

St. Luke's United Church of Christ

Still Speaking

May/June 2020

Worship Schedule

Until we meet together in person again, all worship services are on our YouTube channel and are posted on our Facebook page. More information is inside the newsletter.

Office Hours

Beginning at 9:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

St. Luke's Staff

Ministers

All members

Pastor

Rev. Trisha Gilbertson

Music Director

Neva Polley Scott

Accountant

Cindy Scroggins

Custodians

Carole Watson

Eunice Oakes

Council President

David Blankenbeker

Church Administrator

Becky Herald

Virtual Worship at St. Luke's

All are invited to join the Facebook Watch Party on our St. Luke's United Church of Christ Facebook page at 10am on Sunday mornings so that we can worship together while apart. Participating in a "Watch and Worship Party" allows us to view the service at the same time while interacting in the chat area.

You also have the option of watching the prerecorded service at your convenience on the Facebook page or Pastor Trish's YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE3rg4VrEBLvD5kA_qMzljA?view_as=subscriber. The videos are posted by 8am on Sunday mornings.

If you have any difficulty accessing the virtual worship services, please contact the church office.

Special Denomination-Wide Worship

On Sunday, May 17, the St. Luke's worship team will not be creating a worship video. Instead, all are invited to worship with our siblings in Christ from across the country by watching a special worship service produced by the United Church of Christ. Instructions on how to access the worship video will be forthcoming in the weekly email.

Wednesday Nights on Zoom

Join Pastor Trish and Neva for a mid-week check-in, which is a time for connection, prayer and music. Using the Zoom platform, we will be able to hear and see one another, which is a blessing while we remain socially distant.

To join the Zoom meeting, go to www.zoom.us and enter the Meeting ID: 913 3831 7719 and Password: 406341. You can also join by calling in at 1-301-715-8592, enter meeting code 91338317719 and password 406341.

If you have any questions, you can speak with Pastor Trish.

Pastor's Corner

Friends in Christ,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and healthy. I also pray it finds you not without hope. No doubt, this pandemic is a time of intense, complex suffering. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can offer pastoral support during this challenging time.

As I write, Governor Holcomb has recently released our state's Back on Track plan, which encourages churches to continue meeting remotely as much as possible. When churches decide to meet in-person, they should be prepared to implement many protocols, such as wearing face masks, sitting six feet apart, and refraining from attending if over the age of 65 or with high-risk health factors. In light of these recommendations, and in addition to mounting evidence that the Coronavirus is known to spread among groups of people who are in close contact in a confined space for an extended period of time, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference has recommended that churches continue meeting virtually through the end of May with an eye towards reopening in the summer with many modifications in place.

On Monday, May 4, the St. Luke's Council met and voted to follow the Conference's recommendations. Therefore, St. Luke's will remain closed to activities (except for Loaves and Fishes carry-out) through the end of May. At that point, we will reevaluate whether it's safe and prudent to reopen, but the hope is that we can hold a service (with modifications) in the sanctuary on June 7th.

In the meantime, we will continue worshiping and meeting together online, as well as making plans for what our "new normal" will look like when we are able to gather. Although I know we are all eager to be in each other's physical presence again and worship together in the sanctuary, by waiting we continue to help slow the spread of the Coronavirus and protect the most vulnerable in our community, as well as take our time in planning and implementing our mitigation strategies.

During this time of being physically apart, I pray we can all be encouraged by the ways that we continue to be the church during this time:

We are caring for the common good and protecting the most vulnerable in our community by practicing responsible social distancing.

We are loving our neighbors by checking in on each other, making masks, donating to CLM, etc.

We are providing nourishment to the community through Loaves and Fishes, which continues to operate under social distancing guidelines - serving some 80 to-go meals each Saturday.

We are sharing the love of Christ with the wider world: Hundreds of people are viewing our worship videos on Facebook each week!

We are worshiping God in new and meaningful ways at home, and we are deepening our faith as we explore new spiritual disciplines and practices.

