UPHOLDING THE CHURCH WITH MY PRAYERS

When we enter into a covenant of membership through baptism, we promise to uphold the church with our, “Prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness—that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.” The United Methodist Church is moving towards a special, called session of General Conference in St. Louis February 23-26. The focus of this special session is the issue of human sexuality particularly as it pertains to Christian marriage and ordination in the United Methodist Church. Our church has debated, discussed and sought to affirm a faithful, Christ-like position for the past 47 years (since 1972) and through 12 previous General Conferences (which typically meets once every four years).

In faithfulness to our baptismal vows, I invite you to join me in a Forty-Day Season of Prayer for The United Methodist Church. These forty days begin on Monday, January 14 and continue until Friday, February 22. Of course you can and will pray for your church well after these forty days. But, as we approach this particular time in the life of our denomination, join with me in praying that God will lead us in the paths of righteousness and faithfulness. If you will set aside even five minutes per day over the next forty days you would uphold your church for three and one third hours in prayer. When we multiply these hours by the number of St. Luke members we get some 12,000 hours of prayer for our church over these forty days. There truly is strength in numbers!

Each week, you church newsletter (bulletin) will offer a prayer guide for the days of the week ahead. This guide is suggestive not restrictive. You are certainly capable of directing your own prayers for the church. The guide is an attempt to allow scripture to shape and form our prayers together. Take one or two verses of scripture and prayerfully offer that as a prayer for the church in our time. This week we start with Paul’s prayers for the church at Ephesus and for the church in every age.

FORTY DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE UMC: WEEK ONE

Monday, January 14---Ephesians 1:17 (praying for wisdom and openness to God’s self-revelation)
Tuesday, January 15---Ephesians 1:18-19 (eyes to see the hope of our calling and inheritance)
Wednesday, January 16---Ephesians 3:13-15 (that the church would not lose heart but remember its divine origin)
Thursday, January 17---Ephesians 3:16 (for the strengthening of the Spirit)
Friday, January 18---Ephesians 3:17 (Christ’s indwelling)
Saturday, January 19---Ephesians 3:18-19 (knowledge of Christ’s great love)
Sunday, January 20---Ephesians 3:20-21 (that the surprising God be glorified in the church)

Robert Beckum, Senior Pastor
rbeckum@stlukeum.com
January 13, 2019

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**The 11:00 a.m. service is streamed at [www.stlukeum.com](http://www.stlukeum.com) and broadcast at WLTC 103.7 Lite FM**
**Rebroadcast on WTVM Channel 9 at 10:00 a.m.**

**January 13, 2019**  
**Baptism of the Lord**

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
Color: White

**Prelude.**.............................. “When Jesus Christ to Jordan Came” ........................J.S. Bach

**Welcome and Opening Prayer.**..............................................................Rev. Robert Beckum

**Hymn.**.............................. “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” ........................Number 139

**The Affirmation of Faith.** ..............................................................Number 881  
"I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The Gloria Patri (Glory be to the Father)............................................................Number 70**

**Anthem (11:00 a.m.)............................. “Holy Spirit, Dove Divine” ..........................Allen Koepke

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer.............................................Rev. Dr. Cindy Cox Garrard**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

**Children’s Sermon**.............................................................................................Rev. Garrard

After the 11:00 a.m. Children’s Sermon, children who are in Kindergarten-5th grade are invited to go to Corner Kids for a time of extended worship. Parents pick them up in Stockwell Hall when this service is completed.

**Hymn.**.............................. “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” ........................Number 420

**Offertory Prayer..........................................................................................................Rev. Beckum**

**Offertory**.............................. “Now I Belong to Jesus” ............................Number 95  
"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**The Written Word........................................... Luke 3:15-17; 21-22  (p.56, NT in pew Bible)**

**The Spoken Word........... “REMEMBERING WHOSE YOU ARE” ....................Rev. Beckum**

**Hymn**.............................. “How Firm a Foundation” ........................Number 529

**The Benediction.**..............................................................................................Rev. Beckum

**Choral Benediction Response (11:00 a.m.)........... “Sevenfold Amen” .................Peter Lutkin**

**Postlude............................. “How Firm a Foundation” ........................Improvisation**

*Standing as able.  **Music Box  ***quick means "living"; catholic means "universal"*

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**WELCOME VISITORS:** We are glad to have you with us today! If you have any questions or need assistance with anything, please ask a church greeter or any member of the church staff. For more information about St. Luke, contact Cindy Cox Garrard or any of the pastors at 706-327-4343 or cindy@stlukeum.com. Thank you for blessing us with your presence.
WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP SUPPER - January 16
Program: Neil Richardson, founder and director of SafeHouse Jail Ministries, Muscogee County
Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The serving line is open until 6:30 p.m. Please make or cancel reservations by using the form below, by e-mailing jwidener@stlukeum.com, or by calling 706-256-1017 before Monday noon.

