

Circuit Rider

March 2023

Praising God • Making Disciples • Serving All

Lansdale United Methodist Church

300 N. Broad St., Lansdale, PA 19446

Website: www.lansdaleumc.org | email: office@lansdaleumc.org

Livestream worship Sunday mornings 9 am [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)

Lent - Easter Schedule	
2/22	Ash Wednesday Worship / Communion Imposition of Ashes
4/2	Palm Sunday
4/6	Holy Thursday Worship / Communion Tenebrae Drama
4/8	Children's Easter Egg Hunt
4/9	Easter Sunday Worship
4/16	Laity Sunday

Lenten Bible Study

This is a study titled "*The First Real Christian*" and it focuses on the Book of James. The author is J.D.Walt. We will meet six times for one hour. First meeting will be on Tuesday 2/21 at 7 P.M. in the library or conference room, then on each Wednesday at 7 P.M. On 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22 and 3/29 so Holy Week is free. This is a study that requires you to do some homework (not hard) between meetings but does not require any open sharing unless you are led to do so. Please contact Madeline Brown, at 678-435-5032, call/ text or email blockleygal@gmail.com by 2/14 so enough books can be ordered for each person. There is no charge for the books, but donations are accepted for LUMC missions.

Team to Plan Children's Easter Egg Hunt

We are looking for a team of folks to plan and run an Easter Egg Hunt for children on Saturday, April 8th. There will be a light breakfast provided, as well as family fun. Please contact Pastor Warner or Liz Bonner if you can help. There will be a planning meeting in the conference room on March 7th. We hope to see you there!

Order Your Easter Flowers

Forms are available for you to order your Easter flowers for Easter Sunday, April 9. These flowers will be used to decorate the Sanctuary for our Easter Sunday service. Please return your order form along with your check by no later than March 28th. Forms are available at the name tag table.



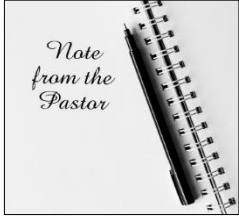
Holy Thursday

The Tenebrae, service has a long established tradition. Tenebrae means "Shadows." We will share in Holy Communion and then relive the last hours of Jesus's life. Service is April 6, at 7PM in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday

Come celebrate the resurrection of Jesus the Christ from the dead. The choir and Brass Band will lead us in our time of celebration of the new life God offers us through Jesus Christ.

Note from the Pastor



Questions, are they a sign of a weak faith or are our questions a sign that God cares and is open to being in dialogue with us. Moses, Abraham, Sarah, David, Esther, Elijah, Jesus Disciples, and many other people of faith have questioned God. Faith is not the absence of questions. Faith is trusting God even in the midst of our questions.

We've spent the past six months gathering questions people have about God, faith, and church. Thirty-one questions were submitted. These questions came from people in LUMC congregation. People from some of my previous congregations saw the Facebook post about the series and they submitted questions. Some people who haven't attended here for a while submitted questions. Questions came from people from young adults to senior citizens, men and women. I'm thankful to all of you who have submitted questions.

I'll be preaching on most of the questions but we were also privileged to have our D.S., Rev. Dr. Andrew Foster, III, kickoff the series on the last Sunday of February as he preached his message on "Which Part are You?" He reminded us we are followers of Jesus Christ first. And that denominations come and go but Christ is our center and focus.

Palm Sunday we will address questions about cremation and the After Life. We are entertaining the possibility of having Warren F. Miller III from Huff & Lajker funeral home attend and participate in a question and answer session after worship. I also had the opportunity to interview Warren. He allowed me to make a video recording of our session. I'll integrate some of our time into the sermon. And I was also surprised when a young adult from another church emailed me a copy of a paper he had written about people's attitudes toward burial vs. cremations.

Here are the topics and the weeks they'll be covered.

2/26 - *The UMC - Dealing with Differences and Conflict*
3/5 - *Temptation and Forgiveness*
3/12 - *God, Church, and State*
3/19 - *Biblical Contrast Between O.T. and N.T.*
3/26 - *Facing Challenges and Difficulties*
4/2 - *Cremation, Heaven, the After Life, and Salvation*

Talk with your friends about this series. Invite someone to attend. Lots of people today have questions and opinions about God, church, and faith. Listen to the sermon then discuss these topics in a small group or in one of our Sunday School Classes. Start a short-term small group of neighbors and friends. You can view the sermon on YouTube or Facebook and then follow with discussion on the top.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stew".

Nursery Attendant Search

We are continuing to look for a second person to staff the Infant/Toddler nursery. Donna Fritz has been hired as one of the attendants. We are looking for an additional person to help support her. We have already seen a couple families taking advantage of the nursery since Donna began running the nursery in August. Contact the church office for an application.

