



April 1, 2021



Join Us this Easter Sunday!

Lent's journey to
Jesus' tomb
reaches its climax
on Holy Saturday. A

year ago, as Covid-19 related deaths were mounting, families found themselves shocked by loved one's deaths and stunned that funerals weren't permitted. Ironically, after Jesus' death, he was hurriedly buried without a funeral or mourners gathered to share their tears and memories. They'd forgotten that Easter was coming with the next sunrise. LUMC will gather by LiveStream a little after sunrise on Easter Sunday, April 4, at 9:00 a.m. to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior Jesus, the Lord. Mark's Easter Gospel has an imperfect beginning. What about its ending? Is it imperfect too? Some scholars think so. Where did the women purchase spices at night? A Jerusalem Wal-Mart or Wawa? There's scant evidence supporting a custom of preparing bodies for burial. It's a rough start for an ending. Something feels out of sync from the start. The women are overwhelmed with terror and dread at the sight of the empty tomb. They're not too keen on the enigmatic luminous being either. So, they flee (v.8a), and that's the original ending's end. Scholars of all stripes have long thought that v.8b is an extraneous addition, an embarrassing aside, to explain the women's strange behavior. Is fleeing the scene truly a strange response? No! The ending at v.8a is perfect! The women must go back to Galilee (to the beginning) to see the risen Jesus. Only then can the women and the other disciples know the beginning was real and the ending is perfect. It was and is as an expression of faith, of trust, of loyalty. They didn't have to explain it all to know it's true. Christ is Risen!



Maundy Thursday LiveStream at 6:30 P.M.!

On **Maundy Thursday**, a LiveStream service will start with sacred music and contemporary music at **6:00 p.m.** to set the service's tone. Worship will begin at **6:30 p.m.** The service is built around the significant symbols of Holy Week. During the service, a tableau narrative will identify each of the symbols and their significance to the Holy Week drama of Jesus' last hours before his death and burial. The quartet will be singing, and Pastor Bill will share a meditation based on a poem called "When Twilight Comes." The image of a hen caring for her young as night falls may remind you of God's loving presence when trouble comes our way.



Good Friday LiveStream from 12:00-3:00 PM!

On **Good Friday**, a 3-hour LiveStream service from **12:00 - 3:00 p.m.** will feature readings, meditations, artwork, and sacred choral and contemporary 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 on Good Friday. Spread the word! Invite family and friends to join you! Announce to all you know that Christ Is Risen! Don't forget to visit the church's Holy Week 2021 page on our [website](#) to access services and information to help you participate meaningfully in all the services. Blessed Holy Week and Easter to all!



Miss Liz's Good Friday Plan!

Hi everyone,
Can you believe Spring is finally here, and Easter is only a little over a week away! I am so excited. It's my favorite time of year. I would like to invite you all to take part in our Good Friday VIRTUAL activity. We will be making Resurrection Gardens. I will be dropping off everything you need next weekend. Then I will post a video Wednesday evening that we can make our gardens together. It will not be live, so that if you can't do it on Friday, you can choose a time that is best for your family. Please let me know if you would like to take part in this. I

encourage all of you to have fun with this great family event. This is for Adults, children and teens. Please be sure to RSVP [here](#) with your name, address, phone number and e-mail so that I can bring the goodies to you. I wish you all a wonderful Holy Week and Easter!!



Easter Hop at Jarrettown UMC

April 3 -- 2 to 4 pm (postponed from last week)

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.



Higher Education Scholarships from the EPAUMC

April 26 is rapidly approaching. On

that date, the Education Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church will be accepting grant applications to assist worthy individuals with defraying the cost of higher education for the 2021-2022 school year. The application is available on the Conference website. It can be accessed as "Education Society Grants" [here](#). All applications received in the Conference Office (between and including) April 26 to May 10 will be considered for a grant. Like last year, all applications will be considered. Unless there is some disqualification, grant recipients will be randomly selected. If you have questions, please contact the Education Society Chairperson, Al Adey [here](#).

