

April

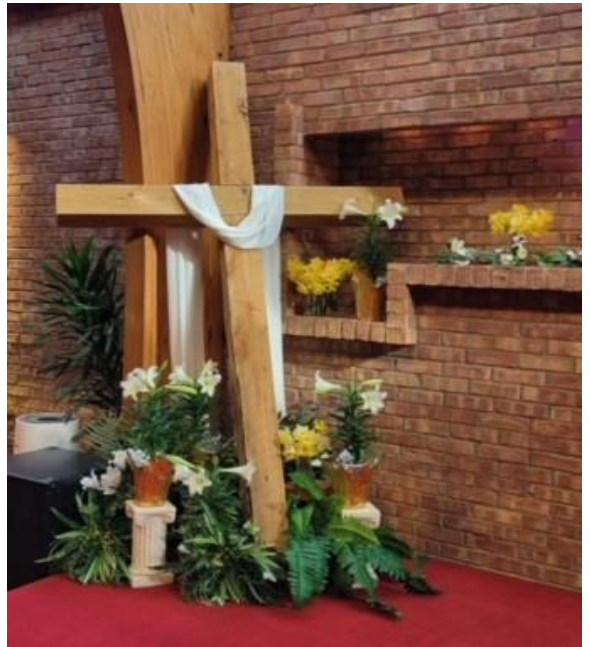
St Luke Union Church

Women's Fellowship Spring Brunch

Saturday April 6th, 2024 @ 9:00am

All women from St. Luke Union Church are invited to attend and please feel free to bring a guest! We will have a guest speaker from the Salvation Army.

Come join us!!




A most blessed Easter to you all. Jesus came to love you, to heal you, and bring you peace. Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Trivia: Which bird's song, in the Song of Solomon, is a sign of spring?



APRIL 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01 Office Closed Boy Scouts 7p	02	03 Handbells 6p Choir Practice 7p	04	05 Men's Breakfast 7a	06 Women's Fellowship Spring Brunch 9a
07 Communion Choir Prac 9:30a Worship 10:30am	08 Boy Scouts 7p	09 Resource Team 2p Finance Team 5p	10 Worship Team 5p Church Chat 6p Handbells 6p Choir Practice 7p	11 Crossroads Board 9a DAR Chapter Dinner 5:30p	12	13
14 Sun.School 9:30a Choir Prac. 9:30a Worship 10:30a Crossroads Luncheon 11a	15 Boy Scouts 7p	16 VMC Mtg 5:30p	17 Handbells 6p Choir Practice 7p	18 Faith Brews 5p	19 - 20 Women's Retreat @ Pilgrim Park Friday - Sunday	
21 RaiseRight Sun. Choir Prac. 9:30a Worship 10:30a	22 Adult Ed 12p Boy Scouts 7p	23 Lamplighters 7p	24 Church Chat 6p Handbells 6p Choir Practice 7p	25	26	27
28 Sun.School 9:30a Choir Prac. 9:30a Worship 10:30a	29	30	Group Sale Set-Up 			

Happy Birthday! Sue Boerner, Debbie Harrison, Joel Keeton 4/1; Emily Desmond, Pierre Roussey 4/2; Del Small, Brian Trower 4/12; Lillie Keeton 4/14; Caiden Dehner 4/16; Emma DeBruine 4/17; Cameron Luna 4/18; Lisa DeBruine, Dan Moret 4/19; Bryan Colee 4/21; Scott Luna 4/24; Elijah Rambo 4/25; Lauren Desmond 4/26; Sylvia Kruger 4/27 Carol Parlette 4/28; Ellie Dehner 4/29

Happy Anniversary! Mike & Ginny Kolze 4/16

ALL WOMEN OF ST. LUKE UNION CHURCH
Are invited to attend our Women's Retreat

APRIL 19 - 21, 2024
Pilgrim Park UCC Camp, Princeton, IL

Are you ready for a break from everything? Then come and join us for bible study, relaxation, fellowship and fun.

The retreat includes, bible study, free time, take a walk, take a nap, read, work in the garden or an optional trip to our favorite Hornbaker Nursery, and/or shopping downtown.

We will leave the church April 19th at 4:00 pm and stop for dinner before getting to camp. We end on Sunday April 21st with Breakfast, Worship and Communion. We are on the road back before 10:30 am (or earlier).

Cost of the retreat includes lodging at the Conference Center (hotel like rooms with bathroom), 4 meals and all linens are provided. (We will work out roommates & carpooling.)

