



The **VISITOR**

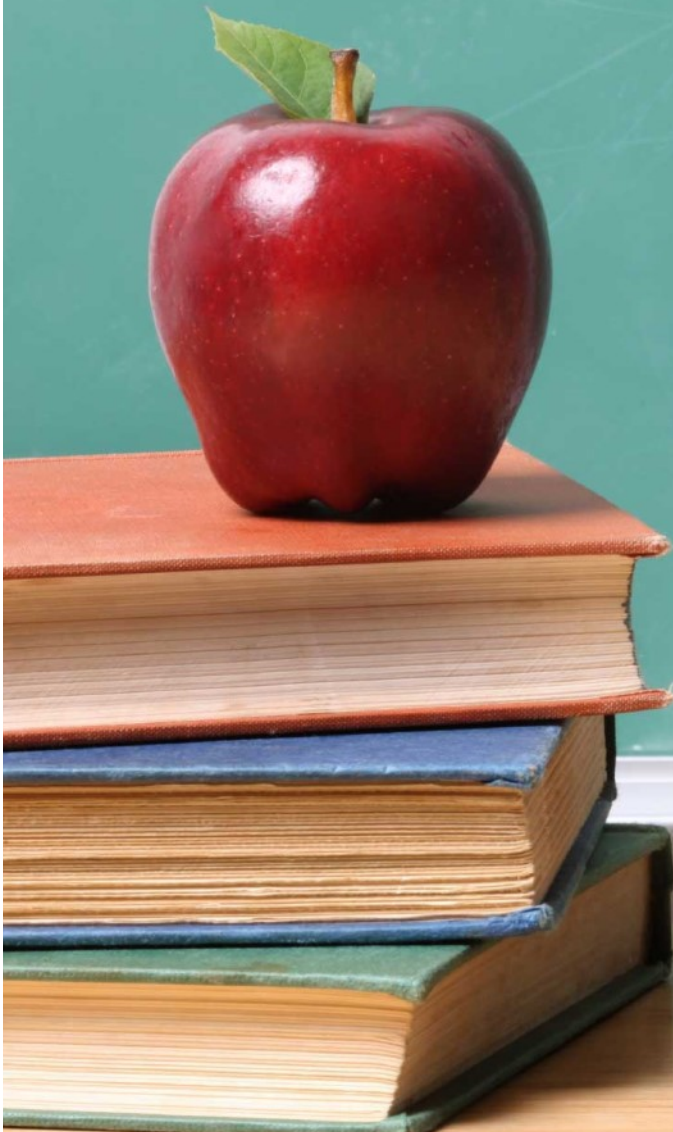
A monthly publication of St. Luke's United Methodist Church - Kilgore, Texas

August 2022

Issue 8

BACK TO *School*

Check out page 3 from more information
about our Back-to-School events.



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STAY CONNECTED

EVERYDAY | ALL DAY LONG

Like and follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/StLukesUMCKilgore/>

Like and follow us on Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/stlukeskilgore/>

Subscribe to our YouTube page

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQI83akQH4YDK-LYIHM0QXQ>

Sign-up to receive our emails

<https://stlukeskilgore.org/newsletters/>

Watch Worship Live

<https://stlukeskilgore.org/watch-live/>

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office

(903) 984-3576
office@stlukeskilgore.org

Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews

pastor@stlukeskilgore.org

Niki Chowdhury

Children & Jr. High Youth Dir.
(903) 235-9401
nikichowdhury5@gmail.com

Jennifer Powell

Dir. of Communications
(903) 984-3576
office@stlukeskilgore.org

Richelle Rathbun

Hospitality Coordinator
(903) 371-3499

Misty Shipman

Sr. High Youth Dir.
(903) 240-4609

James Vermillion

Music Dir.
(903) 241-1447
music@stlukeskilgore.org

2022 BOARD MEMBERS

Board Chair

Keith Hooks

Staff Parish Relations

Karen Wilson

Endowments

Celia Mooney

Lay Leader

SyRena Witt

Trustees

Garry Mount

Class of 2022

Carla Branson
Lydia Rathbun

Class of 2023

Michael Barnard
Sheryl Caraway
Tommy Farnham
Denise Reinert

Class of 2024

Gabrielle Fraschiseur
Milton Hattaway
Jim McCann
Susan Moore

These volunteers have agreed to help lead the church. If you have any questions about what is happening around St. Luke's please contact one of them.