March 29, 2021 To the United Methodists of the Northeastern Jurisdiction From

the College of Bishops of the Northeastern Jurisdiction

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, We thank God for you and commend the clergy and congregational leaders for your leadership. These have been difficult and isolating times for many and yet you are leading our most vital ministry, congregations and community ministries with conviction and determination. You have demonstrated the gifts of courage, leadership, innovation and grace. Thank you. Today, we announce the coverage of Episcopal Areas in the Northeastern Jurisdiction effective September 1, 2021. Read the entire letter from our Council of Bishops [here](#).



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!



April's Mission Emphasis - Mission Opportunity with Bethel Hill UMC

After Jesus' resurrection, he spent 40 days appearing to his followers and encouraging them to continue his mission of loving God, loving neighbors, and proclaiming the coming of the New Kin-ship. As he ascended to heaven, he sent his people on a mission that continues with us. **From April 9-11**, volunteers are needed to build a house frame in the Lehigh Valley. Details are available [here](#) on our website. You'll find specific instructions and procedures there if you're interested in helping. Or contribute to defray the material's costs and build a fund for future endeavors. Click [here](#) to go to our website's giving page to contribute to our monthly mission emphasis. All donations sent will be in loving honor of *Peter Noll, Jim Newell, Jim Fisher, Bob Snyder, George Starrett, and Merrill Alderfer*, whose dedication to missions was life-changing. You can make a life-changing gift

today. Click [here](#) for more details about the house-framing project the week after Easter!.

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!

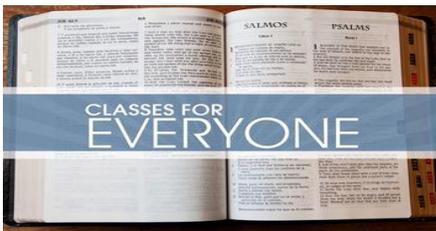
You can join your congregation, friends, and Pastor Bill at two Zoom Bible Studies each week during Lent. The **Tuesday mornings** at 10:00 a.m. gathering will remain as a study of the appointed lectionary readings for each of the Tuesdays in Lent. On **Thursday evenings** at 7:00 p.m. during Lent, Pastor 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.



New Horizons Fellowship - HAPPY EASTER!

This Sunday, April 4, New Horizons **will not meet**. We will meet again next week, April 11, at 10:00 a.m. following the Sunday morning worship service via Zoom (the connection details are below). Anyone is welcome to join at that time by clicking [here](#).

Meeting ID: 875 4237 2475 Passcode: 710204

Wesleyan Class

The Wesleyan Class will continue the Lenten Bible Study started 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=NVJlZld3V0dtRitERWVKdmcxRDhUdz0>

9;

Meeting ID: 879 1982 7576; Passcode: 573307.



Native American Ministries Sunday -- April 18, 2021

Your offering supports ministries to Native Americans in rural, urban, and reservation areas and provides scholarships to UM schools of theology. In 2020 United Methodists gave \$273,741 to the Native

American Ministries Sunday offering. Thank you for your generosity! Remember our Native American brothers and sisters during this pandemic and celebrate their gifts to our church family and communities. You can support NAM Sunday in 3 easy ways: Snail mail your check payable to LUMC with the memo line: "Native American Ministries" 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 *Native American Ministries*. 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!

Caution and Optimism!

As of **Wednesday, March 31**, the daily report on the case count in Montco is **319** per 100,000 residents. This number represents a 65% increase over last week. The optimal goal is fewer than 100 cases reported within a 14-day

period. We're going in the wrong direction, which isn't the best news. According to the Department of Health and Human Service, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Montgomery County health authorities, Montco remains in the **very high risk** category at current levels. The test positivity rate has risen to **6%**, one point above the optimal minimum level, which suggests that cases are undercounted. Vaccinations are proceeding, which is genuinely **great news!** Vaccinations will get us back to in-person worship in the quickest way. Please consider prayerfully receiving one of the several safe and effective vaccines. For the time being, caution is the wisest course of action. LUMC will remain in its current status of limited openings for LiveStream worship and other approved uses. Let your prayers flow for the many who are suffering, hospitalized, and for those who have died, and for those grieving their losses.



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