



ST. LUKE'S UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
DENTON, MD

THE VOICE

OCTOBER 2020

MUSINGS FROM PASTOR DAN

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Musings from Pastor Dan:

A friend once asked, "Why is it that when you have lost your keys, you always find them in the last place you look?" Though the question was amusing, I really did not desire a philosophical conversation, so I looked at him with a disinterested expression. Noting this friend wasn't going to go away until I responded, I finally said, "I don't know." He said, "Because when you find your keys you stop looking."

On another occasion, this same friend came into my office ecstatic about his newfound understanding of electricity. He said, "Electricity is smoke." I said, "Excuse me?" not quite believing what I just heard, but indeed I heard correctly, electricity is smoke. He explained, "Have you ever noticed that when the smoke gets out of an electrical appliance, it stops working?" This stroke of analytical brilliance was truly funny, and yet, to someone who knows nothing about electricity, this explanation would make perfect sense. Of course, my friend was joking; however, we can learn something from these examples of debatable profundity.



The "lost keys" illustration concludes with a true statement. We stop looking as soon as we find what we're looking for, so it makes sense that

what we are looking for will always be found at the last place we look. Innocuous as it may seem; applying the same logic to seeking answers in the Bible may produce wrong answers that may also have serious consequences. For example, a seeker may ask, "How can I be saved?" The seeker begins searching the Bible and the first applicable verse found is James 3:24, "So you see, a man is saved by what he does, as well as what he believes." (LB) Without studying the entire counsel of God, that seeker might never discover that salvation is by faith alone – he will always believe that what he has discovered; works righteousness, is the way to gain entrance in to the kingdom of God. Remember what the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the church at Rome; "But now a righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known, to which the law and the prophets testify. This righteousness from God, comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe." (Romans 3:21-22 NIV) Only by studying the entire Bible, can we begin truly to understand what God is telling us.

The "electricity is smoke" example can teach us to be careful about how we act and react to another person's understanding of God's Word. We must never take for granted that a person reading the Bible will correctly understand the meaning



of a particular text. Using the above example, we must gently teach the seeker who now believes in works righteousness (that electricity is smoke) that salvation comes through faith and our works are a means of completing that faith, that righteous action is evidence of genuine faith. Our task is always to show mercy and grace while tenderly teaching those who are struggling for understanding, or have misunderstood what was written. After all, we were all beginners at one point in time, and even to this day, we often struggle with the meaning of certain passages. We should never allow ourselves to become a detriment to others seeking understanding. Rather, “Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification” (Rom. 14:19 NIV), and “encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thes. 5:11 NIV).

Peace.

Pastor Dan



Altar Flowers

We have a few open dates on the flower chart: Oct 11th, Oct. 25th, Nov. 15th, and Dec 20th.

Contributing altar flowers is a wonderful way to honor a loved one’s memory, a birthday, or anniversary. Since we are not printing bulletins, Pastor Dan will announce the altar flower’s dedication in the beginning of the service during announcements.

Call Carol Rouse to chose a date for your dedication at 410-479-0233.

REMINDERS:

- **Next Leadership Meeting—Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.**
- **November *Voice* articles, updates, and pictures due Monday, October 19, 2020**

Thank you!

Thank you for your continued financial support during these difficult times.

News from the United Methodist Women
Submitted by Becky Schoonover

The UMW is taking orders for holiday nuts until Tuesday, October 6. (Please include payment with your order form). The nuts will be available for pick up before Thanksgiving. Please use the order form included in the Voice, or contact the church office if you need more forms. Thank you for your support!

Anniversary Sunday is the last Sunday of October. St. Luke's usually celebrates with a luncheon after the church services, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, the luncheon will be postponed. We are looking forward to celebrating at a later date, when we can resume get-togethers.



PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ORDER: _____



~ One Form for TOTAL Order ~
2020 U.M.W. ANNUAL HOLIDAY NUT SALE

The United Methodist Women of St. Luke's are now accepting orders for holiday nuts. Payment MUST accompany your order. Please complete this order form and make your check payable to: **U.M.W. of St. Luke's** and mail it to the church office at 100 S. Fifth Ave., Denton, MD 21629. You may also order through any U.M.W. member. The deadline for ordering is **Tuesday, October 6, 20.** The nuts will be available for pick-up before Thanksgiving. You will be advised as soon as they arrive. Thank you for your support of this important U.M.W. fund raising project.

