

January 14, 2021



Return to In-Person Worship Continues On Hold! - New Update!

Grace and peace to the people of LUMC:

My prayers are always with you. I pray for your health and wellness. I pray for your ever-deepening

relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It's wise to review from time to time where we are at LUMC relative to the pandemic emergency and a return to in-person worship. Our church's "Phased Reopening Guidelines" were approved last June and are in play today. You can read the guidelines when you [click here](#). The guidelines obligate LUMC to follow the directives of the CDC and the Commonwealth. Currently, Montgomery County is in a "red zone" as defined by the directives. Red zones have more than 100 new cases per 100,000 residents and a diagnostic test positivity result of above 10 percent. Lansdale's test positivity rate is 10.23% as of January 11. The red zone restricts gatherings. Therefore, keeping in-person worship on hold based on the numbers and our own guidelines is in order. Remember, every Thursday, a Covid-19 alert is updated and published in the eCR (at the bottom) and in the bulletin that's mailed bi-weekly to congregants who are not online. The bulletin is also uploaded onto the website under the worship section at the Sunday Bulletins subsection. In that update, case numbers and positivity rates in the Commonwealth and Montgomery County are reported. We'll publish the weekly update on the website banner for easier access for those comfortable with technology. Since the vaccine rollout is slow, it's impractical to speculate on when we'll return to

anything that looks "normal" on Sunday mornings. As you no doubt know, vaccinations for Covid-19 are slowly being distributed. Higher vaccination rates will be helpful in the long run. Please get your vaccination when it's available to you! Once we see how vaccinations are progressing within the congregation, we'll look to returning to in-person worship. Remember, it's still unclear if vaccinated people can carry and transmit the virus. Vaccination is not a cure-all, but it is a very positive and hopeful sign. We can all understand and sympathize with the loss and pain Covid-19 is causing the church. We long to be with each other. We also need to protect the congregation. As the church's pastor, along with its leaders, we take the responsibility to do that. Following the Covid-19 Phased Reopening Guidelines of LUMC is the way to go forward for the time being. Your responses and questions are welcome.

In the name of Christ, our Lord,
Pastor Bill



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!



Virtual Office is Closed Monday, January 18.

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. day, the office will be closed and will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 19.



New Virtual Office Hours in 2021!

Virtual office hours are now **Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** Please leave messages on the church's voicemail system, and they'll be returned as quickly as possible. Or, send an email to office@lansdaleumc.org if you need assistance. As we continue to navigate the pandemic emergency, we'll keep you posted on changes to activities at LUMC.

New Leaders in 2021!

Last October, LUMC's leaders met for the annual Charge Conference with the new district superintendent, Dr. Andrew Foster. At that conference, interim officers in the church's administrative life were elected to serve through June 30, 2021. We welcome Kris Neild as Church Council chair, Samantha Satyavrata as Staff-Parish Relations Committee chair, Bob Kennedy as the new Board of Trustees chair, and Wayne Wylie vice-chair, Luann Ingram as secretary, and John Dasch as trustee accounts treasurer. Pastor Bill is chair of the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee (by UM Book of Discipline). He will continue to convene the Finance Committee until a new chair is selected. LUMC will return to holding a Church Conference to elect leaders sometime in March or April of this year. The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee begins working this month on developing a new slate of nominees. We thank those who have answered the call to serve!

New Budget for 2021!

At the December meeting of the Church Council, a budget for 2021 was passed. You can review the new budget and other financial updates on the Members Only Login section of the website: lansdaleumc.org/members. If you haven't set up your account, refer to an e-mail you received in late August, 2020, or contact [Becky](#) in the office.



Coming Up! 2021 Tools for Ministry

On March 13, 2021, the EPAUMC will be offering this year's Tools for Ministry via Zoom. Click [here](#) to be taken directly to the event page where you can access the schedule, descriptions of workshops and

registration.



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!

Total Operating Fund: 36 Commitments, \$164,054;

Total Improvement Fund: 13 Commitments, \$8,282;

Total "Give as Can": 9

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.



Website News! - Update!

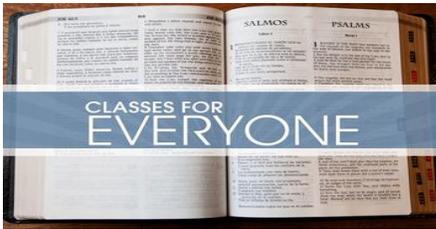
Did you know that we have a photo gallery on our website? Click [here](#) to go directly to it and see photos of Pastor Bill and Zoeh serving drive-through communion on Christmas Eve. Click on the e-CR banner on our website and go directly to this week's issue of the e-CR. Click [here](#) to try it! If you haven't set up your Members Only account, please refer to the e-mail you received in late August, 2020, or contact [Becky](#) in the office. Our website is always evolving. Please be sure to explore it often.



