

# Circuit Rider

May 2023

*Praising God • Making Disciples • Serving All*

Lansdale United Methodist Church

300 N. Broad St., Lansdale, PA 19446

Website: <https://lansdaleumc.org> | Email: [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org)

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

## April 22<sup>nd</sup> Church Workday

We had a very productive Work Day on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. 11 LUMC members showed up to address several projects that needed attention. We were able to repair downspouts on Broad Street, scrape and paint windows on Broad Street, clean the Front Church sign. We also replaced lights throughout the church, including exit signs. We fertilized the lawn and trimmed bushes, defrosted the freezer in the kitchen. Put safety tape on the steps in the choir area. Repaired in the men's room, replaced filters in the A/C units. Cleaned some carpets, and wiped down the sanctuary. We really appreciate the efforts of the following members who participated: John Dasch, Mike Nickerson, Kris Neild, Doris Shaedle, Marilyn Snyder, Mark Reinmiller, Paul Bonner, Ed and Luann Ingram, and Bob and Cathy Kennedy.





### **Note from the Pastor**

Adding new people changes things. I remember being appointed to a church years ago that used to be one of the larger churches in town but had dwindled down to about

40 people at the time of my appointment. People often told me stories about the days when the church used to be full and there were lots of children. But people gradually moved out of the city as more Latinos moved into the city. The church attendance declined slowly over the years. Some people moved out of the city but continued to drive into the city for Sunday worship while most switched to suburban churches outside the city.

It took some time, but we embraced being a city church and believed God had called us to serve the city, not run from it. We hired a young Latino lay pastor to lead a Spanish worship service. That service grew rapidly. We hired custodians who were Black and Hispanic. We began a neighborhood picnic and packed our parking lot with several hundred people from the community. We began an inner-city summer day camp with the help of Gretna Glen staff. We reached more than 80 children from the community around the church. Our church leadership also became more diverse. The church grew from 40 people to close to 100 people by the time I was moved to another church.

The story is not always positive though. There are stories of churches who refuse to reach out and connect with the surrounding community. Some churches become exclusive clubs rather than communities of people seeking to follow Christ. And many of these churches would rather die than change or invite and welcome new people.

We here at Lansdale UMC have made a commitment to serving and following Jesus Christ here in Lansdale. We have a 150+ year history of doing this. One of the city leaders told me that Lansdale has been changing for the good economically and population wise. Lansdale is a diverse community of many different racial and ethnic groups. New apartments are being built. New shops and businesses are coming to downtown Lansdale.

Our congregation is reaching out as we connected with the Historical Society to celebrate 150+ years in

this community. We are working with Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence. We started a community block party following the end of the pandemic. We had a wonderful Children's Easter Egg Hunt with more than 100 people in attendance, more than fifty of them were children.

Change is always difficult. There's no getting around the anxiety that comes with change. The desire to hold on to or return to the past is a natural human desire. Looking at life and ministry with new eyes is hard and requires that we be open to seeing new possibilities God places before us. I'm reminded that Jesus recruited 12 disciples who came from various backgrounds. The disciples often misunderstood Jesus' goals and purpose. They fought and argued with each other. And they even abandoned Jesus at his great time of need when Jesus was arrested and eventually crucified on the cross. Yet the post resurrection Jesus also appeared to the disciples when they hid behind locked doors fearing for their lives. Jesus sent these same disciples out to the then known world to share the message of God's love and grace.

God continues to call and challenge us to connect with our community to share the grace and love of Jesus the Christ. It's been great traveling this journey with you these past two years. I look forward to seeing what else God will be doing through LUMC in the coming years.

### **New Member / Inquirer Class**

Pastor Warner will be leading another New Member / Inquirer Class for people who would like to become members here at LUMC and for people who want to know more about LUMC ministries. The class will be held on a Sunday afternoon 12-3 pm. Meeting date will be determined based on people who sign-up for the class. We're looking at mid-May. Please email Pastor Warner ([stewwarner@outlook.com](mailto:stewwarner@outlook.com)) if you would like to be part of this class.

