

Whether this is your first time or your next time; whether you are a member or a first-time guest – we want to connect with you! Use the white card with this Loop to relay information to your church staff. Please complete the front so we can update our records and use the back to request information or share your prayer requests. As your pastors, we are honored to pray for and serve you.

Financial Peace University (FPU) will begin Sunday, September 16th. This financial class is for anyone wanting to learn how to budget, get out of debt or refresh financial management skills. Cost includes a workbook, book, budget aids and a CD. Please go to fpu.martinsburgchurch.org or call the church office at 304.596.9330 to register. Registration for the course is required and the final cost will be decided soon.

Community Groups begin the week of September 9th. Community is an essential part of our Christian life focusing on spiritual growth, fellowship with one another and the neighborhoods around us. For more information you can visit groups.martinsburgchurch.org.

How will you serve at C@M? Go to volunteering.martinsburgchurch.org.

Pastor On Call: If you or your family have an emergency and need to get hold of a pastor from Friday morning through Monday morning please call 304.616.9007 to reach The Church at Martinsburg's Pastor on call.

Missionary Toolbox:

Introducing Dr. Luke:

Luke, though not one of the apostles, was a close friend of Paul's – the man who dubbed him the "beloved physician." He was a well-educated Gentile whose Greek writing is the most literary in the New Testament. He was a careful historian who puts forth the life of Christ with careful attention to detail, drawing from reliable sources and eyewitnesses to provide accurate historical, geographical and political facts. We know Luke to be a proficient apologist and theologian – both his gospel and the book of Acts place emphasis on the person and work of Jesus and the continuing work of Jesus by the Holy Spirit through His church. We catch glimpses of his compassion through the gospel narrative as he touches on stories of the "unlovelies" of his day: Gentiles, social outcasts like lepers and tax collectors, the poor, the sick, the needy, and women. He was a faithful believer and a deeply loyal friend as seen in his relationship to Paul (2 Tim. 4:11). After reading the Gospel of Luke over and over again and meditating on the person of Jesus, John Piper responded this way: "The result has been that I love this man (Jesus) with a newly felt longing. I long for His single-minded devotion to His Father's will to rub off on me. I long to share His profound understanding of the human heart and His ability to see through all the outer layers of our lives and into our heart. I long to have His way with words – words that always laid bare a person's real loves. I long, like Mary to sit at His feet and drink in the living water of His teaching, until it so satisfies my heart that I can be as free as He was from the love of money and from the love of the praise of men and from anxiety about tomorrow. I have come away from the gospels hungry to be holy, to be real and authentic, not to play church or play religion, and not to fritter away my short life with nonessentials. And all these longings and this hunger have driven me to prayer that God would work me over and not allow me to creep along so slowly in my quest for Christ-likeness." Maybe we wouldn't be too far off if we were to believe that this was Luke's aim – to tender the heart of God-lovers (like Theophilus and us) through an orderly declaration of Jesus' life and love for us so that we would declare His excellencies to a lost and dying world.

Community Group Growth Questions

1. Share with the group any insight, truth, or observation from Sunday's message that helped you, troubled you, or ministered to you.
2. Read Luke 1:1-4, Luke 24:44-53, and Acts 1:1-5. Why did Luke write these two books?
3. Who is Theophilus? What might we have in common with him? Read the following quote: "The Holy Spirit does not replace persuasive words; He empowers them." Do you think it is important to persuade others of the truth of Christianity? If so, how can Luke's example with Theophilus help us?
4. Consider the commission Christ gave to His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20. In what ways is it similar to Luke's purpose in Luke 1:1-4. If you were to give an "orderly account" to someone else concerning Jesus, what would you say?
5. How does Colossians 4:14 describe Luke? Why do you think Paul mentions Luke's profession? How might his profession give insight into the Gospel of Luke and Acts?
6. Review the context of Colossians 4:14 (read Colossians 4:2-4, 7-14) and 2 Timothy 4:6-11. What do these verses tell you about Luke, his love for Christ, and others?

Living on Mission

1. The history Luke pens as a theologian is "salvation history" – centering on the person of Jesus Christ. Take a look at your own history. Is it a salvation history? Do you read your own history through the lens of Jesus Christ? If so, spend a little time rehearsing the acts of Jesus in your own life and praise Him for them. If not, be a "Theophilus" today and read through Luke's gospel, asking God to open your heart to understand His story.
2. If you were asked to give an "orderly account" concerning Jesus, what would you say in order to persuade others. (Keep close to your heart the fact that the Holy Spirit must empower your words for salvation.) Rehearse the gospel in your own heart.
3. Theophilus' name means "God-lover" or "loved by God". Which of these most describes you? What do you think it means to be a "God-lover"? How might your life change if you fully defined yourself as loved by God and a lover of God?

This Week's Reading:

Monday: Luke 1-4

Tuesday: Luke 5-8

Wednesday: Luke 9-12

Thursday: Luke 13-16

Friday: Luke 17-20

Saturday: Luke 21-24 and Acts 1:1-2

Additional Resources:

The Acts of the Apostles, The Pillar New Testament Commentary by David G. Peterson
Acts by James Montgomery Boice