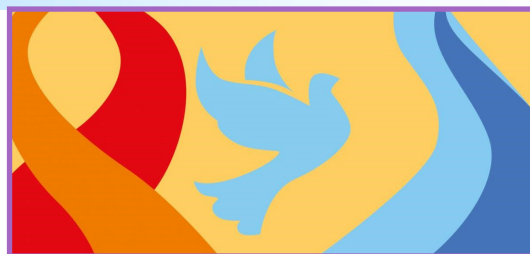


ST. LUKE'S UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
DENTON, MD

THE VOICE

JUNE/JULY 2022 THE SEASON OF PENTECOST



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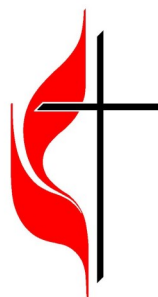
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Musings from Pastor Dan

The church is unique. It is unique for a number of reasons, but most importantly, it is unique because it is the only institution in the world directly established by God. The first use of the word church appears in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus, speaking to the disciples declared that he will build his church and that nothing shall stand against it.

The Greek word predominately used in the New Testament for church is *ekklesia*. It is from this word that we properly understand the meaning of church. Literally, the term means "called out." Its use indicates an assembly of people called together for some purpose. As such, *ekkesia* as it pertains to Jesus Christ is an assembly of people professing trust in Christ. Thus, any group of believers in Christ gathered together is the church regardless of where they meet. This is important to understand. A serious misconception persists today that defines the church as the building where people gather or meet. The building is not the church; the church is the people. The entire company of believers throughout the world is the church universal.

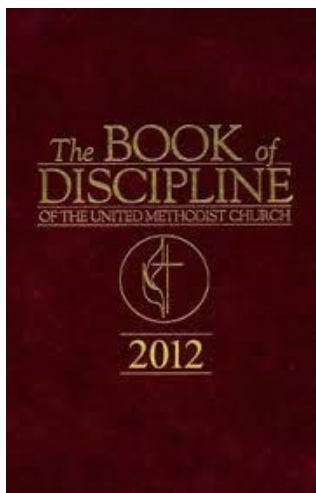
The United Methodist Church is a group of believers in Jesus Christ united under a particular order and is but one expression of Methodism.



Methodism in general is an expression of the church in this world. Therefore, United Methodists are the church united together with other Methodists and the church universal by our belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The

2016 Book of Discipline states that, "The visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men in which the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments duly administered according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same." The *Discipline* further states, "We believe the Christian church is the community of all true believers under the Lordship of Christ. We believe it is one, holy, apostolic, and catholic. "It is the redemptive fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by men divinely called, and the sacraments are duly administered according to Christ's own appointment. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit the church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, and the redemption of the world." Therefore, the church called United Methodist exists as congregations of persons who have joined as believers in Jesus Christ, and joined as United Methodists to spread the message of Christ to all people through their service and witness.

As a church, United Methodists first acknowledge, understand, and “share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine . . . Our standards affirm the Bible as the source for all that is ‘necessary’ and ‘sufficient’ unto salvation and ‘is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice.’” Thus, the Bible is the primary source book for life lived in accordance to the will of God. All United Methodists are required to conform their lives to the plain meaning of Scripture. In order to help us do that, we have *The Book of Discipline*. This book contains the doctrine, law, administrative rules, and organizational guidelines for the people called United Methodists.



The doctrinal standards of the United Methodist Church include three key components. The first is the *Articles of Religion*. This series of twenty-five articles comprise the key doctrinal standards of our church. These articles include statements about God, the Bible, the Sacraments, sin, and grace. Basic Christian affirmations are included. These are fundamental confessions of belief that are foundational to our faith as

Christians and practiced as Methodists. Here you find topics such as the mystery of salvation, God’s redemptive love, and the universal church.

The second key component is the *Confession of Faith*. This part of United Methodist doctrine derived from the joining of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist church in 1968. These thirteen articles do not contradict the twenty-five Articles of Faith in any way. They enhance doctrinal understanding and provide additional valuable information that furthers Christian understanding.