YOUR NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

Selection (1 pound-size bags unless otherwise noted)	Price Each	Quantity	Total Cost
60000 Pecan Halves	\$12.50		
60010 Medium Broken Pecans	\$12.00		
60015 English Walnuts	\$13.00		
60020 Black Walnuts	\$13.50		
60025 Mixed Nuts	\$12.00		
60030 Giant Whole Cashews	\$12.00		
60045 Colossal Natural Pistachios	\$12.50		
60080 Heart Healthy Nut mix NEW	\$13.50		
60095 Harvest Medley Mix (pecans, pistachios, cashews, dried cherries & cranberries)	\$13.00		
62023 Mixed Chocolate Cranberries (milk, white & dark)	\$11.00		
62027 Dark Chocolate Cranberries	\$11.00		
62019 Dark Chocolate Almonds	\$12.50		
62038 Praline Pecans	\$13.00		
GRAND TOTAL			

Cash Total: _____ **Check Total:** _____

Update From United Methodist Men Submitted By George Lacy

The United Methodist Men will not hold their monthly breakfast which would have been on October 3rd due to the concerns of group gatherings during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The decision as to whether we will hold the November breakfast will be determined at a later date.



Shoeboxes are needed now as much as ever!

Earlier this year during the quarantine, a friend said that the most useless thing that she had ever purchased was a 2020 planner! Just like everything, everywhere else, Samaritan's Purse has had to adapt and make adjustments for Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection for 2020.

This year we are inviting families of St. Luke's to take additional "Gospel Opportunity" shoeboxes home and plan a family, or a small group packing party. The OCC brochure answers most questions, so look it over closely. You can also learn more about Operation Christmas Child and Samaritan's Purse by visiting: SamaritanSpurse.org

One primary change this year is that the donation envelope attached to the brochure is self-addressed and postage paid. This year we place our \$9/shoebox shipping and handling donation in the mail, not inside the shoebox. A popular option to mailing a check is to go online and use the Follow Your Box option. When shoeboxes are processed you will receive an email letting you know the destination of your shoeboxes.

If you will not be shopping for any reason but can help financially, there is the option of Build-A-Box on the Samaritan's Purse website for \$25/box.

This year instead of returning your shoeboxes to St. Luke's, we ask that you take them to the nearest drop-off church. The nearest to Denton is Greater Impact, 13699 Greensboro Rd., in Greensboro. **National Collection Week is November 16-23, 2020.**

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. - Hebrews 13:15 NIV

Go out and pack some shoeboxes!

Prayer Concerns.....

Prayers for: Richard Kerslake, Members of Choptank Electric (Sterling Brown) volunteering to help with Hurricane Sally, Jenny Jusell, Archie Carroll, Ruth and Bob Breeding, Gary Simpson, Dana Shaffer, Dwight Kimble, Elaine Nichols, Sylvia Holland, Sheila Orr, Elaine Orme, Anne Jusell, Alan and Gloria Vandam, Robbie Lister, Pat Browne, Lisa Dimaggio Barge, Jim Johnson, Phyllis Harrison, Carol Stockley, Dale Nygren, Hayden Semans, Don Holmesley, Ruth Dore, Hugh Butler, Mary, and Aaron Gamble, Su Jussell-Lappin, Julia George, Harry Muir, Conrad Rosemere, Susan Bunker, Tommy Thomason, Rob Cohee, Elaine Friel, Sarah, Abby, and Roger Price. Praises for recovery of Whittley Gamble from painful pinched nerve, and good recovery of eyesight for Ann Willey.

Sympathy to the family and friends of Lisa (a 9-year old killed in an automobile accident), Dorothy Cox, Austin Hill (16 year old in motorcycle accident), Norma Smithehurst, and Kathy Barbier

Prayers for those serving in the U.S. Military: John Biddle, Jake Brown, Chelsea Bunker, Sean George, Seth Gill, Brockman Harris, Justin Moore, Andrew Robbins, Dale Tuel, and James Wright.

