



February 18, 2021



New! The Season of Lent Has Begun!

Lent began at LUMC with a solemn observance of Ash Wednesday. On Sunday, the First Sunday in Lent, the Live Stream service will include a weekly devotion of "Extinguishing the Lenten Candle" in recognition that Lent marks the death of the Light

of the World, Jesus our Savior, and the return of the light on Easter Day! A stunning liturgical art display on the lower communion table in the chancel is the incredible artistry of Maryellen Reinmiller, Marilyn Snyder, and Geri Hare. (Thank you!) Among the pottery jars, textiles, and wilderness arrangements are many important symbols of Lent:

- A blue swirl pitcher from Israel represents the jar of expensive perfume to anoint Jesus branches in various vases to represent Lent's wilderness journey.
- Purple fabric flowing out of vases represents Jesus' life being poured out as a sacrifice of love.
- Rocks represent the pathway to Jesus' cross and tomb.
- Olive branches represent the Garden of Gethsemane.
- A bag of coins represents Jesus' betrayal.
- A wooden chalice and fish-shaped bowel to represent the Last Supper.
- A large nail and a crown of thorns represent Jesus' crucifixion.
- A rooster to represent the disciples' denial and failure.

On Holy Thursday, a series of short devotions on each of these symbols will highlight the evening service. Plan now to connect in enriching and thought-provoking worship and study during the holy season in Lent.



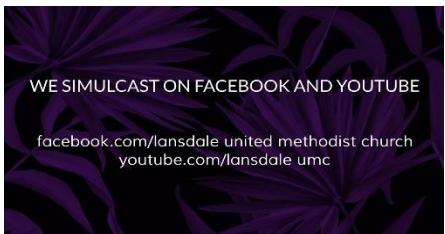
News! Pastor Stew Warner appointed by Bishop Johnson!

On July 1, 2021, Lansdale UMC will welcome our new pastor, Steward Warner from Salem UMC in Orwigsburg, PA. Pastor Warner began serving Salem UMC on July 1, 2015. He is an ordained elder in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. He is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and received his M. Div. from United Theological Seminary.

Pastor Warner served as the EPA Youth Coordinator from 1990-1998 and as the Northeast Jurisdictional Youth Coordinator from 1991-1993. He has written youth ministry articles and curriculum for the UM Publishing house. He has been featured as a keynote speaker around the country for various churches and events. He served as both a member and then Chair of the Camp and Retreat Board for the Eastern PA Conference and has a strong belief in commitment to Christian Camping. He is a certified Re-Think Church trainer.

Pastor Warner is very active in reaching out to and engaging the communities in which he serves. He has been active in service clubs such as Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lion's over the years. He founded Non-Violence week and developed a Day Camp for children in the city of Reading. He has also served on several community boards and is a graduate of Leadership Lebanon and Leadership Berks programs. He Worked in the corporate world for a time as a Project Manager for Strategic Development for a major Pharmaceutical Distributor, working with leaders of the company to determine the future and direction of the company.

Pastor Warner (Stew) is the father of two grown and married daughters, Jamie & Toni, along with four grandchildren in the Horsham and Jenkintown areas. He is an avid motorcycle rider. You will see him regularly riding his Yamaha Super Tenere around town. He takes an annual motorcycle trip the end of June and beginning of July every year. He also enjoys photography, hiking, and kayaking.



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! Service training 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 "Effective Church Audits!" that's not to be missed!!)

The Church and Society Committee recommends **Workshop #21 - Christopher Columbus: It's Time to Know the Truth!** Most of the stories we hear about Europeans “discovering” America is told from the European perspective. 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.



New! From Church and Society! Justice Talks: A Look Ahead at 2021

Join the Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crow, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society, on **February 24th** for a special conversation about the United Methodist witness

on Capitol Hill. Go to our website's [Church and Society page](#) to learn more about and register for this Zoom meeting. (The accompanying slide is a picture of the United Methodist Building, located on Capitol Hill, in Washington, DC. It's one of the last structures on the Hill not owned by the US Government. It's the General Board of Church and Society's home as well as home to other organizations advocating for peace and justice.)