Cost for 2 nights: (including 4 meals)

\$186.00 for single room

\$171.00 for double room

\$161.00 for triple room

Watch for sign-up & registration information Sunday April 7th

Questions regarding the retreat, accommodations, carpooling, etc.

please contact Karlene Bledsoe, kmbledsoe1810@gmail.com

Or call 309-212-8802. **Deadline for registration is Sunday, April 14th**

2024 SPRING GROUP SALE & BAKE SALE

Friday, May 3rd 9am – 5pm & Saturday, May 4th 9am – Noon

Ready, Set, Go!!! It is time to look through your Spring/Summer clothing, kitchen items, children's toys, books, linens, jewelry, knick-knacks and decide what gently used items you would like to pass on to someone else. There are so many in our community, now more than ever, who need affordable items. St. Luke Union Church group sale allows us to help the community by providing these items. The remaining items will be donated to local organizations.

We will begin set up after worship on Sunday, April 28th

Bring your items:

Monday, April 29th & Tuesday, April 30th – 8:30 am to 7 pm

Wednesday, May 1st - 9 am to NOON (please no items after noon)

Called to Serve – WE NEED YOUR HELP – Consider sharing your talents for a few hours, a day, or a few days. We also have “sit down” jobs. When you come to volunteer and are not sure where to start please see Karlene Bledsoe, Lynne Wright, or any of the ladies on the lower level, we will be happy to direct you where help is needed.

Workers are needed

- Sunday to help set up tables and bring in items from the garage.
- Monday – Thursday during the day and evening to help unpack, arrange and price items.
- Friday and Saturday to check-out, bag, help our customers and help keep everything organized.
- Saturday at noon to help pack up and load the Goodwill truck.

Sign-up sheets for workers will be available Sunday, April 7th in Fellowship Hall.

Lastly, DON'T FORGET THE BAKE SALE!!! – Baked goods accepted during set up hours. Last call - Baked goods need to be at the church no later than 8:00 am on Friday and Saturday mornings to give the ladies time to package them. The bake sale is always a highlight of our sale!

Working together is a really great way to become better acquainted with other church members while providing items at a reasonable price for our community. We have a lot of fun and keep each other going!! We look forward to serving with you!

Blessings, Co-Coordinators, Karlene Bledsoe and Lynne Wright.

Stand Down for Veterans 2024

Goodwill of Central Illinois is planning for the 2024 STAND DOWN FOR VETERANS. As in the past the Missions Team will be supporting this and asking for your support.

As always, we need XL winter gloves (men's and women's). Luckily, this was a mild year winter-wise and there have been some excellent sales already.

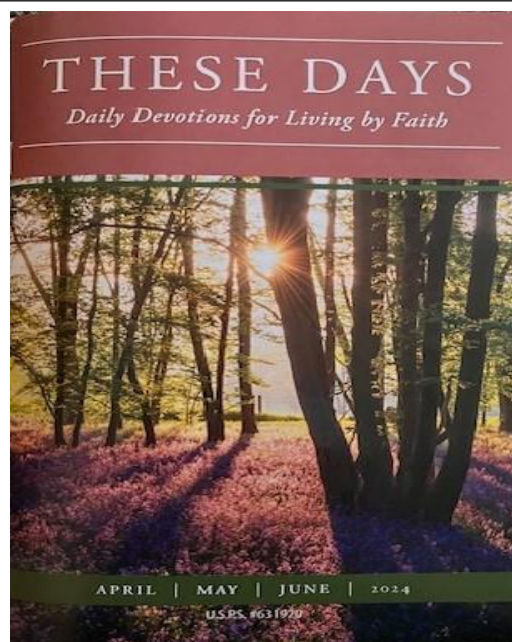
Johanna Wagner, Assistant Director of Program Services, is also looking for socks and diabetic socks this year. The goal is to provide three pairs of socks per client, and every year Stand Down has had about 200 clients.

For anyone who wants to donate but not shop, make checks payable to Goodwill Industries- with "STAND DOWN 2024" in the memo line. Send checks to:

Goodwill Industries
Attn: Johanna Wagner
2319 E War Memorial
Peoria Il. 61614

I expect to get a more detailed list soon, and when I do I will share it with you.

Thank you all for your support



**These Days –
Daily Devotions for Living by Faith**
Pick up a copy of the daily devotional for April-June 2024 on the Welcome Table in Fellowship Hall.

Join the Green Team

The Green Team is looking for volunteers!