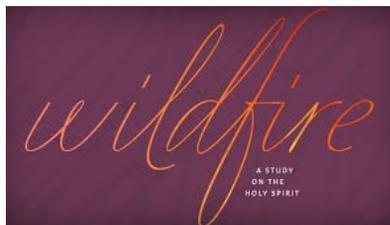
To add names to the these lists, we ask that you either call (410-479-2171), e-mail (stlukes@goeaston.com), or drop-off/mail to 100 South 5th Avenue, Denton. Please be sure to include your name and telephone number so that we can contact you regarding the status of the person needing prayer; otherwise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

Thank you to all who remember those named on our prayer lists. Only God knows how many are blessed because you care enough to pray.

Woven Women's Ministry

Submitted By Stacey Reid

Join us for a Women's Bible Study beginning Wednesday, October 21, 2020 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.



Through this 8-session study, Rica McRoy invites Christians in all stages of their journey to learn what it means to truly thrive. This study is the exploration of the passion, power, and mystery of the Holy Spirit.

We will meet every other Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Rms. 1 & 3 at St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

As a blessing to begin this new ministry, we will be covering the cost of books for all who sign up to participate. Please see sign up sheet outside Fellowship Hall or contact me at SLM6887@gmail.com/(412) 427-6730. I will be ordering on Saturday, October 10th.



THANK YOU TO:

Jody Herb
Tracy Berrigan
Barbara Bacsak
Ruth Hynson-Palmer
Walter Palmer
Charlie Poukish
John Webster
Linda Parsons
Ryan Haught
Erin Bradley
Jeff Lane

Alicia Brendlinger-Weippert
Joanna Schoonover
Walt and Mary Ann Palmer
Andrew Williams
Jennifer Shortall
Debbie Smith
Scott Weippert
Ethan Lister
Brooke Haught
Becky Zinser

For providing music for our services at St. Luke's through these
COVID times.

We have been blessed!



Fundraiser for MYF—Hot Off the Press Book: *Proverbs Up Close and Personal*

In an effort to kill two birds with one stone, MYF and Mary Turkington are collaborating in a project to promote her latest book, *Proverbs Up Close and Personal* (the last in her trilogy on Proverbs) and the MYF's need to raise money for their mission projects and attendance at youth conference.



Mary has agreed to give a portion of each sale of her book to the MYF to help fund their projects. They, in turn, have agreed to take orders for those books during the month of November when they will be given exclusive opportunity to take such orders for

that month (perhaps some time in October depending when the books are actually published).

The write-up on the book cover describes the book as follows:

“You’ll love the span of years covered in this book. 200 easy-to-read pages, these life stories start back in the Great Depression of 1929 and cycle right on through 2020. Though the advancements made through this last century were beyond the imagination of those early days, people themselves are faced with many of the same dilemmas faced in the 1920’s—on steroids! However the Lord God is ever the same and has known exactly what would happen and when, in each generation. He has provided according to our needs. Read the stories of how He has given strength and courage to His children, and about His patience and love as He draws people to Himself. Find yourself relating to the problems of so many years ago, which in some cases mirror the mess we find ourselves in today. But God is good. Experience peace and comfort within as you read and enjoy these true to life stories and see how God is there waiting to bless you even in the midst of the storms of life.”

The book has been endorsed on the back cover by Pastor Karen Handy, Dr. James Orr, and Pastor Don Reynolds of Calvary Baptist Church. Also, our own current pastor, Pastor Dan, has had a chance to review the manuscript and given it a thumbs up.

When the books are here, late October or early November, the MYF will be soliciting people to purchase the books. The cost of each book is as follows: \$13.95 for the soft cover, and \$30.95 for the hard cover. You will need to pay for your books at the time of ordering and there will be no tax charged. If at all possible, please pay by check rather than cash.

