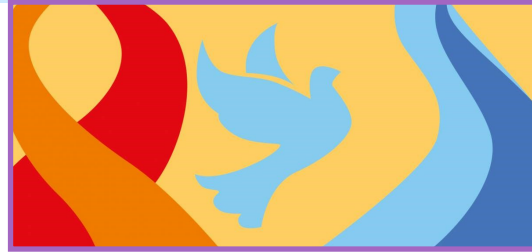




ST. LUKE'S UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
DENTON, MD

THE VOICE

AUGUST 2022 THE SEASON OF PENTECOST



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Musings from Pastor Dan

Richard J. Mouw wrote an article for *First Things* entitled, "My Favorite Heretic – Why We need Heretics." He wrote, "I tell my students that it is a good thing to have a couple of favorite heretics. Some false perspectives are illuminating, and it can be healthy for Christians who love ideas to be challenged regularly by perspectives that we can disagree with in productive ways."

I agree and it caused me to recall my favorite heretic. This article reflects upon that person, and you should be able to guess why by the end of the article.

Throughout church history, many notable people have contributed directly and positively to the progress and direction of the Christian church. Augustine of Hippo and Athanasius of Alexandria are examples. Also, throughout church history, there are a number of people, such as Origen, whose contributions were rejected simply because they are erroneous. Some theologians had a detrimental impact on Christianity. Arianism, for example, would haunt the church for hundreds of years before its theories were largely eradicated, though it still exists in subtle forms today. A few personalities qualify for a fourth

category. Their teachings were rejected because they are erroneous and yet had both a positive and negative impact on the church. Marcion, "one of the most noted and most permanently influential of the heretics of the second century," qualifies for this fourth category.



Marcion (of Sinope)

Paul's epistles caused Marcion to travel down his ill-fated theological path. Marcion began to see a sharp and direct contrast between the law of the Old Testament (O.T.) and the agape love repre-

sented by Jesus Christ. Using Galatians and Romans as his primary sources, Marcion found a perfectly reasoned treatise that enlightened his view of the Christian faith, especially as it contrasted the O.T. What he concluded was that, "Christ represented and proclaimed an entirely new God." This new God became the foundation for Marcion's entire theology. His thought process led to the idea that religion is nothing more than belief in a redeemer-God, who through his love and complete mercy transforms man. .

Upon further comparison of the O.T. with the new God, Marcion found that the God of the O.T. was irreconcilably different from the God revealed through Jesus Christ. He believed there was no alternative but to reject the O.T. as a religious document, though he did believe the O.T. was an accurate accounting of Israel's history. The radical theological conclusion caused by rejecting the O.T. led him to develop a doctrine of dualism that forced him to announce the reality of two distinct Gods. He proclaimed the God of Jesus to be far superior to, and totally separate from the creator God of the O.T. Thus, the purpose of Jesus was to reveal the new God who is total love and mercy without wrath or forthcoming judgment. Marcion deduced all of these beliefs from Paul's writings. He believed Paul was the only true apostle and the only one to comprehend fully the revelations given by Christ.



In A.D. 144, Marcion started his own church and produced the first great schism in the Christian church called the Marcionite Heresy.

Marcion's church was not a little sect. Indeed, Marcionism nearly overran the Catholic Church. The Marcionite church built its own schools, it had a hierarchy of Bishops and elders, and the movement spread as far as China. While it is difficult to trace any further influences today, the Marcionite church still exists on-line, though any real influence is non-existent, although you can still buy a Marcionite Bible on Amazon for \$9.99 or get the Kindle version for .99 cents, and it is a "Best Seller."

