

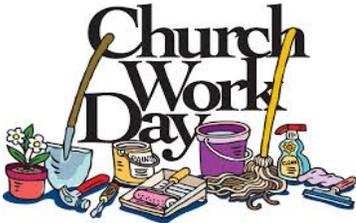
# Circuit Rider

January-February 2022

*Praising God • Making Disciples • Serving All*

Lansdale United Methodist Church, 300 N. Broad St, Lansdale, PA 19446

website: [www.lansdaleumc.org](http://www.lansdaleumc.org) | email: [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org)



## Church Workday

The Trustees are having a Workday on Monday, January 17, and are looking for volunteers to assist with projects. We will start at 8:30 am and go until noon. Please let one of the Trustees or the church office know you are coming. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

## New Member/Inquirer Class

The next New Member/Inquirer class will be held on Sunday, January 23, from 10:30 am – 1:30 pm. This class is for people who are considering making LUMC your home church. Would you like to know more about what we believe as United Methodists? Want to learn about ministry here at LUMC? We already have several people who have indicated they would like to become members here at LUMC. Please contact Pastor Warner ([stewwarner@outlook.com](mailto:stewwarner@outlook.com)) if you would like to be part of this class.



## Cottage Meetings to resume Winter 2022



Cottage Meetings this Fall saw 33 people who attended during October and the first week of November. People from college students to seniors in their 90's. Then we took a break during the Thanksgiving/Christmas season. New Cottage Meetings will begin in February. We're looking for hosts for the new meetings. Hosts open their home for meeting attendees and provide light refreshments. Hosts are also encouraged to invite others to attend the meeting at their home. And people are also invited to call the Host to let them know they will be attending. Thank you to everyone who hosted the first five meetings. And thank you ahead of time to those of you who will be hosting meetings this Winter. Contact the church office or Geri Hare if you are able to host a meeting.

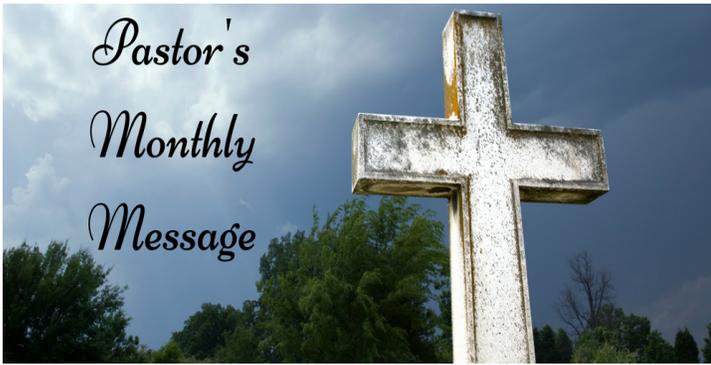
## Infant/Toddler Nursery Attendant Search

New, paid, Nursery Attendant positions have been approved by Church Council on recommendation by Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). Leadership continues to focus on attracting and connecting with younger families and those who have children. The nursery was renovated this past November when it was painted, new shelves put in, old toys tossed and new ones purchased, and a T.V. monitor installed to enable viewing worship and videos was added.



## Offering Envelopes for 2022

Available outside Stringer Auditorium for those who are not giving online or through their bank website. If you are considering giving online but have questions, please contact Warren Shaedle at 215-692-0668 for additional information.



## Note from the Pastor

It's a new year and I've been asking the question, "Why is Lansdale UMC here?" Our founders in the late 1880's saw a growth potential as the railroad was extended to this area. They saw the opportunity to capitalize on this growth by building a church. Later, as the area continued to grow, the church changed locations and built this present Sanctuary and then added the Education wing. All this happened as the Lansdale community continued to grow.

LUMC began a Pre-School to reach children in the area. I'm still learning about the history of how all this began. But I do know that the Pre-School began during a time when there were lots of young families and kids in the area. Those kids have grown up and many have moved out of the area. There is much more competition today than there was when the Pre-School started. And then Covid-19 hit and the Pre-School closed even though attendance was already declining for some time before that.

