



May 13, 2021



It's the Seventh Sunday of Easter on May 16th! Ascension Sunday!

Christ is risen! The Seventh Sunday of Easter is traditionally called "Exaltation" Sunday. Unreserved exaltation is given to the Ascended Lord, Jesus Christ. Pastor Bill's texts this week include the

Ascension story from Acts 1 and a portion of Jesus' "High Priestly Prayer" from John 17. As the hour of his glory approaches, Jesus prays out of deep concern for his followers. He's not concerned about himself but for them. His love is extravagant. He weaves his concern into words that create a work of language art. As God sent Jesus to the world, so Jesus will send his followers. Jesus prays for their protection. The Father gives Jesus his followers, and Jesus gives them his words, words of life. Jesus also gave them his name, which will protect them. Jesus prays that his followers will know the truth of his origin, that he comes from the Father. He is the way of truth and life for his followers both then and now. Jesus lastly prays for their sanctification, to be made holy, not in a static but dynamic way. In their holy life, they will be sent as Jesus was sent to share the news of Jesus with the world. Jesus prays that their trust will empower them even to lay down their lives for Christ. 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](#)!

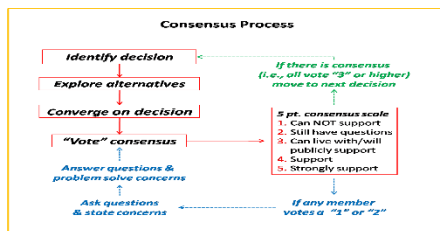


Our Service is Simulcast Each Sunday on Facebook Live and YouTube! -- Join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on our Facebook Page [click here](#), or YouTube Channel [click here](#) for a weekly praise, prayer, and proclamation celebration of God's

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!



Return to In-Person Worship on May 23rd!
Register Today! Seating Limited to 40! -- It's a joy to announce the return to in-person worship will commence joyfully and carefully on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. The service will also be broadcast LiveStream on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)! You must register to attend by clicking [here](#). Only fully vaccinated church members will qualify to register for the time being. All details relating to registration will be found on the registration form. People not online will be contacted to register through the church office. Transitional times can be emotional as we encounter familiar and unfamiliar aspects of commonplace experiences and places. Patience is the key to making a healthy transition!!



Second Formal Consensus Training Set for This Sunday at 2:00 PM!-- The Southern Montgomery County (SOMOCO) Mission Link of the East District of the EPAUMC plans a second session 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. 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 due to years of conflict over sexuality issues. How will the decisions be made? "Up or Down" voting? "Win- or Lose" voting? Or "Consensus Voting" to arrive at a peaceable decision? Jess Umlauf, a colleague of Pastor Bill's, is facilitating the training. Here's Jess' description of the second session: "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." You can attend even if you missed the first session. We recorded the first session if you'd like to catch up. With the training in hand, local churches stand a better than fair chance of 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. Please send an e-mail to office@lansdaleumc.org indicating your interest in attending on May 16th, from 2:00-3:30 p.m., and if you'd like to view the recording of the first session.**



The 236th Session of the Eastern PA Annual Conference, May 20-22, will take place mostly online for a second consecutive year, after making history with that first-time format in 2020. The conference business session will again be held via a Zoom

webinar, with pre-recorded reports and eBallot voting on Friday, May 21. Non-members will again be able to view the session livestreamed on the [Conference's Facebook page](#).

This year's session will include resolutions with legislative debate and amendments allowed. But the plan is to reduce the amount of session time given to debate and amendments by urging members to read resolutions once they are published and respond promptly with any questions and suggested revisions to resolution authors. [Read More](#)



recognizing graduates at June 13. Please e-mail Becky in the [office](#) with graduate's name, graduating from, degree, future plans, and a picture by Wednesday, June 9, to have your graduate recognized.

Class of 2021 Recognition

Are you or do you know a 2021 graduate? Pastor Bill will be worship on Sunday,



A Called Church Conference Is Set for June 13th!

On Sunday, June 13th, at 10:15 a.m., a Called Church Conference will be held in-person and by Zoom. D.S. Dr. Andrew Foster will conduct the conference. All church members in good standing are eligible to vote on two agenda items: (1) to authorize

the Church Council to proceed with developing a plan to simplify the church's leadership and governance structure; and (2) to elect a slate of interim church offices to lead from July 1 to December 31, 2021. The Nominations and Leadership Committee will present the slate of nominees.

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, to cover a term from July 1 to June 30. That pattern was interrupted because of the Covid-19 pandemic emergency in 2020. It's now been deemed desirable to return to electing officers at the usual autumn charge conference. Interim officers have been serving diligently since January 1, whose term ends on June 30, 2021. In the meantime, the committee worked on a plan to simplify LUMC's governance by streamlining the number of people in leadership positions. The simplified leadership plan seeks to refocus the church toward mission and ministry teams and away from institutional-focused leadership. The simplified leadership plan concept was approved by the Church Council last Monday evening. It will now ask the Church Conference **on June 13th** to approve developing the plan for final approval in the autumn and the election of leaders to serve under the new plan. More details are forthcoming.