From the dates of the various letters and dissertations, we can deduce that Marcionism was most threatening to the established church from the mid-second century into the beginning of the third century. Many notable church leaders wrote against Marcionism. Indeed, it seemed "everywhere people were writing against the dreadful devilish sect." The Marcionite church was a powerful force in the second century. One could not travel anywhere without finding a Marcionite congregation. Marcion did in one generation what the Catholic Church took one hundred fifty years to accomplish. Everyone could wor-

ship in a Marcionite church, including pagans. Marcion did not intend to be a separate church. He wanted to absorb all of Christianity into his church, and he was nearly successful. Without a doubt, Marcion successfully carried out his threat of schism.

Obviously, the church noticed Marcion's efforts. Herein lies the positive outcome of Marcion's work, of which there are two. First, the church was compelled to develop a canon of Scripture. The process of development did not occur via a gathering of decision-makers. Rather a gradual consensus was the means of approving the initial canon. "Thus, by the end of the second century, the core of the canon was established: the four Gospels, Acts, and the Pauline Epistles." By the middle of the fourth century, a complete consensus of canonical books had been achieved. Thus, Christians owe, somewhat, a debt of gratitude to Marcion for his heretical effort for it ultimately yielded the New Testament. Secondly, the church was also forced into a nearly three century effort to clarify the connection between the Old Testament and the New Testament that led to the affirmation that the Hebrew Scriptures were canonical and must be retained as God's word. Though many other factors played into the formation of the canon, nonetheless this was arguably Marcion's greatest contribution to Christianity: The entire canon of Scripture including both the Old and New Testaments.

While he had a long-range positive impact on the church, he nearly destroyed it as well. However, as with all heresies throughout church history, the truth always "bubbles" back to the top despite those that persist in believing the heretics. The heresies of our time will do the same though only God knows when.

Pastor Dan

1. Firstthings.com (9/16/2014)
2. This heresy denied the divinity of Jesus Christ.
3. William Smith, Henry Wace, ed. *A Dictionary of Christian Biography*, vol. 3 (London: John Murray, 1882), 816
4. Adolf von Harnack, *Marcion: The Gospel of an Alien God*, trans. John E. Steely and Lyle D. Bierma (Durham: Labyrinth, 1990), 21.
5. Mircea Eliade, *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, vol. 9 (New York: MacMillan, 1987), 195.
6. William Smith, Henry Wace, ed. *A Dictionary of Christian Biography*, vol. 3 (London: John Murray, 1882), 102.
7. Canon means a collection or list of sacred books accepted as



Our Shared Life As the Body of Christ

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,...that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel (Phil 1:27)



**Sign up to help at the
St. Luke's Summerfest booth!
Friday (8/19) and Saturday (8/20)
5-7pm or 7-9pm
(Call the office or see Signup sheet)**



**Youth Fellowship
Family Kick Off
Event
Sunday, Sept 25th**



Parent Groups Starting in October & November



Children's faith formation is mainly contingent on parent's faith formation. Children need to see adults modelling a deep love for Jesus and the spiritual habits of heart and mind that demonstrate a love for God and for others.

While it's helpful and necessary for children to interact and build relationships with people of all ages in the church, they especially need to see their parents living for Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

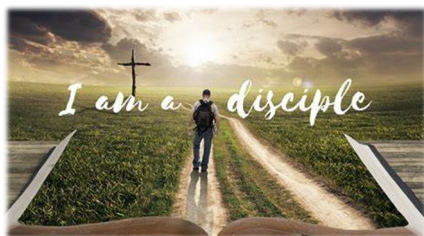
More information to come on parent discussion groups to foster a faith-forming home !



Faith Formation

Growing in Faith from Birth through Adulthood

What does a disciple or follower of Jesus “look like?” What are his or her passions and pursuits?



At St. Luke's Church, we affirm that discipleship or faith formation is a life-long pursuit that involves God's Holy Spirit and a community of others. It begins with our baptism and continues throughout one's entire life. We therefore strive to provide opportunities for Jesus' disciples at every age to deepen their relationship with God through Worship and Sacrament, to study the Bible in age-appropriate ways, and to witness to the Gospel of God's love beyond the walls of our own community.