We are discovering that we are one in the Spirit, even when we are physically separated.

Thanks be to God for continuing to work in and through us. St. Luke's has proven over the decades that its people are adaptable and resilient, and I pray we continue to unite in a spirit of wisdom, patience, love and compassion as we navigate these challenging times.

In Christ,

Pastor Trish

A Message from Your Council President

Dearest Fellow Parishioners,

Well it's been weeks since the shutdown of so many things due to the pandemic, our church included. Unless you are well over 100 years of age, we weren't yet born the last time anything like this happened. The Church Council has been meeting regularly, virtually online. Please be assured that the Council and staff are working hard to make sure that the church continues its mission and remains viable and vibrant to the maximum extent possible. Also know that we care for each of you and are ready to help. Should you need anything at all, please contact the church office, Pastor Trish, myself, or any Council member.

I also want to thank each and every one of you who responded to my letter. Many of you have mailed in checks or made online donations. I know that some are out of work and may be unable to donate at this time. Be assured that we understand and know that you are doing what you can. For the rest, it's been a little over a month since I sent the letter, so please do your best to maintain your giving and if you have means to contribute more, now would be a great time to do so.

I want to offer a special thanks to Pastor Trish who is really doing a fantastic job of presenting a meaningful Sunday service online. This isn't an easy task and she does it so well and without complaint. I see many of you logged in to Facebook during the services. For those who have yet to join in, we would love to have you with us, it is quite inspirational.

I know that this time in our lives is fraught with fear, stress, anxiety, and concerns, but we can also be thankful for all of our blessings. The reports indicate that the virus may finally be nearing its peak and in some areas be on the down slope. Let's pray that this ends soon and that we get back to living our normal lives.

Bless you all, stay safe and healthy,

David R. Blankenkemper,

Council President

Mission & Evangelism Committee

St. Luke's will be collecting the Strengthen the Church offering through the end of May. The Strengthen the Church offering builds up the United Church of Christ by providing the financial resources to be a Spirit-inspired and world-changing Christian movement. Funding supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation; all strategies needed as we work through this current challenge and beyond. Conferences and the National Setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations.

St. Luke's has some money available to help church members when they are in financial need. If you could use some assistance, please speak with Pastor Trish.

The Center for Lay Ministries is in need of soup, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, pasta, and canned fruit or applesauce. CLM receives donations 9am-3pm on weekdays. You pull to side door and someone will unload for you. Monetary donations can be sent to church and we will get to CLM.

St. Luke's UCC Music Ministry



St. Luke's Virtual Music Ministry

As we social distance during the pandemic, the piano and organ have not remained silent at St. Luke's. And, your voices at home have been heard as well. St. Luke's Music has continued worship through music in new and virtual ways while we have not been able to be in the same physical space. We have shared music in videos, audio recordings and on Facebook live. It has been wonderful to hear so many different instruments and I appreciate our musicians' willingness to share their talents with us online. I look forward to the days when we can be back together in the same space. But, until then, we will continue to share in music together across the distance.

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. Philippians 1:3.

God be with you 'til we meet again!

-Neva-Marie Scott, Music Director

It Is Well With My Soul

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot Thou has taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."
It is well, with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come.
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
It is well, with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

-Horatio Spafford/Philip Bliss

Congratulations Class of 2020!

Amelia Blankenkaker

I went to Centre College and majored in English and will receive my degree in Bachelor of arts this May. I was the captain of the swim team for three years, got school records in the 200 free relay, 400 free relay, and 800 free relay, I went to DIII nationals and was announced an All-American this year. Also, I am the all-time leading scorer for men and women on the team and a Conference Champion in several events. I am a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, which I held leadership positions in for two years. I am attending the University of Louisville for graduate school this fall in Speech Language Pathology.

