only sit in the pews that are open.) Family Household Units may sit together and we will ask non-household units to keep a minimum of seven feet between your neighbors. (Consider sitting on the pew ends only which will give the at least 7 feet required between persons or family units).

Exiting the Worship Service: We will dismiss by pew and through the chapel.

The 9:40am (Ignite) Service:

Entry: You are asked to enter the building at the open door closest to the church office. We will offer signage to help you with your entry.

Seating: We will resume meeting inside the Fellowship Hall. Seating will be in chairs (no tables will be set up at this phase) that are set 7 feet apart. Family Household Units will be allowed to sit together.

Exiting the Worship Service: There will be a dismissal process that will be given at the end of the service.

There will be a strict “no-touch” policy during worship, which would eliminate the “Passing of the Peace” during worship. You are encouraged to consider giving your offering and gifts to the church via online giving, through your bank, or mailing. There will be baskets or boxes at the exits of the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for those who do bring an offering (no formal offering will be done during the service). Communion will be served in pre-packaged communion cups to limit contact. **No food will be offered including coffee or water during this phase.** You can bring your own coffee however!

Bulletins and handouts will not be produced during this phase. We have also been asked to refrain from corporate singing. This means that we will still offer music at each service, but participants will be asked to not sing even with a mask in place.

Hymnals and Bibles will be removed from the Sanctuary during this phase. Scripture will be shared and a message will be delivered during each service.

Continued on pg. 5

St Luke's UMC COVID-19 Phase 1 (Low-Risk) Re-Opening Plan Continued...

Greeters and Ushers will be asked to refrain from shaking hands as parishioners enter and exit the building. The worship space and public areas will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized during the week. Doors will be propped open to prevent multiple people touching the same door.

There will be no activities at the church other than Sunday morning worship services.

Meetings and Bible Studies will continue to be canceled at the church unless they take place virtually through Zoom.

Other Possibilities:

Outdoor Worship Opportunities- We have not utilized drive-in style worship, mostly because of appearances and lacking a space large enough to fit the cars that would be involved as well as cost for a FM Transmitter that will cover the size of our parking lot. However, as we enter Phase Two, there may be opportunities to gather in-person for worship or fellowship depending on the setting.

Easter Celebration- Let's face it, Easter was different this year. We would all have preferred to worship in person. Because every Sunday is resurrection Sunday, we will be scheduling an "Easter Celebration" later in the year when it is appropriate.

Bulleated Version of the Plan

Phase One: Physical Gathering at 50% Capacity Under Strict Guidelines

- Worship held at normally scheduled times
- Seating will be in every other pew or chairs
- Maintain seven feet of distance between household unit
- Masks required to be worn during worship
- Strict "no-contact" during worship
- No longer "Pass the Peace" during worship
- Singing is prohibited during this phase by participants and only a group of 5 or less with appropriate social distancing is permitted to offer a special song or music
- Offering is encouraged to be given via online giving, through your bank, or mail a check. Those giving in person will utilize baskets at the exit of each worship space

Continued on pg. 6

St Luke's UMC COVID-19 Phase 1 (Low-Risk) Re-Opening Plan Continued...

- Coffee and refreshments will not be served during this time (But bring your own!)
- Communion will be celebrated using the pre-packaged wafer and cup. It will be distributed by those wearing masks and gloves. Communion will not be served during the month of May
- Services will last 45 minutes or less to create more space in between gatherings
- Hand Sanitizer and Clorox wipes (as available) on-hand
- Make every effort to clean and disinfect the Sanctuary and public spaces after worship
- No Sunday School, small groups, meetings, or Nursery Care during this time

Please note that the church office will remain closed at this time during Phase 1. If you have a need, please contact the church office at 410-479-2171 or email at stlukes@goeaston.net. You can reach Pastor Karen at 302-245-4221 or handy.karen@gmail.com



Corrections:

We were preparing to mail this newsletter on May 14. We had printed and labeled the cover page when we discovered that Governor Hogan would be making an announcement on May 13, 2020 at 5pm. We also knew that Bishop Johnson planned to address the church as well on May 14, 2020 at 5pm via Zoom.

With this in mind, we decided to wait for the publication of the newsletter. Therefore there are several corrections that need to be made or added to the Concerns List. They are as follows:

Concerns:

Add: Robert Wills, Sr.

Sympathy to the Families of:

Add: Jean Singer, Carl Thornton, Brian Wessells, Sunny Hutson, and John Henry Dodd



Your Help is Needed! With Pastor Karen and family being reappointed on July 1, 2020, we have a few areas of need. **Please prayerfully consider** if you could fill one of these spots. Training will be provided for each of the areas listed below at your convenience. Contact Pastor Karen with interest or questions. If volunteers are not available, then certain things at the church will not get done.

