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## UNILU NEWS & EVENTS

### February 24, 2021

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#### FROM PASTOR JON

The number of new Covid-19 cases continue to decline in our four county area, but we remain at risk. The City of Clemson has extended its mask ordinance through March 15, yet also with the hope that we will continue to see cumulative decline in the next several weeks. Good news.

UniLu now has over 60 people (out of approximately 340) who have received their two shots of vaccine and some have cleared the waiting period after that. Again, wonderful news. Yes, it feels like more light is shining at the end of a very long tunnel.

With the hope of improving weather the Worship & Music Committee has currently scheduled two outdoor worship services in March.

**On March 14 at 11 AM we'll gather in our upper parking lot on Sloan Street for worship.** Please wear your mask, bring your own chairs and practice physical distancing.

**On March 21 we will meet at 4 PM at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Clemson in their new outdoor space, "Trinity Place." (Same worship**

guidelines as for March 14.)

Following these two worship experiences we'll review what went well and where we can make modifications. Then we can put plans together for Palm Sunday March 28 and Easter Sunday April 4. What is guaranteed, is that on all four of these Sundays (March 14 – April 4) we will have our regular 9 AM Facebook Live service.

Thanks again for your patience as we seek to show our love for our neighbors by trying to stamp out the virus.

God's peace & hope,

Pastor Jon

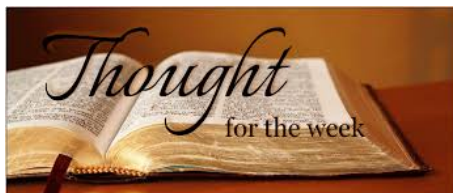
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## THURSDAY LENTEN SERVICE

Please be sure to join us [live on Facebook Thursday 2/25 at 7 PM](#) for our first midweek Lent Service. The choir has recorded some music from Taize, we'll have reflections on "Welcoming & Inviting" by various members of University Lutheran, and have the opportunity for in home holy communion.

These meaningful worship services usually run about 20 - 30 minutes in length.

Please note, the worship service bulletin in addition to the link to join the service will be emailed out to everyone on Thursday morning.



## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Our *Tuesdays Together* Lenten Bible Study got me thinking about things that we are called to do as Children of God and followers of Jesus. Our bible study is titled *Faces of Christ*. Yesterday we looked at the portrait of Jesus in the gospels of Mark and John, which are the gospels we will be reading this Lent. We also looked at how Martin Luther saw Christ. Luther says we should be like Christ to others. He also wants us to see Christ in others. The following quote comes from Luther's Commentary on

the Gospel of John.

"God says, 'I do not choose to come to you in my majesty and in the company of angels but in the guise of a poor beggar asking for bread. ... I want you to know that I am the one who is suffering hunger and thirst.'"

We are called not just to help and be like Christ to our neighbor, we are also called to see Christ in others, even "the least of these my brethren." That puts a whole new light on not only our giving but also our daily relationships with all of God's people.

-Jean Mehlman

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## LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY



### LCM SERVICE PROJECT

One of our students had a great idea for a hands-on project to serve the community.

Using plastic grocery bags, we can crochet them together to make mats that can be used in homeless shelters for more comfortable sleeping. So, we're asking that you might drop off some plastic grocery bags if you have them. I'll create a spot in the Narthex to collect them.

Above is a sample picture of what the project looks like when it starts to come together.

-Pastor Josh

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## PARISH NEWS & UPDATES

### THANK YOU!

Martha and Nancy Harris would like to thank everyone in the congregation for their love, prayers, cards, notes, food and other expressions of care for George and their family.

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**GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD LENTEN**

## OFFERING FEBRUARY 17 - MAY 30



**Update:** Because of the Pandemic, many of the Barnyard coin banks were not able to make it to church this past year. If you still have your bank you can use it again this year.

Save your coins and help purchase barnyard gifts. These gifts make a world of difference for a family in need.

