St. Lucas UCC
Promise Statement:
St. Lucas UCC members, united in Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, strive to live faithfully, grow spiritually and serve lovingly all of God’s creations.

St. Lucas UCC
Mission Statement:
St. Lucas UCC unites Christians in the worship of God and affirms life-long Christian education, faithful discipleship and caring service in God’s name.

Important Dates

Sunday, June 2:  “Beatles Sunday” - Special Service at 11 AM; Purchase With a Purpose in between Services in the Social Hall;
Saturday, June 8:  Rise Against Hunger from 1—3 PM in the Social Hall
Sunday, June 9:  Pentecost; Old Fashioned Revival at 5 PM in the Sanctuary; Dinner to follow in the Social Hall—tickets are available now! Details on pg. 4.
Sunday, June 16:  Graduation Sunday at 9 AM
Monday, June 17:  VBS from 9 AM—12 PM daily
Friday, June 21:  All-Church Indoor Drive-In Movie at 6 PM
Sunday, June 23:  Community Meal in the Social Hall from 4—5:30
Sunday, June 30:  Yankee Doodle Picnic sponsored by Luke’s Ukes
Sunday, July 7:  Service of Ordination for Kelly Archer at Peace UCC at 3 PM
Inside This Issue

**Boomer Activity for June**

Join us for a visit to the Arch Museum on Tuesday, June 11! All are welcome to participate!

**Details:**
- Schedule the visit for the morning or afternoon, or both.
- 1 PM meet at Angelo’s Taverna 316 Market Street located in the Drury Plaza Hotel [opposite the Luther Ely Smith Park and adjacent to the Arch grounds]; Prices moderate, with an emphasis on Italian. A short walk to/from the Arch.
- Transportation Options
  - Carpool (meet at St. Lucas Parking Lot 10:30 AM)
  - Drive Yourself
  - Ride the Metro, getting off at the Laclede’s Landing Station with a decent walk to the Arch grounds
  - Parking is available nearby in both the Hyatt Regency and the Drury Hotels. Maybe a block walk to the Arch grounds and Museum entrance
  - The Arch Museum is free and open daily (summer hours 8 AM to 10 PM)
- Six stages of history to review, including the Lewis and Clark expedition; other options include movie (35 minutes--$7); tram ride (allow 60 minutes--$9). Cost is reduced with a national parks senior pass
- There is plenty to do and see. The Basilica of St. Louis (Old Cathedral) is right on the grounds. Wonderful views of the Mississippi, tugboats, even helicopter and riverboat tours. The Old Courthouse with historic displays is opposite the Arch. We can share experiences during lunch

**Links:**
https://www.gatewayarch.com/
https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm

Sign up in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, June 9. For more information, contact Bill Biedenstein 636-677-3055 or WmBiedenstein@SBCGlobal.net

**Women’s Fellowship Spring Planning & Fellowship Luncheon**

Calling all Women's Fellowship members! Please plan on attending our annual spring salad luncheon and program planning meeting on June 5th at 11 AM in the Social Hall. This is perhaps the most important meeting of our calendar year because we will create our presentation schedule for the upcoming season. Bring your tastiest salads and your best program ideas and join us!
June Mission Partner: Emmaus Homes

Founded in 1893 in Marthasville, MO., Emmaus Homes mission is to help people with developmental disabilities live as independently as possible. The programs and services they offer are for adults of any age and are tailored to meet each person's unique needs and goals. Emmaus Homes is a faith-based, non-profit organization serving clients who live in over 50 group homes located throughout St. Louis City, St. Louis, St. Charles, Warren and Franklin counties.

A generous gift to the General Fund will support this most worthy organization. If you want to learn more about Emmaus Homes, please plan to attend the 9 or 11 AM worship service on Sunday, June 9 when an EH representative will be here to offer a brief presentation about the organization.

Diversity Team Update

What is ONA? Since 1969, the United Church of Christ has advocated for the LGBTQ community; lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and questioning individuals. Open and Affirming (ONA) is a movement of more than 1,500 churches and other ministries within the United Church of Christ that publicly welcomes and affirms LGBTQ people fully into the life and ministry of the church.

UCC church polity affirms the right of each local church if (after a period of discernment) to decide for itself whether it wants to adopt an ONA Covenant. In the St. Louis area, the following UCC churches have adopted an ONA covenant. Others either have or are considering it.

