



December 24, 2020



**Our Virtual Office Will be Closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25 in celebration of Christmas!**



**Our Service is Simulcast Each Sunday on Facebook Live and YouTube!**

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on our Facebook Page [click here](#), or YouTube Channel [click here](#) for a weekly praise, prayer, and proclamation celebration of God's love. We love discovering who worships with us, so [click here](#) to sign our Virtual Friendship Pad. Access our weekly digital bulletin to sing along and

read the lessons, [click here](#), and you can listen to sermons when you [click here](#)! Our doors may be closed to worshippers right now, but our hearts, minds, and hands continue to serve. You're welcome to join us anytime!



### **Christmas Eve 2020 Looks a Little Different**

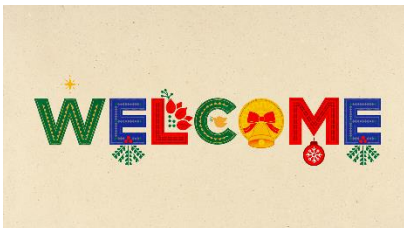
This year we're on a LiveStream plan for the Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 p.m. We'll be celebrating the birth of Christ with carols, lessons, a sermon, and a special duet. A special video for children and their families will be a treat. Candles will flicker as we sing *Silent Night*. We'll be all calm and bright as we marvel at the sight of God's pure love and light! To join us for a Merry Christmas Eve, [click here](#) for the Facebook Page or [click here](#) for the YouTube Channel. You can [click here](#) to access a digital bulletin and [click here](#) to sign our Virtual Friendship Pad.



### **Drive-Thru Holy Communion at 4:00 p.m.**

#### **Christmas Eve!**

Before watching the LiveStream Christmas Eve service, you're welcome to participate in a drive-thru Holy Communion from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Pre-packaged communion elements will be given to you through your car window. You can take the elements home and receive them around your own table. You could also pull into a spot at the 3rd Street end of the lot and receive them there. Pastor Bill offers you a home communion liturgy for your use; [click here](#). Come to the church for a Holy Christmas Eve moment and a Christmas blessing from your pastor and his helper!



### **Website News! Update for Christmas Eve!**

Click [here](#) to go to our website's special Christmas Eve page. It has everything you need to worship with us today. Our website is always evolving. Please be sure to explore it often by clicking [here](#).



## Christmas Offering

For many years, LUMC stood out among the 80% or so of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference churches that remits 100% of connectional giving through three apportionments: Connectional Ministries Fund (CMF), which is monies to run the annual conference, offering training, and giving grants to churches blazing trails in new ways of ministry; General Church Fund (GCF), which is monies to maintain the governance and infrastructure of The United Methodist Church, like paying bishops salaries, general agency funds to run vital witnesses of Christ's love globally; and the World Service Fund (WSF), which is monies to underwrite the mission work of the UMC through the General Board of Global Ministries and UMCOR, like paying missionaries salaries, buying mission supplies, and aiding in disaster relief.

But in 2019, LUMC fell short of the long-standing practice of paying the apportionments 100%. And we're falling short significantly in 2020. Yes, the pandemic emergency disrupts giving, and many churches are far behind. Happily and gratefully, we'll remit 100% of WSF (\$6,200) in 2020. We're behind remitting to the GCF by \$4,800, and it's likely we won't remit 100% of that fund. Of more concern is that we're behind remitting to the CMF by \$18,800. It's this fund that connects us locally as UMs. Be clear; we are on track in paying health insurance, pension, property and liability insurance, workers compensation insurance, and group health insurance for retired clergy. We've fallen behind in dollars for maintaining the work of the conference.

It might surprise you to learn that LUMC has another longstanding tradition: 100% of the annual December Christmas Offering is deposited in the Operating Fund to keep us on track paying the church's bills. That's because annual financial commitments don't meet the church's needs. Last year, the offering raised \$5,700. In 2020, the

Church Council is earmarking 100% of the Christmas Offering to remit to the CMF. Can we raise \$8,000? Yes, we can! Please prayerfully consider your Christmas Offering in 2020. Use the envelope in your box or make a gift online at [lansdaleumc.org/giving](https://lansdaleumc.org/giving). As monies come in, we'll report out how close we are to the goal. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we reported we exceeded the goal?! Let's try. The Lord's gift is a profound love in Jesus Christ. Let's celebrate that gift with a Christmas gift of our own! Merry Christmas!



**From Marilyn Snyder**

My family would like to extend thanks to our church family during an extremely difficult time. Your kind words, comments, cards, and attendance at the calling hours and service for Bob are so appreciated. As much as Bob may have touched your life in some way, you too, have touched ours. And we thank you for the PRAYERS. Keep those coming- still in need. THANK YOU ALL!



**Zoom Bible Studies**

You can join your congregation-friends and me at two Bible Studies during the Season of Advent. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday evenings at 7:00 by Zoom! As we've done so far, we'll look at the Tuesday and Thursday daily lectionary readings for the season. You can make the study a spiritual practice to get you ready for, perhaps, the most unusual Advent and Christmas seasons in our lifetimes! I hope you join in! Please contact [Becky](#) in the office for the new Zoom meeting ID and password. It has been changed.



"Can We Count on You to Keep Our Ark Afloat?"

Make Your Commitment Today!

