

# St. Luke's United Church of Christ

# Still Speaking

February and March 2022

## Sunday

### Worship

10:00am.

Recorded services are available via Facebook.

## Worship at St. Luke's

It has been a blessing to see so many people in the building as things start to get back to normal. If you have any questions about the safety protocols that we are following to keep everyone safe, please contact the church office.

Our worship services begin at 10:00 AM on Sundays. If you would prefer to participate virtually, you can join us on our St. Luke's United Church of Christ Facebook page at 10am on Sunday mornings so that we can still worship together. If you have any difficulty accessing the virtual worship services, please contact the church office.

## Office Hours

9:30am-12:30pm

Monday—Friday

## Weekly Updates

Keep an eye on our St. Luke's United Church of Christ Facebook page and our weekly emails to keep up to date on what's happening in our congregation. If you are not subscribed to the weekly emails and would like to get on the list, please contact the church office.

## St. Luke's Staff

Ministers

*All members*

Pastor

*Rev. Karen Barth*

Music Director

*Neva Polley Scott*

Accountant

*Cindy Scroggins*

Custodians

*Carole Watson*

Council President

*Barney Harting*

Church Administrator

*Alecia Simonis*

## Loaves and Fishes

St. Luke's next date to serve Loaves and Fishes is March 26. We will need 4-6 people to prepare and serve lunches. Please contact Steve Shetter or Carol Higdon if you are able to help.

## Young Adults Mission and Ministry

The Young Adults Mission and Ministry group meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM at various locations. If you have any questions, please contact Amelia Blankenkemper at [ablankenbeker1@gmail.com](mailto:ablankenbeker1@gmail.com). When meeting downstairs at St. Luke's, please use the back parking lot entrance.

## Church Donations

Thank you to all of you have sent in your pledges and donations to St. Luke's recently. As you continue to support St. Luke's mission of being a caring presence in Southern Indiana, please consider giving online by going to the link on our website at [www.stlukes.cc](http://www.stlukes.cc). Or, you can mail your tithes and offerings to the church at 329 Walnut St. Jeffersonville, IN 47130.

Greetings!

March 2 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our Lenten celebration. So even though that is almost a month away, I want to talk with you about Lent and what a special time it is. Lent is 40 days long in recognition of the 40 years that the Hebrew people wandered in the wilderness, the 40 days that Moses spent on the mountaintop communing with our God, the 40 days that Jesus was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, fasting and praying and meeting temptation before he began his public ministry.

During Lent this year at St. Luke's our theme will be *Making Peace with the Word: Participating in God's Provision and Reconciliation*. Each week in worship we will look at how God provides for us, our obstacles to receiving that provision and how we can be reconciled to God's love and provision.

Often during Lent people spend time fasting. It is not unusual for people to refrain from eating certain foods like meat or chocolate. Sometimes people "give up" a substances like alcohol.

This year I want to propose an even more stringent fasting practice. I propose that you give up something even more difficult, like speaking ill of anyone, or gossip, or self-pity. These actions, which may spring from an internal place of isolation or fear, can be actions that we may be hardly even aware that we are engaging in until we try to cease them.

So in this month leading up to Lent, I invite you to observe your internal state. What action do you practice on a regular basis, that if you didn't, you would be healthier or happier? What action do you engage in on a regular basis that keeps you from getting closer to God? That is the action that I encourage you to give up for forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

Then I invite you to journal or draw each day on how that is going and what you are noticing. This reflection is just for you—a time to assess how you are doing in living with the Divine presence.

As we move through these forty days, like Jesus in the wilderness we will meet temptation. Let us use this time to strengthen our connection with God and each other as we look forward to the joy of the Resurrection. May we all be one in practicing our love for God and each other.