The Green Team is responsible for maintaining the church's recycle center, which includes sweeping, dusting, sorting recyclables, boxing items, and transporting boxes.

If you are interested in helping foster environmental stewardship and sustainability within our faith community, please join us!

For more information, please contact Amie Keeton, 309.242.8871 or joelamiekeeton@gmail.com

Trivia Answer: Song of Solomon 2:10-12

¹⁰“Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;
¹¹for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. ¹²The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the **turtledove** is heard in our land.

Thoughts on Spring: You've been there. Waiting, just waiting, to see the first robin, or the first bud, or the first hint of green. We know it's coming, but it's just out of reach. It's the hope that Spring will soon bring light rain showers, pink flowers, and the sound of buzzing bees. And so we wait. We wait and hope for spring because there is nothing we can do to hurry it along. The coming of spring is out of our control. We jokingly look to a groundhog to tell us if spring is on its way, but we know it's really the God of the universe who brings each new season. He brings newness after the gray of winter. **A new life.**

When my family and I lived in Oklahoma we made those great car trips. We went to the Grand Canyon one summer. We took a spring break vacation to Taos, New Mexico to go skiing in the southern Rockies. We also had a chance to drive to the east coast of the United States to visit family. On the car drive out we made plans to stop and see Niagara Falls. In preparing for each of these trips both Ben and Seth continually asked questions about what to expect. As good parents, we suggested that they research the locations we planned to visit, gather some statistics and possibly find a picture or two. That way they would have some back ground and we could all be a little more educated before arriving. A good exercise but... there was a common statement that was spoken by at least one of the family members who had never seen the Grand Canyon, the Rocky Mountains, or Niagara Falls. That statement was on the line of, "I never thought it would be this deep, I didn't expect them to be this tall, or there is so much water going over the falls." There was a realization to things in God's creation that are beyond what a book or picture can portray, they are the types of things that can only be seen to understand.

I've recently been asked by the Presbytery to serve as part of a listening team for another church in central Illinois. This time has allowed me to help them but also reflect back on the gifts and blessings of St Luke Union Church. That someone new to Bloomington might check out our church website, drive by read our sign or even catch a worship service on Facebook, but they will never understand the mission and ministry Jesus calls St Luke Union Church to until they walk through the doors and see for themselves. A picture of the church plant will not fully describe who we are as a church and what God is calling us to become.

John 20:29²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

We as friends and members of St Luke Union Church are fortunate to stand at the rim of the canyon, look up from the base of the mountain, and see the force of the falls. How then can we describe the wonders of the love of God? How can we excite others toward the saving grace of Jesus, and bring people to a place that the Holy Spirit can embrace them? We do this by being an example of God's love, witnessing to the people we work with and live by and teaching others about the things we have been blessed to see. If we invite people to St Luke Union Church, they will see the things God has blessed us with when they arrive. Let us continue to pray for the ability to believe what we are yet to see.

Blessings
Pastor Andy Gifford

CONTACT US!

Rev. Dr. Andrew Gifford, Pastor

agifford@stlukeunion.org

Susan Walter, Office Manager

swalter@stlukeunion.org

Website:

www.stlukeunion.org

Facebook

Like our Facebook page for updates on church news, events & Reginald's whereabouts! Sunday Worship will go Facebook LIVE at 10:30am!

[www.facebook.com/
stlukeunionchurch](http://www.facebook.com/stlukeunionchurch)

YouTube

Search: [St Luke Union Church](#)

Church Office Hours:

Monday: 9a – 3p

Tuesday: 9a – 3p

Wednesday: 9a – 3p

Thursday: 9a – 3p

Friday & Saturday: Closed

Worship

Online + In-Person

Sunday 10:30am!



St Luke Union Church

2101 E Washington St Bloomington, IL 61701

(Corner of Regency Drive and Washington St – open 24 hrs/7 days a week)

TerraCycle Programs & Other Collections

Collection is in the garage behind the church where collection containers are labeled;
if you do not see a container, please DO NOT leave it.

ARM & HAMMER® and OxiClean®: ARM & HAMMER and OxiClean plastic pouches. (Must be these brands only)

Bausch + Lomb ONE Contact Lens Recycling: All brands of contact lenses, plus foil and blister packaging.

GoGo SqueeZ Baby Food Pouches Recycling: All baby and toddler food plastic pouches and caps (such as Go-Go Squeeze, Ella's, Earth's Best, etc.). **Please - Leave caps on to reduce smell and mold.**

Brita® Recycling Program: Brita pitchers, individual filtration bottles, filters, foil filter packaging, and faucet filtration systems. (Must be this brand only.)