New Church Directory

We received more revisions than we anticipated, now that Ally is back in the office this week, we plan on having the Final version of the Church Directory ready on March 12. Thank you for your input and patience during this process.

Block Party Planning Team Meetings

We have already begun planning for the Community Block Party which will be held on the lawn and parking lot of LUMC on Saturday, September 16, 2023, 12 noon – 4 pm. You are invited to come and participate in the planning meetings. Meeting dates are 7 PM in the church Conference room on Wednesday evenings:
April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12.

Summer Camps for Children & Youth

Our Eastern PA Conference of the UMC offers three Christian Camps to reach and serve children, youth and adults. Pre-Covid, more than 4,000 children and youth attended summer camps. And more than 15,000 children, youth, and adults attended and participate in Christian retreats throughout the year. Summer camp registration is now open. Visit one of the websites below to learn about the many camps that we offer. You can also register online. LUMC will contribute \$50 per person for any child or youth from LUMC that attends one of the camps. Contact Pastor Warner to take advantage of this \$50 gift.

- *Camp Innabah* www.innabah.org
- *Gretna Glen* www.gretnaglen.org
- *Pocono Plateau* www.poconoplateau.org
- *Carson Simpson Farm* www.csfarm.org



Souper Bowl Thank You

Thank you for bringing in Soup for Manna on Main Street food bank. Our LUMC congregation donated 252 lbs of meat based soup!



WAWA Coupons

Looking for an easy gift idea that never expires and is loved by everyone? Wawa coupons are your answer. LUMC's own United Women in Faith are selling Wawa coupons good for one "shorti". They are a great bargain and still just \$5.00 a piece! The profits from each sale goes to our mission budget which supports both local and global missions. Contact Maryellen Reinmiller at 215-913-1666 to place your order.



Redner's Receipts

United Women in Faith (UMW) is still collecting Redner's receipts which are tallied and submitted to Redner's. In return we receive 1% of our totals by check. This is one of our "fund-raisers", which we use to donate monies to local/international mission organizations. You must use your Redner's Store Card when you shop and turn in the whole receipt by putting it in the "phone booth" near the stairs to the sanctuary. Thank you all for participating. Contact Marilyn Snyder at 215-393-5583, with any questions.

MLK Memorial to the Lost

Thank you to everyone involved in the installation, and tear down of the Heeding God's Call- Memorial to the Lost t-shirt display. We would also like to thank those that made sure the luminaries were out every night, who stopped on their way into the building to fix a windblown shirt, and anyone that put their time and effort into this wonderful project. We are looking forward to partnering with Heeding again in the spring, for another gun violence awareness event in Lansdale!



Thank You from Helen Foelker

Since I have been at Birches Assisted Living, I want to thank everyone for your thoughts and prayers. Also, for the get well and birthday cards. A special thank you for the Christmas Carolers that came during the holiday season. Thank you to Maryellen Reinmiller and Marilyn Rau for bringing me communion and visiting. I really appreciated the visits from Janet Harper and Joan Johnson.

Missions



Help Build Hope

What a great way to start the year – by building hope! Some of you may remember that we supported the building of a home last April at Bethel Hill UMC! It is again being coordinated by Bethel Hill UMC. It is being co-chaired by Les Brown and Ken Dickinson. As in the past, it is being supported by our Southern Montgomery County Mission Link. It allows us to address the needs of the homeless. In one weekend, we will construct the walls for a complete home, which will then be erected at another site (by an organization such as Habitat for Humanity).

Last year's home was transported to Kentucky, and erected in an area devastated by a tornado. While it is only one home, the HBH organization has similar builds across the country. Most weekends it has more than one build being accomplished. So if you add the numbers up, in the past few years we have been part of a ministry providing hundreds of homes for the homeless! But it occurs one home at a time.

April 15, is our time to build. Now is our time to pray, and give our financial support for this ministry! As you know building material costs have soared over the last year, but the good news is that we have been blessed, to be a blessing! What we support now will become reality, a blessing for someone in need, in a few months! While we are asking for your prayers and gifts now, on the Saturday after Easter, April 15 (save the date), there will be an opportunity for your presence, service and witness as we build all the walls for a home, and fill the studs with scripture and words of blessings, which will surround all those living in it.

HBH will guide us as we build the walls of a house in the parking lot of Bethel Hill on the weekend after Easter. It is a service project that prefabs all the exterior and interior walls of a future home.