I look forward to hearing how Lent is for you. There is an Easter hymn that speaks to me of what we are about in Lent:

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain.  
Wheat that in the dark earth, many days has lain.  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been.  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

Lent, to me, is that time when the blade is emerging from the grain but still pushing up through the dark earth before it reaches the light. Our souls have those buried places that still need to see the light. Lent is the time to encourage that new growth so that when Easter dawns, we can sing our Alleluias with full voice, in the joy of the presence of Christ. May you know a good and reconciling Lententide.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Karen



### **Advent and Christmas-Prayers of Gratitude and Words of Thanks**

Thank you to all the musicians who contributed to our music at St. Luke's during Advent and Christmas. The Bell Choir provided wonderful music under the Direction of Bev Hurlbut and the Children shared beautiful music and words of the season in their mini-pageant. Thank you, Bev Hurlbut and Shelly Watson, for making this happen. Our instrumental musicians came out in numbers and we enjoyed flute, tuba, and French horn during several services and the addition was a blessing. Thank you, Bev Hurlbut, Emily Cotner, Kaitlyn Maloney, and Matt Mudd. Our choir was small but with a large voice sharing the words of scripture and creating music to worship God and minister to the congregation. We are blessed with your talents. Praise be to God for the opportunity to worship and minister through music together.

### **Lent and Easter 2022**

Music planning is underway for Lent and Easter. All are welcome! The choir will rehearse on Wednesdays, returning to some old favorites and learning new selections as well. We would love to have instrumental musicians join us anytime. The children will meet several times to learn new chime music and have some fun with crafts and Bible stories. Stay tuned for details.

### **Keep Holding On – You are Beloved - Always**

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. Deuteronomy 31:8

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you. Who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this, you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 1 Peter 1:3-6

Neva-Marie Polley Scott, Music Director    nevamariepolley@gmail.com

### **Choir Rehearsal Schedule**

Wednesdays 7-8 pm  
Sanctuary

### **February 2022**

February 2

February 9

February 16

February 23

### **March 2022**

March 2 – No Rehearsal

March 9

March 16

March 23 -No Rehearsal

March 30

### **Upcoming Special Dates**

March 2 – Ash Wednesday

April 3 – Palm Sunday

April 8 – Good Friday

April 10 – Easter

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord. “Plans to give you a hope and a future.”  
— Jeremiah 29:11

### Young Adult Ministry and Mission Update

January has been a fruitful time for the young adults! We wrapped up our 6 week Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount, and we spent some time talking about what it means to discern God's calling on our lives. We will be starting a 5 week Bible study on the "Clobber" passages (the verses in the Bible that have been used to deny LGBT people in the church) with the goal of "Un-Clobbering" them by looking at the culture and contexts they were written in. The young adults have been discussing a once-a-month worship service and getting involved with Loaves and Fishes among other Jeff-based civic activities. It is a very exciting time to be part of this group, and I have been enjoying my time immensely.

Warmly,  
Emily Carle, Young Adult Ministry and Mission

### Missions & Growth Update

Our Penny Wars for the Merom Pool was a great success! We were able to collect \$7,285.12 towards repairs to the swimming pool at Merom. Thank you for your generosity!



The One Great Hour of sharing offering will be collected on March 27. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

### Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship meets on second Wednesday of every month. The next meetings will be February 15 and March 15 at noon. Please bring a sack lunch and drink and meet us in Watson Hall. All women are invited to lift our spirits, share ideas and enjoy fellowship.

### Thank you!

Siblings in Christ,

Thank you so much for the staff Christmas gifts. We are moved by your generosity and thoughtfulness. We thank God for the opportunity to work at St. Luke's and to serve with all of you!

*St. Luke's Staff*



## Lenten Events

### Making Peace with the Word: Participating in God's Provision and Reconciliation

<b>Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 PM</b>	Ash Wednesday Service at St. Luke's
<b>Sunday, March 6, 4:00 PM</b>	Interfaith Lenten Study at Wall St. UMC, led by Rev. Kathy Ottinger
<b>Sunday, March 13, 3:00 PM</b>	Installation Service for Rev. Karen', Rev Chad Abbott, preaching
<b>Sunday, March 20, 4:00 PM</b>	Interfaith Lenten Study at St. Luke's UCC, led by Rev. Karen Barth
<b>Sunday, March 27, 4:00 PM</b>	Interfaith Lenten Study at First Presbyterian, led by Rev. Eric Wright
<b>Sunday, April 3, 4:00 PM</b>	Interfaith Lenten Study at Faith Lutheran, led by Rev. Claire Ackelow and Pauletta Feldman of Southern Indiana Interfaith Initiative



## Children and Youth Ministry

Come join us for Sunday School! We will meet every other Sunday after the Children's Sermon.