Savannah Spencer



Savannah attends Charlestown High School, she played volleyball all four years and received her varsity letter 3 of the 4. She loved attending football games and won homecoming queen her senior year. Savannah is an A,B student with a 3.6 gpa and acquired her work ethic certificate. She will be attending IUS in the fall and pursuing a degree in design marketing.

Justin Tarter



School: Purdue Polytechnic New Albany

Degree: Bachelor's

Major: Mechanical Engineering Technology

College Highlights: Member of The Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Purdue Student Ambassador

Future Plans: I have a Mechanical Engineer Co-op position lined up with Icon Metal Forming, a Martinrea International Company. This is a full time position that has the strong possibility to become a full time salaried position once I complete a few months of work for them after they resume production.

Arden Thornberry



I went to Indiana University Southeast. I majored in Psychology and minored in Criminal Justice and Criminology. I made the Dean's List in Fall 2018 and then the Chancellor's List in Fall 2019. I'm also a member of the International Honor Society in Psychology (Psi Chi).

I graduated in December with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and minor in Criminal Justice and Criminology. I was supposed to participate in the commencement ceremony on May 11th, but that has been postponed to a later date due to Covid-19.

As far as future plans go, I am currently considering graduate school. More specifically, the school counseling program offered at IUS.

Savannah Yatalese



My senior year was very short but very fun! From the first day I walked in! Til the day I walked out not knowing it was my last day I would step foot in Jeffersonville High School as a student. I loved school and worked very hard to get the opportunity to walk across the stage. One highlight from my senior year was that I got the opportunity to take half days. Not a whole lot of seniors get that. After high school my plans were to go straight to college at Galen College to become a nurse.

At-Home Worship Guide

At the Heart of the Matter: An Easter Series

Created by the Worship Design Studio
(www.worshipdesignstudio.com/worship)

For those who are unable to join us for virtual worship on Sunday mornings, this at-home worship guide adapted from the Worship Design Studio's materials incorporates a portion of the content of our virtual worship service for the Easter season that takes us through Pentecost (May 31). You may wish to worship with the assistance of this guide each Sunday morning.

To enhance the experience, consider listening to or singing hymns or praise songs throughout the service. Also, the goal of the service is that it is interactive in nature, so you are encouraged to gather a stone or rock, a candle and something to eat and/or drink before you begin. I pray this at-home worship guide would lead you into a meaningful time of prayer, praise, thanksgiving and reflection.

Gathering

Easter is not just a day. It is a whole season of time when we remember that Jesus' Spirit lives on in each one of us. In the Bible, the early church was described in this way:

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people." (Acts 2: 46-47a)

During this season, we are following our ancestor's traditions. We are creating a "temple" of worship in our hearts whether we can be physically together or not. By sharing in words and music and breathing and eating and moving together, we will stay connected. The earliest Christians worshiped in their homes before they had churches, and so will we, until we can meet again in our sanctuary. Because at the "heart of the matter," we are connected through the Spirit that makes us one in love.

Let us center our hearts as one to begin. Take a deep breath, and pray out loud:

Holy Living God, Heartbeat of Creation: help us to take this time to center on you, for you made us, you gave us life, and you continue to be with us every moment, every breath, every step. Amen.

Hear this assurance from God (can be sung to the tune of "Amazing Grace"):

Be still, O heart, you're not alone,
your beat is shared with me.
Come now, and calm, and center here,
you're mine, secure and free.

Take a couple deep breaths, making sure your shoulders and any tension you feel in your body is letting go with the breath.

Pick up your heart stone, sometimes called a "worry stone," and let your touch on its surface remind you that God's touch is within you, between you, and around you. As close and real as this object is in your hands right now, is how close Love is to you always.

Imagine letting go of your worries for now into God's heart of love. Offer a prayer song of letting go (can be sung to the tune of "Amazing Grace"):

Into your care, we offer now,
our worries, fears and strife.
We turn to you and know you're near—
Your light, our love and life.

Light your candle, and set your heart worry stone next to it.