- Samuel UCC in Clayton
- First Congregational Church UCC in Webster Groves
- Peace UCC in Webster Groves
- Kirkwood UCC
- Parkway UCC on North Ballas Road
- St. Mark's UCC in Arnold
- First Congregational UCC on Wydown
- Grace UCC in south St. Louis
- Trinity UCC in Affton
- Christ Church UCC in Maplewood
- Pilgrim UCC in mid-town St. Louis
- Grace UCC in St. Peters
- Epiphany UCC on McNair
- Glory to Glory UCC in south St. Louis
- Zion UCC in Florissant
- St. Peter’s UCC in Ferguson
- Hope UCC in south St. Louis

Source: http://www.gatewayona.com/we-are-ona.html
Weekends at St. Lucas UCC

Saturday
5:00 p.m.
Traditional Worship
Sanctuary

Sunday
9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Child Care, Birth-age 2
Room 232
9:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship
Sanctuary
Church School,
ages 3-5th Grade
Social Hall/Classrooms
Middle School Discussion
Sanctuary/Youth Room
10:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour
coffee, juice, milk & donuts!
Social Hall
11:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship
Sanctuary

Stewardship Moment by Don Lang

Hello Folks! Spring is here and the rains seem to come regularly so no need to water our plants or grass. As of the end of April, the St. Lucas General Fund revenue for the year is $287,324 for the year. Expenses over that same period were $332,074, resulting in a negative balance of -$44,751. Another financial instrument we look at is our Cash Asset Account. As you recall a few years ago, we received a significant gift from the Ann Goddard estate which has helped tide us over the last year and a half. When we started the year on January 1st, we had $276,594 in the Cash Asset Account and as of March month end close, we stood at $242,402, a reduction of -$34,192 dollars for the year.

We saw increased giving in April helped by Easter Celebrations and to all of you who contribute, a major thank you. We still have a ways to go to reduce our deficit and get back on solid financial ground, so please help. We need to explore cost cutting opportunities to get our revenues and expenses more in line with the current state of our congregation. Bill Linnenbringer has charted a small committee to explore ways to increase revenue and cut costs. They will provide input to the congregation as to a possible go forward plan. If you have any ideas on the revenue or the expense side of the equation, we would like your input. Feel free to call me at 314-807-4551 or email me at delang2@sbcglobal.net. Let’s all try to build a health positive financial picture for the church. Thank you and may we all have a wondrous spring.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Donald Lang, D.Sc.

Join Us for an Old Fashioned Revival!

The weekend of June 8 and 9 is Pentecost Weekend. We will be celebrating the gift of the Spirit and the breathing of life into the church in a special way, particularly on Saturday, June 8 at 5 PM.

We will be holding a revival, seeking the Spirit to breathe new life into the church once more. The incredibly talented choir of Christ the King United Church of Christ will be joining us for this lively evening of worship, then we will share a meal together following worship. Dinner tickets for King Edwards chicken will be on sale beginning Memorial Day weekend for $10 per meal for adults, $3 per meal for children under 12, and children 3 and under are free. We hope you’ll join us for this Spirit-filled celebration!
Cool, Safe & Dry Update by Don Lang

Hello Folks! It’s already May and we are a third of the way through the year. Boy, how time flies! We continue to make progress on our Capital Campaign. To date, we have collected $725,869.41 in donations, we have $9,037.50 in pledges for years 2019-2020 and we have a $100,000-dollar loan from the Rott foundation ($79,098 remaining to be paid back) which is not included in the donations number above. As we may all remember, our overall goal for the 5 year, 5 phase projects are now $855,000. So here is where we stand…

We have funded the first year projects, which are complete. We are now fully funded for the second phase project, the back parking lot, at $250,000. The Building and Grounds Committee is preparing their design proposal for the review committee so they can solicit approval and proceed with the scheduling and implementation of the project. The third project, the Education Building HVAC, with a goal of $78,000 crossed the line at the end of the year and is now also 100% funded. The Building and Grounds Committee has started working on the detailed specifications for this project. To top this off, the fourth phase, the Social Hall ceiling and floor, with a goal of $50,000, is now 66% funded. The Building and Grounds Committee is looking at starting with putting in LED lights to save on our electric bills, as well as, to apply for a rebate from Ameren. Great progress all around the church everyone!

If would like to give to the campaign, simply put your donation in an envelope and identify that you would like it to go to the Cool, Safe and Dry Campaign. Also, if you made a pledge for 2018 and didn’t get around to making your donation, we would welcome your commitment in 2019. All these efforts will go a long way in revitalizing our church. Thank you to all of you who have given and those who plan to give. We appreciate everyone’s gifts. Thank you!

