

THE EPISTLE

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Easter Praise and Easter Work

The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. "Up from the grave he arose" is the greatest moment in history and the high point of the whole Gospel. Sin was defeated; death lost its power and heaven opened to believers. The Easter greeting "Alleluia, Christ is risen." with the response "The Lord is risen indeed." signals the Lord's word was true. "The angel at the empty tomb reminding Mary, "He has risen, just as he said." Matthew 28:6

With this joy of new life and starting fresh again, the celebration of Easter Sunday is not enough for one Sunday. The liturgical season of Eastertide consisting of fifty days from Easter to Pentecost is one great Sunday of Sundays.

This year in studying the familiar scriptures of Easter, I discovered a deeper truth of this extraordinary love of God.

From all accounts of the Gospels, it is clear the Second Adam was early "Up and at'em." There was work to do. As the saying goes, The Lord "was up and running." In short, the post-resurrection ministry from first day miraculously "UP" to the Ascension of Christ taken up into heaven on day 40 was as much intensely given with the same urgency as throughout the Lords Earthly ministry.

The Good News writers share the Lords first appearances. With joy Easter to Easter, we celebrate the hallelujah moments of each appearance quickening the grieved believers. These glorious encounters are pastoral care visits and/or a teaching event. The shepherd care comforts, warms the hearts, and secures God's peace. The teaching's reminding

the disciples and fellow followers that all Jesus had shared is true.

Whatever Jesus focused on in one or both realms alongside one, few, or many throughout those 40 days was absolutely necessary for Pentecost ten days later to take a strong hold. This gathering was after all the launching of the Church and its mission. As my Father has sent me, so I send you. "Be up and at'em". There is work to do and be.

The fifty days of Eastertide connect ongoing celebrations that mirrors the powerful Easter story. As Charles Wesley wrote, "Gods redeeming work is done." Yet, the transformational story in how to live and what to say is a work to be seriously pursued. Jesus clearly states no break can be taken.

The more I worked on this article, I have concluded that a Bible Study is in order to get the fullest depth of each occurrence. More on this later.


Easter is not just something we remember. It is something we live.

In Christs love,

Pastor Neenan

Post script:

The Neenan's are heading to the Outer Banks until May 26. We will enjoy our rest and extended family time. I will enjoy my study time. Please lift us up in your prayers as we do the same for the St. Luke's family.

A decorative border of watercolor flowers in various colors (orange, red, blue, purple, pink) surrounds the central text.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A
RECEPTION CELEBRATING

AMY PEARSON'S

RETIREMENT AS OUR
WONDERFUL DAY SCHOOL
DIRECTOR!

SUNDAY, MAY 17
AFTER WORSHIP
ST. LUKE'S PARLOR
BRING A CARD OR NOTE TO
EXPRESS YOUR LOVE AND
APPRECIATION!



The youth group will be staying in Leslie County, KY, from June 27 to July 4. We can take monetary donations for gas and snack/drink donations. We can take prepackaged snacks like chips, Little Debbie's, granola bars, etc., as well as water bottles and Gatorade.

If anyone has any questions, my email is ceblount1@gmail.com.

APRIL 2026 HONORIUMS AND MEMORIALS:

Memorials:

In Memory of Betty Carter from Deb Sanders

In Memory of Bette Colter from Deb Sanders

In Memory of Jordan Northcross from Deb Sanders

Flower Donors Needed For the Following Dates:

May 17, 24, 31 and June 14 & 28. The cost is \$50.

Please call the front desk for more information 901-452-6262

Donations Needed for our St. Luke's Kitchen Cleaning!

St. Luke's is so grateful to the leaders and participants in the feeding program. For many reasons, we cannot all be workers in the program, but we can participate. The kitchen requires periodic cleaning. The Christian Homebuilder Sunday School class recently sponsored the quarterly cleaning of the kitchen at a cost of \$400. Cleaning needs to be done again near the end of May. The Christian Homebuilders class has pledged \$100 toward the cost of the next cleaning. The class is inviting other groups and individuals to join in sponsoring the needed cleaning. Donations can be marked for the purpose of the kitchen.



The Fun Bunch Activities

On Friday, May 22, our Fun Bunch will be going to the Memphis Botanic Gardens for a Golf Cart tour of the Gardens and then followed by lunch at Fratelli's Cafe. We will meet at 11:00am at the Gardens. Admission is \$10 for seniors.

We will need your reservation for the cart tour!

Please sign up at the hospitality hall desk or let Jeanne or Jim know your plans! 413-



A message from

Bishop David Graves



Greetings,

It has been brought to my attention that an influx of spam emails and text messages posing as myself have been going out to clergy and their conference email addresses. Please note that these emails are not coming from my TWK email address but from newly generated email addresses (mostly ending in gmail.com).

Please be on high alert when receiving emails requesting personal information. Be sure to verify the email address from which you are receiving the request. Please note that if I need contact information, I will ask the Episcopal Office staff. There will not be a time I reach out to you and request personal information.

Our Conference Communications team requests that you report these emails as spam and phishing and not respond to them.