Several long-term members died the year prior to my coming. Others have retired. And still others have moved out of the area. Our congregation has grown older. The congregation is not the same as it was 10-30 years ago.

And we have several new families attending over the past few months. We have young families starting to come. We have a vital Children's Ministry that continues to attract new families. Our three Adult classes have started up again after being dormant during a year-long hiatus due to Covid. I'm told the adult class attendance is up from what it was even before Covid.

We have an awesome Tech crew and fantastic equipment that enables us to provide online worship on a weekly basis. We are reaching more people, new and existing, through LiveStreaming worship than before Covid changed things. And this congregation has been resilient as we face the challenges of Covid and a changing community.

This year, 2022, I pray we will be open to God's Holy Spirit as we re-image a new future for Lansdale UMC in the face of the changes and challenges of our time. It's clear we will never be able to go back to the way things used to be. The world and this community have changed in dramatic ways. And God continues to invite us to follow into a new future which may look very different than the past we know. This is scary. It's always easier to look back and yearn for the past than it is to face the anxiety and uncertainty of the future.

I am encouraged by the hope of many of you. Hope that LUMC can meet these challenges. Hope and willingness to serve Jesus Christ as we boldly move into an unknown future. We have an opportunity to build something new as we transition ministry here to the generations who follow us. My prayer is that 2022 will be the year where we lay the foundation for building and strengthening a vital and forward-looking ministry. I look forward to meeting these challenges with you. And I covet your prayers for this ministry.

## Thank You from Pastor and Staff

Thank you from all the staff for the Christmas gift from the congregation. We deeply appreciate the affirmation and the privilege of serving God here at Lansdale UMC.

## Pastor Warner looking for Introductions

Pastor Warner has been active and involved in local communities his entire ministry. He is looking for people to help personally introduce him to services, leaders, and groups in the community. People in the past have even given him a tour of the community. Please contact Pastor Warner if you are able to connect him with community groups and leaders.



## Church Council Sets Bold Budget for 2022

In December, the Church Council approved funds to hire two people to staff the Nursery every Sunday. Council also approved a three-year trial period to evaluate this position. SPR will meet in January to set the salary and to begin advertising for two persons to staff this new position. Stay tuned for more info.

Church Council, the leadership board for LUMC, has set a bold and challenging budget for 2022. The Finance Committee recommended holding the course after several years of staff and other cuts to the budget. Most of our expenses are in staff salaries (Pastor, Administrative Assistant, Music Director, Director of Christian education, Organist, and Custodian). Staff are responsible for ministry areas along with recruiting, developing and leading volunteers. Other major expenses are building related including cleaning, maintenance, and utilities bills.

Leadership felt we need the current staff to move forward. A small cost of living increase of 3% was added to part-time staff salaries. We also reconfigured the existing custodian and cleaning service cost into a single position and reduced the total cost while increasing the custodian salary. And we are adding paid Nursery Attendants as we seek to reconnect with and attract families with young children.

This results in an annual budget of \$354,174 for 2022. This is up from \$347,137 in 2021. The breakdown is as follows:

\$245,287	Staff salaries (ministry)
\$10,050	Programs (ministry)
\$69,700	Operating expenses (building/utilities)
\$29,137	Conference apportionments (missions)

We anticipate income of \$316,000. Which means we will fall short by \$38,174 if we fully spend each category for which we have budget items. Operating expenses are fixed. We would need to cut mission or ministry line items to reduce this projected deficit. Leadership made the bold decision not to cut mission or ministry this year as we come out of Covid lockdown. Cuts in previous years have resulted in less mission and ministry. Being the church is much more than just paying utilities and taking care of the building. We are stepping out in faith trusting that with your help and God's guidance we will be able to meet this \$38,174 challenge in 2022.