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Donald Lang, D.Sc.
Cool, Safe, and Dry Committee

A Little Help From Our Friends by Pat Stephens

The Membership and Evangelism Committee is beginning work on an initiative from the strategic plan. We will be “checking in” with members of St. Lucas UCC and for those who are not regular attenders, we want to let them know about the many opportunities for fellowship and service that might be of interest to them. To begin this initiative, we invite members of the congregation to become part of the “calling team.” And, we are also looking for any ideas or suggestions about membership and evangelism efforts. So if you have ideas to share or would like to become part of the M&E Committee or help with calling, please contact Barb Smith or Pat Stephens.

And…as you sit in your “neighborhood” during your attended worship service on Saturday or Sunday, look around and see if you “miss” someone who usually sits in your “neighborhood.” Perhaps give them a call or drop them a note if you don’t see a family or someone you’re used to seeing. We always want to be good “neighbors,” reaching out to say “hello” or “welcome” to those we don’t know, but during this transition time at St. Lucas, it is important that we care for each other and what a good way to let all know they are part of this caring family of St. Lucas UCC!
The UCC Annual Conference Gathering and General Synod
by Joy Dressel, Lay Delegate

Upcoming Meetings with our Extended Church Family
The Missouri Mid-South UCC “Conference Annual Gathering” will be held in Columbia, MO, June 6–8, providing opportunities to meet face-to-face with our wider church family. All members of St. Lucas and other Missouri Mid-South Conference churches are welcome to attend. Go to be inspired, to share ideas, and to learn and worship together. Read more about “CAG” at https://www.missourimidsouth.org/conference-annual-gathering-2018 or talk with one of our lay delegates: Bill Biedenstein, Bill Brinkhorst, Joy Dressel, Paul Litzsinger and Mary Morgan.

The General Synod is a national gathering of UCC delegates and visitors that convenes every other year. This year’s gathering will be in Milwaukee, WI, June 21 – 25. Each Conference selects voting delegates to send to this meeting and all members of UCC churches are welcome to attend as visitors to experience the fellowship, education and inspiration that comes along with a gathering of a few thousand of our diverse church family.

Do you understand the polity/governance of the UCC?
It is different from other denominations. The local churches are autonomous, yet accountable to each other and to all of the other components of the UCC, such as the Association, the Conference, the agencies and the General Synod. Local churches avoid becoming self-centered by freely choosing to support each other and “be one in love and service” with the other parts of the UCC. The St. Lucas congregation makes its own decisions, but we are in covenant with the other churches of the UCC as well as the St. Louis Association, the Missouri Mid-South Conference, the General Synod, and the various agencies, such as Global Ministries and the Council for Human Health and Services Ministries (CHHSM – includes Caroline Mission, Every Child’s Hope, Emmaus Homes, etc.). Each part of the wider church is in covenant with all the rest. This means that we are partners with one another in the body of Christ, taking one another seriously in our common message, ministries and mission. We speak to each other, not for each other.
What exactly is the UCC General Synod and what is the role of its resolutions?

General Synod is a national gathering of UCC delegates (lay church members as well as ministers) that gives general direction to the evangelistic, missionary, and justice programs of the UCC, but these people are not the head of the UCC. They are just one of four levels at which UCC members gather in discernment, along with the local churches, Associations and Conferences. Delegates at each General Synod meeting can vote on resolutions, but they speak only for the General Synod, not for the UCC as a whole. They can “speak to us, not for us”. Voting delegates at the General Synod have a leadership role, but can only suggest, recommend, urge, or request local churches to consider issues or take actions; not tell us that we must. The voting delegates are aware of this role. They challenge each other and the wider church to thoughtfully consider issues that we may not have known about or may not have thought about through the lens of Jesus’ teachings. It is our responsibility as a local UCC church to respectfully listen to what the General Synod has brought forward before deciding whether we will take any action or not. Decisions made by the General Synod are not binding upon the UCC’s congregations (or its associations or conferences) in any way.

Who proposes these resolutions to be considered at the General Synod?

A resolution may be submitted from one of various bodies of the UCC. A local church can submit a resolution with the concurrence of five other UCC churches. General Synod delegates, Conferences, Associations, affiliated ministries, and the UCC Board of Directors may also submit resolutions in a similar manner.

Be aware that the sessions of General Synod are open to the public and to the news media, who likely do not understand the polity/governance of the UCC, causing frequent distortions in the news reports about the UCC.

