

March 4, 2021



### **Lent Continues!**

As we journey to the third stop on the Lenten path, the Third Sunday in Lent, the theme of \*The Gethsemane Press\* 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' time spent in Gethsemane. We think of that word and associate a garden with it. Gethsemane is the Hebrew word for "oil press." Olives were brought to the "garden" for pressing, squeezing, crushing. It's not a coincidence that Jesus was there with the same three inductees into the new kinship--Peter, James, and John-- who were on the mountaintop when the Transfiguration occurred. It was while they were coming down from the mountain that the weight of the passion began to press in on Jesus, and his inner circle. These were the four who had experienced a wonderful and glorious vision. Now they were together again at a very vulnerable moment in Jesus' life. In the same place where olives were pressed and crushed, Jesus entered into a time of prayer with the crushing weight of impending death on him. As we approach the midpoint of the holy season in Lent, let's be aware on the way life is crushing down on so many people for so many reasons. And let's open our hearts to the merciful heart of Jesus to find comfort.



### **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.

### **Realtor Needed**

Pastor Stew will be moving to the Lansdale area and is looking for a rental home. Are you a realtor, or do you know a realtor, who can help him find something in our area? If so, please contact [Becky](#) in the office, and she will put Pastor Stew in contact with you. Thanks.



## 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!



## 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! - 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.



## Easter Hop at Jarrettown UMC

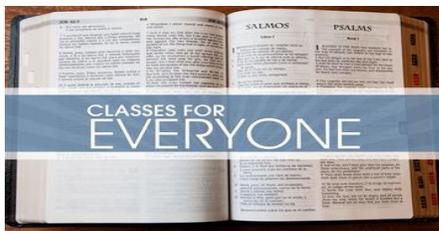
Sunday, March 28 (Rain Date - Saturday, April 3)

2 to 4 pm

Church Parking Lot (1460 LImekiln 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.



## New Horizons Fellowship

This Sunday, March 7, New Horizons will continue our Lenten journey discussing "The Divine "Dramedy" of Those Wedding Tales". The discussion will include scriptures from Luke 14. 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](mailto:vmcolliver@gmail.com)) if you want to be added to the distribution list



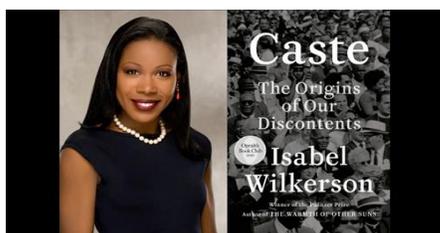
## Conversations on Race

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=NWJlZld3V0dtRitERWVKdmcxRDhUdz09;>

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.



**March's Mission Emphasis – UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)—UMCOR Sunday falls this year on March 14.** Your

generous giving to UMCOR Sunday is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need. Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded
- And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

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 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.



### **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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### ***UPDATED! – COVID-19 STATUS – NEW!***

#### **Cases Slowly Decline!**

On Monday, March 1st, Montco's rate of new coronavirus cases fell to 109 per 100,000 residents, an overall decline of 16% over the last 14 days. The downtick is good news. Though hospitalizations are down, the number of deaths is still significant. The test positivity rate declined to 6%, still slightly higher than the recommended minimum rate of 5%. At this level, the county is still listed at \*very high risk\* based on per capita cases and test positivity according to Commonwealth and Montco health authorities. Caution is still the best response. While we're inching closer to a limited return to in-person worship, 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:**

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