



May 6, 2021



It's the Sixth Sunday of Easter on May 9th!

Christ is risen! The Sixth Sunday of Easter is traditionally called "With a voice of joy" Sunday. It's the Sunday when the church looks out onto the world and sees the joy of spring, of planting, and of watching with wonder as the light of each day

illuminates brighter and brighter. The traditional Gospel story is the wonderful deed of Jesus healing a blind man, whose restored sight leads to great joy. Pastor Bill's text is from John 15, a continuation of Jesus talking to his disciples on the night before his death. A challenging topic arises in the otherwise joyful season of Easter. Jesus tells his followers that unfruitful vines will be removed and cast aside for fuel. And the fruitful vines? They'll prune them to promote the production of more fruit. Jesus isn't messing around here. Love requires that we lay down our lives for Christ and our friends. Ironically, at a sort of an in-between-the-lines spot, there's a suggestion that when we lay down our lives, there'll be an incredible feeling of joy accompanying the act. The Christian life is ruled by self-giving and self-denying love. That's the love of Christ. Joy comes when we emulate his obedience to God. When we obey, God gets from us precisely what God wants out of us. Obedience is the life-giving fresh fruit of faith. Van Gogh's still life of fruit is surrounded by a frosty vortex of mystery, representing the Holy Spirit as the backdrop of all our fruitful efforts. 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](#)!



It's Mother's Day on Sunday the 9th!

To all mothers, we wish you a happy day! Motherhood is a powerful image or reflection of God's love for the world, for all of us. Honoring mothers on

their special day must be done with care and sensitivity. For those grieving the loss of their mothers, the day will bring pain and joy. For those women who desire motherhood greatly but a conception of a child difficult, the day can be overwhelming with grief and hope. For those with problematic relationships with their mothers, the day can be weighted with regret. During our Sunday service, we'll reflect on the joy and complexity of relationships, on our faith's witness to the restoration of what's been lost, and of love's call to find new ways to care for one another and find new reserves of strength we didn't know we had.



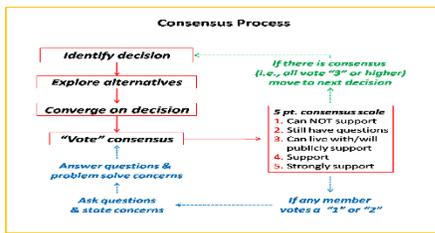
Our Service is Simulcast Each Sunday on Facebook Live and YouTube! -- Join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on our Facebook Page [click here](#)

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! It's a joy to announce that plans are forming to return to in-person worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. Further details are

forthcoming in next week's edition of the e-CR. All of the protocols, requirements, and information will be laid out then. Suffice it to say, the day won't be a simple "return to usual." Some things will be different and unfamiliar about the return, while other things will be familiar and comfortable. As we ease back into in-person worship over the coming weeks, we'll need patience and understanding. This experience is new to all of us. Let's remember who we are and how we're to care for one another. The service will be broadcast LiveStream as well.



Second Formal Consensus Training Set for Sunday, May 16th! -- 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.**

A Called Church Conference Is Set for June 13th!



Committee.

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

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.



Keystone
Opportunity
Center

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.



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

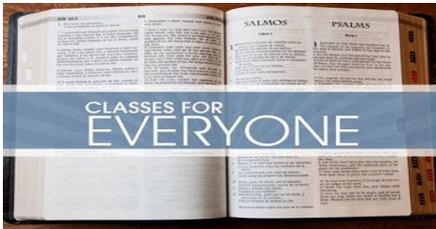
readings and his commentary, and then discussion follows. We offer prayers at the beginning and end of the hour. Join us! Contact [Becky](#) for the Zoom Meeting links to access the studies!



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 -- New Horizons will not meet on Sunday, May 9. We will meet again on May 16 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. It's excellent news indeed. However, the county still remains in the **very high-risk** category at current case levels, 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%**. Vaccinations are proceeding, which is great news. Consider your choices prayerfully about vaccinations, which are proving to be safe and effective. For the time being, caution is the wisest course of action. LUMC is planning to return to in-person worship on Sunday, May 23rd. Otherwise, LUMC will remain in its current status of limited openings for 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:

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