## UMW Mission Update

By Marilyn Snyder

LUMC has always had a very active United Methodist Women's Unit. The past year and a half has been very challenging for all churches and their activities/groups. We are no exception. But many of us women have tried to stay in contact with one another. The Soul Sister's Circle has recently been meeting via Zoom. We did get together in early December at Barb Siegfried's house for a Christmas celebration with a very nice devotion prepared by Ellen Patterson, a fun white elephant gift exchange activity and of course, refreshments! Our LUMW Unit will be using our money at the end of the year to support local and global missions. We appreciate the support of the congregation when you attend the Craft Fair, purchase WAWA coupons and turn in your Redner's receipts - thank you! By the way, here is a report on checks we've received from Redner's to help us with our Mission Giving:



2017 - \$181.88
2018 - \$121.25
2019 - \$143.93
2020 - \$50.15
2021 - \$156.08

These funds have helped to fund mission outreach both locally and beyond Lansdale. Some of the recipients of this mission giving are,

- Camp Innabah
- Manna on Main Street
- Covid Fund/LUMC
- Keystone Opportunity Center
- Church World Service

Thank you all and keep us in mind when shopping- use your Redner's card and turn in full receipts!



## Community Block Party Team

LUMC will be offering a community block party in our parking lot in summer 2022. Date is yet to be set. Pastor Warner is looking for people to help with this planning team as we seek to build bridges and connections with people in our community. A couple of people have already volunteered to serve. The block party will also

be a time for us to make connections with local agencies and municipalities. We'll have activities for children and youth and hope to have lots of food as well. Email Pastor Warner ([stewwarner@outlook.com](mailto:stewwarner@outlook.com)) if you would like to serve on this team as we seek to be in mission to our surrounding community.

## Bringing your giving up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Have you considered supporting the ministries of Lansdale UMC through online or text giving rather than by check? It is an easy and secure way to give your gifts to LUMC and you can easily designate how your gift is to be used. Giving online or by text eliminates possible mailing delays in your check arriving at the church.

Entering this link, <https://lansdaleumc.org/giving>, on your computer will display the Giving page on the church's website. Scrolling down you will see Give Now (to give on your computer) or Give By Text (to give by text on your smart phone or tablet). Clicking either option will request the details of your gift.

If you have questions, please email [financialsecretary@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:financialsecretary@lansdaleumc.org) with Subject Online Giving, or call 215-692-0668 to speak with Warren Shaedle, or 215-206-8278 to speak with Jill Nickerson.

## New Horizons Adult Class

New Horizons will meet in-person in the Conference Room and complete our study of the book titled "The Heart That Grew Three Sizes" by Matt Rawle. This final session is titled "When Joy Is Our Song". All are welcome to join us immediately following the morning worship service.



## Message from Bishop Schol

Happy and Blessed New Year!

You have probably heard the saying "practice makes perfect." There is a lot of truth to that. Of course, if you are practicing the wrong thing, you may be perfecting the opposite of what you are trying to achieve.



In my experience, there are three things that I have found that helps me be better at something I do, particularly leadership: challenge, failure and practice.

A corporation wanted to better understand why some within their company excelled and were promoted and others did not. They studied all of their training and leadership development programs, both internal and external to the company. They studied bonus programs. They looked at particular supervisors and their success rates. They found none of these made the difference.

Instead, the common denominator was that those who excelled where those who were given a challenge and accomplished the challenge. They were then given a harder challenge and excelled. They found that those who excelled liked challenges and applied themselves to overcome the challenges. Good leaders like challenges. They see in the challenge opportunities to learn, excel and accomplish something for a greater outcome.

Life, ministry, the church have all been filled with challenges the last two years—more challenges than are reasonable and healthy. In this new year, focus on a couple of challenges that will make a difference for your ministry, family and community. Embrace these challenges as opportunities to learn, grow and help move the church's mission and your personal mission forward.

When I look back over my career in ministry, 43 years now, and identify when I grew the most, it was when I failed. It wasn't a book I read, a class I took, a workshop I attended. These are all important, but most helpful to me was when I failed and asked what can I learn from this and what will I do differently in the future. I have failed many times over my lifetime and my attitude was critical. Many times I was defensive. Not helpful. There were times when I looked to someone else to blame. Not helpful. There were times I tried to put a good spin on it. Not helpful. There were times I tried to hide it. Not helpful.