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

The New Horizons topic for discussion on Jan. 17 will be "Spiritual Struggle in Life" based on Genesis 3-5. Anyone is welcome to join our Zoom meeting at 10:00am.

Link: Click [here](#)

Meeting ID: 875 4237 2475

Passcode: 710204

Wesleyan Class

Wesleyan Class will continue with inspirational meditations until we begin our Lenten study. All are welcome to participate. Contact Verna Colliver (vmcolliver@gmail.com) if you want to be added to the distribution list

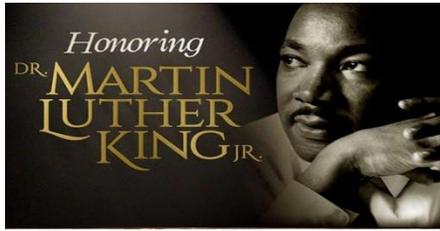


Conversations on Race - Update

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

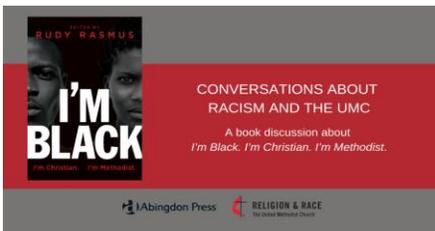
Lenten experience to face the "isms" (racism, sexism, classism) that keep us from meeting our neighbors eye-to-eye as equals in Christ's eyes, on a level plain. If you'd like to help plan the experience, you're welcome to join the conversation. The next Zoom Meeting will be announced soon. Here's the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

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87919827576pwd=NWJlZld3V0dtRitERWVKdmcxRDhUdz09>; Meeting ID: 879 1982 7576; Passcode: 573307.



**Thoughts on the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Celebrate MLK's birthday weekend, Jan. 15-18 by
Bishop Peggy A. Johnson**

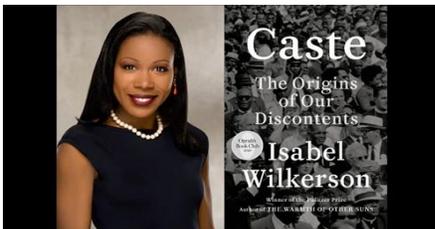
The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. You may have always wondered about his name. Was he or his father named for a famed, rebellious monk and professor who left the Roman Catholic Church and started the Protestant Reformation in the 1500's? Read the rest of Bishop Johnson's blog [here](#).



**Conversations about Racism and The UMC
A book discussion about I'm Black. I'm Christian.
I'm Methodist.**

January 19, 2021, 3:00 p.m. EST

Join the *I'm Black. I'm Christian. I'm Methodist.* writers and editor Rudy Rasmus in a robust discussion moderated by M. Garlinda Burton. In the book, ten Black women and men explore life through the lens of compelling, personal accounts. They are leaders whose lives are tangible demonstrations of the power of a divine purpose and evidence of what grace really means in face of hardship, disappointment, and determination. This conversation will include topics such as What Has Racism Cost the Church?; Intersections of Race, Gender, and LGBTQIA+ Identity; and Ministry and Racism. Click [here](#) to register for this discussion.



**Congregational Development Team &
Commission on Religion and Race**

On the heels of Gil Rendle's *Quietly Courageous* (Jan. 13 to Feb 3), the Congregational Development Team (CDT) Book Club will next launch into the Lenten season with a study of a new, highly touted, instant classic. ***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*** (2020), by Isabel Wilkerson, examines the unspoken caste system of race that has shaped America and shows

how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. Click [here](#) for more information on the Book Club's new study February 23 through March 23 at 11:00 a.m.



January's Mission Emphasis -- Manna on Main Street

Manna on Main Street is committed to ending hunger in the North Penn region by providing food, fulfilling social service and education needs, and conducting community outreach. Through a food pantry and soup kitchen, emergency financial aid, counseling and referrals, and education opportunities, we serve those in need with the hope “that everyone might be fed.” Missions supports Manna thought our special envelopes that focus on different needs each month. You can support *January's Mission Emphasis* in 3 easy ways: Snail mail your check payable to LUMC with the memo line : “Manna on Main Street” and put it in your Blue Envelope. Or go online to www.lansdaleumc.org/giving. Click the “Giving” dropdown menu and search for *Manna on Main Street*. Or, you can send a text message of your gift to 73256 with the message “LansdaleFirstUMC.” Thank you for your generous support!



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 over \$4,000 to pay 6 rents, make 1 car repair, buy 1 bundle of groceries, help one person get current with their electric bill, help one person get current with their health insurance premiums, and partner with another UMC to provide Christmas presents for 2 families. 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.



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!

On **Tuesday, January 12**, the Commonwealth of PA recorded 7,245 new cases. The positivity rate in the Commonwealth averages at 14%, which signals the virus is not under control. Montgomery County's positivity rate is near 10%, which means an

outbreak is still in progress and the virus is not under control. LUMC will remain in its current limited opening status 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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