The General Rules of Our United Societies comprises the third key component of United Methodist Doctrine. These rules are designed as a “discipline” for Methodists to help us “flee from the wrath to come.” They are intended to provide a structured approach to life so the people called Methodist might be less likely to fall away from God and move on to perfection. A study of these rules will reveal that many of them are directly biblical, such as, “The taking

name of the Lord in vain.” Other rules are derived and understood from the character and integrity of God as demonstrated in the Scripture. For example, “It is expected of all who continue in these societies that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation, *Secondly*: By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort.”

The *Discipline* also contains church law. This law is not much different from societal law. This component helps the church work through an understanding of the relationships among the various members, congregations, conferences, and all related polity issues.

The organizational and administrative guidelines and rules set forth in the *Discipline* provide for unified yet flexible ways and means for conducting ministry at the various levels of the church.

In general, the *Discipline* is a “how to” book. In this instance, it is a how to be a United Methodist book. The information ranging from our history to membership requirements is invaluable to persons wishing to become a United Methodist and should be studied by all United Methodists. You will find that just a rudimentary understanding of the *Discipline* will take you a long way to understanding why we do what we do and how to do it.

If you are interested in reading the *Discipline*, you may access it on-line at:

<https://www.ctcumc.org/files/fileshare/2016-book-of-discipline.pdf>

Pastor Dan

¹ Matthew 16:18.

² The United Methodist Church, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*

³ Catholic means universal.

⁴ Ibid., 73.

⁵ Ibid., 84.

⁶ Ibid., 77.

⁷ Ibid., 78. Also see Exodus 20:7.

⁸ Ibid., 79.



Faith Formation

Growing in Faith from Birth through Adulthood



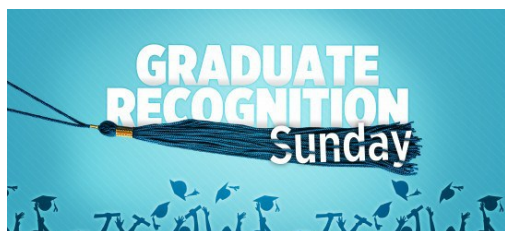
**Thank-you to our
Sunday School
Teachers!!**

PreK & Kindergarten:
Amanda & Chuck Dean

Elementary: Stacey Reid,
Rosalind Parker, Marie
Stewart, Carrie Soldano

Middle School: Walt Palmer

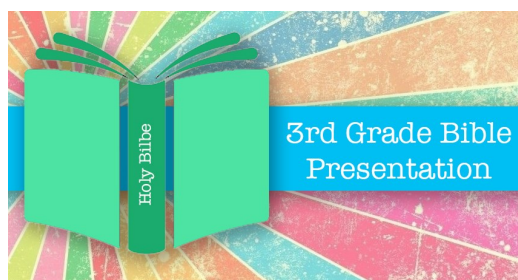
Nursery: Alex Penn



On June 12th, we will recognize St. Luke's students who have graduated from high school or college (at all services.)

Sunday, June 5th

Pastor Dan will present each 3rd grade student with a personally engraved Bible.





Our Shared Life As the Body of Christ



News from
St. Luke's
United
Methodist
Women

Thank you to all who have placed orders for our Maryland beaten biscuits fundraiser - The 200 dozen biscuits, to be made by Jack & Ruth Moore, have all been sold!

Our next meeting of the UMW will be held on Tuesday, June 14 at 6:30. All women of the church are welcome to attend.



Special Charge Conference For St. Luke's Church Thursday, July 7th @ 5pm

To discuss and vote upon
the Trustee's Resolution
to sell the parsonage

Don't miss seeing the
Ignite Praise Band downtown
on Thursday, June 16th!!



May 19th Music: Reagan Kent | Rita's Italian Ice
June 16th Music: Ignite | Rita's Italian Ice | Taco Jardin



Sign up to help at the St. Luke's Summerfest Table!