What was helpful was to apologize as appropriate, own my own mistakes, assess what I did and what I would do differently in the future. On a few occasions, I pursued outside help through a coach and even in a more challenging situation, a therapist. With God's help and when I was willing to face into my failures, I grew. Not by a little, but by a lot.

Today, I tell young clergy, fail early and often. Take risks. To employ this strategy, you have to have healthy people around you. Healthy people are people who reserve judgement, care about you, encourage you, support you and give you honest, thoughtful feedback. Healthy people are not always easily found. People who only tell you what you want to hear are not the type of healthy people you need. People who only blame or criticize are not healthy people.

When you understand and engage in taking on challenges and healthy failure, practice is beneficial. The best leaders practice. A gymnast's routine may only be minutes or even seconds but they practice for years. Anything worth doing well or worth becoming takes practice.

Leaders do not practice enough. Practicing leadership requires observing the best leaders, volunteering for challenges and mentally and emotionally going over what you do and how you do it. It involves looking at various scenarios and how you will respond. In the days leading up to an annual conference session, I run through my mind all of the things I might encounter and how I will handle them. In my leadership, I ask people what they might expect will occur and how they would handle something. I envision myself in the role and what and how I would engage, lead.

I still have a lot to learn about leadership. I believe leadership is a lifelong learning experience. In this new year, I continue to identify how to be empathetic in the midst of a pandemic, how to lead through difference in the midst of denominational challenges and how to equip leaders to be their best. I invite you to think about what challenges you will seek and what you practice so you can be the best for the mission, your family and the world.

Keep the faith!

John

Bishop John Schol  
The United Methodists of  
Eastern Pennsylvania & Greater New Jersey  
BishopJohnSchol@epaumc.org | 610-666-1442  
BishopJohnSchol@gnjumc.org | 732-359-1010

**The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church is made up of about 415 churches, which serve nearly 103,000 members in 16 counties. Led by Bishop John Schol, the Conference's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

## Conference and District News

Have you wondered what the United Methodist Church is doing? Have you heard stories about the UM church and wondered what's really going on? Do you want to know more about mission and ministry even beyond our local community? Then you can learn more through District and Conference news. LUMC is part of the East District and the Eastern PA Conference of the UMC. Here are links to the District and Conference news.

<https://www.epaumc.org/east-district/ea-district-e-alerts/>

EPA Conference News  
<https://www.epaumc.org/news/>



## Custodian Search Update

We've been searching for a new custodian since September. That's four months of searching. We actually started looking in August when we learned our custodian was resigning after 15 years of faithful service. We have setup interviews with two persons. Neither one worked out. We have met with at least 3-4 persons who indicated some interest in the job. None of these resulted in applications or interviews. We are searching for a new custodian in an unpredictable and uncertain job market where lots of people are leaving jobs.

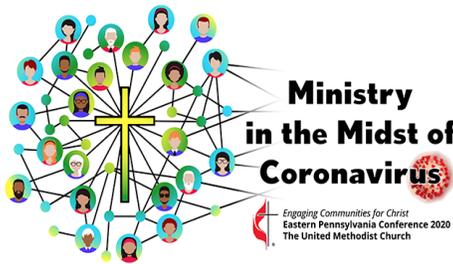
Trustees and SPR are continuing to work together to review and revise the job description. We covet any suggestions or recommendation you may have. Please continue to pray for God to lead us during this search. you've heard the news of numbers of employers who are having difficulty find people to work. Turns out LUMC is in this category as we continue to search for a church custodian. Let's give shout out and thanks to the members of the Trustees and other volunteers who have unlocked doors, cleaned rooms, done repairs, met with contractors, vacuumed carpets and so much more in the interim. We would be lost were it not for the dedication and contributions of time from these great volunteers.

SPR and Trustees are revisiting the custodian job description and salary as they look for ways to better attract a new person. Please continue to keep this custodian search in your prayers.

