

Circuit Rider

June | July 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

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



Confirmation

Congratulations to Koshy Thalakal on his Confirmation Sunday, June 4. Koshy has met with Pastor Warner from February through May exploring his faith as he met with Pastor Warner. Koshy's Confirmation Sponsor was Joe Millman. The two met over meals to talk about faith and life. A special thank you to Koshy's father, Rays, who drove the 1 ½ hour round trip to bring Koshy to church for Confirmation meetings. Koshy and his father Rays, also attended Confirmation Camp at Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center in April. They joined with 60 youth and 20 adults from other churches across Eastern PA. Please pray for Koshy as he continues his journey of faith with Jesus Christ.

VBS Planning Meetings

Decorating and Planning fun nights for this July's VBS are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM in Stringer Auditorium. 6/7, 6/21, 6/28, and 7/5. For more information, please contact Liz Bonner at (215) 353-0965 or lumceducation@verizon.net

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: June 14, July 12.

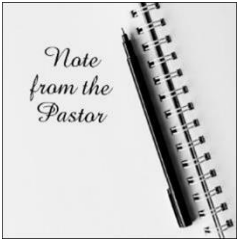
New Member / Inquirer Class

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 Sunday, July 23 from 12:00 PM -3:30 PM. Please email Pastor Warner (stewwarner@outlook.com) if you would like to be part of this class.

Lansdale UMC bowling team that bowls in the Inter-Church Bowling League



From left to right: Steve Holnick, Doris Shaedle, Ashley Whitmill, Alex Holnick and Aura Lee Varell.



Note from the Pastor

Franklin D. Roosevelt served three full year terms and a portion of a fourth term as president of the United States of America. He was first elected March 4, 1933 and died April 12, 1945 during his

fourth term as president. Roosevelt came to the presidency following the Great Depression and helped revive the economy. He was also president when Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941 and led the U.S. response. Roosevelt's administration was responsible for the New Deal that also marked the start of Social Security. There was tremendous opposition to Social Security at the time, but Roosevelt prevailed. Today Social Security, with all it's issues and problems, is an established part of our U.S. expectations for senior citizens.

I've been reading a number of biographies of presidents and other historical characters. One of the things that stands out is that every period of time has its challenges. Many of the great leaders in history became great because of their responses to difficult and challenging situations. Abraham Lincoln's life is a wonderful story of triumph over multiple failures and difficulties. He could even be called the "accidental president" as his nomination to the presidency came about as a compromise between political leaders. Many people tend to complain about how bad things are in today's world. Generations before us have had similar complaints. Yet every generation has had people who challenged the status quo and who stood up for justice and compassion toward people. Jesus has given us a wonderful model of *"Thy Kingdom come here on earth as it is in heaven"* from the Lord's prayer. What does it mean for God's kingdom to come here on earth? What is our role in helping this kingdom of God become a reality? How do we as a church model the kingdom of God?

Jesus has already given us a glimpse of the Kingdom of God and he invites and challenges us to follow his example. Jesus gives us the model of compassion, forgiveness, justice, grace, and more. Tod Bolsinger writes, *"when an organization feels stress, the default behavior of most organizational leaders is to solve the problems for our organizations rather than change our organizations for meeting the needs of the world."* Kindle Loc 282. Bolsinger is telling us that groups facing difficulty usually face inward rather than outward during stressful and difficult times. And this

inward focus often leads to the death or end of an organization.

Jesus' model for us is to reach out, recognizing that we also grow strong inwardly when we have an outward focus. How is God call us here at LUMC to reach out? How do we become more inviting? How do we connect with our community to meet needs in our area? How do we build better and stronger connections that help us meet the needs of children and youth?

These are some of the questions I'm asking myself as I prayerfully seek God's guidance for our congregation. Will you pray with me? Let's continue to open our hearts, minds, and attitudes, to the movement of God's Holy Spirit and see what happens next. Let's become willing to take a bold leap into the unknown and sometimes scary future as we trust God to empower and lead us.

