

Epistle

ST. LUKE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS
VOLUME 57, ISSUE 4 | APRIL, 2022

Our Lenten Journey to Include New Study

Are there things you've always wanted to know about the Bible but been afraid to ask? Here is your chance to join us in an approachable, intergenerational six-week study on how to read the Bible. We will explore topics like what is the Bible (an oppressive rule book, a hodge-podge of inspirational thoughts, or something much more?) and what is its overarching story, what are the different literary styles found throughout the Bible, talk about why the setting for the narrative matters, explore recognizing patterns, and much more. This will be an opportunity to wrestle with our faith, realizing there are no easy answers,

and hopefully propel us into a desire to explore in more detail this amazing collection of books we call the Bible.

We will be using The Bible Project videos for a portion of each class and then discuss/read about the ideas presented in each video. You can check out the videos on this link: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/how-to-read-the-bible/>.

The first class starts Thursday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m. The class will also be offered on Sunday mornings at 9:45. Classes will continue for six weeks, concluding on Palm Sunday. I look forward to taking this journey with you.
KARY WINGO

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Tradition Returns!

Please join us on Tuesday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. for pancakes and all the fixings. **Bob Hansen** and other wonderful pancake flippers will be cooking up our meal. Donations will go towards courtyard improvements.

Ash Wednesday Service Begins Lenten Season

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be March 2 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please join in as we mark the beginning of Lent with the imposition of ashes. Our Lent and Easter season is a time to renew ourselves and refocus on Christ.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED



3001 Bell Street
Amarillo, TX 79106-5037



806.355.6253 Office
806.355.0629 Fax



pastor@stlukeamarillo.com
admin@stlukeamarillo.com



Visit our website:
www.stlukeamarillo.com



Find us on Facebook:
@stlukeamarillo



Find us on Instagram:
stlukeamarillo



Find Pastor Kati's blog:
www.revkaticollins.com



Pastor Kati's podcast:
The Sycamore Tree



Download the Sharefaith App
on the App Store



Get St. Luke Pres., Amarillo TX
on Google Play

Strokes of Grace

A note from PASTOR KATI

A New Spirit

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. PSALM 51:10-12

As I write this, I have finally turned a corner to feel better with a "new and right spirit (breath) within me." As you read this, I will hopefully feel even better after returning to the office on 2.22.22 Tuesday with the hope to return to the pulpit on February 27 and celebrate Communion with you. It took a full three weeks for COVID to pass through our house, and I was sick during all of it. After a lot of rest and breathing treatments, I feel remarkably better, but I still need to stop and rest from time to time.

Since I have been limiting my activity, I have spent a lot of time reading, painting, or catching up on *Rizzoli and Isles*. With our word for the year being forgiveness, I pulled out a book by Desmond Tutu and his daughter, Mpho, called *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World*. They share details behind South Africa's journey of healing through storytelling and forgiveness. I was amazed to read their definition of healing. "Healing does not mean reversing. Healing does not mean that what happened will never again cause us hurt. It does not mean we will never miss those who have been lost to us or that which was taken from us. Healing means that our dignity is restored and we are able to move forward in our lives." This is the kind of healing I can imagine here on earth. The pain of trauma may leave a scar and pull in unexpected moments, but dignity can be reclaimed, received, and given in the midst of vulnerability.

I can't think about forgiveness without thinking about Joseph and his family. Their story has plenty of betrayal and trauma which calls for forgiveness. We see the power of forgiveness to renew a relationship or to allow for saying goodbye in peace. During Lent, we will take a closer look at the stories of Bishop Tutu, Mpho, and Joseph in order to tell our own stories. We will learn how to make room for safety, justice, forgiveness, and healing all at once. I would not have thought this was possible on earth, in heaven, yes, but on earth? How? Join us in Worship during March and April as we take our own "fourfold path" towards healing.

Books for a Bit of "Light" Reading
Looking for guidance to "lighten your load" spiritually? Here are a few books Pastor **Kati** has been using to prepare the upcoming sermon series "The Journey of Joseph: A Path of Forgiveness." Find them at the public library or your favorite bookstore and join us on a journey of unlearning and unloading towards forgiveness.

- *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World* by Desmond Tutu, Mpho Tutu
- *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans, Jeff Chu

Continued on page 3.

Gift Cards Help Refugee Families

Partners in Education is currently conducting a cash or Walmart gift card drive for five refugee families at Mesa Verde that were recently evacuated from Afghanistan. If you would like to contribute, please give cash to purchase cards to **Stacy Clopton**; this is the quickest way to get cards to these families. If you want to send a check to St. Luke, please note "Mesa Verde refugees" on the memo line.

