

Shine the Light, Share the Blessings

Since 2014, *Shine the Light, Share the Blessings* has been a new tradition. During the Advent season, contributors honor others by making a monetary gift to North Lake UMC. Each individual you honor receives a beautiful Christmas greeting card with a note indicating that a gift was made by you to honor them.

This tradition is to appreciate and acknowledge the North Lake UMC family and others. You may know someone who has been a positive influence or cared for others. Maybe you witnessed an act of kindness or you want to honor somebody's selfless act of service to others. Any or all of these are wonderful reasons to recognize those in our Church family and community. You can make a donation of any amount by designating to any cause in the Church that you would like to support.

Here are some donation suggestions for you to consider:

- The Christian Covenant Endowment fund of NLUMC
- The North Lake UMC New Building Construction Fund
- The North Lake UMC General Fund
- One of the 2018 designated missions

The person/people/families you recognize will receive a greeting card from the Church stating that a donation honoring them was made to the designated fund. The amount of the donation will not be mentioned on the card. Because of end-of-year financial reporting, donations to any of the 2018 designated missions should be received by December 16.

Please join me in this tradition and honor the special people in your life, in our Church family and in our community. It is a great way to show your love and appreciation.

Merry Christmas!
Mark Obenchain, Finance Committee Chairman

----- **tear here** -----

To make a donation indicate that you are giving a donation to

Fund/mission: _____

To thank and honor: _____ (fill in name)

From: _____

Place in the offering in a pew envelope

James: Wanderer/Restorer

Wooing the wanderer:

“My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”
–James 5:19-20

2 types of wandering:

- 1) Inadvertent drifting away from what is true in God's Word.
- 2) Intentional drifting from the truth where you know what the Bible says about a particular area of your life but you have purposely chosen to go the other way.

“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted while evil people and impostors will go will go [wander] on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”-2 Timothy 3:12-13

“Forsaking the right way [the way of the Word of God], they have gone astray [wandered]. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing...” -2 Peter 2:15

Wandering is serious business because such a person's soul could be in danger eternally because of their wandering.

We are instructed to lovingly try to woo them back.

“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.” –Proverbs 10:12

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly since love covers a multitude of sins.” -1 Peter 4:8

How do we woo? Matthew 18 gives us the process:

Step 1) “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.” – Matthew 18:15

If step 1 doesn't work – Step 2) “But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.” –Matthew 18:16

If in these two steps it is found that this person is unrepentant, doesn't care what the biblical standard is and has decided they would rather remain in sin then to seek forgiveness and restoration, then step 3) "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector." –Matthew 18:17

Treat that person as an unbeliever. You don't kick an unbeliever out of the church. You don't shun and unbeliever. But you also don't put an unbeliever in the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a position of leadership or teaching in the church.

You treat them like an unbeliever but you do not declare them an unbeliever because only God knows the heart and only God is the judge.

What's the goal in the whole process? Restoring a believer who has wandered away from God.

What's the most important part of the whole process? Love.

The purpose is to help, not to wound. This process is only entered into between two people who claim to be disciples of Jesus Christ. This is not a process you follow with someone who has not yet crossed the line of faith.

It is never the place of the church to try to force people who do not have the power of the Holy Spirit in their life to live up to a standard we who do have the power of the Holy Spirit in our life struggle at times to live up to ourselves.

What sins should be confronted? In Matthew 18, it's a sin done against you by another believer.

In James 5, it's any sin that is a pattern of behavior over an extended period of time (hence the term wandering). There is no hierarchy of sin. All sin separates us from God if we refuse to confess it and turn from it when God points it out in our life.

Sometimes God uses us to lovingly point out what might be a blind spot in a believer's life but usually when we have already earned the right to have such a difficult conversation. This requires love. It requires prayer and the Holy Spirit's direction. And it requires a lot of grace from both people involved.

Prayer Concerns

Please fill in your connection slip and put it in the offering plates.
Pray with us Wed Mornings at 9AM at Fellowship Hall or out in the world.

North Lake UMC ♥ Greater United Methodist Church

Pastor Todd & Cheryl Jones Family ♥ Larry & Jocelyn Harwood ♥ Linda Smith ♥ Dorothy Antis ♥ Irene Bokros ♥ David & Jan Knisely ♥ Ann Beyer ♥ Dale Eisele ♥ Arlene Honbaum ♥ John Reilly

Comfort for those who grieve:

Jean Ashley Family ♥ Charles Borst Family ♥ Maureen & Phil Landwehr (son passed) ♥ Karen (Leach) Carlino Family ♥ Honbaum Family

Travel Mercies: Thanksgiving Travels ♥ Dianne & Jeff Smith ♥ Karen Benton

Pray For Friends: Helga Watts ♥ Randy Seitz ♥ Karin (Tandy) Hall ♥ John Seibert ♥ Mike Penny ♥ Jan Tripp ♥ Katie Dorr ♥ Carol Lee ♥ Lou Stainbrook ♥ Danelle Stainbrook ♥ Martha P. ♥ Linda ♥ Marge ♥ Uncle Norris ♥ Annie ♥ Shawn Jones ♥ Brad Vincent ♥ David Westphal ♥ Duane Dill ♥ Charlotte Dill ♥ Ron Woodworth ♥ The Veltris

God's Country Cooperative Parish ♥ Our Country & Leaders ♥ Earthquake, Hurricane & Fire survivors ♥ Veterans ♥ Steven Draper, Tate & John and other military ♥ Police, Fire, and First Responders

United Methodist Student Day Offering

Today, Nov. 25

Across the country, the people of The United Methodist Church are serving the people God loves in Jesus' name. We're doing it at home, but so often we'd like to do more.

The son of two addicted parents, Ricky Blue had grown up without much hope for a future. But when Ricky's church family—Louisiana's Luling UMC—raised \$4000 for Ricky to begin college, hope was born. Then, the Gift of Hope Scholarship, made possible only by your generous giving to United Methodist Student Day, allowed Ricky to continue. Today Ricky is a certified candidate for ministry in the Illinois-Great Rivers Annual Conference. What no one person can do, we're doing together.