HOLY HUDDLERS

We would like to invite and welcome everyone to eat and fellowship with the Holy Huddlers. We meet twice a month (not always the same week of the month due to holidays). Supper will be on you, but the fellowship will be shared by all.

August 5

6:00pm
Dairy Queen, Kilgore

August 19

6:00pm
Roost, Longview

If you have any questions, please call Mikki Ellis at 903-987-2506.

METHODIST WOMEN

Tuesday, August 2

6:00pm | Family Center

Curious about what the Methodist women are up to? Look no farther! The Methodist Women's group will meet, Tuesday, August 2 at 6:00pm for their regular monthly gathering. All ladies are invited to attend and learn more about upcoming events and programs.

SATURDAY BREAD

Saturday, August 27

8:30am | First Presbyterian Church

Help us serve our community. Brenda Culpepper leads the Saturday Bread team, providing volunteers once a quarter to help cook, serve, and deliver meals to those in need. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer please contact Brenda or the church office.

3 ST. LUKE'S KIDS & MDO

PRESCHOOLER SUNDAY SCHOOL

In the month of August our preschoolers will learn that the most amazing work of art is the one we see in the mirror each day—people! God made everything, but people are God's most wonderful creation because we are the only creation made in God's very own image. God made us to think and figure things out, to create and invent, and to help others—just like God. Every time we look in the mirror and look at another person, we are seeing God's masterpiece. We want preschoolers to know that they are wonderfully made because of WHO made them—THE awesome artist—God!

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Love starts and ends with God. Love has always been the point of how God has interacted with the world. Since the beginning of time, God's love has always been on display. That's why we chose love to kick off a year through the Bible for our elementary kids. From Genesis to Revelation, God inspired writers of Scripture, whose works come together to tell God's Big Story. But God's love isn't just about what happened in history. God loves US today! And we have the chance to share God's love with others, right here and now. We know that God loved us first. God loved us enough to send Jesus for us. In response, we can show how much we love God by loving others . . . and showing people how much they matter to us.

AUGUST MEMORY VERSE

"Here is what love is, it is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his son to give his life to pay for our sins." 1 John 4:10, NIRV

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

**Friday, August 5
6:00pm-10:00pm
\$10 per child**

Parent's, Friday August 5 is date night. Drop your kids off at PNO and enjoy a night to yourselves. Run errands, catch a movie, go out to dinner. Your kids will be well taken care of by our nursery workers and enjoy a pizza dinner and games in the gym. Visit our website, stlukeskilgore.org to register and pay. Contact Niki Chowdhury for more information.

4-5TH GRADERS MESSY GAMES

**Sunday, August 7
6:00pm-8:00pm**

4th & 5th Graders, join us for messy games and pizza on Sunday, August 7. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting messy, bring a towel and a friend, and join us for some fun!



STAYCONNECTED

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on all the great things happening in children's ministry and at St. Luke's MDO

St. Luke's Kids

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukeskilgorekids>

St. Luke's MDO

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesmdo>

BACK TO *School*

Promotion Sunday

Sunday, August 7 | 9:30am

Calling all kids! It's time to move up a grade in Sunday School. Join us on Promotion Sunday to kick-off a new Sunday School Year!

Back to School Bash

Friday, August 12 | 7:30pm

Join us for water slides, hotdogs, and an outdoor movie to celebrate back to school. Invite a friend, grab a lawn chair and join the fun!

Back-to School blessings

Sunday, August 14 | 8:30am & 10:30am

Please join us Sunday, August 14 for blessing of backpacks and the blessing of all school employees in both worship services. Don't forget to bring your backpack or binder to church. We want to send school staff and students back to school with our prayers and blessings for a great new school year.



Hello, I'm Danielle Caskey, and it is a blessing to be a part of the St. Luke's family. I'm excited to see how God will use me here as the director of the MDO program. I come with a diverse background having worked with children in private, public, and charter schools, as well as running a homeschool academy. I have served as a teacher, a director, a principal, a special education coordinator, and most recently, an educational consultant and tutor.

Originally from Great Britain, I was raised in an Air Force family and moved around a lot as a child. As a child, I always enjoyed the thrilling adventure of starting a new school and moving to another state and a brand new house. My husband was born and raised in Kilgore and has lived in Texas his entire life. In December, he felt led to move closer to his family, so we moved here in March and could not be happier with our decision. Instead of seeing his family once or twice a year, we see them regularly.