Burt's Bee Recycling: Burt's Bee products packaging. (Must be this brand only.)

Cigarette Waste Recycling Program: NO DROP OFF - PLEASE CONTACT AMIE (joelamiekeeton@gmail.com or 309.242.8871) FOR MORE INSTRUCTIONS. Program accepts cold extinguished cigarettes, cigarette filters, loose tobacco pouches, outer plastic packaging, inner foil packaging, rolling paper and ash.

Colgate/Tom's of Maine Dental and Deodorant Recycling: All brands toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrushes, floss containers, mouthwash bottles and caps, plastic deodorant containers and caps; also, clear plastic cover from toothbrush/dental floss packaging (remove cardboard backing and put in city recycling first). **Please note: no aerosol cans which go into regular city recycling.**

Honest Kids Drink Pouch Recycling Program: Flat, flexible aluminum/plastic drink pouches and their straws. Any brand accepted. Must be completely empty.

Entenmann's Little Bites Pouches Recycling Program: Entenmann's brand Little Bites plastic pouches and clear Entenmann's Minis packaging. (Must be this brand only.)

eos: eos lip, lotion and shave packaging. (Must be this brand only.)

Febreze® Air Care Recycling Program: All brands of air freshener plastic cartridges, plugs, packaging and flexible plastic film packaging, trigger heads and Mr. Clean Deep Cleaning Mist bottles and trigger heads. **(Aerosol spray cans go into city recycling).**

Garnier® Personal Care & Beauty: Emptied Plastic Garnier personal care or beauty product containers, tubes and lids. (Must be this brand only.)

Gerber®: Gerber baby food packaging and small and large hook Gerber Baby clothing hangers. (Must be this brand only.)

Gillette® Razor Recycling Program: All brands of razor blades; plastic and metal razors; flexible plastic bags and rigid plastic razor packaging. Clean and dry before donating.

GOLDTOE® Socks: All brands of used, clean socks.

Kroger - Our Brands Recycling Program: Kroger flexible plastic packaging. (Must be this brand only.)

Late July® Snacks Recycling Program: Late July® brand plastic snack packaging and chip bags. (Must be this brand.)

PopSockets® & Cell Phone Cases: Grips, mounts, wallets, and similar phone accessories, this program is brand-specific, which means you can only collect PopSockets products. However, you can collect **phone cases from ANY brand** for recycling.

Swiffer® Recycling Program: Swiffer refills: Sweeper, Duster and WetJet pads. (Must be this brand only).

Takis® Snacks: Takis Snacks, Takis Rolled Tortilla Chips, Takis STIX, Takis POP!, Takis Waves, Takis Kettlez, and Takis Crisps flexible plastic bags and containers. (Must be this brand only).

Tide Free Recycling Program: Fabric care products and packaging from brands Tide, Gain, Downy, NBD & Dreft, including plastic components (dispensing cup, bag, nozzle clip) and plastic packaging wrap, flexible plastic bags, rigid plastic tubs and lids and Tide To GO pen. (Must be these brands only).

Toys & Games: VTech and LeapFrog electronic learning devices and electronic toys program and Hasbro

Toys and Games: For the full list of accepted items, [view the VTech & LeapFrog FAQ](#) and [Hasbro](#) list of accepted items. (Must be these brands only.)

Additional Recycling Collections at the St Luke:

Aluminum Can Recycling: Please put cans in the Large labeled wooden box in the front and center of the garage. Please consider recycling your ALUMINUM cans with us instead of just putting them in city recycling. We recycle locally to get money for charity.

Holiday-Type Light Strands & Cords/Wire/Cable Recycling: Twinkle light bulbs ok to leave on; larger light bulbs should be removed and can be recycled at the lighting section of our local Menards, Lowes or Home Depot. Please remove any other plastic or metal decor before donating light strands.

Lion's Club box: Cell phones; small printer cartridges (**from home use only**); eyeglasses; hearing aids; keys. (ok to drop small items at Common Ground). Lion's Club volunteers manage this for charity. (ok to drop small amounts at Common Ground).

***Please - ONLY leave the items listed above.**

TerraCycle Volunteers:

Amie Keeton joelamiekeeton@gmail.com, Janet Guaderrama jquader@gmail.com,
Melanie Ziomek mziomek@my.heartland.edu Marcia Nagy trek2ak@frontiernet.net