Newsletter Editor: Be a part of communications here at St. Luke's in our monthly newsletter. You collect information from various ministries, plug it into the newsletter, and produce it. Work can be done at home and on your schedule with due dates determined by the church.

Website Updating: Once or twice a month update events and make the church newsletter (The editor of the newsletter will provide all the information, you will just need to post it) available on St. Luke's website. You can access the website with a password and work when time allows and from any location.

Facebook Administrator: While the website is a great source and our "Front Door" to the church for the web, Facebook allows us to get our more regular posts and updates. The person(s) who volunteer will be in close contact with the pastor and church office for updates.

Projection Development: Each week at the 9:40 service, projection is used. This needs to be done weekly in coordination with the worship leader and pastor. We are currently using ProPresenter 6 and tutorials are available.

Online Church Service Coordinator: We need someone to video the service, edit if possible, and make it available to our online community. This is important more now than ever.

Online Opportunities to Connect

St. Luke's is offering opportunities to connect in prayer and study. All are welcome to join.

Prayer:

- **Tuesday mornings at 11 am via Zoom. Contact Pastor Karen if interested in joining this time.**
- **Wednesday evenings at 7pm (Please note this is a new time!) via Facebook Live on the St. Luke's Facebook Page.**

Study:

- **Tuesday evenings at 7pm via Zoom. Contact Pastor Karen if interested in joining this time.**



We plan to celebrate and recognize our high school and college graduates on Sunday, June 7. This is will be available for all services and Online worship. Please send the following information to the church by May 24, 2020 at stlukes@goeaston.net or to Pastor Karen at handy.karen@gmail.com.

Graduate's Name

Graduate's Parent(s) Name(s)

School Graduating From

Degree (if college graduation)

Achievements

Future Plans

Please include a picture as well to be utilized in the presentation



St. Luke's United Methodist Church Treasurer's Report

For Period January through December 2020 as of April 30, 2020

Description	Annual Budget 2020	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	% Budg Used
<u>Income</u>				
Offerings	250,612.00	69,053.33	181,558.67	27.55%
Offerings - Sunday School	100.00	60.00	40.00	60.00%
Interest Income	25.00	15.07	9.93	60.28%
Building Use	8,000.00	2,940.00	5,060.00	36.75%
Administrative Building Use			0.00	#DIV/0!
Total Income	258,737.00	72,068.40	186,668.60	27.85%
<u>Expenses</u>				
Pastor Expenses				
Salary	47,722.00	15,907.36	31,814.64	33.33%
Travel Reimbursement	2,400.00	352.53	2,047.47	14.69%
Cable TV at parsonage	1,600.00	573.98	1,026.02	35.87%
Hospitalization/Dental	18,180.00	4,545.00	13,635.00	25.00%
Bishop's Retreat	550.00	0.00	550.00	0.00%
Continuing Education	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Pension Plan	9,783.00	2,445.78	7,337.22	25.00%
Pastor Expenses - other			0.00	#DIV/0!
		0.00		
Total Pastor Expenses	81,235.00	23,824.65	57,410.35	29.33%
Staff Expenses				
Staff Salaries	73,580.00	24,331.51	49,248.49	33.07%
Wage and Tax Expenses	7,358.00	2,989.74	4,368.26	40.63%
Worker's Compensation	1,092.00	904.00	188.00	82.78%
Expenses - other			0.00	#DIV/0!
Total Staff Expenses	82,030.00	28,225.25	53,577.57	34.41%
Other Operational Expenses				
Accounting & Legal	200.00	0.00		
Annual Conference expense	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00%
Christian Education/Sunday School	2,500.00	480.31	2,019.69	19.21%
Conference Apportionments	23,586.00	5,896.50	17,689.50	25.00%
Easton District Office	1,415.00	1,415.00	0.00	100.00%
Janitorial Supplies	1,000.00	13.96	986.04	1.40%
Electricity/Oil	18,000.00	5,886.36	12,113.64	32.70%
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	5,871.00	2,160.55	3,710.45	36.80%
Fuel (parsonage)	6,500.00	1,511.81	4,988.19	23.26%
Grass and Shrubbery Maintenance	3,000.00	65.00	2,935.00	2.17%
Insurance	10,300.00	8,572.00	1,728.00	83.22%
Maintenance and Repairs	6,800.00	1,453.01	5,346.99	21.37%
Miscellaneous	100.00	730.08	(630.08)	730.08%
Music Committee	1,200.00	95.00	1,105.00	7.92%
MYF Program	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Office Supplies	2,250.00	1,615.47	634.53	71.80%
Postage	1,500.00	690.00	810.00	46.00%
Pastor/Organist, Substitutes	300.00	0.00	300.00	0.00%
Pastor's Moving Exp Escrow Acct	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Stewardship	1,500.00	550.22	949.78	36.68%
Telephone	1,500.00	645.18	854.82	43.01%
Water and Sewer	1,750.00	904.61	845.39	51.69%
Evangelism	2,500.00	310.20	2,189.80	12.41%
Worship Materials	1,200.00	337.77	862.23	28.15%
			0.00	#DIV/0!
Total Operational Expenses	95,472.00	33,333.03	61,938.97	34.91%
Total Expenses	258,737.00	85,382.93	119,349.32	33.00%
Net Income over Expenses	0.00	(13,314.53)	67,319.28	