### **Block Party Planning Team**

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, from 12 PM to 4 PM. You are invited to come and participate in the planning meetings. Meeting dates are 7PM in the church conference room on Wednesday evenings: April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12.

## Confirmation Update

Koshy Thalakal, his father Rays, and Pastor Warner attended Confirmation Camp at Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center, April 21-23. They joined with 50 other youth and 20 adults to explore what it means to be a part of the body of Christ in the UM Church. Saturday afternoon, our church joined with a couple of other churches to visit the Mission Central Hub at Emmanuel UMC in Cleona, PA. The youth put together over 200 Health Kits that will be distributed around the country to people who are in need.



## Safe Sanctuaries Update

The UMC has made a commitment to providing a safe environment for children and youth in the church. Background checks for staff and volunteers is a significant part of this commitment. All staff and volunteers are required to renew their background checks every five years. This means criminal and child abuse checks. Paid staff are also required to complete an FBI fingerprint check. Covid closures have thrown us all off track. It is time to make sure background checks are up to date now that we have begun to become more active again. This means volunteers and paid staff need to renew your background checks if you are coming up to the five-year mark or if your previous check is longer than five years. Ally, Administrative Assistant, will be contacting you if you need to renew your clearances. Clearances can be done online or by paper forms. Ally will provide the necessary information to you. Thank you for helping us provide a safe environment for children and youth here at LUMC.

## 2023 Student Scholarships

All members of Lansdale UMC who are attending college for the 2023-2024 school year are eligible to apply for the following Scholarships:

- *Stevenson Scholarship- Awarded to any student*
- *Slyh Scholarship - Student pursuing a Nursing Degree*
- *Roth Scholarship - Student pursuing a Degree in Ministry*
- *Ruthrauff Scholarship - Student pursuing a Degree in Architecture*

Applications should be completed and emailed by May 21, 2023. Click the following link

<https://lansdaleumc.org/2021-scholarships/> to access the Scholarships Application. Please contact [john@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:john@lansdaleumc.org) with any questions.

## VBS Planning Meetings

Decorating and Planning fun nights for this July's VBS are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM in Stringer Auditorium. 5/31, 6/5, 6/28, and 7/5. For more information please contact Liz Bonner at (215) 353-0965 or [lumceducation@verizon.net](mailto:lumceducation@verizon.net)

## Summer Camps for Children & Youth

Our Eastern PA Conference of the UM 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 participated 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](http://www.innabah.org)
- *Gretna Glen* [www.gretnaglen.org](http://www.gretnaglen.org)
- *Pocono Plateau* [www.poconoplateau.com](http://www.poconoplateau.com)
- *Carson Simpson Farm* [www.csfarm.org](http://www.csfarm.org)

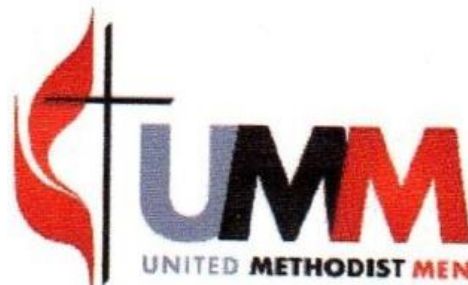


## WAWA Coupons

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% 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.



## 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

November 10, 11 & 12,  
2023

**THEME: "Distortion"**

*How we sometimes have a distorted view of  
God, ourselves, and our church/community.*

**Special Guest Speaker:** The Rev. Zachary  
Hopple, Christ UMC

**LOCATION:** CAMP INNABAH - 712  
Pughtown Rd Spring City Pa. 19475  
**COST:** \$145.00 (for the weekend) /  
\$120.00 (one night with meals)  
\$50.00 (Saturday Only with meals)

**ALL MEN & FRIENDS  
WELCOME**

See Poster in Stringer Lobby & on UMM Bulletin  
Board

Contact Ed Hartmann at (215) 896-3399 or email  
him at [edhart3399@gmail.com](mailto:edhart3399@gmail.com) for more  
information.

