



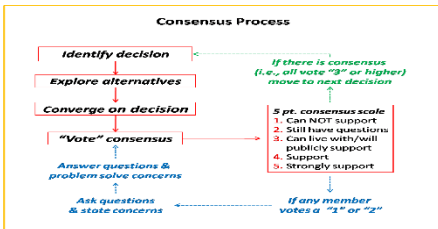
April 29, 2021



It's the Fifth Sunday of Easter on May 2nd!

Christ is risen! The Fifth Sunday of Easter this year is a special day in ecumenical Christianity! It's Orthodox Christianity's Easter Sunday. We'll be observing the day with the Christ Candle's lighting and acknowledging some amazing Orthodox Easter

traditions. The sermon focuses on a text from the Gospel of John, chapter 15. Deep in the "Farewell Discourse" of John's Gospel is a thought about love that transcends all forms of love. It's "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," as Charles Wesley's poem so aptly states. It is the divine-human love of the resurrected Christ reaching out for us, embracing us, and asking us to "abide" with him in this world and the next. Jesus' love is a "love that will not let us go," as the familiar hymn confirms, whether in life or death. Jesus seeks lovers, not admirers or fans, who are willing to be grafted to the true vine--his reality--and produce the fruit that will last--the fruit of our love for him and the whole world. Van Gogh's Red Vineyard is the only painting he sold during his lifetime. His love of his art is powerful. He never stopped painting in light of his lack of commercial success. There's a lesson here for all of us. Our LiveStream service begins at 9:00 a.m. Audio pre-service music begins at 8:45 a.m. Join us on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)!



Formal Consensus Training Set for This Sunday & May 16th! --

The Southern Montgomery County (SOMOCO) Mission Link of the East District of the UMC plans two training sessions on the decision-making method called "Formal Consensus." The training is prompted by important decisions that UM

churches will make following the next General Conference. The UMC is in organizational flux about the authority of Scripture, the place of the LGBT+ community in the church's life, and how we understand the church's core mission. It's quite likely that all UMC local churches will face a decision about joining one of several new denominations that'll spin-off from the UMC. How will the decisions be made? Up or down voting? Win-lose voting? Or consensus voting to arrive at a peaceable decision? Jess Umlauf, a colleague of Pastor Bill's, will facilitate the training. Here are Jess' descriptions of the two sessions:

"Formal Consensus is a peaceful group decision-making process that aims at weaving everyone's best ideas and key concerns, often resulting in surprising and more creative solutions. It is neither compromise nor voting. In the first training session, an introduction to Formal Consensus, you'll understand the basic dynamics which drive group decision-making and learn the foundations, process, and proposal structure critical to successful use of Formal Consensus."

"After gaining an understanding of the basic structure and foundation of Formal Consensus in session one, the second session will help you learn about creating additional shared values and guiding principles for decision-making, learn the roles to play and to set agendas, understanding and reviewing impediments to Formal Consensus, and practice examples of group discussion techniques."

With the training in hand, local churches stand a better than fair chance at making important decisions about their futures with a lot less mess! **All Church Council members will find this material helpful. Everyone can learn these skills for their personal and professional lives as well. Information about accessing the Zoom sessions is forthcoming. Please send an e-mail to office@lansdaleumc.org indicating your interest in attending the virtual sessions on Sundays, May 2nd and May 16th, from 2:00-3:30 p.m.**



A Called Church Conference Is Set for June 13th!

Save the Date of June 30th at 10:00 a.m. for a Called Church Conference by Zoom and, perhaps, limited in-person attendance. Our DS, Dr. Andrew Foster, will conduct the conference. All church members in good standing are eligible to vote on a proposed church

governance plan presented by the Nominations and Leadership Committee.

Here are the details: In the recent past, LUMC has held a called church conference to elect leadership for the ensuing year, usually in June. That pattern was interrupted because of the Covid-19 pandemic emergency in 2020. In the meantime, the Nomination's and Leadership Development Committee presented a slate of interim officers to carry on leadership through June 30, 2021. Last October, the charge conference conducted by our then new DS, Dr. Andrew Foster, elected the slate of officers. Since then, the committee has been working on a plan to simplify LUMC's governance. By streamlining the number of people in leadership positions, the committee is proposing to refocus the church toward mission and away from consuming ministry and mission. A draft plan, if approved first by the church council, will be forthcoming. If the council doesn't approve the plan, then the church conference will be limited to electing an interim slate of church leaders until the annual charge conference in the autumn.



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!



Last Chance! In-Person Worship Survey -- We invite you to take an online worship service to aid in planning for a return to in-person worship. **This survey will be closed on Monday, May 3.** Optimism grows daily about returning to in-person worship as more and more Americans are

vaccinated for the Covid-19 virus. Vaccinations are key to returning safely. Your participation will help immensely in making decisions about returning. The asterisk (*)

indicates that all questions require a response, or your answers won't be included in the survey analysis. Please answer all the questions, so the best data is revealed. Click [here](#) to go directly to the survey. Thank you!