The theme for this year’s General Synod is based on the scripture Matthew 5:16 “In the same way let your light shine before others.” Meeting together with delegates from across the country, and then sharing those lessons, inspiration, and recommendations, is an opportunity for all UCC congregations to be uplifted, encouraged and enriched and to try to live out the words of John, “that they may all be one”. Read more about General Synod 32 and watch a 15-minute video: https://www.synod2019.org/en/uccsynod2019
**Book Study**

Join us for a book review on “When Christians Get it Wrong” by Adam Hamilton, the Methodist minister from Kansas City, who took a congregation of 100 members to 22,000. Meetings will take place on Wednesday, June 12th & June 19th at the pavilion starting at 6:30 PM. Come at 6 PM with a picnic basket and a lawn chair for extra fellowship. Miles Meyer will be the facilitator. Books will be available through the church for $11.00. **PLEASE NOTE:** If it's too hot, we will picnic and hold class in the Fireside Room! **Questions?** Please contact Michele at mottinger@stlucasucc.org.

**Rise Against Hunger**

Our Loaves & Fishes ministry is partnering with Rise Against Hunger and the greater community for a work day packaging food at St. Lucas on June 8th from 1-3 PM! Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world’s most vulnerable, mobilizing the necessary resources to end hunger by 2030. 
For more information: [https://www.riseagainsthunger.org](https://www.riseagainsthunger.org) 
Please sign up online! All ages over 4 years are welcome. [http://bit.ly/stlucashunger](http://bit.ly/stlucashunger)

**Summer Cafe**

We are working with Southminster Presbyterian Church, Concord Trinity Methodist and the Lindbergh Foundation to launch a program to continue to feed the "food insecure" kids in the district this summer.

924 or 12.7% of Lindbergh school district students utilize the reduced or free lunch program. Many of these students depend on programs like this to be able to eat nutritious meals during the summer months. Volunteers are needed to pick up, pack and deliver the food. Below are two links where you can volunteer!

**Drivers to Deliver Food:**
[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EA5A82BA7F49-summer1](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EA5A82BA7F49-summer1)

**Pick up at Sam’s and Packers:**
[http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EA5A82BA7F49-summer](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EA5A82BA7F49-summer)
A Message from the St. Lucas United Church of Christ Church Council

St. Lucas is facing hard times ahead. As your Church Council, we are facing these hard times with a clear understanding of the gravity of our decisions. We strive to provide the leadership and foresight required to weather the current storms.

Members of council were elected to serve the congregation and given the task of making the hard decisions for the congregation. We believe all points of view must be heard but ultimately that the will of the majority will be executed. Doing duty to St. Lucas, the council members have listened and learned.

Council now faces another dilemma. A group of members have expressed a desire to disaffiliate from the United Church of Christ. We facilitated a meeting in which those wishing to speak on the issue were given an opportunity to be heard. All members have the right to be heard, with the understanding that the will of the majority rules.

During the informational meeting, it became apparent that this may not be an entirely internal issue. There is a local movement dedicated to fomenting dissatisfaction within UCC churches and luring the congregations to leave the UCC. We fear that this movement is currently at work to sow dissent within St. Lucas at our most vulnerable time.

A review of the St Lucas Constitution, in Part III Affiliation - paragraph A, clearly states “This congregation shall be a member of the United Church of Christ and shall be governed by its constitution, laws, and rules.” The church council has a duty to follow the constitution, which documents the extant written will of the congregation.

With that obligation in mind, the Church Council of St. Lucas United Church of Christ unanimously declares that we stand firmly against:

1. Formation of any formal or informal body to address or study the subject of disaffiliation from the UCC.
2. Any overt or covert actions to force a disaffiliation vote.
3. Any actions changing the constitution or any by-laws that might facilitate disaffiliation.
4. The use of any church property or facilities of any kind to aid, or support, the disaffiliation messaging of any member or non-member of St. Lucas UCC.

As your church council, we see our duty to uphold the standing will of the majority, which at this time remains that St. Lucas is a UCC church. The only way our duty will change is a vote by the majority of the congregation. We expect that the majority of a well-informed congregation will choose wisely and reject all efforts to disaffiliate St. Lucas UCC from the United Church of Christ.

We all vow to continue to listen to, and learn from, the members of the congregation in order to improve conditions and remove conflicts that are within our control.