St Luke's United Methodist Church

Prayer Concerns List as of 5/9/2020:

Please help us with this list! If you see or know someone that no longer needs to be listed, please notify the church office via email (stlukes@goeaston.net) or phone (410-479-2171).

Kathy Griffin, Frank, Anne Jussell, Holly Rhodes, Avis Fullen, Damon Clements, Alan and Gloria Vandam, Charlotte Willey, Owen Powell, Robbie Lister, Jerry and Margie Earls, Barbara Baczak, Donna Fuher, Julia Roberts, Shannon McCarty, Rose Jarman, Ken Jarman, Samantha Gill, Denny Weaver, Lisa Dimaggio, Ruth Hynson-Palmer, Catherine O'Brien, Pat Browne, Laura Johnson, Sue Garrison, Jim Johnson, Sam Knox, Phyllis Harrison, Lew Dodd, Theda Henry, Laura Love, Mary Denney, Sonny Hutson, Carol Stockley, Buck Farver, Michah J. Baxter, Kevin Kerr, Craig Kelly, Pat Lucas, Theotrice Gamble, Gene Wood, Brian Wessells, Joanne Cutts, Mary Jo Kline, Jean Ernst, David Brown, Julia & Harlem Moore, Krystle Simpson, Kathi Bridwell, Vickie Conover, Brenda Danser, Robert Chappelle, Dale Nygren, Hayden Seman, John Balderson, Don Homesley, Jake Holmes, Ruth Dore, Becky Willoughby, Anne Gates, Spencer Wiersberg, William Weathers, Whittley Gamble, John Wright, Su Jusell-Lappin, Rev. Arthur & Julia George, James Hefner, Jr., Timothy Lee, Delores Giles, Chelsea Whittington, Deborah Tolen, Harry Muir, Conrad Rosemere, Scott Hollingsworth, Susan Bunker, Tommy Thomason, Steve Sensibaugh, Sr., Scott Olevich, Aaron Gamble, Tim Streckfus, Brenda Price, Brad Cohee, Rob Cohee, Mike Bagel, Sarah Price, Dylan Gunther, Darrell Conley, Kenneth Prior, Barbara Allen, Gary Mumford, Conner Beish, Chris Fike, Elaine Friel, & Owen Wevodau.

Sympathy to the families of:

Tom Riddleberger, Joe O'Brien, Buddy Gamble, Gayle Ehrenfried, Betty Miller, Fred Spence and Jimmy Knotts

Those Serving in the US Military

Haley Allen, Josh Bathras, John Biddle, Charles Boncella, Jake Brown, Chelsea Bunker, Kevin Cunniff, Nathan Foster, Sean George, Seth Gill, Eric Glime, Brockman Harris, JR Mann, Mitchell Mann, Justin Moore, Cassandra Murphy, Greg Ortegae, Wavon Parker, Bradley Pierce, David Prantle, Andrew Robbins, John Sayles, Steven James Sensibaugh, Jr., Dale Tuel, Rodger Vogel, Jr., & James Wright.

Please also pray for our Re-opening as a church and state, First Responders, Health Care Workers, Essential workers keeping us going, Non-essential workers who may be struggling with lay offs or reduced income, small business, students and families, Governor Hogan, our President, Local Government that are also helping us stay safe.

The Voice

of St. Luke's

May 2020

St. Luke's UMC Staff:

Rev. Karen Handy- Minister

Administrative Assistant: Ann Willey

Director of Music: Rebecca Zinser

Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Director: Tracy Harding

Nursery Coordinator: Alex Penn

Sexton: Dennis R. Weaver, Sr.

Voice Editor: Chris Handy

Visit St. Luke's Online at

www.stlukesdenton.org

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
100 South Fifth Avenue
Denton, Maryland 21629

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Easton, Maryland

410-479-2171; FAX 410-479-2081

email: stlukes@goeaston.net

www.stlukesdenton.org

Return Service Requested

To:

