

The + Acts

March 25, 2020



Easter Basket Donations Needed for CUOC

Betty Newell and her crew are working to provide Easter baskets for local children through the Christians United Outreach Center. The baskets will be distributed on Good Friday, April 10th. The goal is to make and distribute 100 baskets. If you have baskets with handles that you can donate, we would love to have them. The baskets do not have to be new. Betty has a large box on her carport where you can drop the baskets off (while maintaining social distancing practices). Her address is 706 N. Vance Street. Also needed are things to fill the baskets, so if you have any Easter basket supplies (plastic eggs, Easter grass, etc.) that you can donate, they are welcome, too! If you purchase candy, please make sure that it is individually wrapped. If you prefer to drop your donations off at the church, Betty will be in the back parking lot at Saint Luke on Saturday, March 28th from 10:00 am until 10:30 am and on Saturday, April 4th between 10:00 am and 10:30 am. Let's help bring a little normalcy to some children in our community, and share Christ's love with them!



All Pastors Are On Call

Rev. Dr. Gene Cobb (919-775-3288),

Rev. William Sabiston (919-475-4841); Rev. Judy Drye (919-545-6780)

Church Office Is Closed. Call if you need us! All staff numbers are listed on back page.



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A Letter from Bishop Hope Morgan Ward These Challenging Times

Dear United Methodist friends,

Grace and peace to you in this challenging time for the entire human family.

This morning, I was in zoom conferences with faith leaders, public health professionals and several episcopal colleagues. In addition, with you, I received the directive of Governor Cooper for schools to remain closed through mid-May.

I urge you to continue the compassionate practice of not gathering for worship, funerals, weddings, studies, and other groups for the next two months.

[Resources abound on our conference website](#) and beyond to help us and to engender our own creativity in leading groups, classes and churches.

Public health leaders are working tirelessly for us, for our families and our neighbors, for our communities and our state and our nation and our world. We give thanks for them and their selfless service. I urge you to help lower the number of people exposed to COVID-19 and to protect your family and also those you may never meet or know. Social distancing, or as a friend re-phrases, *distant socializing*, is the best way to slow the advance of COVID-19.

I continue to work with the Cabinet, the Conference Staff, and elected Conference Leadership to garner resources for all our life together. I am inspired by your leadership, your creativity, your compassion and your perseverance.

Today, I connected with our heritage anew, remembering John Wesley's concern for public health. The *double blessing* of physical and spiritual health was - and is - a central dimension of Methodist ministry. Like our spiritual forebears, we are convinced that God wants to give us *both inward and outward health*. Realizing that the least resourced people of his time were without medical care, he recorded his reflection: *At length I thought of a kind of desperate expedient. I will prepare, and give them physick myself.* The urgency of our founder resonates in the creative and life-giving responses you are offering.

Let us make holy use of this unwelcome time, going deep in our reflection, going wide in our concern, going carefully in our ministry.

Thank you for the work of healing grace that you offer in this time, in your community, leading your church.

With gratitude to God for all our life together,

Hope Morgan Ward

Hope Morgan Ward

References from "John Wesley on Holistic Health and Healing" by Randy L. Maddox, William Kellon Quick Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies at Duke Divinity School, available on-line.

From the Pastor's Pen



It's not about a building. It's about the body.

For many years, people have mistaken what the Church is. Many people assume it is a building. We spend so much time and effort taking care of it and for a good reason. It is part of our public display and affection for our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. The Church is not about a building. It's about the body.

Focus on the one who died on the cross and rose from the dead so that our sins are forgiven. Focus on the one whose full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world was God's offering on our behalf. Human beings have used many words throughout two millennia attempting to describe God's gift to the world, and all of them fall short of the glory of God.

Right now, the Church buildings are closed in many places to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Right now, while some are disappointed and even angry at Pastors for allowing this to happen, we are finding new ways to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ. How? The Church is not about a building. It's about the body.