## Children's Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast

On April 8, LUMC hosted a Children's Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast. We had more than 100 people in attendance and more than 50 of them were children. Not only did we have breakfast and an egg hunt- but Angela Buckley also read a quick Easter Story to the children during breakfast. This Easter Egg hunt was not only for church members, but for friends, family and neighbors. A big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped stuff eggs, decorate Stringer hall, get the different rooms ready for hiding eggs, set up and serve breakfast and help facilitate the egg hunting. Of course, a big thank you goes out to "Miss Liz" Bonner, who planned and orchestrated the event! The egg hunt was a success, and children of all ages got to share in some Easter fun.



*By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.  
1 Corinthians 6:14*

*Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.  
Proverbs 22:6*

# Missions

## **Gun Violence Awareness Day, May 21, 2023**

As a follow-up to the Memorial to the Lost display of T-shirts in February, we are working on a Gun Violence Awareness Day. Every day brings new stories of lives lost to gun violence. We need to continue our efforts to remember those who lost their lives and the families who grieve their loss. Our action can help end the senseless violence if we can persuade our legislators to pass sensible gun laws.

We can do this through our Witness Walk through Lansdale, from St. John's UCC to Trinity Lutheran Church. The walk will begin with a brief service and prayer at St. John's UCC and the walk will continue on the sidewalk approximately one-half mile to Trinity Lutheran Church.

On the walk, participants may carry signs with words or phrases and images that carry the message of our goal to end gun violence in our society today. On Saturday, May 20, a sign/poster party will be held from 10 to 11:30 a. m. at Salford Mennonite Church. All are welcome to join the party and lend their creative skills to design signs or posters to carry on the Witness Walk. Contact Jill Nickerson (215 206 8278) or Luann Ingram (267 446 6840) if you wish to join the party.

At the end of the walk, we will have a Remembrance Service and engage in advocacy by signing letters for our state and federal legislators calling for common sense gun laws. It was encouraging to see the great support we had for MLK Day of Action; let's support the Witness Walk in the same way to get the message out that gun violence must stop.

Area faith communities that have been working with us in planning the day include Trinity Lutheran Church, St. John's UCC, Salford Mennonite Church, Renew Community, Plains Mennonite Church, and Christ Covenant Church. Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence, the faith-based and grassroots organization headquartered in Philadelphia, has been our sponsor and partner in this effort. We thank the Director Bryan Miller and volunteers Eleanor Carroll and Rev. David Brown for their guidance and assistance along the way.

Contact the Church Office [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org) or Verna Colliver [vmcolliver@gmail.com](mailto:vmcolliver@gmail.com) for more information.

## **American Red Cross Blood Drives**

The American Red Cross provides about 40% of our nation's blood and blood cell components, making it a vital source to hospitals and their patients. The need for blood is in constant demand. Please consider donating blood at one of the three following American Red Cross blood drives hosted at LUMC and help to potentially save a life.

LUMC will be partnering with the American Red Cross to host 3 blood drives in 2023. The dates are June 19 from 12 PM to 7 PM, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 12 PM to 7 PM and November 27 from 12 PM to 7 PM. The drawl site will be in Stringer Hall.

Please sign up to donate online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-Red-Cross.