Now let us nourish our bodies as we nourish our souls in worship. This is very much what our spiritual ancestors did as they gathered in those early days in houses. They would bring what they had and share with each other. It's no wonder that "pot luck" is in our Christian DNA! Pray out loud:

Holy Peace-Giver, we gather in your name invited by Jesus, bound together with your Spirit, in union with each other. Feed our bodies and our spirits with your comforting presence so that we might be your comfort to others. Bless this food, and break open our hearts. Bless this drink, and pour out your love. Amen.

Pick something up on the table and say the one word that is at the heart of the matter in every blessing we do at our tables: Grateful!

Let us begin to "break bread" while we "break open the Word" in our scriptures.

Breaking Open the Word

As you read the Scripture passages each week, consider engaging the texts through the ancient practice of Lectio Divina ("divine reading").

Read through the passage slowly and see what word or phrase sticks out to you. Meditate on this word or phrase.

Read the passage slowly again and ask God to reveal how this word or phrase connects to your life.

Read the passage slowly again and ask if God is asking you to respond in some way.

Thank God for illuminating the passage for you, and commit to responding if you feel compelled to.

May 10: Read Psalm 31:5, 15-16 and John 14:1-2.

Jesus himself cried out to God from the Hebrew scriptures that were his holy texts, "Into your hands I commit my spirit." He reminded his disciples, and he reminds us, to trust in God when our hearts are troubled. Steadfast love is what God shows and what we are called to offer each other.

May 17: Read 1 Peter 3:13-22 and John 14:15-21.

To "sanctify" something is to set it apart as holy and consecrated. The resurrected Jesus tells his disciples that the Spirit will be with them when he is gone. Holiness resides within each one of us. It calls us to see holiness in others. It calls us to do the right thing in the name of Love, even when the right thing isn't easy.

May 24: Read Ephesians 1:17 and Luke 24:48-49.

The story of the last time the disciples saw Jesus is a story of blessing. Jesus says that as witnesses to his presence and resurrection, they too will be filled with power to carry on his ministry, to be his hands and feet in the world. To see the world through the eyes of Jesus is to see through the eyes of love.

May 31: Read Acts 2:4, 17-18 and John 7:37-38.

Throughout this season, we have proclaimed that love is that which binds us (the root of “religion”) to God, to Jesus, to each other. Love IS our religion. On the day of Pentecost, the church received the power of the Holy Spirit to let this message flow out to all. The power of this message is ever-so important to spread in the world today. Let us be a community of messengers letting living compassion flow from our hearts.

A Time for Prayer

It is difficult in this moment not to be near some of the people we love and might be worried about. Take a moment and say out loud the names of people you wish were right there next to you today. As you name them, they are present with you in your heart.

Let us also call to mind the people we cannot name, whose names we do not know. But we know they need our prayers and God’s comfort. Add any additional prayers to this list:

For those who have lost loved ones

For those who are sick and recovering

For those who are caring for loved ones who are sick at home

For those who are caring for persons in medical care

For those who are separated from loved ones

For those who are feeling alone and isolated

For those who are helping and are so very tired

For those who are struggling to find friends, food, shelter or comfort

For those who are afraid

Close your prayer time by saying out loud the Lord’s Prayer.

A Time for Thanksgiving

Take a few minutes to review your day or week and thank God for the blessings, big and small, that you have received. Then sing to the Source of all blessings:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

Benediction

(based on Psalm 16)

Remember: God is always with you. No matter what you face, no matter what trials or hardships come your way, God is right beside you, always filling your cup to overflowing, guiding and directing your path.

So, acknowledge your fear and your worry and know it is as true and holy as any feeling, including joy and hope and love. Take heart! This is the heart of the matter.

And may the blessing of God almighty - Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit - be with you now and forevermore. Amen..

Loaves & Fishes

Praying that you are safe and doing well in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic we are facing. Starting March 14th we have restricted access to St Luke's for our guests and have offered the lunch on a "to go" basis only. The only way we can continue serving Loaves & Fishes is by following the CDC guidelines carefully. Six foot distance, groups under 10 people, hand washing, gloves, masks, cleaning all surfaces, no one with a cold or illness of any kind can prepare food. Everyone's safety is important.