Grace and peace,
Bishop David Graves



David W. Graves

David W. Graves

Resident Bishop
Kentucky-Tennessee Episcopal Area
The United Methodist Church

twkumc.org
kyumc.org
centralappalachianumc.org



ROME VBS

Monday, June 1 -
Thursday, June 4
5:30 - 7:45 p.m.

Registration
Open NOW
stlukesumc.org
or scan the QR
Code



Permission to photograph this resource from Crown's Rome VBS granted for local church use.

Day School News

We can't believe we are winding down another school year! The children have grown so much since they first walked through our doors last August. It is a joy to watch them become more independent as the year progresses.

Our Field Day and Family Picnic will be Wednesday, May 13. Our End of Year program will be Wednesday, May 20, 9:30 a.m., in the sanctuary.

Join us for the most precious program of the year!

On June 1, Erin Cowles will take over as Director of this sweet school, and Tia Patrick will be the new Assistant Director. Amy Pearson is retiring at the end of May. It has been a delight to be a part of the very special school!



Thank you, St. Luke's, for donating several totes of Easter clothing and also money towards purchasing more. You continue to bring springtime smiles and happiness every Easter to the students of Sherwood Elementary. Your love and generosity makes such a huge impact on this special school and it will always be remembered.

Always thanking God for all of you,

Melinda Kaler, Barbara Simpson, and Jacki Romey




Church Women and Pastor Jim served the students at Wesley Memphis on Thursday April 23.


May 2026

April 2026						
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26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026						
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						31

June 2026						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

 St. Luke's UMC

 Holidays in United States

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Community Breakfast 9:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM Sweet Sunday 10:30AM Worship Service 11:30AM Church Council Meeting 3:00PM Handbell Practice 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 8:15AM Yoga Class 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 6:30PM Boy Scouts Troop 40 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00PM Pickleball 2:15PM Soccer Shots 6:00PM Finance Meeting 6:00PM Yoga 6:30PM Cub Scouts 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 10:30AM Exercise Class 12:00PM Practice Pickleball 2:30PM Wings Gymnastics 6:30PM Choir Practice 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM AI-Anon 1:00PM ART-Gathering 1:00PM Pickleball 5:30PM Blue and Gold Banquet Setup 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 5:00PM Blue and Gold Banquet 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Yoga
<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Community Breakfast 9:00AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship Service 11:30AM Breaking Bread Together Again 3:00PM Handbell Practice 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 8:15AM Yoga Class 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 6:30PM Boy Scouts Troop 40 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00PM Pickleball 2:15PM Soccer Shots 5:30PM Challenger's Board Meeting 6:00PM Yoga 6:30PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Coin Club Meeting 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 10:30AM Exercise Class 12:00PM Practice Pickleball 2:30PM Wings Gymnastics 6:00PM StarTro Club 6:30PM Choir Practice 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM AI-Anon 1:00PM ART-Gathering 1:00PM Pickleball 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Yoga
<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Community Breakfast 9:00AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship Service 11:30AM SPRC Meeting 3:00PM Handbell Practice 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 8:15AM Yoga Class 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 6:30PM Boy Scouts Troop 40 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00PM Pickleball 2:15PM Soccer Shots 6:00PM United Women of Faith 6:00PM Yoga 6:30PM Cub Scouts 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 10:30AM Exercise Class 12:00PM Practice Pickleball 2:30PM Wings Gymnastics 6:30PM Choir Practice 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Food Pantry 10:00AM AI-Anon 1:00PM ART-Gathering 1:00PM Pickleball 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Yoga
<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Community Breakfast 9:00AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship Service 3:00PM Handbell Practice 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 8:00AM Lifeline 8:15AM Yoga Class 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 6:30PM Boy Scouts Troop 40 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00PM Pickleball 6:00PM Trustee Meeting 6:00PM Yoga 6:30PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Coin Club 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 10:00AM Day School Program 10:30AM Exercise Class 12:00PM Practice Pickleball 6:30PM Choir Practice 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15AM Day School Last Day 10:00AM AI-Anon 1:00PM ART-Gathering 1:00PM Pickleball 5:30PM Communication Committee 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Yoga
<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Community Breakfast 9:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM Sweet Sunday 10:30AM Worship Service 3:00PM Handbell Practice 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 8:30AM Church Closed for Holiday 6:30PM Boy Scouts Troop 40 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00PM Pickleball 6:00PM Finance Meeting 6:00PM Yoga 6:30PM Cub Scouts 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 10:30AM Exercise Class 12:00PM Practice Pickleball 6:30PM Choir Practice 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Food Pantry 10:00AM AI-Anon 1:00PM ART-Gathering 1:00PM Pickleball 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 5:00PM Wedding Rehearsal 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Yoga 6:00PM Wedding
<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Community Breakfast 9:00AM Sunday School 10:30AM VBS Worship Service 3:00PM Handbell Practice 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 8:15AM Yoga Class 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 5:30PM VBS 6:30PM Boy Scouts Troop 40 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... VBS 1:00PM Pickleball 6:00PM Yoga 6:30PM Cub Scouts 7:00PM Coin Club Meeting 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 10:30AM Exercise Class ... VBS 12:00PM Practice Pickleball 6:00PM Stamp Club 6:30PM Choir Practice 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM AI-Anon ... VBS 1:00PM ART-Gathering 1:00PM Pickleball 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Yoga