



(USPS # 552680)

Published weekly except Christmas by St. Luke UMC

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No. 10

March 7, 2021

Volume 57

News from our United Methodist Denomination

General Conference Delayed Until 2022

The Commission on General Conference announced its decision to reschedule General Conference of the United Methodist Church for August 29-September 7, 2022 in Minneapolis, MN. General Conference is a global gathering of our United Methodist Church meeting every four years (normally) with delegates from Africa, Asia, Europe as well as North America. Citing continued COVID-19 restrictions on travel and infrastructure problems with a global, virtual gathering, the commission felt it best to once again delay an in-person meeting of the General Conference.

Council of Bishops Calls a Limited, Virtual Special Session of General Conference

As a result of the Commission on General Conference decision, the United Methodist Council of Bishops called for an online, special session of General Conference to meet on Saturday, May 8. Like a called Charge Conference in our local church, this called session by the bishops can only consider the specific items for which it is called. In this case, those items are 12 pieces of financial and administrative legislation which allow our denomination to continue functioning in these unusual days of restricted, interim measures.

You can find more information concerning both of these denominational decisions by going to our South Georgia Annual Conference website at www.sgaumc.org.

U.M.C.O.R.

United Methodist Committee on Relief

The United Methodist Committee on Relief responds to people whose lives are impacted by disaster, whether the disaster is international or, for us, domestic. In recent weeks and for many weeks to come, UMCOR has been delivering essential supplies and recovery services to those impacted by winter storms in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. I am glad to tell you St. Luke forwarded \$6,000 in your gifts last week for help in response. Be assured, you can continue to contribute through St. Luke. Simply attach a note that your gift is for "storm recovery efforts."

Please continue to keep St. Luke and our United Methodist denomination in your prayers in these Lenten days.

Robert Beckum, Senior Pastor
rbeckum@stlukeum.com

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The 11:00 a.m. service is streamed at www.saintlukecolumbus.org and broadcast at WLTC 103.7 Lite FM • Broadcast on WTVM Channel 9 at 10:00 a.m.

March 7, 2021

3rd Sunday in Lent

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

Prelude (*Ken Bailey*)..... “If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee”J.S. Bach

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

Hymn..... “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”Number 297

Scripture Lesson.....Romans 4:13-25

The Affirmation of Faith..... “The Apostles’ Creed”

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)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen, Amen.**

**Anthem (*Chancel Choir*)..... “Depth of Mercy”David Rasbach

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer.....Rev. Beckum

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.

Choral Prayer Response..... “Dresden Amen”Johann Naumann

The Children’s Sermon.....Mrs. Mary Pat Beckum

Hymn..... “I Come With Joy”Number 617

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

The Written Word.....John 3:16-21

The Spoken Word..... “**ETERNAL LIFE**”Rev. Beckum

The Invitation and Confession

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another:

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving.....See Insert

The Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion.....See Insert

Hymn..... “Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart”Number 160

The Benediction.....Rev. Beckum

Choral Benediction Response (11:00 a.m.)..... “Fivefold Amen”Marc Boensel

Postlude (*Ken Bailey*)..... “If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee”Improvisation

** Music Box

*** quick means “living”; catholic means “universal”

BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess,
the wonders of redeeming love and my own worthlessness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

I COME WITH JOY

I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free,
in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me,
his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known; we see and praise him here,
we see and praise him here.

Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,
and as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise,
we'll live and speak his praise.

REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART

Rejoice, ye pure in heart; rejoice, give thanks and sing;
your glorious banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Your clear hosannas raise, and alleluias loud;
whilst answering echoes upward float, like wreaths of incense cloud. **Refrain**

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go;
from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe. **Refrain**

At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their heavenly home, Jerusalem the blest. **Refrain**

Praise God who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore,
the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God forevermore. **Refrain**

Permit

ST. LUKE (552680) is published weekly except Christmas by St. Luke United Methodist Church, 1104 Second Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31901. Periodical Postage entered and paid at Columbus, GA POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. Luke, P.O. Box 867, Columbus, GA 31902.

Music Box

Marc F. Boensel, Director of Music Ministries, mboensel@stlukeum.com

Chancel Choir rehearsals are at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary. Rehearsals will be limited to 45 minutes, socially distanced and masked at all times. Temperature checks will be taken between 6:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. at the 3rd Avenue entrance to the Music Suite.

Handbell Choir rehearsals are at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary. Rehearsals will be limited to 45 minutes, socially distanced and masked at all times. Temperature checks will be taken between 5:15 p.m. and 5:25 p.m. at the 3rd Avenue entrance to the Music Suite.

Please consider a gift to the **Music Ministry**. You may mark your donation to the Music Fund, Music Scholarship Fund, Orchestra Fund, or Organ Fund.

Today's anthem: "Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me? Can my God His wrath forbear, me the 'chief of sinners' spare? There for me the Savior stands holding forth His wounded hands. God is love! I know, I feel Jesus weeps and loves me still. He loves me still."

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE (THE NINE): 9:00 a.m., Ministry Center, The Rev. Brett Maddocks, preaching.

ALTAR FLOWERS: The beautiful flowers in the chancel area are given to the glory of God by the Discovery Class.

OUR KNOWN SICK: Emory University Hospital: Patrick Graham, T-604.
Piedmont Northside: Dorothy Stotser, 247.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: Mr. and Mrs. Derek (Grier) Hay announce the birth of a daughter, Teale Oliver Hay, born February 28, 2021, in Athens, GA. Proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. David (Marguerite) Hay. A rose has been placed in the chancel area in her honor.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY: To Ms. Shawana Coles in the death of her father, Mr. Wilkey Holmes, on March 2, 2021, in Blakely, GA. Shawana is a St. Luke employee.