Fall Programs Starting Sunday, September 18th

Children's Chapel	9:30am
Sunday School (PreK-8th Grade)	9:40am
Cherub Choir (PreK –5th)	10:40am
Adult Sunday School & Bible Study	9:30am
Youth Fellowship Kick-off—Family Night	
Sunday, Sept. 25th	5pm-7pm
Weekly Youth Fellowship	5pm-7pm
(starting Oct 2nd)	

**Please speak with Pastor Dan
if you are interested in teach-
ing Sunday School or assisting
with Youth fellowship!**

TEACH
encourage
instruct
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE

ST. LUKE'S UMC LEADERSHIP MEETING JULY 21, 2022



The meeting was called to order by Jody Herb. Pastor Dan led in the opening prayer. The sole purpose of this meeting was to hold a vote to join a with the legal action being brought by the NCLL (The National Center for Life and Liberty) working with churches who desire disaffiliation from the United Methodist Conference due to the imposed sanctions recently developed by our Bishop. The cost per church is \$100 a month or \$1000 a year and a filing fee between \$1500 and \$2500.

Pastor Dan began by explaining the current events as shared in his weekly newsletter and to open the floor for general discussion. Following the discussion a paper vote was taken. The results of the Vote were as follows:

8 – Yes – Join the legal action 6 – No 2 – Abstentions

The church has been contacted by anonymous private donors who have agreed to cover all legal fees. No church money will be used in this endeavor. This action **DOES NOT** mean we have voted to formally disaffiliate, this would require a full 2/3 majority full congregational vote.

Respectfully Submitted, Jody Herb - Chair

July 7th, 2022, Charge Conference Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened in prayer at 5:00pm by Pastor Dan Gedman.

Pastor Gedman explained the purpose of the Charge Conference (to discuss and vote upon the Trustee's Resolution to sell the St. Luke's Parsonage) and then read the text of the resolution (which was also provided in printed form to all in attendance.)

Pastor Dan opened the floor for questions and discussion.

Reverend Davis asked if there is a sale price being considered, as well as what the cost of renovations would be. Chuck Dean (one of the Trustees) responded that the real estate agent thought it should be listed for \$340K, and that, with lead pipes and likely asbestos in the house, as well as major repairs needed on both porches and the kitchen, the cost of repairs would be nearly the value of the house. Chuck and Pastor Dan also explained that, because the house is in the Denton Historic District, the permitting process of any renovations would be more complicated and expensive.

Doug Collison, the Chair of the District Building and Location Committee attending the meeting, asked if the Trustees and/or leadership had considered renting the property (since there are so few rentals in the area). The Trustees and Leadership chair confirmed they had explored this option, but since the costs of repairs and renovations were so high, the church would likely never recover the costs necessary for rental. Also, the church would lose its non-profit status for property taxes if the property were rented, adding further to the costs associated with the property.

Pastor Dan asked if there were any further questions or concerns, and there being none, Jim Orr made a motion to vote upon the resolution, which Ruth Hynson-Palmer seconded.

By a show of hands of those present, the majority voted to pass the resolution from the Trustees to sell the parsonage.

Doug Collison explained the next step in the process was to send to the Building and Location committee a signed copy of the resolution, and the resolution was duly signed by Pastor Dan, the Chair of the Church Council, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and three other members of the Board of Trustees.

Pastor Dan closed the meeting in prayer.

Results from the Survey about Youth Programs at St. Luke's



Note: Many of the percentages will not add up to 100% because respondents could select more than one option (for example, for children's ages and in the goals section.)

1. Age of respondents' children

- 10% Kindergarten & below
- 18% Elem (grades 1-5)
- 15% MS
- 18% HS
- 23% Older than HS
- 39% No children/grandchildren coming to church

2. Top 5 Goals for Youth Programs

- 80% To foster the formation of Christian Faith and help young people develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- 67% To help young people feel like a valued part of the church.
- 56% To help young people learn how to and practice spiritual disciplines like prayer, worship, giving, service.
- 53% To assist young people in making decisions based on biblical principles and to develop godly discernment about worldly topics (such as social media, sexuality, etc.)
- 49% To provide a community for young people where they can develop meaningful relationships with other youth and youth leaders.

