



March 18, 2021



Lent 5 Is This Sunday!

As we journey to the fifth stop on the Lenten path, the Fifth Sunday in Lent, "The Death of Christ" theme greets us with a message for the season during the LiveStream service at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday. We'll examine Mark's account of Jesus' death. "High Noon" is the sixth hour of the day. Passover's full moon is already visible when the sky turns black on the first Good Friday. Fear and dread fill people's minds and hearts as day turns to night. Shadows fall on the countryside and hillocks. Jesus is suffering and dying in literal and symbolic darkness. People scurry home for security and protection. At the ninth hour, the darkness subsumes all, and Jesus yells out from the cross. It's his death cry. Jesus' heart stops beating. His body goes limp. Oddly, at the moment of Jesus' death, the temple curtain rips open, exposing the Holy of Holies to the outer world, uniting God and the people in Christ for all time to come. Nothing is hidden in secret anymore. The way to full communion, complete union, is shown. God and the people are finally one. Will the people have eyes to see with and ears to hear? Will they have hearts for God? Do we? As we approach Holy Week and Easter, let's be aware of God's reconciling love that's still at work today, healing the sick, comforting the dying, feeding the soul, and walking with the forgotten.



Soul Sisters Circle Meeting!

On Monday, March 22, the Soul Sisters Circle will meet on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Ellen Patterson will do a devotion and Marilyn Snyder will lead us in Prayer and Self Denial program. All women are invited to join us.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86341821557?pwd=emhIVENMZVYwTzlrU2lBa1BnZnRsUT09>

Meeting ID: 863 4182 1557

Passcode: 122759



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!



LiveStream Schedule of Services for Holy Week and Easter are Set!

Incredibly, planning for a second pandemic Holy Week and Easter (March 28, April 1, April 2, and April 4) experience is happening right now.

LiveStream services on **Palm Sunday** and **Easter**

Sunday remain at **9:00 a.m.**, with lively pre-service music beginning at **8:45 a.m.** On **Maundy Thursday**, a LiveStream service will start with music at **6:00 p.m.**, and worship will begin at **6:30 p.m.** Then, on **Good Friday**, a 3-hour LiveStream service from **12:00 - 3:00 p.m.** will feature readings, meditations, art, and music at the top and bottom of each hour for 15-minutes (:00-:15 and :30-:45). The Broadcast

Team is honored to bring worship to your homes during the sacred season of Holy Week and Easter. Spread the word! Invite family and friends to join you! Announce to all you know that Christ Is Risen!



Mission Opportunity with Bethel Hill UMC

This April we celebrate Easter, the most important event in the history of the world: Christ died to forgive our sins and the sins of the world. Three days later he rose from the grave, he then ascended into heaven forty days later. His gift is offered with only one condition, that we accept Christ into our hearts. In Matthew 22, verses 34 thru 40 he gives us his two greatest commandments; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind; and the second one; Love your neighbor as yourself." Our mission project addresses both.

We are all blessed to different degrees; with individual talents that we can share with others to praise our Lord. The week after Easter we have an opportunity to construct an entire frame of a home, which will be given to a deserving family in the Lehigh Valley. Click [here](#) for more details.

SUMMER INTERN

Arch Street United Methodist Church/The Center - Philadelphia is Looking for a Summer Ministry Intern

The Summer Ministry Team Intern will engage the congregation and its community partners in developing and implementing faith strengthening, community building and justice-seeking activities. Using pastoral care and community organizing strategies, the intern will recruit, train and engage congregants and community members in creating sustainable connections. The Summer Ministry Intern must be committed to working in solidarity with Serenity House Community Center (SHCC), The People's Garden community and Grace Cafe. The People's Garden, SHCC and Grace Cafe are extension ministries of Arch Street UMC/The Center-Philadelphia. The Center Philadelphia is the non-profit organization of Arch Street UMC. Arch Street UMC is a Sanctuary Church, a Justice-Seeking Congregation and a [Reconciling](#) Congregation committed to grassroots faith-based movements for social change. Click [here](#) for full details.



Zoom Bible Studies in Lent Continue!

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!



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.



Easter Hop at Jarrettown UMC

Sunday, March 28 (Rain Date - Saturday, April 3)

2 to 4 pm

Church Parking Lot (1460 Llmekiln Pike, Dresher)

Join us for a fun afternoon of socially-distanced Easter activities:

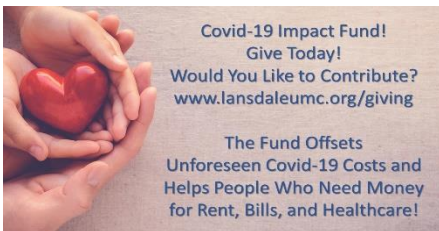
- Travel around our "Bunny Stations" for games/activities and treats.
- Families need to select a time slot so children and adults are distanced appropriately.
- The Easter Bunny will be hopping around to wave hello.
- Masks are required.
- Bring your Easter basket!!! Click [here](#) for more information and to register or contact [Becky](#) in the office.



March's Mission Emphasis – UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for the [United Methodist Committee on Relief's ministry](#) of relief

and hope. UMCOR's work of alleviating human suffering around the world includes disaster relief and supplies, disaster risk reduction, health, and humanitarian development. UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday. In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes. You can learn more about UMCOR Sunday [here](#). You can support *March's Mission Emphasis* in 3 easy ways: Snail mail your check payable to LUMC with the memo line: "UMCOR Sunday" and put it in your Blue Envelope. You can go online safely and securely [here](#) to make a contribution today. Click the "Giving" dropdown menu and search for *UMCOR*. 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 \$5,200 to pay 10 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.

Click on an image below for more information:



UPDATED! – COVID-19 STATUS – NEW!

Cases are Plateauing at High Levels

As of today, **Thursday, March 18th**, Montco's rate of new coronavirus cases inched up again to 173 per 100,000 residents over the last 14 days. Cases are plateauing at high levels. The Northeast region of the country is becoming a concern to officials. New Covid-19 variants are entering the region. There's good news that hospitalizations remain down. The tally of deaths (36 in 14 days) remains a source of sadness. The test positivity rate remains at 5%. At that rate, the virus is not tamping down, and it may be that people aren't being tested to reveal the actual number of positive cases. The county is listed at **very high risk** based on per capita cases and test positivity, according to CDC, Commonwealth, and Montco health authorities. The White House Coronavirus

Task Force lists Montco in **phase yellow**. Therefore, caution is still the best course to follow for now. Vaccinations are the best means to bring the numbers down to return to in-person worship as soon as possible. Please get vaccinated! It's a gift to your neighbors, those you love, and yourself. Until then, LUMC will remain in its current status of restricted opening for LiveStream worship and other approved uses. Now more than a year out from the beginning of the pandemic emergency, offering prayers for the nation and world, sick people, and grieving families is an essential spiritual act. Pray! Fast! Give!



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