## February Birthdays

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mary Arbuckle	13 <sup>th</sup>	Harold Frame
5 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Campbell		Kim Hensley
	Cathy Mabry		Kelsey Hensley
6 <sup>th</sup>	Dolly Pangburn		Marge Cenower
	Love Phan		Steffanie O'Neal
	Joey Watson	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Cindi Roberts
9 <sup>th</sup>	Kelley Curran	25 <sup>th</sup>	Phil Hurlbut
12 <sup>th</sup>	Kara Emly		
	Karen Barth		

## March Birthdays

1 <sup>st</sup>	Sarah Poole		Bruce Eby
7 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Campbell	19 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Barrow
8 <sup>th</sup>	Amy Kempf		William Cotner
9 <sup>th</sup>	JoEllen Blankenbeker	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Carolyn Cardwell
13 <sup>th</sup>	Jack Ellis		Julie Thornberry
14 <sup>th</sup>	Bowie Wemberly	24 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Hazard
18 <sup>th</sup>	Todd Smith	25 <sup>th</sup>	Sandy Smith
	Colleen Willenborg		

## February Anniversaries

14 <sup>th</sup>	Ken & Susan Heibert
	Steve & Linda Reinstedler
	Barney & Becky Harting
	Stephen Ruffra & Faith Steele
16 <sup>th</sup>	Keith & Malisa Morlen

## March Anniversaries

10 <sup>th</sup>	Phil & Bev Hurlbut
21 <sup>st</sup>	Charles & Sherry Stem

Please let the church office know if we have missed listing any birthdays or anniversaries.

## February Loaves and Fishes

February 5	ROTC
February 12	Tri Kappa
February 19	Faith Lutheran
February 29	First Presbyterian

## March Loaves and Fishes

March 5	Cook Memorial
March 12	St. John Paul
March 19	St. James
March 26	St. Luke's

The Book of Golden Memories list is now available in its entirety on the St. Luke's website at [www.stlukes.cc](http://www.stlukes.cc).

# St. Luke's Calendar February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 NA 7 PM Young Adults 7:30 PM	2 Choir 7 PM	3 Walking Group at Perrin Park 8:30 AM	4	5 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 PM
6 Worship 10 AM Annual Meeting 11 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Boy Scouts 4 PM	7 Cub Scouts 6 PM	8 NA 7 PM Young Adults 7:30 PM	9 Women's Fellowship 12 PM Choir 5 PM	10 Walking Group at Perrin Park 8:30 AM	11	12 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 PM
13 Worship 10 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Boy Scouts 4 PM	14 Cub Scouts 6 PM Finance & Property 6 PM	15 Church Council 6 PM NA 7 PM Young Adults 7:30 PM	16 Choir 7 PM	17 Walking Group at Perrin Park 8:30 AM	18	19 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 PM
20 Worship 10 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Boy Scouts 4 PM	21 Cub Scouts 6 PM	22 NA 7 PM Young Adults 7:30 PM	23 Choir 7 PM	24 Walking Group at Perrin Park 8:30 AM	25	26 Sausage Making Loaves & Fishes 11:30 PM
27 Worship 10 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Boy Scouts 4 PM	28 Cub Scouts 6 PM					

# St. Luke's Calendar

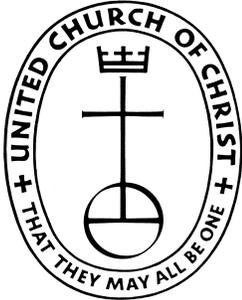
## March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 NA 7 PM Young Adults 7:30 PM	2 Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM	3 Walking Group at Perrin Park 8:30 AM	4 Sausage Supper	5 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 PM
6 Worship 10 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Boy Scouts 4 PM Lenten Study 4PM	7 Cub Scouts 6 PM	8 NA 7 PM Young Adults 7:30 PM	9 Women's Fellowship 12 PM Choir 7 PM	10 Walking Group at Perrin Park 8:30 AM	11	12 Loaves & Fishes 11:30 PM
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**ST. LUKE'S  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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*A friendly  
family of  
faith*

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**No matter who you are  
Or where you are  
On life's journey,  
*You're welcome here.***