Menu: Smoked Roast Beef, Fried Chicken, Squash Casserole, Mashed Potatoes, Salad, and Rolls.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Adults ($7.00) __________ Children ($3.00) __________ Daytime Phone: _____________________________

Email: ____________________________________________________________

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WORSHIP IN SPANISH: 12:20 p.m. worship in Turner Chapel, Sandra Ramirez preaching.

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE (THE NINE): 9:00 a.m., Ministry Center, Rev. Robert Beckum, preaching.

ALTAR FLOWERS: The beautiful flowers in the chancel area are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Clarence Butler by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Butler and Mr. and Mrs. Al Ramsay.

OUR KNOWN SICK: Regional Rehabilitation Hospital: Sara Harris, 103. Shepherd Center: Mickaela Hammer, 273 A.

IN MEMORIAM
Mr. Robert E. Nelson
January 3, 2019

Important Confirmation Dates:
February 3: On Campus Day Apart
February 21-24th: Confirmation Retreat
(Epworth By the Sea/Savannah)
March 17th: Confirmation Sunday and Lunch

GRIEF STUDY
We are in the process of compiling stories about personal grief as a resource to other St. Luke members who may be struggling, whether through the loss of health, a home, or a loved one. If you have a brief story you would like to contribute, please contact Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard to find out more, cindy@stlukeum.com.

ST. LUKE ACADEMY PRESENTS
The Scripture Way of Salvation:
“The Life and Theology of John Wesley for Today”
We are looking at the life and theology of one of the most important christians in history. We are studying who John Wesley was, what he believed, and how he ignited a movement that literally impacted the world for Christ. If you have ever wanted to know who John Wesley was, what it means to be a Methodist/Wesleyan, and how John Wesley continues to impact St. Luke today, then you are invited to attend this class.
Sunday Nights from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. (LD, Ministry Center)
January 13-April 14, 2019
There is no cost. Contact Brett Maddocks, bmaddocks@stlukeum.com, for more information.
ST. LUKE FREE SPIRITS
January Luncheon featuring East Wind Bluegrass Band

Please joins us on
Tuesday, January 22, 2019
11:30 a.m.
St. Luke Ministry Center

ST. LUKE WOMEN’S CONFERENCE
featuring Morgan Cheek

Saturday, February 2, 2019
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
St. Luke Ministry Center
(Lunch included)

Online registration at www.stlukeum.com or call the church office at 706-327-4343

Cost: $25
Childcare provided by request
Deadline to register is January 22, 2019

Hebrews 13:8 - “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”
Abiding Gifts
If you wish to honor or remember someone, please attach to your check the name of that person and the address to which you wish the acknowledgement sent and mail or bring to the Church Office. Contact maggie@stlueum.com.
Respite Care: In memory of Mrs. Anne Beasley by Ms. Ailene Mooney.
UMCOR: In honor of Mrs. Mary Williams by Mr. and Mrs. Duke Walsh.
Bill Turner Scholarship Fund: In honor of Mr. Pete Robinson by Ms. Jenna Robinson.
Food Pantry: In honor of Mrs. Jeanne P. Robinson and Mr. Andy Robinson by Ms. Jenna Robinson.
General Fund: In memory of Mr. and Mrs. L. Z. Thrasher and Mr. and Mrs. John Richardson by Mrs. Marjorie Richardson.

-Respite Care-
“Caring for loved ones and caregivers.”
Diane Hett, Director of Respite Ministry, 706-256-3117 or dhett@stlueum.com

For Your Information….
Many of our referrals for Respite Care come from our St Luke Family.
You have supported this ministry faithfully, and you know the difference it can make to families.
It’s important for you to know that we have a waiting list that is about a year long.

When you hear of families who have a loved one in the early stages of cognitive decline, encourage them to phone and place their loved one on the waiting list.
Thank you from all who receive love and care from the Respite Care Ministry.

College House goes to Passion 2019!
We are thankful for everything God has done in the lives of these college students. Please continue to pray for them as they enter a new semester and continue to unpack and apply what God spoke to them at the Passion Conference.

CROSSWALK MIDDLE SCHOOL
This Sunday night we will be giving out Paper Plate awards from the Crosswalk Winter Retreat. There will be an awesome recap video you don’t want to miss. Reminder to all 7th& 8th grade students that all Leadership Applications are to be turned in this Sunday night. Come and invite your friends.

THE CORNER HIGH SCHOOL
Sunday morning starts Next Steps at 10:00a.m. in the youth room. If you are a new believer and were saved at DNow last year. This class is for you. Come and let us walk you through the Next Steps to being a Christian.
Souled Out Summer signups will begin this Sunday night, January 13th. Be looking for this on the website. S.O.S. dates are June 3rd-7th 2019.
January 16th we will start a guys and girls bible study at Jonathan and Lisa’s house. We will be studying the book Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby. This will be one of the highlights of your week. You want to make sure you are a part of this. Wednesday evenings from 7:30 p.m-9:00 p.m.
Come be a part of this movement of God.