In my free time, I enjoy traveling with my husband, writing, reading, and learning how to quilt and sew. I enjoy watching sports and I'm very excited that the World Cup is taking place this year. Right now, most of our free time is consumed with our house renovation, but we manage to sneak in some trips to the beach and places to go off-roading in our side-by-side with my in-laws.

I am honored for the opportunity to be a part of the St. Luke's community and to serve the teachers, children, parents, and church staff members to the best of my ability to provide an exceptional Christ-centered program.

Blessings,
~Danielle Caskey

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

August 5

Parent's Night Out

6:00pm-10:00pm

August 7

Promotion Sunday

9:30am

4th & 5th Graders: Messy Games

6:00pm-8:00pm

August 12

Back-to-School Bash

7:30pm-10:30pm

August 14

Back-to-School Sunday

8:30am & 10:30am

Please see the calendar on page 13 for a complete list of this month's events and meetings.

WEDNESDAY Activities

We are so excited for Wednesday nights to start back on Sept 7th. Registration for Wednesday night children's choir and bible studies will start August 15 on our website. We can't wait for your child to attend but we need every child to register.

5 ST. LUKE'S YOUTH



The Visitor

YOUTH EVENTS

August 7
Promotion Sunday
9:30am

August 12
Back-to-School Bash
7:30pm-10:30pm

August 14
Back-to-School Sunday
8:30am & 10:30am

Please see the calendar on page 13 for a complete list of this month's events and meetings.



STAYCONNECTED

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to stay up to date on all the great things happening with St. Luke's Youth.

St. Luke's Youth

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesyouthkilgore>

@sly_srhg

Meet our BOARD



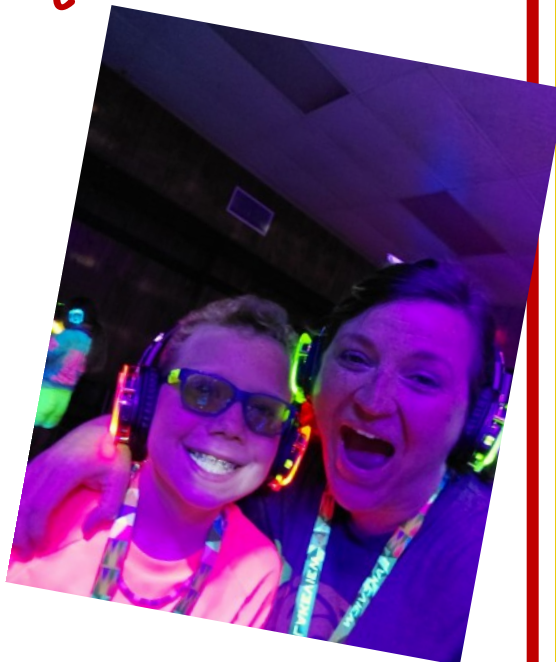
Garry Mount

Garry and his wife Cathy are proud parents to a daughter, Tracey in Longview, and a son, Chris, in Portland, Oregon. The couple came to St. Luke's because of the youth program where their children found a place to grow in the faith. Garry currently serves on the Board of Stewards as the Trustees Representative, plays in the Arise Band, and is a member of the Lost & Found Class. The fellowship that they have found at St. Luke's is important to Garry and he hopes in the future we continue to grow.

Make sure to thank Garry for his service on the Board of Stewards.

ST. LUKE'S Spotlight

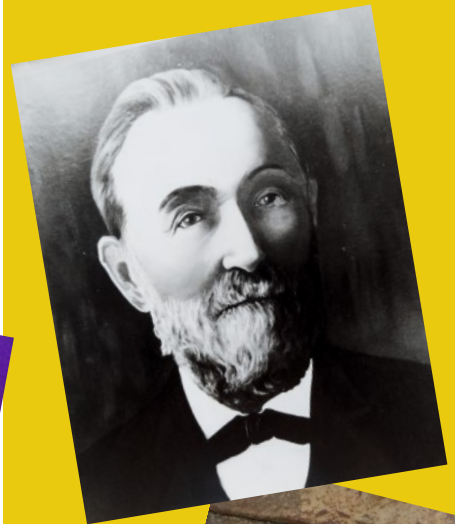
Huge thank you to Amanda Gillen-Hall and Don Nicholson who were adult counselors at Lakeview church camp. Both of them braved the heat and were amazing with the children. They were a huge blessing to our camp experience. If you see either of them, please tell them thank you for their service! Without them, our kids couldn't go to camp.



HERITAGE Highlights

The St. Luke's Sanctuary complex includes the Sanctuary, Laird Hall and the Education building. The entire educational building was named in honor of Dr. Isaac Alexander.

Dr. Alexander was a pioneer of education in East Texas and the first Pastor to lead the Kilgore Methodist Society. The children of Dr. Alexander graciously contributed the funds to secure the beautiful and artistic oil painting of Dr. Alexander, which is on display in the hallway outside the Bride's Room. Originally the first floor of the Alexander building housed Alexander Chapel.



7 DISCERNMENT PROCESS

WHAT IS *Discernment?*

Discernment, at its core is about prayerfully understanding what God is calling a congregation to be in ministry to their missional context.

This time of discernment is a 40 day period of understanding our congregation, hearing from our members about their hopes for the future and determining where God is calling our church. This process is grounded **in information, communication, and prayer.**

INFORMATION

Background information about the current state of the UMC, the process of disaffiliation, what is the Global Methodist Church? We want you to be informed and we will do our best to answer all of your questions and point you in the right direction for more information.

Each Sunday in August Rev. Dr. Andrews will be available in the sanctuary during the 9:30am Sunday school hour to answer any questions. We will also be scheduling town hall meetings to help disseminate information. Be on the look out for more information.

Here are some links for more information

Texas Annual Conference Future Discernment Task Force
<https://www.txcumc.org/FDTF>

Global Methodist Church
<https://globalmethodist.org/>

COMMUNICATION

Communication is key in this process. We want to know what you are thinking, what your hope are for our church, and how we can help you through this time. If you have questions or just need to share your fears, hopes, and understanding with others please feel free to contact the church office, a member of the Board of Stewards, or Rev. Dr. Andrews.

To open these lines of communication Rev. Dr. Andrews will be hosting weekly cottage meetings at the parsonage. The church office will be sending out invitations to each meeting in order to keep the number of people manageable. We are dividing these groups based on Sunday School classes with others added in. If you are unable to attend your scheduled cottage meeting or if you do not participate in a Sunday school group, feel free to attend any of these meetings.

July 26

**Lost & Found Class
Seekers Class**

August 2

Methodist Women
Rev. Dr. Andrews will attend the regularly schedule Methodist Women meeting.

August 9

**Caring Christians
Chancel Choir**

August 16

**The Rock
Arise Band**

August 26

**The Young Adult Class
Just Among Moms**

All meetings will be hosted at the parsonage (409 Hillside) at 6:00pm.

PRAYER

Join us for 40 days of prayer as we discern God's plan for St. Luke's. A complete prayer guide including daily prayers is available at the welcome centers in the Sanctuary, in the church office, or online at stlukeskilgore.org

Day 1

A PRAYER FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE
Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7a

Day 2

A SEEKING PRAYER
Psalm 105:4; Isaiah 55:6

Day 3

A PRAYER FOR WISDOM
Proverbs 2:6

Day 4

A PRAYER FOR OUR PASTOR
2 Chronicles 1:10

Day 5

A PRAYER FOR REVELATION
Ephesians 1:15-19

Day 6

A PRAYER FOR HUMILITY
1 Peter 5:5, 6

Day 7

A PRAYER OF RETURN
Joel 2:12-13

Day 8

A PRAYER OF REPENTANCE
Isaiah 6:5-7

Day 9

A PRAYER OF CLEANSING
Psalm 5:10

Day 10

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT
Isaiah 6:8

Day 11

A PRAYER OF PRAISE FOR OUR
TRIUNE GOD
1 Chronicles 29:10b-13

Day 12

A PRAYER OF EXALTATION FOR
CHRIST OUR KING
Colossians 1:15-18

Day 13

A PRAYER OF PRAISE FOR THE
HOLY SPIRIT
Acts 1:8

Day 14

A PRAYER OF PRAISE FOR GOD'S
LIVING WORD-THE BIBLE
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Day 15