Barnyard coin boxes are available in the Narthex for pick up and return. You may also give by check through Unilu. Mark check memo line as: *God's Global Barnyard.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Questions: Karen Dreher- [jkdreher@att.net](mailto:jkdreher@att.net)

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## RECONCILING IN CHRIST DISCUSSION



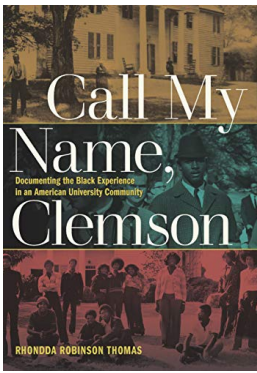
Dear Congregation,

Do People feel welcome at UniLu? Is University Lutheran welcoming? Is the welcome mat to our Church on the inside of our church or is it outside in the community?

Many of our members say yes, but others have told us no. Since 2019, a group of members have been meeting to work through ways that our church can be as welcoming to members outside in our community as we are to those inside.

**If you would like to join us in our meetings (2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month) just let Marty High know.** The aim of *Reconciling in Christ* is to prominently display a “Welcome Mat” to those outside our church regardless of race, economic status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. We hope to present an affirming statement to Church Council and the congregation this year for your support. Please join this discussion!

**-Your Reconciling In Christ Taskforce**



## **CALL MY NAME, CLEMSON: DOCUMENTING THE BLACK EXPERIENCE IN AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

Would you like learn more about the hardships and contributions of African Americans in the history of Clemson University from local author Dr. Rhonda Robinson Thomas? We cordially invite you to join our online discussion group on **Sunday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 am** at [this link to Zoom](#) (passcode 010203) or contact Marty High or Eunice Lehmacher for more information. Also, Clemson is hosting a Book Talk on February 21 at 4:00 with Dr. Thomas. You can register for the book talk [here](#).

Our group is multid denominational and focused on a biblical interpretation of current events. We are currently focusing on issues related to race and equity. You can view the book on [Amazon](#). Feel free to join us!

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## **TUESDAYS TOGETHER LENTEN BIBLE STUDY via ZOOM**

### ***Faces of CHRIST*** ***Who do you say that I am?***

**5 Tuesdays: Feb. 23 – March 23**  
**10:00 to 11:15 am**

You can download *Faces of CHRIST* by clicking this link

<https://search.elca.org/Pages/Results.aspx?k=WH Lenten Study guide.pdf>

We can also get a copy to you if you like. Sign up or questions contact:

Karen Dreher: [jkdreher@att.net](mailto:jkdreher@att.net)

Jean Mehlmen: [jmehlman43@gmail.com](mailto:jmehlman43@gmail.com)

We can help with using Zoom if needed.

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## FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Lent slipped up on me this year and I did not get the Lenten Devotionals Ordered. The printed versions are no longer available but you can download a copy with the following link:

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781506474335/eBook-A-Story-to-Tell>

While we are not meeting in person yet, the Education Committee is working hard to continue with Sunday Church School. If you are looking for something meaningful to add to your Lenten journey this year, consider joining one the groups. We would love for you to join us!

-Mollie Barrow



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mollie Barrow is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic: Sunday School K-12**

**Time: 10:00 am Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting at 10 am Sunday:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87019778020?pwd=emVTUW1GcDVZbTVIalFFSTFJeWZuUT09>

**Meeting ID: 818 1200 1614**

**Passcode: SSK-12**

**We do not meet on the first Sunday of each month so that everyone can get to drive through Communion.**

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

**Weekly:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZMtduCvqTMqGNT7E7gMqKL9uvZILtNGR2vw/ics?>

See you on Sundays!

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## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Come and join the adult Sunday school class that is meeting via Zoom! We are starting a new quarterly study on the topic *Call in the New Testament* where we will examine God's call in stories found in the New Testament. There are some of the participant books available at the church, in the classroom (cry room) beside the sanctuary, if you'd like to pick one up. But, you do not have to prepare, just join in at 10 am on Sunday morning and we'll develop a broader and deeper understanding of God's call and an appreciation for the ways people respond positively to that call.

Join Zoom Meeting at 10 am Sunday:

[https://9zest.zoom.us/j/96273872837?](https://9zest.zoom.us/j/96273872837?pwd=RoVobW14aC9EN3FscENaeGxaRUo2Zz09)

[pwd=RoVobW14aC9EN3FscENaeGxaRUo2Zz09](https://9zest.zoom.us/j/96273872837?pwd=RoVobW14aC9EN3FscENaeGxaRUo2Zz09)

Meeting ID: 962 7387 2837

Passcode: 865931

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## KEEP FAMILY PROMISE ALIVE!

