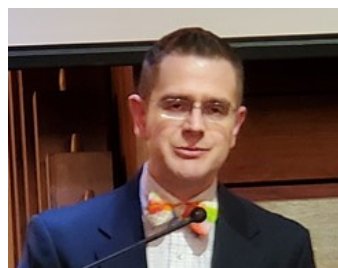


From the Desk of Pastor Luke



Hello everyone,

Have you ever taken a moment to slow down and look in the mirror -- literally or figuratively -- and been surprised by what you've found there? Sometimes we have an outburst of words or emotions that leave us wondering where it came from. Sometimes we find ourselves snapping at someone in the midst of a tense moment, and we can't even explain why we felt so threatened. Do we even stop and explore what's really shaping our lives and either helping or hindering our growth into who God made us to be?

As we prepare to begin our Spiritual Direction Experience this Saturday morning, those are the kinds of questions we'll be asking, because sometimes life is just so frantic that we don't even know what's driving us. But the good news is that we don't have to live life by reacting. God invites us into a life guided by purposeful rhythms that call us ever deeper into communion with him, and in so doing we can joyfully discover who we really are.

This is one last invitation to join the Spiritual Direction Experience this Saturday from 9 to 11 am. We'll meet each Saturday morning through September 17 in the Fellowship Hall. There's still room to join! If you're interested in participating or have any questions, please let me know.

Sermon info: This Sunday we're continuing to hear what God said through the prophet Amos. Our sermon is called "The King's Temple," and we'll be reading from Amos 4:1-6 and 7:7-15 and Matthew 23:1-12.

Other happenings:

- Join us for Sunday school this Sunday morning at 9:15 as we continue to study the three themes of the movie War Room: prayer, forgiveness, and mentoring.
- We've all been shocked by the floods in eastern Kentucky and want to do what we can to help with the cleanup. One way to help is to provide supplies for cleanup kits from the list here on UMCOR's website - <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-cleaning-kit/> (no substitutions are accepted). If you have any of the items on that list that you'd like to contribute, bring them to church by this Sunday and we'll get them to a collection site so they can be included in a cleanup kit.
- Our church will have a table at the Student Activities Fair at Hanover College to reach out to HC students on August 28, and our cookies were a big hit last year. If you'd like to bake cookies for this year's activities fair, please bring them to the church building by the 28th.
- If you have extra vegetables in your garden, bring them to church for others to enjoy! Feel free to take or leave whatever you need from the basket in our entryway.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Grace and peace,

Luke