St. Luke recently received a huge thank you card signed by the families who have already been helped by our donations.

Deadline for April Epistle

The deadline for the next edition of the newsletter is March 27. As always, send your news to editor **Nan Kemp**. The *Epistle* will be emailed on March 31. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please contact the church office to be added to the address book.

THANK YOU

for your faithful giving!

Detailed financial reports are always available for review by church members. Simply stop by the church office during regular hours and request to examine the previous month's financial documents.

JANUARY

YEAR-TO-DATE

We Are the Church, Together...

Let's Build God's House

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

During this Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Ways to give:

- 1) **Donate by bank account or credit/debit card online at psusa.org/give-oghs.** (You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by OGHS by making an online gift at any time throughout the year.)
- 2) Text OGHS to 91999 to give.
- 3) Send your check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.
- 4) *If you are unable to give through any of the means above, you may put your donation in the offering plate on Easter Sunday. Make your check payable to St. Luke with "OGHS" on the memo line or use the special envelope that will be provided.*

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit pcusa.org/oghs.

Small Groups & Gatherings

Men's Breakfast & Devotional

The Men's Breakfast Group meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. at St. Luke with the next breakfast falling on Tuesday, March 8. **Doug Tanner** will provide the devotional, and **Kaci Jones** is bringing biscuits and gravy. They look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions, please call **Eldon Wingo** at

PW Study & Brunch

St. Luke Women will continue their *Horizons* Bible study on Wednesday, March 9 at 9:30 a.m. **JoAnn Jolley** will provide a brunch. Following will be a devotional by JoAnn about her grandmothers. The group will explore "Lesson 7: Mary" in the study *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*. All women are welcome, even if you haven't read the lesson.

Young at Heart

The Young at Heart group will meet at noon in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 16. **Robbie Collins** will present the program; he will speak about cyber security and scammers. RSVP to the church office by noon on the day before so an approximation of the number of sandwiches to order can be made. A small fee of \$8 will cover the cost of your lunch. See you there!

Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch

Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch will meet on March 24 at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring your own lunch and prepare to fellowship with your fellow brown baggers. We are looking forward to spring when we can gather under the trees again.

STROKES OF GRACE

Continued from page 2.

- *The Gifts of Imperfection and Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone* by Brené Brown
- *Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know* by Adam Grant

The Sycamore Tree

Follow Pastor **Kati's** podcast for a Lenten series of healing meditations based on Psalms 23 and 51. Episodes will be released on Tuesdays, starting March 1, with links in the Thursday emails.

Proposed Change to Endowment By-Laws

The Endowment Committee is requesting a change in the By-Laws of the St. Luke Presbyterian Perpetual Endowment Fund: Session representatives (2) for the Endowment Committee be changed from both serving a one-year term to both serving two-year terms that will stagger the moderator position. This will help the committee with continuity—each year, there will be a moderator who is familiar with past decisions and the committee's current goals. (This change will be considered and voted on at the next Stated Session Meeting.)

MARCH Birthdays

If your birthday is not listed or if there is an error, please call the church office.

1 • Ki*	15 Bob
1 • Myra	15 Scott
3 • Harry*	17 Jessica
6 • Donald	17 Blayne*
7 • Travis	18 Donna
8 • Szak	26 Wesley
8 • Tim	27 Daryl*
9 • Marcie	27 Andrew
15 • "Bo"	* friend of St. Luke

Session Report

The Session had its regular stated meeting on February 20. Below is a report:

Clerk's Report

1. January 2022 average attendance for worship - 51
2. Active membership as of January 30, 2022 - 145
3. Communion was celebrated on January 2, 2022.
4. **Barbara Powell** entered the Church Triumphant on January 14, 2022. A service was held at The Craig Senior Living Chapel.
5. The Session voted to receive **Aaron Parker** into membership at St. Luke following his baptism by a BSA Hospital chaplain; no word has yet been received concerning Aaron's baptism.

Commendations:

- Everyone who has helped with the Laundry Love mission.
- **Ki Hargis** for agreeing to serve as head usher once a month.
- **Ashley Denham** for her service as a head usher.
- Security grant team for its intensive hard work.
- **Choice Yates** for sharing his beautiful voice during the February 20 service.
- **Terry Boulware, Kim Lacey, and Marcie Robinson** for joining Congregational Care Committee in the mission to care for our congregation and others.
- All Session members for acting as our spiritual leaders and caring for our congregation as **Kati** recovers from COVID-19.
- **Tim Lacey, David Kemp, Stacy Clopton, Ross Clopton, and Rebecca Vardiman** for their insightful, wise, and encouraging sermons in January and February.
- Gratitude to **Donna Clopton** for arranging the **Collins'** meals and to the many, many congregation members who prepared and delivered family-friendly and parent-specific meals and gift cards.
- All committees for initiating new projects and events in the new year as well as resuming events we have missed during the pandemic.
- **Tim Lacey** for serving as the new Property Committee moderator.
- **Helen Thorsheim** for preparing the shelves in the youth room for storing worship flower arrangements.