3. Meeting Time

- 56% Sunday Evenings
- 41% Wednesday Evenings
- 3% Neither

4. Interested in Parent group while youth meet?

- 51% Yes/Maybe
- 28% No
- 21% Other response (mainly from people with no children/grandchildren coming to church)

5. Interested in youth special events?

61% Yes

23% No

16% Other responses (mainly from people with no children/grandchildren coming to church)

6. Want more info about assisting with youth programs?

39% Yes

61% Not at this time

(Excerpts from Questions with short answer responses)

7. What are some examples of activities you would like to see for children and youth in St. Luke's programs?

Answers generally fell into one of the following categories (A copy of all 40+ responses is available in the office. They were WONDERFUL!)

- Special events for spiritual development like retreats, rallies, and youth worship
- Special events/outing for fun like kayaking, bowling and hiking
- Outreach and service opportunities
- Opportunities to be involved in the life of the church (helping with worship services, Sunday school, etc.)
- Opportunities to study and learn about God's Word and living out the Christian Faith authentically on a daily basis

8. Please indicate below any concerns you have about developing Children's & Youth Programs at St. Luke's.

- Enough people to help (this comment 4x)
- For these older kids, the faith has to be weaved in with what they are interested in. They won't want to attend unfortunately if it's just like Sunday school...which is a complaint of our past programs-too much like Sunday school, why not just attend Sunday school if it's basically the same?

9. Is there any other information or input you would like the Youth Ministry team to have as they develop programs for children and youth?

- My feeling is that it is vital to base everything on our Lord's teaching in the Holy Bible so that children & youth can discern what is good and evil in our society.
- I'm glad we're getting this ministry running again.
- I'd love to see the youth pick a mission that the entire church can support & participate in

Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Spirit. Stay alert and keep praying for God's people.

Ephesians 6:18 CEV



O Savior, Sanctifier, and Healer,
we intercede for
our sisters and brothers.

In this season of suffering, we pray
that recovery will come speedily. May
this be a time when their faith is
strengthened, their endurance and
the fruit of the Spirit grow abundantly,
and where their outlook becomes a
confident and cheerful
expectation of Your healing.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Prayer Concerns for August 2022

Jennifer Wooters, Martin Retzolk, Jason Lee, Mariah and Gideon Farmer-Grace, Grace Clopper, Wanda Ewing, Chelsea Abrams, Jessica Tull, Pat Browne, Amy Clopper, Gordon Johnson, Joe Thomas, Lisa Barge,, AJ Mason, Sandy Stubbs, Janet Bassford, Glenn and Cricket Williams, Freddie Adams, Jr, Laura Patrick, Jimmy and Diane Johnson, Tina Kenney, Tom Applegarth, Taylor Moody, Grea Curtis, Alan Flynn, Pastor Greg Barrier, Patsy Kemp and Kelly Kemp, our country, and the people of Ukraine.

Sympathy to the family and friends of those who have passed away since the June-July issue of the Voice, including Cora Mills, Regina Dongell, David Hollis, Elaine Friel, our country,

Prayers for those serving in the U.S. Military: John Biddle, Chelsea Bunker, Seth Gill, Ethan Lister, Teagan Lister, JR Mann, Mitchell Mann, Matthew Parker, and Andrew Robins

The prayer team is continuing to remember many on our list who ask for prayer, but do not wish to be on the public list. Please know that we try to honor all requests and often call for updates. If someone has been in a stable situation in a nursing home or is homebound, please contact us if that changes. Also, **except for phone calls, please give information in writing, as there are too many changes to remember otherwise.**

To add names to any of our lists, we ask that you either call (410-479-2171), e-mail (stlukes@goeaston.com), or drop-off/mail to 100 South 5th Avenue, Denton. Please be sure to include your name and telephone number so that we can contact you regarding the status of the person needing prayer; otherwise, the name will be removed after a couple of months .