Pastor Warner on Vacation

Pastor Warner will be on vacation June 15 – July 4. He will return to the office on July 5. Part of his vacation will include his annual week-long motorcycle ride. This year he will be riding to Rochester, NY and enjoying the sites in the area. Please keep Pastor Warner in prayer during this time of rest and restoration. Call Ally at the church office (215) 855-8364 with any emergencies, and she will pass along to the on-call Pastors, Pastor Zach Hopple and Pastor Tawny Bernhardt of CUMC. Thank you!

Special Speakers Coming Up

We are excited to have three different speakers while Pastor Warner is on vacation.

June 18 – Director of Music, Rays Koshy will lead worship.

June 25 – Deacon Debra Neild will preach on "Rocks"

July 2 – Director of Christian Education Liz Bonner will share her faith story.

Summer Giving

Summer is that wonderful time when we change gears and seek to rest and travel. Just a reminder that ministry here at LUMC continues during the summer months along with the costs involved. We're getting ready for Children's Vacation Bible School in July and prepping for the Fall Community Block party. We are also preparing to host homeless families here in September. The air-conditioning gets turned on to make the building comfortable. Recovery groups are meeting here weekly. So ministry continues even while the pace changes and people are traveling. You can still support these ministries through your giving support online even while you are traveling and away. Follow this link <https://lansdaleumc.org/giving/> to give online. You can also setup automatic gifts online with the church or through your bank. Contact Jill Nickerson nickerson66@msn.com or Warren Shaedle wshaedle29@gmail.com if you would like information on how to setup online giving through Realm online giving.

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
- *Gretna Glen* www.gretnaglen.org
- *Pocono Plateau* www.poconoplateau.com
- *Carson Simpson Farm* www.csfarm.org



North Penn Area Scholarship Fund association awards over \$35,000 to local North Penn Area High School Seniors

On Wednesday, May 24, 2023, the North Penn Area Scholarship Fund Association, Inc. (NPASFA) scholarship committee formally recognized 29 North Penn area high school seniors, and awarded over \$35,000 in scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year. The sixty-seventh annual awards ceremony and reception was held at the Lansdale United Methodist Church in Stringer Fellowship Hall.

Since 1956, the Association has been providing higher education financial assistance to high school seniors who reside within the boundaries of the North Penn School District regardless of which high school they attend. Several of the awards were presented by the donors, and/or representatives from the companies and organizations who have made these scholarships possible. The number of scholarships and their amount vary each year depending upon the results of annual fund-raising activities. More than \$1,291,000 to 1425 students have been awarded since the inception of the Association.

Recipients of this year's scholarships are students from Dock Mennonite Academy, Gwynedd Mercy Academy, Lansdale Catholic High School, La Salle College High School, Mount Saint Joseph's Academy, North Montco Technical Career Center and North Penn High School.

The North Penn Area Scholarship Fund Association is a non-profit organization. Through the continued generous contributions of many local businesses, organizations and individuals, each year more students are finding their financial burden a little lighter.



Gun Violence Awareness Witness Walk

The Witness Walk that took place in Lansdale on Sunday, May 21st, was AWESOME! More than 9 faith communities were represented and approximately 258 people showed up and walked down Main Street to let the community know that we are putting our faith into action. It was an impressive sight when the Walk crossed Main Street to return to Trinity Lutheran Church and both sides of Main Street were crowded with people holding signs about gun violence. Many of the motorists, shopkeepers, and pedestrians that we passed voiced their support of our Witness Walk. Perhaps we motivated someone else to use their voice to speak out against gun violence. Many thanks to Pastor Stew and Verna Colliver for working on this Walk since last August! Thanks also to Rays Koshy for his wonderful musical leadership during the event and to Holly Kennedy (Bob & Cathy Kennedy – proud grandparents!) for her beautiful saxophone solos at the end of the Walk. *The Reporter Article* [Lansdale gun violence march sends a message \(thereporteronline.com\)](http://thereporteronline.com)

"The Witness walk was wonderful! It was such a joy to be a part of a diverse group of people who have many differences, but one common goal to reduce gun violence and to let the community see this."
Madeline Brown