May's Mission Emphasis - Keystone Opportunity Center

The mission of Keystone Opportunity Center is to help community members in need by offering a comprehensive array of social services that educate, encourage, and empower them to become self-sufficient. Their services include:

Housing the Homeless in Upper Bucks and Montgomery counties – Keystone Opportunity Center provides a continuum of support from Homelessness Prevention, Rental Assistance, and Eviction Diversion, to Emergency Shelter, Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing. We provide case management across the board

to help our families successfully get back on their feet and maintain safe housing. We also own/operate over two dozen affordable housing units. One important factor in homelessness in the US is a lack of affordable housing, so we are doing our part to increase the number of safe, affordable homes.

Feeding the Hungry – Keystone Opportunity Center operates a food pantry serving nearly 1,000 neighbors across the Souderton Area School District who are dealing with food insecurity. Pantry users qualify for assistance based on their income, and are allowed to visit the pantry once per month to receive a 3-day emergency supply, along with donated items from local farms, grocers or individuals.

Educating Adults – Keystone Opportunity Center provides life-changing education in several locations within Montgomery and Bucks counties, with the largest classes held in Souderton and Lansdale. Classes include English as a Second Language, High School Equivalency, Citizenship, Adult Basic Education, English for College and Career, individual tutoring, and more. We know that literacy, the completion of schooling, and citizenship are essentials for leading a self-sufficient life.

You can support the ministry in three ways: Snail mail your check payable to LUMC, memo: Keystone Opportunity Center in your Blue Envelope or give here, click the dropdown menu to find Keystone Opportunity Center, or text message your gift to 73256 with the message “LansdaleFirstUMC.” Thank you for your generous support!



Implicit Bias Online Training, May 14-15

Register now for this weekend workshop on Zoom, hosted by the Peninsula Delaware Conference, but open to members of our Conference also.

Friday, May 14, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, and Saturday, May 15, 9:00 – 12:45 PM

Who Should Attend: Everyone!!!

- Newly appointed pastors
- Pastors serving in Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Appointments
- Persons in key leadership positions,
- Other interested clergy and laity

You will grow in self-awareness, especially about racial/cultural realities. And you will learn how to improve your intercultural competency for the building of God's beloved community. This is a free workshop on Zoom! Pre-registration is required by May 8 online; register [here](#). Click [here](#) for more information.



Camp and Retreat Centers Foresee "a Future with Hope" -- *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.— Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)*

What a difference a year can make—especially this year, and especially for the four Eastern PA Conference's Camp & Retreat Ministry (CRM) sites. Click [here](#) to read the rest of John Coleman's article about what our Camps are doing this year.

2021 PRIMARY ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES	
MAY 03	Last day to register to vote for the municipal primary. register.votesPA.com
MAY 11	Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot. votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot
MAY 18	Voted mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by 5 PM. votesPA.com/County
MAY 18	Municipal primary day. Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM. votesPA.com/Polls

VotesPA.com

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.



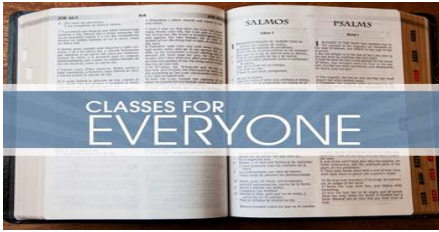
Zoom Bible Studies Continue! -- You can join your congregation, friends, and Pastor Bill at two Zoom Bible Studies offered each week. The **Tuesday morning** study meets at 10:00 a.m. The **Thursday evening study meets** at 7:00 p.m. Our normal practice is to study the daily lectionary readings for

the Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. The listed readings can be found on our website at www.lansdaleumc.com. On the homepage you'll find "Zoom Bible Study" under the Heading "Making Disciples." You're welcome to use any translation of the Bible that comfortable for you. Pastor Bill uses a PowerPoint presentation of the readings and his commentary, and then discussion follows. We offer prayers at the beginning and end of the hour. Join us! 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 16th, New Horizons will be discussing the topic titled "A World of Meaning" drawing from Psalm 145:1–16, Proverbs 8:1–36, and John 1:1–17. We will read verses from these scriptures and discuss what life's patterns mean for us. 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=NVJlZld3V0dtRitERWVKdmcxRDhUdz09;>

Meeting ID: 879 1982 7576; Passcode: 573307.



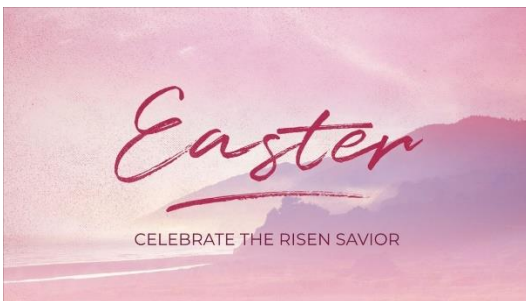
Special Lansdale UMC Collection

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!

Currently, Montco's case count continues to decline, 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 the Montgomery County health authorities. The test positivity rate has declined quickly to **6%**. Vaccinations are proceeding, which is great news. Prayerfully consider your choices about vaccinations, which are proving to be safe and effective. **LUMC will return to limited in-person worship on Sunday, May 23rd**. LUMC will remain in its current status of limited openings for limited worship attendance and other approved uses. Let your prayers flow for the many who are sick, suffering, dying, and grieving.



Vaccines are now available for everybody over age 16!

Click [here](#) to go directly to the PA Health Department's Vaccine Provider Map; type in your zip code, and you'll be taken to a map of local sites. Please consider getting your vaccination soon. We are looking forward to getting back to in-person worship!



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Our mailing address is:

300 N. Broad Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

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