Sharing the Love

February, the Month of Love, has passed, but love lingers on. Your Finance/Stewardship Committee invited you to share your Christian love by naming things you love about St. Luke. You responded by turning in many thoughtful and heart-warming cards during worship services. We have placed these on a bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, so you can continue to look at them and enjoy them. Here are some highlights:

- ♥ I love St. Luke for its steady ministry to the people, the community, the wider world.
- ♥ The people make St. Luke a beautiful place to be. The people and God are always there when needed.
- ♥ I love the way members of St. Luke live their faith and are tolerant of one another.
- ♥ St. Luke is my connection... my conduit... to knowing and feeling God's grace and love.
- ♥ And finally, from the Burnetts' young : "I LOVE ST. LUKE!" Drawings of fish and happy faces!

Thank you again for taking the time to share your feelings about why you love St. Luke. Know that St. Luke loves you right back. We are all St. Luke!

Joys & Concerns

Continue to remember others with COVID-19 and

*the staff and residents at Amarillo Children's Home; the people of Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church; **Glenda Moore** (Kind House Ukraine Bakery); and the students, teachers, and staff at Mesa Verde Elementary School.*

Mark Your Calendars!

Learn more about the endowment fund, what it does, and how you can help! An endowment educational program (light lunch following church service) will be held for the congregation. We have invited **Stephanie Marsden** from the Presbyterian Foundation to be our special guest speaker on Sunday, May 1.



Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. on **Sunday, March 13.**

MARCH

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

EACH SUNDAY		1	2	3	4	5
9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 am Adult Sunday School Class 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal (until further notice) 11:00 am In-Person Worship and Children's Church during worship 11:00 am Service will stream Live on Facebook		10:00 am Exercise Group 4:30 pm Congregational Care Com. Mtg. 6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Scholarship Applications due	Ash Wednesday Lent begins 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Svc.	10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:15 pm Outreach Com. Mtg. 7:00 pm Lenten Study <i>6:30 pm - ACA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i>	World Day of Prayer	10:30 am - ACA
6 PB Sunday Lenten Study begins in adult Sunday school Communion Following worship Brown Bag Lunch 1:15 - 3:30 pm Elder Training	7 10:30 am Adult Piano Class 2:00 pm Christian Educ. Com. Mtg. (if needed) 5:30 pm Mission Com. Mtg. <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i>	8 6:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Exercise Group 5:30 pm Fellowship Com. Mtg. 5:45 pm Worship Com. Mtg.	9 9:30 am St. Luke Women 12:00 noon Finance Com. Mtg. 5:45 pm LOGOS	10 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 7:00 pm Lenten Study <i>6:30 pm - ACA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i>	11	12 10:30 am - ACA
13 Daylight Saving Time begins	14 10:30 am No Piano Class <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i>	15 10:00 am Exercise Group	16 12:00 noon Young at Heart	17 St. Patrick's Day 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 7:00 pm Lenten Study <i>6:30 pm - ACA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i>	18	19 8:00 - 10:00 am Laundry Love @ 10th St. Laundry 10:30 am - ACA
20 Spring begins	21 10:30 am Adult Piano Class <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i>	22 10:00 am Exercise Group	23 6:00 pm LOGOS Com. Mtg. 5:45 pm Endowment Com. Mtg.	24 10:00 am Exercise Group 11:30 am Lunch Bunch 2:00 pm Threads of Love 7:00 pm Lenten Study <i>6:30 pm - ACA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i>	25 9:00 am - 5pm Scrapbook Club @ St. Luke	26 9:00 am - 5pm Scrapbook Club @ St. Luke 10:30 am - ACA
27 <i>Epistle</i> deadline 12:30 - 3:00 pm Stated Session Mtg. and Elder Training	28 10:30 am Adult Piano Class <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i>	29 10:00 am Exercise Group 7:00 pm Farkle Group	30	31 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 7:00 pm Lenten Study <i>6:30 pm - ACA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i>	Congregational Meeting Rescheduled The Annual Congregational Meeting has been rescheduled for <u>April 3</u> following worship. More details will be forthcoming in future bulletins and the April newsletter.	