## Chancel Choir Join Us!



Practice sessions are on Thursdays at 6:45 pm in the Sanctuary. Anyone who likes to sing in the Chancel Choir is welcome. A flair and heart to sing for the Lord are the requirements to join.



## Eastern PA Conference Guidelines for Dealing with Omicron

The Eastern PA Conference office has put out an updated "Best Safety Practices during Increasing Covid Transmission" document in response to the rapidly spreading Omicron variant. You can view the document by clicking on [this link](#).

LUMC is already following the majority of this guidance. Trustees have reviewed the document and have made the following adjustments for the month of January.

- Continue to wear masks at all times when in the church building. Persons speaking from front of Sanctuary may remove masks when speaking but then put mask back on when not speaking.
- Social distancing. People sit in every other pew and keep six feet from any non-related persons.
- Plenty of hand sanitizer is located throughout the Narthex and Sanctuary for people to use.
- No meals, receptions, or activities that will involve people removing their masks and interacting with others for the month of January. We're hoping things calm down once the Christmas infections have passed.

Our goal is to provide a safe atmosphere for all who attend any church event here at LUMC. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Administrative Assistant Search

We are currently searching for an Administrative Assistant. This person is both Church Secretary and Assistant to the Pastor. This is a 23 hr/wk position. The job requires proficiency on the computer and with Microsoft Office programs, attention to details, ability to manage multiple projects, managing the church office, ordering supplies, maintenance of church databases, receptionist, working and coordinating with volunteer ministries, typing correspondence and documents. This person will also help update our online media i.e. Facebook & YouTube pages, as well as work with the volunteer website manager/coordinator. This person will also work closely with the Pastor and paid church staff to resource and coordinate volunteer ministry teams. Contact Pastor Warner ([stewwwarner@outlook.com](mailto:stewwwarner@outlook.com)) for salary information, a copy of the job description and a job application. Please share this information with your friends and contacts. We also ask for your prayers during this search.

### Church Office Temporarily Closed

Church office hours are temporarily suspended as we search for a new Admin. Please email Pastor Warner ahead of time if you need to contact the office. Pastor Warner's email and phone are always listed in the staff box at back of the Sunday bulletin.

### January Lay Readers

Jan 2 - Luann Ingram  
Jan 9 - Paul Bonner  
Jan 16 - Michele Dasch  
Jan 23 - Alex Holnick  
Jan 30 - Bill Cole

### Weekly Bulletin Announcement

If you have an announcement for the weekly bulletin, please e-mail it to the church office [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org) no later than Wednesday morning each week. Thank you.

### Monthly Circuit Rider Newsletter

Please send you articles to the church office [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

### Ways to give

1. Mail slot on 4<sup>th</sup> Street
2. Mail to church address
3. [www.lansdaleumc.org/giving](http://www.lansdaleumc.org/giving) on Realm
4. Text LansdaleFirstUMC to 73256





**May God grant you peace and answer all your prayers**

<p align="center"> <b>Lansdale United Methodist Church</b>  <b><i>Praising God – Making Disciples – Serving All</i></b>            300 N. Broad St, Lansdale, PA 19446            Phone 215-855-8364  <i>Email:</i>@lansdaleumc.org • <i>Website:</i> www.office@lansdaleumc.org  <i>Office Hours:</i> Closed Mon   T 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM   W/Th/F 8:30 AM - 2PM         </p>
<b>Servants</b>
Ministers - People of God
Bishop - John Schol
District Superintendent - Rev. Dr. Andrew Foster
Lead Pastor - Rev. Steward Warner email: <a href="mailto:stewwarner@outlook.com">stewwarner@outlook.com</a> - Phone:215-990-4581 (cell)
<b>Leadership</b> Paul Bonner – Lay Leader Kris Neild – Church Council Chair Darren Johnson – Treasurer Bob Kennedy – Trustee President Michelle Johnson – Staff Parish Relations Chair
<b>Staff</b> – Administrative Assistant Liz Bonner – Director of Christian Education Rays Koshy – Music Director Ruth Rineer – Organist - Custodian