Three hundred ninety-six people engaged in our first live stream worship service March 22, 2020, from Casey Chapel. We welcomed one another by messages, encouraged one another to act, and did everything we would have done in a regular worship service in person except sing hymns and pass the offering plate. At 6:46 a.m. on Monday, Lisa Wilson sent me a text message that the offering was \$16,478.00. Last year on the Fourth Sunday of March, there were 323 in attendance, and the plates were passed, and the offering was \$4939.00. Lisa also informed me there had been an increase in online and mailed in giving where people can regularly give through bank drafts. Online and regular giving helps our clergy and staff continue serving this parish in more ways than I can tell you here. How? The Church is not about a building. It is about the body.

All parts of the body are coming together right now to continue the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ differently. Ministry and mission never cease for the Church. Worship and Program continue because we are connectional people, and the body is connected in spirit and truth. We are rallying to address concerns with holy unity and purpose using Facebook, Facetime, phone calls, and whatever resources we have to turn the loaves and fish we have into something the body can use. Pastor William, Curtis, Dianne and I did that Sunday. Elias and Katherine are reaching out to their children and youth. Pastor Gene, Pastor William, and Judy are calling on the sick. Lisa and Laura are administering all matters as usual. The fact you are reading this message is proof of it!

Weddings and funerals have been postponed due to this crisis, but alternatives are being sought. People who love God and love one another are remembering the good news of Jesus Christ and embracing the changes that are, of necessity, being made at this time. Your leadership team is working diligently with the clergy and staff to guide us through this time of uncertainty. Until we get there, please remember these three things.

1. Practice what the WHO and CDC and health officials are telling us.
2. Let your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness be a light that shines.
3. The Church is not about a building. It is about the body--the body of Christ.

We will get through this pandemic. We will be better for it. God is helping us through it, not causing us difficulty. Trust in the Lord. Love God and one another. The Church is not about a building. It is about the body--that of Christ--then, now, forever!

Peace,

Pastor Gene

P.S. Please sign up for the info line and stay connected. We will notify you of any changes or needs as we get them.



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. Due to the Covid-19 crisis, children are out of school, and those who receive free and reduced cost lunches may not have enough to eat at home. Therefore, CUOC has resumed the "summer" schedule for Backpack Pals. Volunteers are needed to deliver Backpack Pals backpacks on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please contact Pastor William at william.sabiston@nccumc.org or 919-475-4841 or Terri Kirkman at 919-774-2779 or terrikirkman@allstate.com if you would like to volunteer to be part of a delivery team.**
- 2. Donations of non-perishable food for Christians United Outreach Center are needed!** Due to the Covid-19 crisis, many families have lost income, and therefore need help with food. Please remember the needs of our less-fortunate neighbors and add a few items to your grocery cart for them. Suggested items are: peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, canned vegetables, rice, macaroni and cheese, pasta and spaghetti sauces, breakfast cereals, oatmeal, grits, canned soups, and crackers. **Donations may be brought to the Preschool Entrance of the church on Monday mornings between 9:30 and 11:00.** Someone will be there to receive your donations. Also please save your plastic grocery bags and bring them along with your food donations.

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
'Whom shall I send and who will go for us?'
And I said, 'Here am I. Send me.'"

Isaiah 6:8

How to Stay Connected During the COVID-19 Crisis

- 1. Facebook**—Our WORSHIP service will be broadcast via Facebook Live on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am, broadcasting from Casey Chapel. If you miss the live broadcast, it will be available on our Facebook page (Saint Luke UMC—Sanford NC).
- 2. By Phone**—If you need to speak with a staff member, please use the numbers on the back of The Acts to call us. We are working from home, but we are here for you! Also, please check in with other members, especially those who are elderly. Send a card to brighten someone's day!
- 3. The Acts**—We will be sending The Acts out on THURSDAYS instead of Wednesdays. Those who receive The Acts by email will continue to receive it. If you don't receive it by email and would like to, please see the related article on page 2 of this edition. The Acts is also posted on our website each week (www.saintlukeumc.org). We will do our best to continue sending The Acts by mail for those who do not have access to internet and/or email.
- 4. The Info Line**—Those who have signed up for this service will be able to receive text messages with important information and updates as we receive them. Please see the article "Stay in the Loop" on page 4 to see how to sign up.
- 5. Our Website**—www.saintlukeumc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
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During the cold and flu season, the clergy welcomes requests for visitation

and homebound communion from members and family members who ask one of us. We will respond as we are able.