You will be given a receipt and asked to fill out a form indicating if there is someone you would like to have this book particularly signed for—either yourself or as a gift for someone else. When doing so, please PRINT THE NAMES so there will not be any errors in spelling or reading those names. Also, please list your phone number so that should there be any questions, Mary can contact you. The MYF youth will be asked to turn in their order sheets each week, so the books can be signed and returned to the purchaser in a timely manner.

(Some may be purchasing for mailing and the sooner in the mail for Christmas, the better in these days of “you never know what’s going to happen next”.)

The books, of course, will be available after November; however, they may not be available locally as soon, depending on how sales go plus they will be available in other places.

Thank you for your support and God bless.

Anniversary Sunday

Everybody is invited to join us in celebrating our church's Anniversary on Sunday, October 25, 2020. Come hear our new Pastor, Dan Gedman, at all 3 of the services, 8:30am, 9:40am & 11am. Due to Covid restrictions, there will NOT be a meal following.

Charge Conference

St. Luke's Charge Conference will be held on Monday, October 26 at 6pm. Rev. Elmer Davis, Jr., Easton District Superintendent, will be joining us and conducting the conference. All are welcome to take part in this important meeting as we work through church business.



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

For Period January through December 2020 as of August 31, 2020

Description	Annual Budget 2020	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	% Budg Used
<u>Income</u>				
Offerings	250,612.00	140,828.92	109,783.08	56.19%
Offerings - Sunday School	100.00	60.00	40.00	60.00%
Interest Income	25.00	25.74	(0.74)	102.96%
Building Use	8,000.00	3,605.00	4,395.00	45.06%
Administrative Building Use	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Income	258,737.00	144,519.66	114,217.34	55.86%
<u>Expenses</u>				
Pastor Expenses				
Salary	47,722.00	33,527.70	14,194.30	70.26%
Travel Reimbursement	2,400.00	562.03	1,837.97	23.42%
Cable TV at parsonage	1,600.00	860.40	739.60	53.78%
Hospitalization/Dental	18,180.00	6,060.00	12,120.00	33.33%
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	4,983.04	4,799.96	50.94%
Pastor Expenses - other		267.84	(267.84)	
Total Pastor Expenses	81,235.00	46,261.01	34,973.99	56.95%
Staff Expenses				
Staff Salaries	73,580.00	48,450.63	25,129.37	65.85%
Wage and Tax Expenses	7,358.00	6,458.26	899.74	87.77%
Worker's Compensation	1,092.00	904.00	188.00	82.78%
Expenses - other		0.00	0.00	
		227.18	(227.18)	#DIV/0!
Total Staff Expenses	82,030.00	55,812.89	25,989.93	68.04%
Other Operational Expenses				
Easton District Office	1,415.00	1,415.00	0.00	100.00%
Janitorial Supplies	1,000.00	322.18	677.82	32.22%
Electricity/Oil	18,000.00	8,480.60	9,519.40	47.11%
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	5,871.00	3,543.20	2,327.80	60.35%
Fuel (parsonage)	6,500.00	2,568.17	3,931.83	39.51%
Grass and Shrubbery Maintenance	3,000.00	1,205.00	1,795.00	40.17%
Insurance	10,300.00	8,572.00	1,728.00	83.22%
Maintenance and Repairs	6,800.00	4,211.24	2,588.76	61.93%
Miscellaneous	100.00	745.60	(645.60)	745.60%
Music Committee	1,200.00	925.00	275.00	77.08%
MYF Program	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Office Supplies	2,250.00	1,774.96	475.04	78.89%
Postage	1,500.00	800.00	700.00	53.33%
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	916.22	583.78	61.08%
Telephone	1,500.00	1,301.81	198.19	86.79%
Water and Sewer	1,750.00	1,163.32	586.68	66.48%
Evangelism	2,500.00	839.61	1,660.39	33.58%
Worship Materials	1,200.00	501.55	698.45	41.80%
Total Operational Expenses	95,472.00	52,122.04	43,713.23	54.59%
Total Expenses	258,737.00	154,195.94	78,687.22	59.60%
Net Income over Expenses	0.00	(9,676.28)	35,530.12	

The Voice

of St. Luke's
October 2020

St. Luke's UMC Staff:

Rev. Dan T. Gedman- 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: Stacey Reid

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