## **2023 Missions Monthly Emphasis**

January- Manna on Main Street  
February - UMCOR Disaster Relief  
March - UMCOR Sunday  
April - Support for 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



**Monday July 10-13, 2023**

**6:00 PM- Light Dinner Served**

**6:30 PM - 8:00 PM VBS**

**Volunteers Needed!**

**Register online:**

**<https://lansdale-united-methodist-church.mycokesburyvbs.com>**

Contact Liz Bonner or LUMC Church Office with any questions

Liz Bonner - [lumceducation@verizon.net](mailto:lumceducation@verizon.net)

Church office - [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org)

# District | Conference News

## East District News

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

## EPA Conference News

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

## 2023 Annual Conference Theme Video

[EPA Annual Conference 2023 Theme Announcement](#)

## 2023 Annual Conference Information Website

<https://www.epaumc.org/2023-annual-conference/>



## EPA Annual Conference Meets in May

The Eastern PA Annual Conference is meeting Thursday May 18 – Saturday May 20, 2023 at the Oaks Conference Center. Close to 900 lay and clergy delegates from churches around Eastern PA Conference will meet to worship, vote on issues facing the conference and local churches, and to do mission outreach. The conference is led by Bishop John Schol. Verna Colliver and Pastor Warner are delegates from LUMC. Please keep the bishop and conference delegates in prayer.

**Annual East District Conference** will be held at St. John's United Methodist Church in Ivyland on Sunday, May 7 at 3PM. This is an opportunity for clergy and laity to come together to discuss important matters and explore the God-sized possibilities for our district's future. RSVP no later than Wednesday, May 3. To RSVP: <https://member.gnjumc.org/default.aspx?page=3352&occurrenceId=367&profileId=1067>

## 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

## Next Newsletter

The next Circuit Rider newsletter will come out in June. Please send your articles to the church office at [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org) by May 20, 2023.

Month	Liturgists	Ushers
<u>May</u>		
7	Paul Bonner	Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silknitter
14	Alex Holnick	Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper
21	Michele Dasch	Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller
28	Luann Ingram	Barry McGuire, Neil Hagenbuch, Bob Kennedy, Alan Dickel
<u>June</u>		
5	Luann Ingram	Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silknitter
11	Liz Bonner	Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper
18	Michele Dasch	Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller
25	Paul Bonner	Barry McGuire, Neil Hagenbuch, Bob Kennedy, Alan Dickel

# Directory Updates

*Please print or remove this page and place into your church directory. We will update this list as needed throughout the year. You can email the church office at [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org) with any updates or changes that you may have. Thank you.*

## May 2023 Updates

*Betty Starrett*

3844 W Vista Ave  
C/O Sandy Davis  
Phoenix, AZ 85051-6479

*David & Lynn Whitman*

15253 Windward Lane  
Lancaster, SC 29720

*Donna Millman*

74 Elm St, Apt 4.  
Sellersville, PA 18960  
267-897-3020  
[millmandonnag@gmail.com](mailto:millmandonnag@gmail.com)

<p align="center"><b>Lansdale United Methodist Church</b>  <i>Praising God – Making Disciples – Serving All</i>            300 N. Broad St, Lansdale, PA 19446 Phone: 215-855-8364            Email: <a href="mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org">office@lansdaleumc.org</a> • Website: <a href="https://lansdaleumc.org">https://lansdaleumc.org</a>            Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM</p>	
<b>Servants</b>	
Ministers – People of God	
Bishop John Schol	
District Superintendent – Rev. Dr. Andrew Foster	
Lead Pastor – Rev. Steward Warner <a href="mailto:stewwarner@outlook.com">stewwarner@outlook.com</a> 215-990-4581 (cell)	
<p align="center"><b>Leadership</b></p> <p>Paul Bonner – Lay Leader            Kris Neild – Church Council Chair            Darren Johnson – Treasurer            Bob Kennedy – Trustee President            Michelle Johnson – Staff Parish Relations Chair</p>	<p align="center"><b>Staff</b></p> <p>Ally Hediger - Administrative Assistant            Liz Bonner – Director of Christian Education            Rays Koshy – Music Director            Ruth Rineer – Organist            Paul Bonner – Custodian            Donna Fritz – Nursery Attendant</p>