Thanks for your care, concerns, and prayers for our church family members and beyond!



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

August Office Hours Tues, Wed, Thurs 8:30am—4:30pm	1 	2 	3 10am Prayer Team 1pm Cards of Care 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir	4 	5 	6
7 NO COMMUNION 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship	8 12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	9 7pm AA OFFICE CLOSED	10 10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band			
14 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship	15 12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	16 7pm AA	17 10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir	18 7:30pm Leadership Meeting	19 5pm-9pm 	20 5pm-9pm
21 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:40 Ignite Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Trad'l Worship	22 12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	23 7pm AA	24 10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band	25 11am-4pm Delmarva Blood Bank	26 Voice Deadline	27
28 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:40 Ignite Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Trad'l Worship	29 	30 	31 10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band			

New St Luke's Directory

We are still working on our online church directory to get it correctly formatted (we hit a few hiccups...)

In August, each member/friend of St. Luke's *should* get login instructions to access the directory through an app or a website. Each person/family can edit their profile, verify information is correct and decide what info is public, and can also upload a picture for the directory (or leave the photo section blank.)

If we do not have email for your family, you can either provide an email, or make changes/verify your information using a copy of the 2019 directory that will be available in the office and after during church services. (You can also provide a photo that we will upload for you)

Once everyone has had a chance to edit their profile, the directory will be printed and available to everyone just like in prior years (and the directory will also continue to be available via an app or website.)

Church members can get assistance through the office with accessing or editing their directory information!



We are grateful for your generosity toward so many things!

- Operation Christmas Child boxes and shipping
- PJ's for a homeless shelter
- Donations for the office food pantry
- A fundraiser for the Kemp family
- Support of the Reach Fund



Let your **Roots** grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will **grow strong** in the truth you were taught, and you will **overflow** with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:7



