

December 3, 2020



Our Service is Simulcast Each Sunday on [Facebook Live](#) and [YouTube](#)!



Let Us Know You Worship With Us!

Find this week's Virtual Friendship Pad [here](#).



Download This Week's Bulletin and Songs

Find this week's bulletin and songs [here](#).



Advent Began Last Sunday!

Hope, Faith, Joy, Peace, and Love are more than Advent words this year. In a mess called "2020," the Season of Advent redefines these traditional words to shed and spread their light so sorely needed as we struggle with Covid-19, with increasingly darker days, and with all our losses and griefs. During Advent and Christmas Eve, the LiveStream services focus on these words as we light a candle on the Advent Wreath for each word and hear Gospel stories to give our purposeful waiting some meaning--to prepare the way for Christ to heal our hearts and souls. Join us in the lightings on these upcoming Sundays. Please light a candle with us during the services. Let your light shine this Advent!



The Fall issue of the **NewSpirit! Digest** is available [here](#).

Celebrating Our Cultures at Christmas!

On Sunday, December 13, from 3:00-5:00 p.m., join a Conference-Wide Christmas Celebration on Zoom.

Click [here](#) for more details and to register for this virtual experience.



Red Cross Blood Drive at LUMC - December 17, 2:00-7:00 p.m.

The American Red Cross has an ongoing need for blood and platelet donations. There's no conceivable end date in the fight against Covid-19.

The American Red Cross needs blood and platelet donors and blood drive hosts to meet patient care needs. Red Cross is testing all blood, platelet, and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. As part of that effort, plasma from whole blood donations that test positive for COVID-19 antibodies may now help current patients with the virus in need of convalescent plasma transfusions. We're committed to helping others in meaningful ways during the pandemic. Donating blood products is

essential to community health, and the need for blood products is continuous. As part of our nation's critical infrastructure, healthy individuals can still donate in areas that have issued a shelter in place declaration or are operating under a phased reopening plan. Red Cross follows the highest safety and infection control standards, and volunteer donors are the only blood source for those in need. As hospitals resume surgical procedures and patient treatments temporarily paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic, donors are urged to give now to ensure blood products are readily available for patients. Register [here](#) for the Red Cross Blood Drive at Lansdale UMC on **December 17 from 2:00-7:00 p.m.**



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](#). 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.



Website News!

Our website is always evolving. Please be sure to explore it often by clicking [here](#).



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.



Christmas Eve 2020 Looks a Little Different

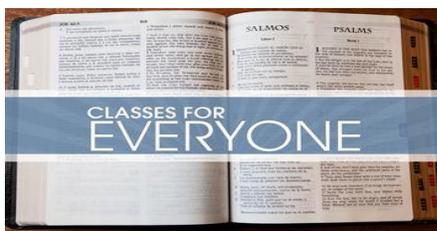
We will be LiveStreaming our Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 p.m. on December 24. Prior to that, at 4:30 p.m., we will be celebrating Drive-Thru Holy Communion. More details on that will be coming soon.



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 discuss "The Meaning Behind the Names of Christ" by Adam Hamilton. Anyone is welcome to join us via Zoom. The Zoom information is:

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) if you want to be added to the distribution list



Advent 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! You'll find the Zoom Bible Studies links [here](#).



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=NVJlZld3V0dtRitERWVKdmcxRDh>

[Udz09](#); 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. 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!



Did You Know?

Residents in Montgomery County who experienced hardship due to coronavirus can now receive significant assistance on rent and utilities. The Your Way Home Emergency Rent and Utility Commission is making up to \$1,500 a month available for those in need. [Click here](#) to read more on the Missions page of our website.



Special Lansdale UMC Collection

Covid-19 Impact Fund Is Making a Difference

Sometimes, simply making a difference is all that's needed. The Covid-19 Impact Fund has been doing just that! Reaching about \$15,000 at its start, we've distributed a bit more than \$1,500 to pay 2 rents, make 1 car repair, buy 1 bundle of groceries, and help one person get current with their electric bill. We are working with several churches in the borough as well as Manna on Main to share the interviewing of those in need and the cost associated with helping. It's been a rewarding experience. In addition to the congregational and community care, we've also paid to buy PPE to return to worship safely at the right time, and pay for costs associated with the LiveStream broadcasts on Sunday mornings.



Save Your Redner's Receipts!

The UMW is still collecting them. You can either put them in the mail slot by the 4th Street door or simply mail them to the church. Thank you!



Need Help With Remote Learning?

We have a person in our congregation, certified in teaching K12 with an area of interest in math, who is offering their services to any parent or student having trouble with remote learning. If you're a parent who needs some guidance in how to assist your child(ren) learning remotely, please contact the church office, and Becky can put you in contact with them. Help is available for both parents and students.

UPDATED! – COVID-19 STATUS – NEW!

Commonwealth in a Spike As of Monday, November 23rd

The Commonwealth of PA is still reporting increasing case totals of Covid-19. The positivity rate has reached 10% 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:

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