1. Apr 14th - All the lumber is delivered. A team of about 25 more skilled people cut and label every piece of wood needed for the build. This is done outside, using 4 saws, provided by the HBH ministry. All tools required are provided. We only supply the material and labor.
2. Apr 15th – The work is to be done outside by 100 or more people. They are divided into several small teams of adults and youth. Each small team will build sections of walls that will then be assembled into a complete house. Since all lumber is already cut to length, only hammers are needed to build the walls. Individuals can bring their favorite hammer, but HBH will provide hammers for those that need them. Safety equipment (gloves, and eye protection should also be provided by individuals). The walls are then tacked together, so that we all see how it will be assembled on its final site. Again, HBH provides the plans and procedures. We provide the material and labor. In March there will be an electronic sign-up to identify the work team, and then relay detailed information.
3. Apr 16th – there will be a dedication service. At the end we are encouraged to write words of scripture and encouragement inside the studs of the walls. Then the "house" is disassembled into the individual wall sections. Next they are loaded on a flatbed truck and delivered to a work site. There they will be erected, and finished by installing wiring, plumbing and a roof, by an organization such as Habitat For Humanity.

Please remain in prayer for the project and save the dates. I trust that you will be generous with your support of our prayers and gifts for this mission project. It is a way that You can Help Build Hope.

Missions



The Blue Envelope for March will support UMCOR (One Great Hour of Sharing). Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to provide hope for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity.

UMCOR Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for UMCOR. The special offering on this Sunday underwrites UMCOR's "cost of doing business" making it possible for UMCOR to focus on responding to communities and individuals when they need immediate assistance. It allows UMCOR to preserve the promise that 100% of any donation to a specific UMCOR project or missionary will go towards that project and not administrative cost. UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities and to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times.

UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases and poverty, assists refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and works to reduce hunger. UMCOR doesn't just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR builds relationships and helps communities rebuild, in the years following a disaster.

UMCOR would be unable to do this work without your support. By covering the operational cost on UMCOR Sunday, you equip the organization to respond when hope and safety is needed most. You strengthen the ministry and secure our ability for UMCOR to share God's love with communities everywhere.



2023 Missions Monthly Emphasis

January – Manna on Main Street
February – UMCOR Disaster Relief
March – UMCOR Sunday
April – Support for Camps Innabah | Pocono Plateau
May – Vacation Bible School
June – Family Promise
July – Laurel House
August – Liberty Ministries
September – Oak Park- Christmas
October - UMCOR
November – Red Bird
December – St. John UMC- Native American

Christian Education

Spring is almost here! This means longer days, warmer weather, and flowers blooming. It also means Easter is almost upon us! In Sunday School and Jr. Church, the children have been learning about the life of Christ. They have been exploring the parables that Jesus taught the people to help explain the kingdom of heaven and God's plan for them. Now, as we enter Lent, the children will be walking through the last week of Jesus' life, from Palm Sunday through Easter. Each week we will be exploring the events that led Jesus from a triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to hanging on a cross as a criminal, to resurrecting and appearing to the women and the disciples! A lot can happen in a week!

We are excited to announce that there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children this year! Please join us on Saturday (4/8) morning for a fun family event that will include a light breakfast. Please bring your friends and neighbors! Everyone is welcome! We need help to make this a success! There will be a meeting to help plan it this coming Tuesday, March 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. I hope to see you all there! Please see Liz Bonner for more info!



Prayer Pretzels made in Junior Church



Soap Carvings of the Cross made in Sunday School.

Conference and District News

East District News

[https://www.epaumc.org/eastdistrict/ea-district-e-
alrets/](https://www.epaumc.org/eastdistrict/ea-district-e-
alrets/)

EPA Conference News

<https://www.epaumc.org/news/>

Souper Bowl Thank You

Here is a thank you from Bishop Schol to all EPA and GNJ churches who collected and donated soup to local food banks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLsZ1AEa3c>

Ways to Give

1. Mail slot on 4th Street
2. Mail to church address
3. www.lansdaleumc.org/giving on Realm
4. Text LansdaleFirstUMC to 73256

Next Newsletter

The next Circuit Rider newsletter will come out in April. Please send your articles to the church office by March 15, 2023.

Month	Liturgists	Ushers
March		
5	Luann Ingram	Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silknitter
12	Liz Bonner	Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper
19	Michelle Johnson	Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller, Luann Ingram
26	Paul Bonner	Barry McGuire, Neil Hagenbuch, Bob Kennedy, Alan Dickel
April		
2	Alex Holnick	Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silknitter
9	Michele Dasch	Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper
16	Luann Ingram	Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller, Luann Ingram
23	Liz Bonner	Barry McGuire, Neil Hagenbuch, Bob Kennedy, Alan Dickel
30	Michelle Johnson	Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper

*Are you interested in helping as a Sunday morning Lay Reader who reads the Call to Worship,
Opening Prayer and Scripture?*