Prayer Calendars

If you would like a prayer calendar mailed to you please call the church office @ 706-327-4343.

HOW DO I JOIN THE CHURCH?

You may become a part of the St. Luke family of God in one of the following ways:

1. If you have never joined a church before, you may become a member by profession of faith in Jesus Christ and by being baptized. If you have already been baptized (as a child or as an adult) in a Christian Church, your baptism is recognized by St. Luke United Methodist Church. You will be asked to uphold St. Luke church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.
 2. If you are a member of another United Methodist Church or another Christian denomination, indicate to one of the pastors that this is your desire. St. Luke will then transfer your membership.
 3. If you have any questions about faith in Christ, about United Methodism in general or St. Luke in particular, please ask one of the pastors!
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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

mhubbard@stlukeum.com www.cornerkidz.com

Take home bags of Easter crafts will be available for pick up at any of our church services beginning today, March 7th. Not attending services just yet? Not a problem. Bags will also be available in the church lobby for your convenience. Great for children and grandchildren.

Beginning March 14th, the Cry Room in the Ministry Center will be open during the 9 o'clock service for children 2 and under. The service will be live-streamed for your convenience.

Calling all 4th and 5th graders! Join me March 14th for an Empty Tomb Escape Room! We'll meet in Stockwell Hall from 5-7:00 p.m. Due to the nature of the activities planned, I do need an accurate head count so be sure to RSVP by March 7th.

Announcing the first ever Corner Kidz Bake Off! A mystery ingredient will be provided on Sunday, March 14th. All entries will need to be brought to the church on Sunday, March 21st by 11 AM to be included in the contest. Our very own Rev. Maddocks and JJ Harrison will taste the entries LIVE on our 1 PM Zoom that same afternoon. Prizes will be awarded for the top three winners. Email me to sign up today!

In lieu of our traditional Easter Egg Hunt this year, we are going to "EGG" our friends and family! In the cover of darkness, a dozen eggs will be hidden at the address provided on either March 19th or 20th. Register today at www.cornerkidz.com to bless one another (or your own family) with a spontaneous egg hunt! All donations will go to help emerging church community families in need.



BEFORE ENTRY PLEASE FOLLOW THESE PROCEDURES

1. **SANITIZE** YOUR HANDS USING THE PROVIDED SANITIZING SOLUTION.
 2. PUT ON A PROVIDED **FACE MASK** (IF YOU ARE ALREADY WEARING A PERSONAL FACE MASK THAT WILL SUFFICE).
 3. HAVE YOUR **TEMPERATURE TAKEN** BY THE RECEPTIONIST WITH A "TOUCHLESS" THERMOMETER.
 - A **TEMPERATURE OF 100.3 OR LOWER** IS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY INTO THE BUILDING.
 4. MAINTAIN A **PHYSICAL DISTANCE** OF AT LEAST 6 FEET OF ALL PERSONS NOT LIVING IN YOUR IMMEDIATE HOUSEHOLD.
-

Tithes and Offerings

Offering plates/boxes are placed at entrances and exits at all of our in-person worship services. Of course, you can continue to support St. Luke Church with your tithes and offerings by mail, bank draft, or by going to the St. Luke website, <https://saintlukecolumbus.org/give/>, and clicking on "SecureGive" and then clicking on the "Church" button. If you need help with this option, please contact Renee Wilkinson at renee@stlukeum.com or Brett Maddocks at bmaddocks@stlukeum.com.

CHURCH MAILING ADDRESS

Please do not use the physical address of the church for mailing. The church mailing address is P.O. Box 867, Columbus, GA 31902. The Post Office will no longer deliver items that are addressed to our physical address. Thank you!

As always, thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministry of St. Luke Church.

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 acknowledgment sent and mail or bring to the church office. Contact maggie@stlukeum.com.

Samaritan Fund: In honor of Mr. Lee Myers by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chitwood.

Respite Care: In memory of Mrs. Jeanette Jones by Ms. Elizabeth Hipps and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Drennen.

Music Scholarship Fund: In memory of David and Barbara Smart by The Chancel Choir.

Do you love working with children?

Join Our Ministry!

We Are Hiring @ St. Luke Early Learning Center!

Call 706-322-2703

Send resume to scarr@stlukeum.com

OPEN DOOR WALK CLASSIC 5K

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2021

AT A LOCATION OF YOUR CHOICE

Walk/run, hike/bike, dance/skip, mow the lawn, clean up your neighborhood, whatever gets you up and moving while raising money and awareness to love our neighbors. Register online at www.odch.org. Free t-shirt with registration available for pick-up at Open Door, 2405 2nd Ave., Tues-Thurs, March 9-11 from 9 am to 4 pm each day.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

Looking for a ministry opportunity where you can safely serve in a much needed area? Our Meals on Wheels program is in need of volunteers to deliver meals. You will have minimal contact picking up the meals at St. Luke and can leave the meal at the door of the homes where you deliver meals. If interested contact Julie Widener at 706-256-1017 or by email at jwidener@stlukeum.com.



THE CORNER

Jonathan and Lisa Moore, Directors of Student Ministries, jmoore@stlukeum.com

CORNER CROSSWALK UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 7 - MARCH 14

CROSSWALK

MIDDLE SCHOOL
5PM-6:30PM
LARGE DINING ROOM

The Corner

HIGH SCHOOL
6PM-7:30PM
YOUTH ROOM

MARCH 21

COLOR WAR

MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY
5PM-6PM
BONFIRE AFTER - SAME LOCATION

BONFIRE

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL
6PM-8PM
ADDRESS SENT VIA EMAIL

MARCH 28 - APRIL 4

NO SERVICE

Have a safe spring break and a blessed Easter!