Judith White, of First Baptist of Clemson found a way to do so by interviewing JoAnn Brink at *Family Promise*. She then reviewed the interview with her Sunday School class.

Here is the interview:

**1. Are there tasks that are more service oriented or do you view all work you do as serving GOD?**

*I believe that our purpose in life is to love and serve God and each other. We serve God by serving others. Further, I believe that we are expected to work*

toward common good, social conditions in which all humans can flourish.

## 2. How do you prepare and keep up with all the different groups you serve?

*I strive to achieve and demonstrate cultural competence, to understand the cultures of the people I serve and approach them with sensitivity and respect. It is our job to continually learn more about different cultures and their values so we better understand our guests. Better educating myself is a priority for me, whether by reading or attending virtual trainings. Last autumn I audited a college course called "Race and American Christianity."*

## 3. How has this pandemic changed the way you serve?

*Many of you have heard me advise that we must be flexible in serving our guests. The pandemic has challenged us to be extremely flexible, creative, and on-going in recognizing needs and modifying what we do. We have continued offering sheltering services throughout the pandemic.<sup>111</sup> We are sheltering families by paying for motels now. This has led to the requirement that guests must have a vehicle to be accepted into the program. Because so many folks come to us with old and faulty vehicles, we have had to take on the role of sometimes assisting with car repairs. Because meals are not being cooked and served by the congregations, we have asked our network churches to conduct drives for restaurant and grocery gift cards. Additionally, we have requested hand sanitizer and masks (mostly children's) from the volunteers so these can be provided to the guests. There have been some issues to work out with the motel such as spotty wi-fi. Since the majority of case management is being done by email, it is necessary for guests to have access. When I do have case management meetings in person, they are held outside, rain or shine, cold or warm! While we still have the expectation that parents work, we've had to be flexible when single parents have to accommodate children doing virtual weeks of school or having to quarantine.*

*Because there is emergency funding available to respond to people in need caused by COVID, Armilla has written proposals and accessed these funds, enabling us to begin offering prevention services, to prevent folks from becoming homeless. We have a part-time case manager to manage those cases. At intake, we look at whether someone's needs could be met through prevention instead of sheltering. Thus far, more than 60 people have*



*benefitted from our prevention program!*

#### **4. How do you handle the numerous disappointments that service brings- especially when its untimely?**

*I have been doing social work for 34 years. Early on, I came to the resolution that I would do my very best every day, particularly in terms of what is best for the children. When I lie down at night, I want to feel satisfied that I have offered the very best that I can. That practice has helped me greatly in handling disappointments.*

*At Family Promise, we always give the guest who is not complying with their service plan numerous chances with clearly communicated warnings before we unsuccessfully complete them. This is done in an effort to be fair but mostly because we are so concerned about the children. Yet, it is the situations in which we have to make a family leave the program that do disappoint me and lead me to carefully review all that we did looking for any little thing we might have done differently or better.*

#### **5. How does this scripture speak to you?**

**1 John 3:18**<sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

*God cares deeply for the poor and vulnerable. He expects His followers to also care. More than that, we are to act on that care. This can be challenging when we are sometimes faced with folks who are unthankful. Some people have not been taught to be thankful; others come to us emotionally wounded and shut down by being neglected, rejected or abused. This is when folks need our caring attitudes and kind actions more than ever!*

#### **6. Do you feel Christian service is also humanitarian work?**

*Yes, I believe that the gospel mandates us to serve each other, especially those who are needy and vulnerable. Whatever we do for the least of people, we do for Him.*

#### **7. What is fun about your job?**

*Spending time with the children is always joyful! Although the pandemic has severely limited that, I still find ways to attend to them. Recently, I took*

*two stuffed pink unicorns out to the car to give to two very excited little girls!*

*Seeing our guests succeed is so gratifying! When they are excited about a new job at McDonald's or open their first savings account, we share their excitement.*

*We are so blessed with truly exceptional coordinators. Interacting with them is always fun. Also, I enjoy speaking to groups, doing trainings and presenting about Family Promise.*