A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH
Matthew 16:16-19

Day 16

A PRAYER OF BAPTISM
REMEMBRANCE
Ephesians 4:4-6

Day 17

A PRAYER OF EUCHARIST
Luke 22:19

Day 18

A PRAYER FOR AN UNDIVIDED HEART
Psalm 86:11

Day 19

A PRAYER FOR PRESENCE
Romans 12:15-16

Day 20

A PRAYER FOR GENEROUS
HOSPITALITY
Hebrews 13:2

Day 21

A PRAYER FOR HOLY LOVE
Galatians 5:6

Day 22

A PRAYER FOR WORKS OF MERCY
Matthew 25:34-35

Day 23

A PRAYER FOR AUTHENTIC
COMMUNITY
Acts 2:42-44

Day 24

A PRAYER FOR ASSURANCE
Romans 8:16

Day 25

A PRAYER OF GRATITUDE
1 Thessalonians 5:17-19

Day 26

A PRAYER FOR FASTING
Matthew 6:16

Day 27

A PRAYER FOR GENEROUS GIVING
2 Corinthians 9:7

Day 28

A PRAYER TO BE ROOTED IN CHRIST'S
LOVE
Ephesians 3:17-19

Day 29

A PRAYER TO GROW AS DOERS OF
THE WORD
James 1:22-25

Day 30

A NEW CREATION PRAYER
2 Corinthians 5:17

Day 31

A PRAYER AGAINST OUR ANXIETIES
John 14:15-31

Day 32

A PRAYER FOR WISDOM
Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 33

A PRAYER FOR COMFORT
Psalm 30:11

Day 34

A PRAYER FOR A STRONG HEART
Psalm 96:3

Day 35

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Proverbs 16:2

Day 36

A PRAYER FOR REFUGE IN THE LORD
Psalm 5

Day 37

A PRAYER FOR A REFRESHED SPIRIT
Matthew 28:16-20

Day 38

A PRAYER FOR COMFORT
Psalm 30:11

Day 39

A PRAYER AGAINST BITTERNESS
Colossians 3:12-17

Day 40

A PRAYER FOR AN OPEN HEART
Psalm 32:8

9 VBS & CHURCH CAMP



When some people pick up a new book, they read the first few pages and then flip to the end to see how it turns out. With that, they consider themselves finished with the book! Isn't this a tempting way to live? But if we give in to this compulsion to over simplify the issues in our life, nothing is left to look back on but what the media would call "consumable sound bytes."

In life, we could concern ourselves solely with making sure everything fits nicely together in the end, that the middle isn't as important as long as the ending is where we want it. As your recently appointed pastor, I think about whether or not you like me or if I can be all that you need me to be. I could be tempted to look for premature consolation that it will all be okay by the end of our story together. But the truth is that life has victories and challenges, and sometimes all at once! I sure wish I could have a crystal ball and know how it will all turn out. But that would be all wrong. It is, in fact, a privilege to live as many days as possible, challenging or not, in service to you and especially to God.

The living which happens "in-between" determines the richness of the story of our lives. I'm reminded of this truth by Paul's proclamation near the end of his life:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus was a dramatic beginning, and the end of his life was also awe-inspiring. He cared most, however, about all that he did with the new Christians *between* those episodes. And so, we are reminded that the beginnings and endings are not the entire story. They are but a foreshadowing and then a joyous recollection of the greatness that is experienced when we live in God's shadow all of our days, come what may!

Our church is experiencing many beginnings and endings all at once, which can be exhausting and unsettling. We might be tempted to lay low or "check out" because of the decisions and transitions we are facing. On a recently taxing day involving many meetings and decisions, I realized I was humming the tune to a favorite hymn. Suddenly, the lyrics became alive inside of me like a refreshing prayer. And I knew I was powerfully called to live each day with the people of St. Luke's.

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Written by Harry Emerson Fosdick (1930)



Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews
Sr. Pastor

11

SAVE THE DATE



Warrior
Woman to Woman
CONFERENCE
Hosted by St. Luke's UMC

SATURDAY
September 17
9:00am-1:30pm

Registration \$25 per person
Nursery care \$10 per child (\$25 max)
Includes breakfast & lunch

Online registration opens August 15 at
stlukeskilgore.org

Amanda Florczykowski

Speaker/Best Selling Author

Unraveled: Mothering Fiercely in a World Full of Fears

Amanda Florczykowski is an intrinsic lover of risk, progress, and people. Her ability to merge all three embodies her personal mission. She is a magnetic motivator speaking on the topics of motherhood, leadership, and faith.