**Can We Count On You to Keep Our Ark Afloat?  
Make Your Commitment Today!**

Covid-19's disruption is still waving across the

spectrum of our lives. The weeks between Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, and the New Year celebrations look to be quite difficult from a public health perspective. Covid-19 disrupts daily routines at home, school, and work. It disrupts holiday traditions, weddings, funerals, and graduations. It disrupts access to travel, medical care, entertainment, and places of worship. It disrupts the economy and industry. It disrupts food security, creating miles-long lines at food pantries. A vaccine is on the horizon, presenting the first glimpse of light that this too shall pass! Click [here](#) to read more of Pastor Bill's letter.



### Share Your Joys and Concerns With Us!

You can send a prayer request to us in two ways: Click the picture to be taken to the prayer request page of our website, or send an e-mail to the [office](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org). Our prayer team wants to pray for your requests.

Any requests submitted will be privately delivered to our prayer warriors within 24 hours, and will be kept confidential unless you instruct otherwise.



### Return to In-Person Worship Is On Hold!

By Pastor Bill Lentz

Friends in Christ! There's great interest in returning to in-person worship as soon as possible. People are missing the church terribly. I know this very well.

I miss seeing and worshipping with you too. However, we're still in a pandemic emergency, and it's not safe, faithful, or prudent to return yet. The spread of Covid-19 is more virulent now than in the spring and summer. While a vaccine is in sight, it won't likely be available for mass inoculations until well into 2021. So, for now, let's see how the second wave progresses. I'll continue to monitor daily the medical status of the county and borough. I'll keep the congregation posted. My prayers are with you as I eagerly await the return! Be well. worship during this time of Covid-19.

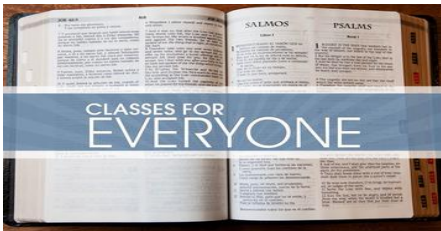
Peace. Click [here](#) to read Bishop Peggy Johnson's letter concerning returning to in-person worship.



### Lansdale UMC Children's Ministry on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

Miss Liz Bonner posts interesting items for our children to watch, read and do throughout the week. Click the image to join us on Facebook.

Miss Liz also LiveStreams the weekly Sunday School lesson on our YouTube channel at 10:00 each Sunday morning. Click here to access our YouTube Channel.



### New Horizons Fellowship

This week, New Horizons will have a Christmas Greeting time on Dec 27 in place of a lesson. Anyone is welcome to join. The Zoom link is below. Link: Click [here](#)

Meeting ID: 875 4237 2475

Passcode: 710204

### Wesleyan Class Advent Series--Company's Coming!

For this Advent Series we will follow the Lectionary Readings for Year B. Each session will connect with the Sunday sermon so you will receive the email on Sunday evening to provide you with inspiration and questions and comments for reflection during the week as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ on December 25. All are welcome to participate. Contact Verna Colliver ([vmcolliver@gmail.com](mailto:vmcolliver@gmail.com)) if you want to be added to the distribution list



### Conversations on Race - Update

Conversations on Race recently resumed with an analysis of the presidential election results and what they say about racism in America. Our group

decided to concentrate its efforts on a meaningful Lenten experience to face the "isms" (racism, sexism, classism) that keep us from meeting our neighbors eye-to-eye as equals in Christ's eyes, on a level plain. If you'd like to help plan the experience, you're welcome to join the conversation. The next Zoom Meeting will be announced soon.

Here's the Zoom

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87919827576pwd=NVJlZld3V0dtRitERWVKdmcxRDhUdz09>; Meeting ID: 879 1982 7576; Passcode: 573307.



### **December's Mission Emphasis -- St. John UMC, Bridgeton, NJ**

St. John UMC in Bridgeton, NJ is designated as an Historic Native American Methodist Church, and is the fifth oldest Native American Church in the nation. It is the home church to many members of the Nanticoke and Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation. The church building has been described as a “place of meeting for tribal affairs when none were available or allowed and a place of ministry to help the spiritual and physical needs of those in need.” They are working very hard to feed the families in the Tribe and community. There is enormous poverty. In December, 2019, they served 65-80 people a month. Recently, they served 428 families, 70% of which returned five times of the 7 times they were open. They also have a diaper ministry that is always in need. You can support *December's Mission Emphasis* in 3 easy ways: Snail mail your check payable to LUMC with the memo line : “St. John UMC” and put it in your Blue Envelope. Or go online to [www.lansdaleumc.org/giving](http://www.lansdaleumc.org/giving). Click the “Giving” dropdown menu and search for *St. John UMC*. Or, you can send a text message of your gift to 73256 with the message “LansdaleFirstUMC.” Thank you for your generous support!





**UPDATED! – COVID-19 STATUS – NEW!**

**Commonwealth in a Spike**

On **Monday, December 21st**, the Commonwealth of PA is averaging 9,129 new coronavirus cases a day over the past seven days, down from over 10,000 a day last week. 6,074 Pennsylvania residents were hospitalized for COVID-19 on Sunday, December 20, down slightly in recent days, but still far higher than the spring peak of 2,800 hospitalizations. The positivity rate has reached 15.4% around the state, signaling the virus is not under control. LUMC will remain in its current status of closed to all activity until further notice, except for the LiveStream service on Sunday mornings and other approved exceptions made by the Pastor or the Trustees. Faithful, prudent, and safe decisions will be announced when applicable. In the meantime, please commit yourselves to prayers for all those who have suffered personal and economic losses during the pandemic emergency.



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**Our mailing address is:**

300 N. Broad Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

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