**And then a further note from JoAnn:**

*At this time we have one family in the sheltering program. After they stayed in the motel for a few weeks, both to ensure they were COVID-free and also to prove trustworthiness, we recently moved them into the house that we are so blessed to use at Easley Presbyterian Church. The family is a single mother who is pregnant and has two young children. So many of our guests decline our offer to assist them with getting into a GED-preparation program. I'm so proud of this young woman! She has been attending the Parenting & Family Literacy program and so far has passed two of the three sections of the GED. We are so appreciative of your continued support of Family Promise. We could not do this without you!*

*Blessings,*

*JoAnn*

**Let us not forget about these families during this time. Give as you can!**

**-Judy Aikens**

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## UNILU ONGOING EVENTS

### SUNDAY

**Worship at 9 am on Facebook Live**

**<https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/>**

***Call My Name, Clemson: Documenting the Black Experience in An American University* Community Zoom Discussion Group at 10:30 am**

**(Zoom sign-in information in article above)**

**Adult Bible Study, 10 am**

Linda Holt [lindaGTholt@bellsouth.net](mailto:lindaGTholt@bellsouth.net)

**Youth Sunday School, 10 am**

Mollie Barrow [mbarrowjr@aol.com](mailto:mbarrowjr@aol.com)

**First Sunday of Each Month 10:30 - 11 am Drive Up Communion**

**In church upper parking lot**

### **MONDAY - SATURDAY**

**Morning Devotion *Jammies with Jesus* at 7:30 am on Facebook Live**

<https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/>

### **TUESDAY**

***Tuesdays Together* Bible Study, 10 - 11:15 am**

Karen Dreher [jkdreher@att.net](mailto:jkdreher@att.net)

***Faces of CHRIST* Lenten Bible Study Feb. 23 - March 23**

### **WEDNESDAY**

**Bible Study, 10 am**

Marty High [marty@martyhigh.com](mailto:marty@martyhigh.com)

***The Book of Isaiah***

### **FRIDAY**

***Zoom Drop in with Renee & Pastor Jon, 5 - 6 pm***

**Drop in for a few minutes or hang out for the full hour.**

**Contact Pastor Jon [pastorjon12@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjon12@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.**

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## **UNILU CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS**

### **UNILU PRAYER CONCERNS**

**PRAYER CONCERNS for University Lutheran Members, Family and Friends:**

**Rachel Quesada; Karen & Freddie Waltz; John Vinson; Martha & Nancy**

**Harris; Marie Lynn's sister, Ellen; Larry Reamer; Alton Fanning; Brenda**

Monn's mom, Betty Lighty; Kenneth Cothran, Sr.; Gregg Dupree; Marty Copenhaver & family; Jimmie Pletta & family; Gail Paul; Pat Wagner; Rosalyn Flanigan; Tony Quesada; Randy Gilchrist; Larry Bock; Joyce Lillehamer.

## UNILU CELEBRATIONS

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS this Coming Week: Dan Shonka.

CELEBRATING WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES this coming week: Don & Marie Lynn.

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## PARISH INFORMATION

### MISS A SERVICE?

The recorded church sermons, audio and video, are posted weekly to the website: [www.uniluclemson.org](http://www.uniluclemson.org) and to the University Lutheran Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/>

### REMOTE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday–Thursday 7 am–12 noon; 1 pm–2:30 pm  
Fridays 8 am - 12 noon

Abi can be reached during the above hours at: [864-722-5504](tel:864-722-5504) or [unilusecretary@gmail.com](mailto:unilusecretary@gmail.com)

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Click [HERE](#) for UniLu Calendar  
Click [HERE](#) for Prayer Fellowship List

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## LINKS

[SC LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

[UNILU WEBSITE](#) • [LECTIONARY/READINGS](#)

[LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY](#) • [SC SYNOD](#)

[ELCA GOOD GIFTS](#)

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UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

***University Lutheran is a family of faith, called by the Holy Spirit to be one ministry serving both our community and university.***

***The Spirit calls us to make known, by word and deed, the story of God's love in Jesus. Our worship together empowers us to grow as disciples as we receive, celebrate, and share God's gifts with all of God's creation and created ones.***