Monthly Financial Report

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

For Period January through December 2022 as of June 30, 2022

Description	Annual Budget 2022	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	S/B 50%	Budget through June 2022	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	S/B 100%
Income								
Offerings	251,813.00	113,351.47	138,461.53	45.01%	125,906.50	113,351.47	12,555.03	90.03%
Offerings - Sunday School	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00%
Interest Income	30.00	19.15	10.85	63.83%	15.00	19.15	(4.15)	127.67%
Building Use	4,000.00	3,160.00	840.00	79.00%	2,000.00	3,160.00	(1,160.00)	158.00%
Total Income	255,943.00	116,530.62	139,412.38	45.53%	127,971.50	116,530.62	11,440.88	91.06%
Expenses								
Pastor Expenses								
Salary	59,740.00	29,869.98	29,870.02	50.00%	29,870.00	29,869.98	0.02	100.00%
Travel Reimbursement		0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Cable TV at parsonage		0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Hospitalization/Dental	18,876.00	10,596.00	8,280.00	56.13%	9,438.00	10,596.00	(1,158.00)	112.27%
Bishop's Retreat		0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Continuing Education		0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Pension Plan	9,753.00	4,898.70	4,854.30	50.23%	4,876.50	4,898.70	(22.20)	100.46%
Pastor Expenses - other		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Pastor Expenses	88,369.00	45,364.68	43,004.32	51.34%	44,184.50	45,364.68	(1,180.18)	102.67%
Staff Expenses								
Staff Salaries	77,254.00	29,886.00	47,368.00	38.69%	38,627.00	29,886.00	8,741.00	77.37%
Wage and Tax Expenses	7,725.00	3,052.11	4,672.89	39.51%	3,862.50	3,052.11	810.39	79.02%
Worker's Compensation	1,000.00	935.00	65.00	93.50%	500.00	935.00	(435.00)	187.00%
Expenses - other			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Staff Expenses	85,979.00	33,873.11	52,105.89	39.40%	42,989.50	33,873.11	9,116.39	78.79%
Other Operational Expenses								
Accounting & Legal	800.00	459.11	340.89	57.39%	400.00	459.11	(59.11)	
Annual Conference expense	500.00	150.00	350.00	30.00%	250.00	150.00	100.00	60.00%
Christian Education/Sunday School	1,200.00	67.89	1,132.11	5.66%	600.00	67.89	532.11	11.32%
Conference Apportionments	22,868.00	7,060.00	15,808.00	30.87%	11,434.00	7,060.00	4,374.00	61.75%
Easton District Office	1,372.00	1,343.00	29.00	97.89%	686.00	1,343.00	(657.00)	195.77%
Janitorial Supplies	800.00	532.47	267.53	66.56%	400.00	532.47	(132.47)	133.12%
Electricity/Oil	15,700.00	7,949.04	7,750.96	50.63%	7,850.00	7,949.04	(99.04)	101.26%
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	4,400.00	1,953.57	2,446.43	44.40%	2,200.00	1,953.57	246.43	88.80%
Kitchen/Parsonage Fuel	2,200.00	1,885.39	314.61	85.70%	1,100.00	1,885.39	(785.39)	171.40%
Grass and Shrubbery Maintenance	3,500.00	1,960.00	1,540.00	56.00%	1,750.00	1,960.00	(210.00)	112.00%
Insurance	10,000.00	8,984.00	1,016.00	89.84%	5,000.00	8,984.00	(3,984.00)	179.68%
Maintenance and Repairs	5,200.00	775.15	4,424.85	14.91%	2,600.00	775.15	1,824.85	29.81%
Miscellaneous	700.00	0.00	700.00	0.00%	350.00	0.00	350.00	0.00%
Music Committee	800.00	417.98	382.02	52.25%	400.00	417.98	(17.98)	104.50%
MYF Program	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00%	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%
Office Supplies	1,500.00	329.68	1,170.32	21.98%	750.00	329.68	420.32	43.96%
Postage	1,300.00	240.87	1,059.13	18.53%	650.00	240.87	409.13	37.06%
Pastor/Organist, Substitutes			0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Pastor's Moving Exp Escrow Acct			0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Stewardship	1,300.00	1,146.84	153.16	88.22%	650.00	1,146.84	(496.84)	176.44%
Telephone & Internet	2,700.00	1,609.69	1,090.31	59.62%	1,350.00	1,609.69	(259.69)	119.24%
Water and Sewer	1,755.00	268.26	1,486.74	15.29%	877.50	268.26	609.24	30.57%
Spiritual Life	1,800.00	733.36	1,066.64	40.74%	900.00	733.36	166.64	81.48%
Worship Materials	1,000.00	49.90	950.10	4.99%	500.00	49.90	450.10	9.98%
Total Operational Expenses	81,595.00	37,916.20	43,678.80	46.47%	40,797.50	37,916.20	2,881.30	92.94%
Total Expenses	255,943.00	117,153.99	138,789.01	45.77%	127,971.50	117,153.99	10,817.51	91.55%
Net Income over Expenses	0.00	(623.37)	623.37		0.00	(623.37)	623.37	

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

410-479-2171
Email: stlukesdenton@gmail.com

Return Service Requested

To:

The Voice
of St. Luke's UMC
August 2022

St. Luke's UMC Staff

Rev. Dan T. Gedman— Pastor

Administrative Assistant: Carrie Soldano

Director of Music: Becky Zinser

Director of Ignite Band: Alicia Weippert

Nursery Coordinator: Alex Penn

Sexton: Denny Weaver

Visit St. Luke's Online at
www.stlukesdenton.org
or on Facebook