1-2 hours between 4pm- 8pm
Aug 19 & 20

Greet people with a St. Luke's Smile
and hand out brochures,
pens, balloons, etc.

**St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Summary of Leadership Meeting May 19th, 2022**



Team Reports:

Property and Investment Management (Barbara Little)

- A Security System will be installed at the church over the summer and the outside locks will be rekeyed. Once the system is in place, leadership will develop policies & processes for accessing the building.
- We have contacted a company to repair the damage to the steeple and our insurance will cover most of the costs.
- Georges Green Thumb is coming in to do a spring clean-up.
- Trustees met with and reviewed fund investments with Meryl Lynch rep - We have safe, modified, diversified holdings and plan to make no changes. The balance currently is a little over \$1 million.

Mission and Ministry Team (Patti Burton)

- Operation Christmas Child has planned a *Christmas in July* program, which will be promoted through church communications.

Fund Management Team (Louise Webb and Linda Turner)

- Monthly Income & Expense statement reviewed by leadership.
- An audit of all financial records is recommended (annually). It has been three years since our last one and ASG can do this audit.
- It was recommended to hire a bookkeeper to assist the new Treasurer with reconciliation and financial oversight (25/hr a month)
- Memorial Fund Balance reviewed (no changes since last month).
- Special Account: Louise made a motion to add His Hope Ministries to Reach Fund and take off defunct Tuckahoe Habitat for Humanity. Motion seconded by Patti Burton.

Staff Parish Relations Team - NA

New Business:

On-line Church Directory (Carrie Soldano)

- An online Church Directory was discussed and a trial run approved for updating the church directory for 2022. Information will be available in July for accessing the directory by app or website, and there will be a printed version as well.

Reviewed plans for the items identified in recent Leadership planning sessions

- Discussed starting a **Stephen Ministry at St. Luke's** -Training for visitations and pastoral care. The office will get information to leadership about enrollment and training.
- We would like to have our **church picnic at Pecometh** and Patti Burton will find out what dates are available.
- We are looking for **volunteers as Liturgists** for the first part of the Ignite service so Pastor can do a children's chapel prior to Sunday School, and there will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers.
- Paula Penn will start the **Cherubs Choir in the fall**.
- It was discussed asking a few of our **twenty-something members to head up Summerfest**.

Other

Skates will be given to a local roller rink

Louise Webb—Faithful Servant

Louise will be moving to Kentucky in June, and she will be missed in so many ways! Over the years, Louise has served St. Luke's in a variety of roles, and in each one she has modeled joyful and steadfast faith, genuine humility, and the desire for lifelong learning about God. Louise has been one of the leaders of our Sunday School class for many years, serves on the UMW, has been our Treasurer for the past several years, and is responsible for getting St. Luke's folks connected with the excellent opportunity to join Community Bible Study.

We send you forth, Louise, with our gratitude and our blessings!

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his face upon you and give you peace.*

(Numbers 6:24-26)



The Denton Good Friday Crosswalk was a success!

Thank you to those of you who participated!

EASTER

Cross Walk brings out faithful in Denton

BY TOM MCCALL
tmccall@chespub.com

DENTON — Seven churches and nine congregations came together at St. Luke's United Methodist on Good Friday to carry a wooden cross through the streets of Denton from church to church. At each stop there was a Bible reading and a 15-minute sermon with the abiding clergyman. There were readings from Luke, John and Matthew.

This was organized by the Denton Ecumenical Clergy Association. They have not been able to do this Easter ritual for a few years because of COVID-19. About 100 people sat in the pews, chatted during the walk and snaked through the town in a line.

"This is unity in the community," said Pastor Thomas Fisher of Abrams Memorial Church.



PHOTO BY TOM MCCALL

A line of faithful follow the cross as it is carried through the streets of Denton on Good Friday. There were seven churches represented. A bus helped to move people from church to church as well.