Pastor Gene 919-775-3288
Pastor William 919-475-4841
Pastor Judy 919-545-6780

**Can You Help Us Save Money
on Postage?**



If you have access to the internet and/or email, please consider contacting me to be added to the email distribution list for The Acts as we are trying to cut expenses as much as possible during this trying time. The Acts is also uploaded to our church website (www.saintlukeumc.org) every week. We will do our best to continue mailing The Acts to those who don't have internet/email access, as we need to stay as connected as possible during this time of social distancing. You can reach me at:

laura@saintlukeumc.org or
919-770-7768

Thanks and blessings,
Laura



**Sign up for Saint Luke's
DAILY PRAYER**

Have you signed up to receive Saint Luke's **DAILY PRAYER**? To sign up, go to saintlukeumc.org, look on the homepage for the header that reads *Daily Prayer*, click on the link under the header, and enter your information. Or text the message @stlprayer to 81010.



Allison Elizabeth Mangum

Born March 13, 2020

9 pounds, 1 ounce

21 inches long

Daughter of Joseph Alexis & Mangum,
of Huntersville, NC

Proud Big Sister: Leah Mangum

Proud Grandparents:
Dr. John & Ellen Mangum, of Sanford
and
Rev. Chris & Charlotte Thore,
of Clemmons, NC

*"Children are a heritage from the LORD,
offspring a reward from him." Psalm 127:3*



Welcome to
the World!!



Stay In the Loop!

To sign up to receive **informational text messages from the church** on an "as-needed" basis, simply text the message "@stlukeinfo" to 81010.

If you don't text and would like to receive this information via a **phone call**, please contact Laura in the church office (919-776-2012).



Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Prayer Requests

Received as of March 25, 2020

Our Known Prayer Needs

Herb Armstrong	Marsha Havens	Herman Neal
Edna Atkinson	Oliver Hughes	Dave Neff
Holly Baker	Lloyd Jennings	Parker Normann
Judy Baker	Roy and Billie Jernigan	Jean Nisbet
Earl Ballinger	Mary Kesler	Carter Osborne
Carolyn Ballinger Beisler	Claudia Key	Ron Perkinson
Kim Fasick Chandler	Dot and Larry King	Ellen Potter
Jack Clements	Sarah Lawrence	Don and Sara Steinert
Doris Cox	Rev. Frank and Dorothy Lloyd	Mackenzie Stinson
Sarah Curry	Annie MacKay	Linda Stouffer
Bill DesVergers	Chrissy Childress Maginnis	Georgia Kate Tatum
Beth Dowdy	Jim Martell	Berta Thomas
Helen Dusenbury	Nancy McBryde	Eugene Thomas
Christy Garner	Tyson McCoy	Carole Troutman
Keith Garner (US Navy)	Hayden and Mabel McDuffie	Esther Wicker
Harry Hattman	Trisha McNeill	Jerry Willis
Ginnie Hawley	Dawn Michaud	Carl Woodard
	George Miller	

Other Known Prayer Requests

Tony Brown	Jordan Harris	Margaret Phillips
Lonnie Bunch	Debra Hughes	Matthew Richardson
Kim Clarey	Charlie Johnstone	David Sowards
David Clements	Becky Jones	Jake Sowards
Andrew Dickens	Joe Lawrence	Tony Staninas, Jr.
Pat Dillon	Hubert and Judy Maples	Jackson Stanley
Brian Drye	Richard (Dick) McDonie	Mitchell and Shelba Watson
Jeff Felthaus	Mary McGrath	Charlie Welborn
Gene Harris	Linda Niedermeier	Sandy Wilson
	Phoebe Phelps	

Sympathy to . . .

