

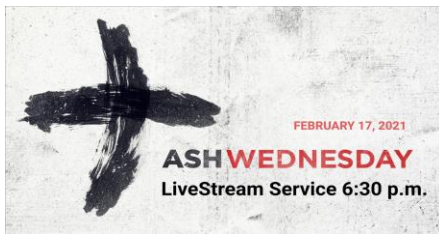


February 11, 2021



### Presidents' Day

In recognition of Presidents' Day on Monday, February 15, our virtual office will be closed. It will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 16.



### Ash Wednesday Service Plans!

Lent 2021 begins this coming **Ash Wednesday, February 17th**. A LiveStream service at 6:30 p.m. will include leading viewers to participate in two In-Home experiences: Distribution of Ashes and Holy Communion. Be watching for a package to arrive at home, including all you'll need to participate fully in the service. Invite family and friends to join you. Share with joy what your church is doing during these extraordinary times!



### 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!



### **New! Encouraging News to Share!**

At the recent meeting of the Finance Committee, our devoted treasurer, Darren Johnson, and financial secretary, Warren Shaedle, reported encouraging news that highlights the rising generosity of the members and friends of our

church. Darren presented a 2020 Finance-Year-in-Review through the "Fund Balance Report" we're required to submit each year to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The UMC. In that report, \$393,670 was received last year from congregational and other resources. The church disbursed \$350,900 to administrative and operational accounts like conference and general church apportionments, salaries, materials, building, and other church life expenses. We also received and disbursed \$16,225 in additional benevolence money to help people in need in our community and beyond. Darren further reports that our fund balance at the end of January is \$62,440, a healthy picture at the beginning of a new year still in a pandemic emergency. For all the generous giving, Thank You! God Bless You! Keep up the Generosity!

A fund balance from 2020 receipts of \$42,700 was carried over into 2021. All bills owed in 2020 to various vendors, creditors, and others were paid in full. We did not, however, pay the full apportionments to the conference (connectional ministries fund) or to the general church (general church fund). Joyfully, we did remit 100% of the apportionment to the World Service Fund, the missions arm of the Church. As we advance in 2021 and 2022, LUMC has been approved for a \$14,000 (connectional ministries fund) apportionment reduction over two years (\$7,000 each year). We owe thanks to the new district superintendent, Dr. Andrew Foster, for his help in providing some temporary financial relief.

Warren gave a review of the results of the financial commitments for 2021. There, too, the news is encouraging. Make no mistake, the church remains in risky financial shape, but we're holding on by the grace of God and your generosity. The news: 28 pledges remain the same as last year (Good!); 15 pledges increased

over last year (Wonderful! Remarkable!); 8 pledges are less or giving what they can (Faithful!). Recent deaths, job losses, and relocations remove nearly \$30,000 over last year. Our prayers are sent with love to all! Overall: Slightly less pledged (-1.2%), but more pledges than last year(!) and pledges fund a higher percentage of the budget this year at 51%(!) (v.47% in 2020) and the 2021 shortfall to fund the entire budget is less than 2020 by \$4,200(!) Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



### Updated! 2021 Tools for Ministry!

On March 13, 2021, the EPAUMC offers this year's "Tools for Ministry" via Zoom. **Anyone serving our church on one of the**

**administrative committees (Finance, SPRC, Nominations and Leadership Development, and Trustees) or one or more of the several ministry areas** are

invited to participate in the event. There are morning and afternoon sessions!

Training for service is a good way to stretch our spiritual gifts'

muscles! Click [here](#) to be taken directly to the event page, where you can access the schedule, descriptions of workshops, and the registration material. (Pastor Bill will conduct a workshop on "Church Audits!" that's not to be missed!!)

**Recommended by the Church and Society Committee: #21 - Christopher Columbus: It's Time to Know the Truth!**

Most of the stories we hear about Europeans "discovering" America are told from the European point of view. One key to overcoming racism involves listening to stories from alternate points of view. We will explore some of those alternate stories, using Christopher Columbus as a case study. Presenter: Rev. Gary Jacabella, a member of EPA Conference Committee on Native American Ministry. Read the full description in the brochure for Tools for Ministry.



### From Church and Society

Inmates receive 4,700 Christmas cards from Eastern PA members

By Rev. Marilyn Schneider, EPA Prison Ministry Coordinator

What a blessing it was that members of Eastern PA Conference churches were willing to step up and once again provide

encouragement through Christmas greeting cards to incarcerated inmates. The Conference's Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Team thanks everyone who compassionately prepared, signed, and submitted Christmas cards for inmates in 2020. Your sharing in this ministry has helped us to share Christ's love with many lonely brothers and sisters who are incarcerated. Read more from Rev. Marilyn Schneider [here](#).