Thanks to First Christian, Cook Memorial, St. James, St. John Paul II, Lyda & Larry Abell, Wall St., and St. Augustine's who have worked through this serving curbside lunches already. Each week has gone pretty well and our guests have been very appreciative that we are still serving. The bagged lunch contains a sandwich, fruit, chips, dessert, and a bottled water. There are now boxes on the stage to put lunch bags into. One box is set on the bottom step of the Walnut Street door for our guests to pick up. The servers can stay a distance away inside the church door and then just replenish the boxes when needed. It is best to start as soon as they arrive (11:10-15) so that groups don't assemble. After lunches are gone, groups are to walk around the building to pick up any trash left there.

St. Luke's serves on May 23rd, We will need 4-6 people to prepare and serve lunches. Please contact Carol Higdon if you are comfortable and able to help.

Thanks to Denise Hicks for maintaining a supply of lunch bags, sandwich bags, to go containers of all kinds, chips, and water for groups to use. Also thanks to Kate Chaney for donating dessert containers and spoons to us. At present our freezers still have desserts from Kroger to serve.

Right now this is a week to week effort that I'm hoping that we can continue. I pray for all of you, the people we serve, and our mission. God bless you, be well!!

Carol Higdon
L&F Chair
812-946-3222



Church Donations

Thank you to all of you have sent in your pledges and donations to St. Luke's over the past weeks. If you are able to continue to support St. Luke's mission of being a caring presence in southern Indiana, please consider giving online by going to the link on our website at www.stlukes.cc. Or, you can mail your tithes and offerings to the church at 329 Walnut St. Jeffersonville, IN 47130.



Happy birthday, Doris Maloney!

Doris Maloney's family and friends held a drive-by birthday celebration for her 96th birthday.



May Birthdays**June Birthdays**

1 st	Billie Sue Parks		Ben Hennegan
	Haley Harting	20 th	Kathy Fox
2 nd	Carole Watson		Kathy Gibson
3 rd	Bill Wanke	21 st	Keaton Abernathy
	Ann Swilley	22 nd	Inez Smith
4 th	Jim Hardaway	24 th	Ellie Eades
	Linda Reinstedler	25 th	Jason Turner
	Cynthia Runyon	28 th	Cheryl Gettings
7 th	Susan Heibert	29 th	Jack Vissing
12 th	Steve	30 th	Zach
	Blankenbaker		Blankenbaker
13 th	Larry Hardaway	31 st	Marty Lindsay

2 nd	Kate Chaney
4 th	Emily Abernathy
15 th	Brandon Maloney
16 th	Juanita Bliss
21 st	Nancy Sorrell
	Kirk Spencer

May Anniversaries**June Anniversaries**

29th Marvin & Juanita Bliss

8th Willie & Shelly Watson
 20th Charlie & Sandy Smith
 22nd Ken & Janet Turner

May Loaves & Fishes**June Loaves & Fishes**

2nd—St. James 23rd—St. Luke's
 9th—First Baptist 30th—Faith Lutheran
 16th—Cook Memorial

6th—Larry & Lyda 20th—St. Augustine
 13th—St. James 27th—Wall Street

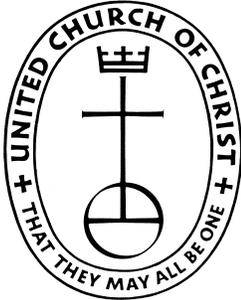


The Book of Golden Memories list is now available in its entirety on the St. Luke's website at www.stlukes.cc.

**ST. LUKE'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

329 Walnut Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

Phone: 812-282-3383
E-mail: office@stlukes.cc
Website: www.stlukes.cc



*A friendly
family of
faith*

Follow us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/stlukesjeff

**No matter who you are
Or where you are
On life's journey,
*You're welcome here.***