Black History Month: A Forgotten Lansdale Hero

There's a monument on the corner of North Broad and Seventh Streets in Lansdale that bears the bust of a man in bronze relief with his face sculpted at an angle looking toward a

building across the street. **Do you know who this man is and why the monument was placed in that position?** He's Dr. Frank Boston, a World War I veteran, military surgeon, community doctor, and founder of the Elm Terrace/Abington Lansdale Hospital and the Volunteer Medical Service Corps (VMSC) ambulance corps. Dr. Boston died in 1960, and his memory, long lost and unknown to many in the area, is now being honored 60 years later for his accomplishments as a physician who very likely saved many lives and helped make Lansdale what it is today. Read Lansdale Mayor Garry Herbert's "Mayoral Musings: The Lost History of Dr. Frank Boston" [here](#). The Boston Legacy Foundation streamed a Zoom event on February 11, 2021, on Facebook, with panelists of local people talking about Dr. Frank Erdman Boston's life and times. It's the first in a series of panel discussions with the Boston Legacy Foundation. During this discussion, panelists speculated why the monument was placed across the street and not in the hospital's lobby. Dr. Frank Boston was an African American. You can watch the event on Facebook [here](#). The next event in the series

is on February 25 at 3:00 p.m., when the Boston Legacy Foundation will be joining Bucks County Community College in a panel discussion via Zoom. It's open to the public on Facebook. Contact [Boston Legacy Foundation](#) for information. From the Church and Society Committee.



New! - Zoom Bible Studies in Lent begin on March 4th!

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 each of the Tuesdays in Lent. On **Thursday evenings** at 7:00 p.m. during Lent, Pastor Bill will lead a **Lenten Bible Study** called *Behold the Lamb, Behold the Man*, a biblical and theological examination of the *Lamb of God* title for Jesus used in the New testament. Make the studies a spiritual practice to help you practice the means of grace during the seasons of Lent and Easter. 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

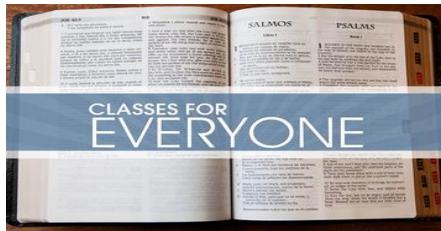
Members Only account, please refer to the e-mail you received in late August, 2020, or contact [Becky](#) in the office. Our website is always evolving. Please be sure to explore it often.



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 21, New Horizons will begin our Lenten season with a Lenten Devotion and discussion. We meet at 10:00 a.m. following the Sunday morning worship service via Zoom (the connection details are below). Anyone is

welcome to join 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) if you want to be added to the distribution list.



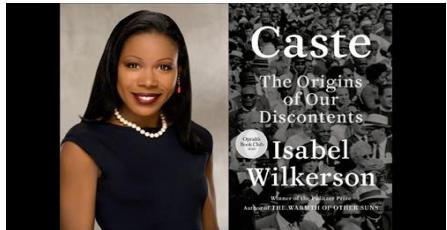
Conversations on Race

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. 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. Thank you!

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Women

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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!

Cases Upticking Slightly!

On Wednesday, February 17, Montco's rate of new coronavirus cases rose to 238 per 100,000 residents, but that's still a 41% decline over the last 14 days. The uptick is a concern. Though hospitalizations are down, the number of deaths is on the rise. Deaths lag hospitalizations. The test positivity rate has dropped to 7%, still slightly higher than the recommended minimum rate of 5%, but it's moving in the right direction. At this level, the county is still listed at very high risk based on per capita cases and test positivity. Some of the surrounding counties are increasing in cases as well. Caution is still the best response. 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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