**From Verna Colliver:** Thank you to all who wrote greetings on pre-printed cards for those inmates and to Marlene and Jim Ney who delivered the blank cards. Later they picked up the cards with their carefully written messages and then delivered them to the Conference Office early in December.

### **Justice Talks: A Look Ahead at 2021**

On February 24, join Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crow, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society, for a special conversation about our United Methodist witness on Capitol Hill. Go to the [Church and Society page](#) of our website to learn more about and to register for this Zoom meeting.



### **New! - Zoom Bible Studies in Lent!**

You can join your congregation, friends, and Pastor Bill at two Zoom Bible Studies each week during Lent. The Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. gathering will remain as a study of the appointed lectionary readings for Tuesdays in Lent. **On**

**Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. during Lent,** Pastor Bill will lead a **Lenten Bible Study**. The study will examine the highlights of the Passion and Easter stories from the Four Gospels. Make the studies a spiritual practice to help you practice the means of grace during the seasons of Lent and Easter. We hope you join in! Contact [Becky](#) for the Zoom Meeting links to access the studies!



### **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.



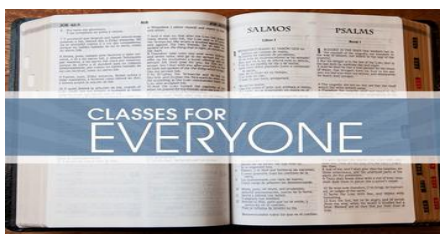
### Website News!

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

This Sunday, February 14, New Horizons will be discussing "Praise & Thanksgiving" drawing from Psalm 69:30-31 and Philippians 4:6. Anyone is welcome to join our Zoom meeting at 10:00 a.m. by clicking [here](#).

Meeting ID: 875 4237 2475      Passcode: 710204

### Wesleyan Class

The Wesleyan Class will start a Lenten Bible Study by email on February 21. *Character Matters: 7 Things the Lord Hates* with eight weekly sessions. The

Rev. Steve Morton, District Superintendent, developed and produced the eight-session, multi-media resource. It includes video presentations featuring district Elders and a special Easter message recorded by Bishop Peggy Johnson to culminate the series. Contact Verna Colliver ([vmcolliver@gmail.com](mailto:vmcolliver@gmail.com)) if you want to be added to the distribution list

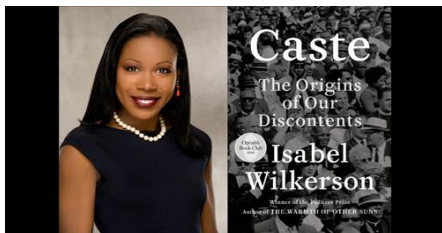


### Conversations on Race

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.



### 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

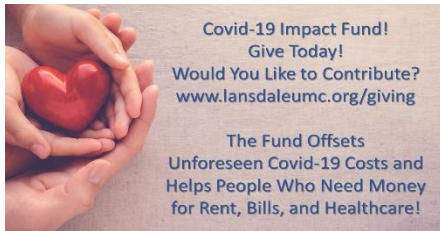
touted, instant classic ***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*** (2020), by Isabel Wilkerson, examines the unspoken caste system of race that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. Click [here](#) for more information on the Book Club's new study February 23 through March 23 at 11:00 a.m.



## February's Mission Emphasis - United Methodist Camps

Our Conference owns and operates four unique camps and retreat centers in different regions: Pocono Plateau (North District); Carson-Simpson Farm (East District); Camp Innabah (South

District), and Gretna Glen (West District). Lansdale UMC supports camps by raising money for supplies, scholarships, and sponsoring work days at Camp Innabah. You can support *February's Mission Emphasis* in 3 easy ways: Snail mail your check payable to LUMC with the memo line: "UMC Camps" 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 *UMC Camps*. 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 \$4,400 to pay 7

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.



## 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.

United Methodist Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

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.



### **Return to In-Person Worship Continues On Hold!**

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

**UPDATED! – COVID-19 STATUS – NEW!**  
**County Cases Flattening!**

On **Tuesday, February 9th**, Montco's rate of new coronavirus cases inched up to 202 per 100,000 residents, but still an overall 12% drop over the last 14 days. The decline is holding and encouraging. The test positivity rate is at 8%, slightly higher than the recommended minimum rate of 5%. At this level, the county is still at very high risk based on per capita cases and test positivity. Caution is wise. The British variant of Covid-19 is reported in the county as of January 28th. LUMC will remain in its current status of restricted opening for LiveStream worship and other approved uses. The numbers are moving in the right direction! Vaccinations will help us!



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**Our mailing address is:**

300 N. Broad Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

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