The first volunteers to carry the cross were Tim Strack, Anne Fountain and Carm Powell. They said it was not as heavy as it looks because it is hollow. The hardest

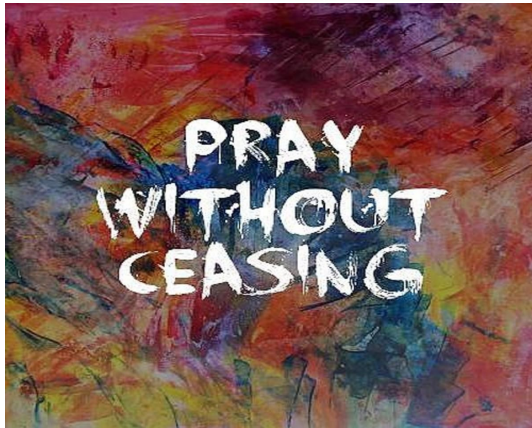
part was getting in and out of each church, all of which had different door sizes. They moved very carefully so as not to damage the cross or church entry point.

"It took two months to put together. There are Spanish, African American and Caucasian, but God does not discriminate. It is the same word," Fisher said.



PHOTO BY TOM MCCALL

John Robbins in front and Tim Strack in red help carry the cross out of the St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church.



Most merciful God, you hold each of us dear to your heart.

Hold *Name(s)* in your loving arms
and tenderly draw *them* into your love,
together with all who are living with life-threatening illness.

Assure *them* that they are not alone,
and give *them* courage and faith for all that is to come.

Strengthen those who care for *them* and treat *them*,
and guide those who do research.

Nourish those who have lost sight of you,
and heal the spirits of those who are broken.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who suffered and died,
and then rose from the dead to lead us into new life,
now and for ever. Amen.

(The United Methodist Book of Worship #627)

Prayer Concerns for June & July 2022

Pat Browne, Susan Algier, Elaine Orme, Shea, Joe Thomas, Shirley Mandrell, Lisa Barge, Sheila Orr, AJ Mason, Sandy Stubbs, Janet Bassford, Glenn and Cricket Williams, Freddie Adams, Jr, Regina Dongell, Laura Patrick, Jimmy and Diane Johnson, Tina Kenney, Renee Barringer, Tony Keating, Tom Applegarth, Taylor Moody, Grea Curtis, Alan Flynn, Martha Ann Shuler, Pastor Greg Barrier, Potsy & Kelly Kemp, Sylvia Holland, Elaine Friel, our country, and the people of Ukraine.

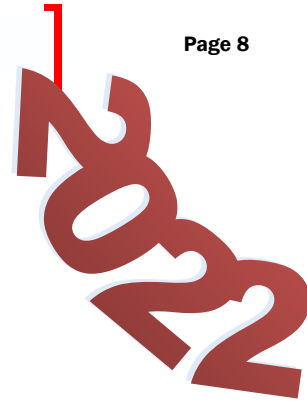
Sympathy to the family and friends of those who have passed away since the May issue of the Voice including the Spiker family and Kaylee Johnson.

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 Robbins.

You may notice that quite a few names have been removed from our prayer list, even some in nursing homes. The prayer team is continuing to remember them in prayer; however, if they are stable and in a long-term care situation, we have removed them from the public list as the list gets very long. That is true of home bound patients as well. We have many also on our list who ask for prayer, but do not wish to be on the public list. Please know that we honor all requests and often call for updates.

Reminder: If you offer a prayer during one of the worship services that you would like to added to prayer concerns list, please complete a prayer card or contact card. Thank you!!

(We have a hard time hearing prayer requests on Sunday!)