"I was honored to be part of the GVA Witness Walk. I struggle to understand why our law makers have dragged their feet on passing laws to protect innocent people who are victims of gun violence. The need to protect oneself with guns and the needless act of hurting others with guns do not fit. Automatic rifles are not meant for hunting or for any other personal use. I grew up on a farm where hunting small game was a way of life but never imagined powerful automatic rifles were a part of our "rights." My feelings about how guns are being used today and how we seem to be at a stalemate in finding a sensible way to regulate guns aside, I was proud to be part of the community of faith in the Lansdale area that is taking a stand for those who have fallen. It was encouraging to see that the people at LUMC are not alone in the way we see this social issue with an estimated 250 in attendance of the Witness Walk. The waves, honks, and high fives that we received indicated that others were in agreement that laws must be changed to prevent more deaths due to gun violence in our community. "
Luann Ingram

"As someone who has lost a loved one to senseless gun violence, I was honored to be a part of this Witness Walk. I was extremely proud to be a part of the Lansdale Community, and was pleasantly surprised to see such a diverse group of people come together to support this important cause."
Ally Hediger

"Both Cathy and I were pleasantly surprised at the turnout. Also, the signs seemed to make an impression on people, mostly supportive, but some negative drivers going past. A great event to be part of."
Bob and Cathy Kennedy



Congratulations Graduates of 2023

Haley Harper will be graduating from Dock Mennonite Academy. She will be attending Misericordia University and studying Nursing. Haley will also be playing field hockey.



Megan Neild will be graduating from North Penn Highschool. She will be attending Temple University and studying Communications.



Scholarships for 2023

The Slyh Scholarship is awarded to any student pursuing a career in Allied Health. (Nursing, Medical Technology, etc)

The Stevenson Scholarship is awarded to any student who is pursuing higher education post high school.

Scholarship Recipients

Haley Harper- Slyh Scholarship
Megan Neild- Stevenson Scholarship
Samantha Wylie- Stevenson Scholarship
Zoeh John- Stevenson Scholarship

Missions



The blue envelope for June will support Family Promise. The former Inter-Faith Housing Alliance adopted the name Family Promise Montco PA! in 2022.

A coalition of faith-based organizations within the Montgomery County community helped to establish the Interfaith Hospitality Network in 1989. In 1995, the organization expanded to meet community needs by establishing Hope Gardens and took on the name Inter-Faith Housing Alliance in 2002 to reflect this expansion. The long-term transitional housing program at Hope Gardens provides an opportunity for families to resolve their homelessness through intensive case management and life skills training while having access to safe, stable housing and support for basic needs.

The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is Family Promise Montco PA's emergency shelter program. The Network provides Montgomery County families with children who are experiencing homelessness with a safe place to stay, along with supportive services, for approximately 90 days.

Twenty-six "host" and "buddy" congregations house and support our families for one month each year at their places of worship. Families are provided with comfortable accommodations in classrooms converted to bedrooms or other safe spaces. Volunteers from the congregation, who typically contribute more than 3,000 hours of their time each year, prepare and share meals, provide overnight assistance, and help with transportation. Many volunteers make special connections to our families, often providing a level of genuine intrinsic support that bolsters our families and brings them further into a community that is invested in their success.



The blue envelope for July will support Laurel House. Laurel House is a comprehensive domestic violence agency serving individuals, families, and communities throughout Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The agency's first program, a domestic violence shelter for abused women and their children, was founded by the Women's Center of Montgomery County in 1980. Since that time, Laurel House has become a comprehensive domestic violence agency. In addition to emergency shelter, Laurel House offers: a 24-hour hotline, a textline, transitional housing, a children's program, individual and group counseling, medical advocacy, legal representation and advocacy, crisis response, law enforcement collaboration, as well as community education and prevention efforts.

Their current funding sustains existing operations but, the costs of maintaining the shelter in a building that is over 100 years old increase each year. The building is inadequate to provide protection and services. Laurel House's current shelter provides a haven for many victims of domestic abuse and their children each year but, Laurel House purchased a building in Lansdale, PA, so that it can relocate its current shelter and expand support services. This new building will be known as the Safe Haven Center. The Safe Haven Center will increase their capacity and accessibility and provide much-needed enhancements in design, security, and amenities. This new, secure, and easily accessible facility will house an emergency shelter, which is the only one in the county, as well as some supportive services for domestic violence victims and their children. We have been supporting Laurel House for several years.