WAYS TO GIVE AT St. Luke's



IN PERSON

Drop your gift in one of the offering boxes at worship or in the offering plate



ONLINE

at
stlukeskilgore.org



TEXT

"give" to
903-833-3576



BY MAIL

St. Luke's UMC
401 E. Main St
Kilgore, TX 75662

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TITHES AND OFFERINGS?

Like llamas and alpacas, [tithes and offerings](#) are often grouped together, but they're definitely not the same thing. A tithe is a specific amount (10% of your income) that you give first, and an offering is anything extra that you give beyond that.

After you've tithed and paid all your bills and necessary expenses for the month, you can then use any extra money in your budget to give even more! This can include giving a cash offering to your church above and beyond your normal tithe, giving money to a charity you support, giving to a friend in need, or giving your time and skills by volunteering.

WHY TITHE?

The Bible tells us that tithing is a way to show that we trust God with our lives and our finances. But the tithe wasn't put in place for God's benefit—He already owns everything. He doesn't *need* our money. Instead, tithing is meant for our benefit because sacrificing a portion of our income helps us look outside our selfishness and makes us more aware of the needs of others.

In fact, one of the main purposes of tithing is to support the needs of pastors and the work of the local church. Tithes help pay the pastor's salary, keep the church's lights on, and meet the needs of the community.

Tithing is an act of faith that helps us keep our priorities straight. It reminds us that we don't own anything in this life. God is in control, and we're only managers of what He's given us.

Ever notice how unselfish people tend to make better spouses, friends, relatives, employees and employers? Yeah, they usually have better finances too! That's the beauty of tithing. We don't give to get, but God often blesses us with more if we're good managers of what we already have. Tithing recognizes that God is our provider and that we will prosper with more than just money if we rely on Him.

	1	2 Methodist Women 6:00pm**	3	4	5 Parents Night Out 6:00pm Holy Huddlers Dairy Queen, Kilgore 6:00pm	6
7 Promotion Sunday 4th & 5th Graders: Water Games 6:00pm	8	9 St. Luke's Feeds Teachers at KMS 7:30am Medicare Meeting 1:00pm	10 Woman To Woman Planning Meeting 6:00pm**	11	12 Back-To-School Bash 7:30pm	13
14 Back-To-School Sunday	15 BOS Meeting 6:00pm**	16 Mission Team Meeting 6:00pm**	17	18	19 Holy Huddlers Roost, Longview 6:00pm	20
21	22	23 Worship Team Meeting 6:00pm**	24	25	26	27 Emmaus Training 7:00am Saturday Bread 8:30am
28	29	30	31 Wednesday Activities Team Training 5:00pm	<p>* Nursery provided for this event. ** Nursery can be arranged for this event. Call Niki Chowdhury, 903-984-3576</p>		

RECURRING WEEKLY:

Sunday

8:30am | Arise Worship* (Sanctuary)
9:30am | Sunday School*
10:30am | Traditional Worship * (Sanctuary)

Monday

9:00am-2:00pm | Mother's Day Out (Children's Courtyard)

Tuesday

8:00am | Prayer Group (Knowles Chapel)

Wednesday

9:00am-2:00pm | Mother's Day Out (Children's Courtyard)
6:30pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday

6:30pm | Arise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

JOYS & CONCERNS

Please keep us updated on your loved ones. People will remain on this list for one month. Please let us know if they need to be on the list longer, 903-984-3576.

For a complete list of Joys & Concerns, military members, and members in care facilities, please contact the church office.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Sharry Christopher	Sam Holley
Cindy Frederick	Dwayne & Elaine Kirksey
Tommy Freeman	Agnes Oliver
Linda Garner	Angela Thompson
Gary Gray	April & Nathan Watson
Pat Haynes	Wilbur & Kay Yates