The family and friends of Betty Hickman in her passing.

Our Known Births

Allison Elizabeth Mangum, daughter of Joseph & Alexis Mangum, of Huntersville, NC; granddaughter of John and Ellen Mangum, of Sanford, and Rev. Chris and Charlotte Thore, of Clemmons, NC

To add or remove a name from the Prayer List or to request a pastoral visit, please use a Prayer Request card or call the church office.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 25—April 1

Birthdays:

(3/25) Jean Davenport

(3/26) Matthew Garner
Lee Hatfield

(3/27) Cooper Brown
Dillon Teel

(3/28) Bobby Powell
Phil Yarborough

(3/30) Dicki Caines
Caroline Hare
Susan Nave
Vincent Rice
Linda Stouffer
Bill Towson

(3/31) Hal Hegwer
Walker Lucas
Layne Noles
Elizabeth Setzer

(4/1) Susan Hincks
Benjamin Shover
Bailey Spivey

Anniversaries:

(3/26) Sherrill & Jennifer Normann

(3/29) Dawn & Mike Shepard



membership

prayers | presence | gifts | service | witness

FAITHFUL GIVING as of March 22, 2020

Gen. Fund Beginning Balance 1/1/2020	\$27,225.00	
General Fund Income YTD	\$307,793.77	
General Fund Expense Paid YTD	\$332,238.59	
Loan from Sustaining Fund		\$5,000.00
Balance in Mary Tulluck Fund	\$17,089.33	
Outstanding Loan for Raise the Roof		\$346,621.46

March Attendance

Total March Attendance 9-13	2018	2019	2020
Week 1	365	329	332
Week 2	346	279	532
Week 3	352	330	Facebook
Week 4	420	323	396
Week 5	489	337	
March Average	394	320	420
Annual Average	342	333	331

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Yearly Averages	343	343	327	
Average Internet Views	n/a	1200	1600	657

A New Way to Give give online

GOD'S TITHES & YOUR OFFERINGS

In this time of social distancing, the United Methodist Church is

finding solutions to help our missions and ministries continue. They have created the link below to make it easy to send a tithe or offering to your local church without ever leaving your house. Visit the link below to learn more or to make a donation.

<https://nccumc.org/giving/church>

Saint Luke UMC
2916 Wicker Street
Sanford, NC 27330



Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Sunday Service Times

8:45 a.m.—Traditional Service—Casey Chapel

9:00 a.m.—Contemporary Service—Davenport Christian Life Center

11:00 a.m.—Traditional Service—Sanctuary

Sunday School Classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

Our Church Staff—Contact us!

Lead Pastor	Rev. Dr. A. Gene Cobb, Jr., Elder	919-775-3288	agcobb@nccumc.org
Associate Pastor	Rev. William Sabiston	919-475-4841	william.sabiston@nccumc.org
Minister of Visitation	Rev. Judy Drye, Elder	919-545-6780	judydrye@nccumc.org
Children and Family Ministry	Katherine Holt	919-356-7285	katherine@saintlukeumc.org
Youth Ministry	Elias Ballew	252-578-1090	elias@saintlukeumc.org
Organist / Choir Master	Dianne Stanley	919-622-2779	dianne@saintlukeumc.org
Coordinator of Contemporary Music	Curtis Moore	336-209-3289	curtis@saintlukeumc.org
Church Administrator	Lisa Wilson	919-353-0281	lisa@saintlukeumc.org
Publications/Communications	Laura Alverson	919-770-7768	laura@saintlukeumc.org
Receptionist	Rebecca Little		rebecca@saintlukeumc.org
Receptionist	Beatrice Smith		beatrice@saintlukeumc.org
Preschool Director	Kate Holeczy	919-774-6224	preschool@saintlukeumc.org
Afterschool Director	Carolyn Lee	919-777-5444	afterschool@saintlukeumc.org
Organist Emeritus, Posthumous	James Dixon Kimball		



2916 Wicker Street, Sanford, NC 27330—Phone: 919-776-2012

Visit our website: www.saintlukeumc.org