From Church and Society Work Group - Election Day --

Yes, there's another election day just around the corner. It's May 18. And, in fact, thanks to no-excuse mail ballots, widespread voting is already open. In addition to deciding local races, voters this year will elect new judges to Pennsylvania's three statewide appellate courts — judges who will no doubt shape important policy in the state for at least the next decade. Read "A Voter Guide to Pennsylvania's 2021 Judicial Elections" [here](#). **IF YOU APPLIED FOR A MAIL-IN BALLOT, CONSIDER DROPPING IT OFF AT A SECURE BALLOT DROP BOX LOCATION.** Click [here](#) for locations of the secure drop boxes. Montgomery County residents can find general information about the primary election on the county website. Click on STAY INFORMED for the drop down menu which has the link at Election 2021. Click [here](#) to go to Montgomery County Voter Services



Montgomery County Hazardous Waste Recycling Events --

Montgomery County-sponsored household hazardous waste collection events have begun. The events are by appointment only and pre-registration is required. COVID-19 CDC guidelines must be followed when attending an event. No televisions, electronics or appliances are accepted at these chemical collections. Businesses and contractors will be turned away from these residential events. Click [here](#) to go to the Church and Society page of our website for dates, a list of the recyclable items and a list of date. Church and Society



Celebrating the Life of Peter Noll -- On Saturday, May 22, from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Mary Noll will be celebrating Peter's life. Please click on [this link](#) for the invitation and to RSVP. ***Please read the entire invitation.*** If you plan to attend, you must sign up for a time slot. This celebration will be outdoors and will be following Covid-19 protocols.



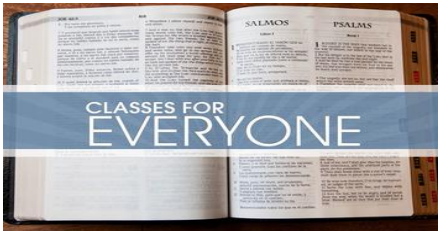
Zoom Bible Studies Continue! -- You can join your congregation, friends, and Pastor Bill at two Zoom Bible Studies each week during Lent. The **Tuesday mornings** at 10:00 a.m. gathering will remain as a study of the appointed lectionary readings for each of the Tuesdays in Lent. On **Thursday evenings** 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 -- On May 2nd, New Horizons will be discussing the topic titled "Being Human" drawing from Genesis 2:4–25, Psalm 8, and Mark 3:1–6. 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 at that time by clicking [here](#).

Meeting ID: 875 4237 2475 Passcode: 710204

Wesleyan Class -- The Wesleyan Class will continue with Reflections and meditation on the topic "Life After the Pandemic" with occasional tie-in to the Sunday sermon. It will be sent by email to class members and others who wish to be on the distribution list. It will continue until the end of May. Contact Verna Colliver (vmcolliver@gmail.com) if you want to be added to the distribution list

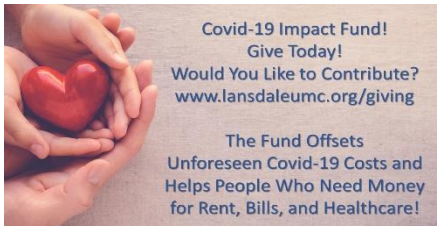


Conversations on Race -- Conversations on Race recently resumed with an analysis of the presidential election results and what they say about racism in America. Our group decided to concentrate its efforts on a meaningful Lenten

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=NWJlZld3V0dtRitERWVKdmcxRDhUdz09>;

Meeting ID: 879 1982 7576; Passcode: 573307.



Special Lansdale UMC Collection

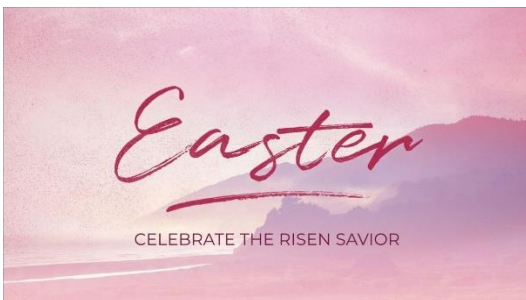
Covid-19 Impact Fund Is Making a Difference

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!

Currently, Montco's case count is declining, which is good news. At current case levels, however, the county remains in the **very high risk** category according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Montgomery County health authorities.

The test positivity rate is still high at **8%**, which suggests that the virus isn't under control and that cases are undercounted. Vaccinations are proceeding, which is great news. Vaccinations will get us back to in-person worship in the quickest way. Consider prayerfully your choices about vaccinations, which are proving to be safe and effective. 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 sick, suffering, dying, and grieving.



Copyright © 2020 Lansdale United Methodist Church, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

300 N. Broad Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).