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						
			1	2	3	4
			10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
PENTECOST 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship 3rd GRADE BIBLES	12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	7pm AA SUMMER OFFICE HOURS START TUES, WED, THURS 8:30-4:30	10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship GRADUATE RECOGNITION	12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	7pm AA	10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Choir			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:40 Ignite Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Trad'l Worship FATHERS DAY	12pm AA 5:30pm Ex- ercise 7:30pm NA	7pm AA	10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band		Voice Deadline	
26	27	28	29	30		
8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:40 Ignite Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Trad'l Worship			10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band			



Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

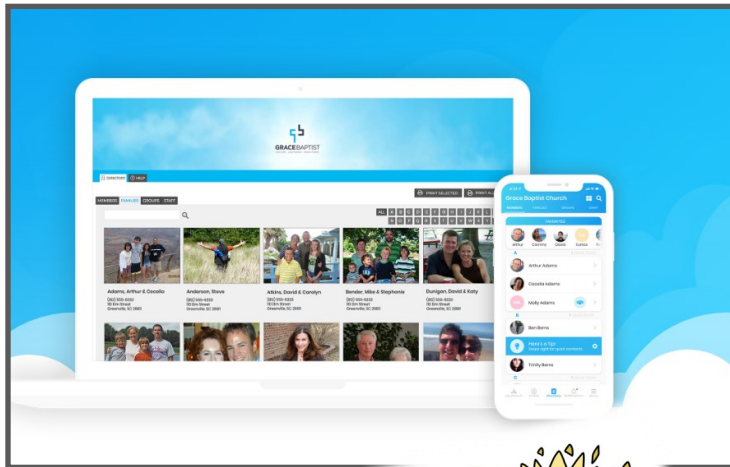
Sat

Summer Office Hours Mon, Tues, Wed 8:30am—4:30pm					1	2
3 Communion 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship	4 12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	5 7pm AA	6 10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band	7 5 PM SPECIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE	8 Office Open	9 
10 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship	11 12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	12 7pm AA	13 10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band	14	15	
17 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship	18 12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	19 Office Closed 7pm AA	20 Office Closed 10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band	21 Office Closed	22	23
24 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship	25 Office Open 12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	26	27 10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 7pm Praise Band Voice Deadline	28	29	30
31 10:00 Worship	1 12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	2	3 1pm Cookies & Cards			



COMING
SOON

New St Luke's Directory July 2022



**DON'T
PANIC!**

At the May leadership meeting, it was decided to experiment with an *Online Church Directory* for St. Luke's.

In July, each member/friend of St. Luke's will 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.)

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 continue to be available via an app or website.)

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

One of the benefits of the online directory is it will enable Pastor Dan or the office to send out community-wide voice or text messages as reminders or in the event of emergencies.



Operation Christmas Child



Christmas is Coming In July!

Do you ever get stumped about what to include in an Operation Christmas Child shoebox?? Well, when you come to worship every Sunday in July, you will see a Christmas tree covered with lots of ideas. If you are a shopper, please consider donating items in bulk for our Fall packing party, and place them in the collection box next to the tree.

If you are not a shopper but wish to contribute financially, we would like to purchase a deflated soccer ball and air pump for 100 shoeboxes, with your support.

Help us fill our collection boxes to fill shoeboxes this Fall!