St. Lucas UCC Church Council

15 May 2019

Rev. Eric Moeller, Minister of Education & Missions
Kelly Archer, Interim Pastoral Assistant ● Pam Russo, Business Manager ●
Michele Ottenger, Director of Children's Ministries and All Church Programming ● Lynda Klosterman, Preschool Director
Kit Norton, Coordinator of Youth Ministries ● Amy Bush, Assistant Coordinator of Youth Ministries
Prayer Shawl Ministry

Please join us for our Prayer Shawl Meeting on Monday, June 3rd at 10 AM in the Fireside Room! We have a special activity for this meeting—details to be determined! We will be having another Prayer Shawl blessing in June at the services on Saturday, June 15 and Sunday, June 16. If you have any questions, please call me at 314-843-0143.

Thanks to all,
Diane Butler

Thank You to The Visitor Volunteers

We wish to extend our gratitude to the many faithful volunteers from St. Lucas UCC who would come in every month to prepare The Visitor to be mailed! Your dedication to our church is very much appreciated!

Thank You from the Groepers & O’Days

Thanks to St. Lucas UCC for their sympathy during our daughter, sister and aunt, Phyllis Groeper Klenschmidt’s passing. Also, thanks for the wonderful luncheon served to our family and friends.

Orlyn and Rachel Groeper and Pamela, John, Ariane, Erin, Shannon and Bridget O’Day.

Articles Due for the July Visitor

Articles for the July edition of The Visitor are due in the Church Office by 8 AM on June 10th. Weekend bulletin announcements are due by 12 PM (noon) on Mondays and email blast submissions are due by 12 PM (noon) on Wednesdays. Please email Megan at mligeti@stlucasucc.org AND Debbie at dheagle@stlucasucc.org when submitting articles.

Church Family Updates

Please contact Debbie in the Church Office at 314-884-6120 with your news to share, including the joys and concerns of our extended family. If you prefer, you may share your information via email to Debbie at dheagle@stlucasucc.org AND Megan at mligeti@stlucasucc.org.

Recently Hospitalized: John Hoffmeister, John Gross, Bob Beitel, Johnathon Lindnor, Carol Geitz, Shirley Pfister, Wes Bornemann

Recent Baptisms: Cade Rhys Rogers

Recent Deaths: Dorothy Brinkhorst (Bill Brinkhorst’s mother)
Purchase with a Purpose

Don't forget that purchase with a purpose is on Sunday, June 2nd. We will have items available for sale in the Social Hall between services, including pot pies & berry pies from Lydia's House, bakery goods from Bridge Bread, and our UCC Fair Trade Coffee. We accept cash and checks. Please join us in supporting our ministry partners!

Contact Church Council

Need to contact our Church Council? We now have e-mail addresses that are easy to remember!

To contact the President:
president@stlucasucc.org

To contact the whole Council:
council@stlucasucc.org

Graduation Sunday

Sunday, June 9th at 9 AM

If you would like you, or your graduate to be recognized, please fill out the form at:

https://www.stlucasucc.org/graduation-form

Meal of the Month

- Boxed, whole wheat pasta
- Canned tomato or pasta sauce, low/no salt/sodium
- Canned mixed vegetables, low/no salt/sodium
- Canned fruit, light syrup or own juices
- Powdered Milk or Shelf Stable Boxed Milk or Soy Milk

Optional, but always useful:
- Baby food—fruit, vegetables and cereal

Items listed are merely suggestions. Any food or personal hygiene items you wish to donate are always appreciated!

Community Meal

Sunday, June 23rd at 4-5:30 PM

Community Meals are our way of serving the food insecure, the lonely and first responders in our community! We could use your help!

Email Pam Smith at smith.lpkkm@gmail.com for more info!

Friday Lunch Bunch

Friday, June 28th at 11:30 AM
Restaurant TBD

Join the Friday Lunch Bunch! The Friday Lunch Bunch is a group of people who gather to eat lunch and share fellowship. We meet at a local restaurant, there is no planned program and the checks are prepared to be paid individually. If you would like to be part of this group, please add your name to the list on the Welcome Center bulletin board.
The Staff at St. Lucas United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Moeller, Minister of Education and Mission
Pastor Kelly Archer, Minister of Congregational Life
Michele Ottinger, Director of Children’s Ministries and All-Church Programming
Seth Carruthers, Director of Music
Kit Norton, Coordinator of Youth Ministries
Amy Bush, Assistant Coordinator of Youth Ministries
John Gross, Organist
David Kuhns, Saturday Evening Organist
Pam Russo, Business Manager
Debbie Heagle, Administrative Assistant
Megan Ligeti, Communications Coordinator
Amy Farfan Medina, A/V Coordinator
Lynda Klosterman, Preschool Director
Charlie Singler, Dennis Scherr & Gurgett Torres—Maintenance

The Visitor