Russian Music Festival

Mila Abbasova announces WTAMU School of Music's 5th Anniversary Russian Music Festival on Saturday, April 9. The event will be at Mary Moody Northen Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. You can reserve tickets online at showtix4u/event-details/61383. You can also email Mila at mabbasova@wtamu.edu or call (806) 651-2840.

Performers include the WTAMU Symphony Orchestra, WTAMU Chorale, Oklahoma Christian University Chorale, and Russian-American mezzo-soprano **Mariya Kaganskaya**. Mila is the festival chair, and she is very pleased and proud to invite us to what promises to be an outstanding evening of music and song.

Security Grant Update

We have had an interesting month with the pandemic playing tidily-winks with contractors, their suppliers, and pricing. But the short story is that we are coming close to settling on the specific elements that can be covered by the amount of the grant, given the interesting increases in prices and the unpredictability of parts availability, especially for items like doors and hardware. (The door-hardware manufacturers will currently only guarantee prices for one week, and there are surcharges of 15-18%!) But we have found a very good slate of companies who are working with us for all elements (IdeaCom for access control and security, RSM Builders for doors and hardware, Glass Doctor for window security film, and Keyhole for locks and keys), and they are being very helpful. In mid-February, we will have submitted the rather lengthy and piddly Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) document that we had to complete because our building was originally constructed more than forty-five years ago. That's apparently historic. Good to know for many of us. I plan to use it with my kids to get them to be nicer to me. After the EHP is approved, our budget revision, which is based on our good-faith guess about how much the prices will increase above the current estimates, will have to be approved. Those two processes will likely take 2-3 months, during which time it would be helpful for all of us to pray that our submissions successfully speed through the approval process, and the prices won't have changed so drastically that we have to start all over again! Our next update probably won't be until May or so, after I can uncross my fingers. HELEN THORSHEIM

Postscripts

Congratulations go to **Amy Graff**, who finished her Doctorate of Educational Technology from Central Michigan University at the end of January. She is officially Dr. Amy now.

Mila Abbasova is featured in a lengthy article in the February issue of *Accent West* magazine. The story details how she and **Emin** and their two sons emigrated to the U.S. from Belarus in 1996. They have become citizens and made Amarillo their home as they flourished in their careers as artists and as a family.

Outreach News

Greetings from the Outreach Committee! Two of the things our committee is responsible for are the website and social media for St. Luke. First, we couldn't do it without **Melissa**. She knows all of the ins and outs and helps us greatly - a BIG thank you to Melissa!

Ashley Denham reported the following statistics from Facebook last month: the Laundry Love post reached 4,460 people on Facebook and 5,505 people had the Laundry Love post in their newsfeed. The Christmas Eve service had 547 views and reached 819 people. We also have created an account for those using Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stlukeamarillo/>. Instagram is a free photo and video sharing application used by the PC(USA) and many Presbyterian churches in the USA. For those who just enjoy pictures without all of the comments, this app might be for you. Check us out and follow us to keep in the loop. If you have any ideas for social media or how we can reach out to the community, please let us know.

JENNIFER DENHAM

Mission Report

The Mission Committee will sponsor a March Laundry Love event on Saturday, March 19 at the 10th St. Laundry from 8-10 a.m. This continues to be a meaningful project for all participants, and we encourage everyone to consider joining us at a future event. We meet at the laundry on the third Saturday of each month, visit, share stories, and, well, DO LAUNDRY. Sounds like fun, doesn't it? I assure you, it is fun, and it is a worthwhile way to spend a Saturday morning.

In addition to Laundry Love, the Committee has been requested to help with several special needs by some of the organizations we support. Guyon Saunders Resource Center is asking for gloves, used or new, to help their clients through the winter months. Since the winter is almost over and it is a continuing need, we have decided to make this an ongoing collection. You will find a box in the fellowship hall whenever you have some extra gloves to give away. Also, our partner school, Mesa Verde Elementary, has asked us to help with providing Chapstick for their faculty and students. Whenever you are grocery shopping, in addition to peanut butter for the High Plains Food Bank, perhaps you can add those items to your cart. It will be a big help, and there will be another box designated for Mesa Verde in the fellowship hall.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the St. Luke Women in their Souper Bowl collection for food items for Guyon Saunders; a total of \$572 was received. As always, thank you for your continued support of all our mission projects. ANN HEFNER and CAMILLE HOY

Scholarship Application Deadline Approaches

St. Luke Scholarship applications are due by March 1 for all active St. Luke high school seniors and undergraduate students. E-mail _____ for a copy of the application paperwork or for information.