FINANCE UPDATE

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

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

Description	Annual Budget 2022	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	S/B 33%	Budget through April 2022	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	S/B 33%
Income								
Offerings	251,813.00	82,070.90	169,742.10	32.59%	83,937.67	82,070.90	1,866.77	97.78%
Offerings - Sunday School	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%	33.33	0.00	33.33	0.00%
Interest Income	30.00	12.97	17.03	43.23%	10.00	12.97	(2.97)	129.70%
Building Use	4,000.00	2,055.00	1,945.00	51.38%	1,333.33	2,055.00	(721.67)	154.13%
Total Income	255,943.00	84,138.87	171,804.13	32.87%	85,314.33	84,138.87	1,175.46	98.62%
Expenses								
Pastor Expenses								
Salary	59,740.00	19,333.32	40,406.68	32.36%	19,913.33	19,333.32	580.01	97.09%
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	7,064.00	11,812.00	37.42%	6,292.00	7,064.00	(772.00)	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	3,265.80	6,487.20	33.49%	3,251.00	3,265.80	(14.80)	100.46%
Pastor Expenses - other		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Pastor Expenses	88,369.00	29,663.12	58,705.88	33.57%	29,456.33	29,663.12	(206.79)	100.70%
Staff Expenses								
Staff Salaries	77,254.00	19,345.92	57,908.08	25.04%	25,751.33	19,345.92	6,405.41	75.13%
Wage and Tax Expenses	7,725.00	2,245.79	5,479.21	29.07%	2,575.00	2,245.79	329.21	87.22%
Worker's Compensation	1,000.00	935.00	65.00	93.50%	333.33	935.00	(601.67)	280.50%
Expenses - other		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Staff Expenses	85,979.00	22,526.71	63,452.29	26.20%	28,659.67	22,526.71	6,132.96	442.84%
Other Operational Expenses								
Accounting & Legal	800.00	92.03	707.97	11.50%	266.67	92.03	174.64	
Annual Conference expense	500.00		500.00	0.00%	166.67	0.00	166.67	0.00%
Christian Education/Sunday School	1,200.00	67.89	1,132.11	5.66%	400.00	67.89	332.11	16.97%
Conference Apportionments	22,868.00	7,060.00	15,808.00	30.87%	7,622.67	7,060.00	562.67	92.62%
Easton District Office	1,372.00	1,343.00	29.00	97.89%	457.33	1,343.00	(885.67)	293.66%
Janitorial Supplies	800.00	389.06	410.94	48.63%	266.67	389.06	(122.39)	145.90%
Electricity/Oil	15,700.00	4,572.29	11,127.71	29.12%	5,233.33	4,572.29	661.04	87.37%
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	4,400.00	1,000.20	3,399.80	22.73%	1,466.67	1,000.20	466.47	68.20%
Kitchen/Parsonage/Fuel	2,200.00	1,622.78	577.22	73.76%	733.33	1,622.78	(889.45)	221.29%
Grass and Shrubbery Maintenance	3,500.00	655.00	2,845.00	18.71%	1,166.67	655.00	511.67	56.14%
Insurance	10,000.00	8,984.00	1,016.00	89.84%	3,333.33	8,984.00	(5,650.67)	269.52%
Maintenance and Repairs	5,200.00	31.40	5,168.60	0.60%	1,733.33	31.40	1,701.93	1.81%
Miscellaneous	700.00	0.00	700.00	0.00%	233.33	0.00	233.33	0.00%
Music Committee	800.00	117.25	682.75	14.66%	266.67	117.25	149.42	78.47%
MYF Program	200.00		200.00	0.00%	66.67	0.00	66.67	0.00%
Office Supplies	1,500.00	223.50	1,276.50	14.90%	500.00	223.50	276.50	44.70%
Postage	1,300.00	22.13	1,277.87	1.70%	433.33	22.13	411.20	5.11%
Pastor/Organist, Substitutes		0.00	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	0.00%
Stewardship	1,300.00	531.65	768.35	40.90%	433.33	531.65	(98.32)	122.69%
Telephone & Internet	2,700.00	1,155.79	1,544.21	42.81%	900.00	1,155.79	(255.79)	128.42%
Water and Sewer	1,755.00	268.26	1,486.74	15.29%	585.00	268.26	316.74	45.86%
Spiritual Life	1,800.00	2.38	1,797.62	0.13%	600.00	2.38	597.62	0.40%
Worship Materials	1,000.00	49.90	950.10	4.99%	333.33	49.90	283.43	14.97%
Total Operational Expenses	81,595.00	28,188.51	53,406.49	34.55%	27,198.33	28,188.51	(990.18)	103.64%
Total Expenses	255,943.00	80,378.34	175,564.66	31.40%	85,314.33	80,378.34	4,935.99	94.21%
Income over Expenses	0.00	3,760.53	(3,760.53)		0.00	3,760.53	(3,760.53)	

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
June 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

June &