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Cherry Black.....sister of Glenda Cochran
 Luke Briscoe.....friend of SyRena Witt
 Babby Carroll.....sister of April Watson
Allison Covington.....niece of Bill & Peggy Clarke
 Les Cross.....brother of Dan Cross
 Lisa Gillespie.....daughter of Jack & Sharry Christopher
 Gloria Kinney.....granddaughter of Jack & Sharry Christopher
 Marilyn Kitchens.....friend
 Kelly Jackson.....daughter of Debra Maloch
 Sam, Sandi, Kelsey, & Jenna Lewis.....friends of many
Melody Martins.....great niece of Bill & Peggy Clarke
 Donna Maxey.....friend of Debra Maloch
 Brianna McClung.....Spring Hill Student
 Richard & Sandra Melville.....
sister and brother-in-law of Milton Hattaway
 Nelda Morgan.....St. Luke's Custodian
Tommy & Mary Patton.....friends of Dan & Shelia Cross
 Joey Pipkin.....nephew of Dan & Shelia Cross
 JR & Laurie Tarpoly.....friend
 Keith Thompson.....friend of Jim & Sharon McCann
 Kai Tucker.....KHS Student
 Jan Watson.....sister of Bill & Peggy Clarke
 Tom Watson.....nephew of Bill & Peggy Clarke

MONTHLY PRAYER FOCUS

Board of Stewards
 Chandler Elementary School
 First Baptist Church
 The United Methodist Church

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Please say a prayer for our church family on their special day.

If we missed your date, please call the church office (903-984-3576).

August 2 Louise Cammack	August 16 Gabrielle Frachiseur Jerry Medford
August 4 Bob Burns	August 17 Niki Chowdhury Jacob Hankins Mary Ingram
August 5 Hunter Dean	August 20 Samuel Thurston
August 8 Heidi Tryon	August 22 Garrett Shipman
August 9 Jimmy Arbuckle Becci Thurston	August 23 Gus Witt
August 11 Gabriel Mathis Karen Wilson	August 24 Jason Silvey Tony Witt
August 12 Sydney Chowdhury Matthew Ellis Laela Watkins	August 27 Alyssa Lewis
August 13 Denver Allen Daniel Shipman	August 28 Alan Clark
August 15 Lindsey Exline Mark Francisco	August 29 Ben Copeland
	August 30 Brenda Culpepper

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

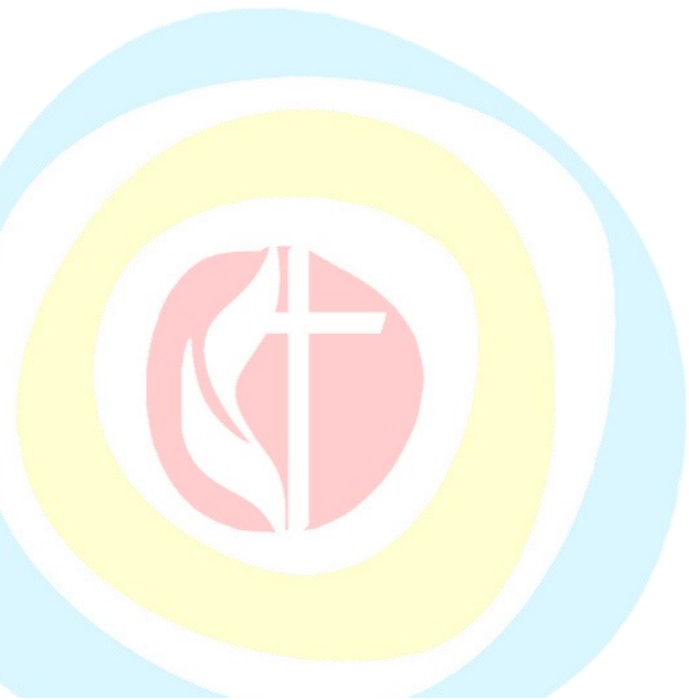
Name	Date
Mark & Barbara Francisco	Aug 1, 1997
Jack & Sharry Christopher	Aug 2, 1983
Jerry & Peggy Medford	Aug 7, 1971
Bob & Judy Burns	Aug 9, 1963
Danny & Kalynn Harrison	Aug 9, 1980
Ernie & Pat Sers	Aug 11, 1967
Joe & Ann White	Aug 24, 1968
James & Emilee Hanshaw	Aug 26, 1978
James & Laura Vermillion	Aug 26, 2000

The
VISITOR

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



You're invited to a
reception honoring

Misty Shipman

for her 15 years of service to
ministry at St. Luke's

Sunday, August 7
9:30am
St. Luke's Family Center