Missions



12th

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 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 1 PM to 6 PM, August 28th from 12 PM to 7 PM and November 27 from 12 PM to 7 PM. The draw site will be in Stringer Hall.

Please sign up to donate online at
www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-Red-Cross.



2023 Missions Monthly Emphasis

January- Manna on Main Street
February - UMCOR Disaster Relief *raised \$50.00*
March - UMCOR Sunday *raised \$130.00*
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

Church office - office@lansdaleumc.org

District | Conference News



Annual Conference Update By: Verna Colliver

Annual Conference this year held a special excitement because clergy and laity came together in person for the first time in three years. In his opening address, Bishop Schol praised God for the United Methodists of Pennsylvania who overcame the challenges of the pandemic and expressed hope for the future. "I see great possibility in our future and our greatest possibility is through our congregations," he said.

The session also held a tone of uncertainty over what lies ahead for our conference and denomination in light of the division over the unresolved issue of homosexuality. Two resolutions presented to the body for a vote added a feeling of loss and disappointment. Both resolutions, one for the closure of five churches and the other for the disaffiliation of five churches, were approved by the body.

The usual business of the conference included voting for leadership of agencies and committees of the conference, for clergy compensation and other clergy related items, for Advanced Special offerings, and for resolutions related to various issues such as Safe Sanctuaries, Vulnerable Adults, Jury Justice, and Human Trafficking.

A key resolution centered on the Strategic Direction plan relating to the affiliation of Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference with the Greater New Jersey

Annual Conference into one episcopal area presided over by Bishop John Schol. After some discussion and

debate, the resolution passed, but the 2024 Budget Resolution to support the plans laid out in the Strategic Direction raised questions from the floor and, with a limited time for debate, voting on the budget was tabled to be addressed in a special session after Annual Conference. No date was set for the special session.

Memorable highlights of conference sessions included opening worship with uplifting music and an inspiring sermon on the conference theme, "Possibility," by James Lee, Director of Communications for the United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey.

A teaching session led by Enger Muteteke, of the General Commission on Religion and Race, focused on "systemic racism, implicit bias and their impact on ministry efforts."

Other highlights included the service honoring retirees and the memorial service remembering clergy members and spouses who died in the past year. The culmination of Annual Conference was the moving ordination service when four candidates were presented to be commissioned or ordained as elders.

If you want to know more, you can watch all sessions, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, on YouTube—19+ hours! Recordings of the full session are viewable on the EPA Annual Conference web page:

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

Or read a brief Summary with photos here:

<https://www.epaumc.org/news/brief-summary-of-epa-2023-annual-conference/>

Or watch a short video of Annual Conference highlights, produced by EPA's Corbin Payne:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tebFR2mc8cA>

Verna Colliver

Lay Member of Annual Conference

Committee on Native American Ministry (CoNAM) joins Harrisburg rally for Lenape of PA state recognition

Verna Coliver is a leader in ConNam. She and others joined together in Harrisburg to rally for Lenape of PA state recognition. You can read the article by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.epaumc.org/news/conam-joins-harrisburg-rally-for-lenape-of-pa-state-recognition/>



District | Conference News

East District News

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

EPA Conference News

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

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 August
Please send your articles to the church office at
office@lansdaleumc.org by July 15, 2023.

Month	Liturgists	Ushers
<u>June</u>		
4	Paul Bonner	Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silknitter
11	Alex Holnick	Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper
18	Luann Ingram	Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller
25	Michele Dasch	Barry McGuire, Neil Hagenbuch, Bob Kennedy, Alan Dickel
<u>July</u>		
2	Alex Holnick	Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silknitter
9	Michele Dasch	Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper
16	Paul Bonner	Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller
23	Verna Colliver	Barry McGuire, Neil Hagenbuch, Bob Kennedy, Alan Dickel
30	Luann Ingram	Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller

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 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

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

