

# Circuit Rider

September 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](#)

## Vitality Questions from Pathways

1. What are 3-4 strengths or really good things going on at LUMC?
2. Think of a ministry or activity that serves either the congregation or the community very well.
3. Is there a ministry or a need in the congregation or community that could be done better?
4. Do you see any common threads that run through all these that point to opportunities we have to move forward?

We are now asking you as a congregation, new, long-term, visitors, youth, and adults to give us your feedback on these questions. The questions are attached to this month's Newsletter. Also, there are copies in the Sanctuary. Please take some time to reflect on and respond to these questions. Forms are available on the church Facebook page as well as the website <https://lansdaleumc.org>. Please drop off, mail, or email your responses to the church office [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org) on or before September 6.

We will compile the responses and share them with the team and with you as a congregation. Thank you ahead of time for your participation and help with this process.



## Block Party Planning Meeting



The last Block Party Planning Meeting will take place, Wednesday September 6, at 7 PM in the Conference Room. There are also sign-up sheets in the narthex for volunteers to help with set up, tear down, mingling with the

## Community Block Party

community guests and various tasks during the Block Party.

The Children will be hosting a craft table at the Block Party. We will be painting rocks! Some will be placed around the church grounds and others the children



will be able to take home to keep at their own houses. This activity will be open to everyone at the block party, not just children. So come on over and check us out at the block party on September 16, from noon to 4 PM. It is sure to be a ton of fun!



## Note from the Pastor



The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is a day for parades in communities around this country. People take time to celebrate our independence. We are reminded that our country is a place of opportunity for all people and a place for religious and cultural tolerance. We don't always live up to these ideals.

Sometimes we make progress toward making them a reality. Other times we take steps backwards and move further from this reality. Our country has never been perfect. We have and will continue to have growing pains, success, and failures.

I decided to attend a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in our area. I couldn't find a parade in Lansdale, so I went to North Wales to see the parade there. I passed a church while walking to the center of town and was intrigued by the sign on the church lawn. It is no longer a church. The church closed some time ago and was purchased by the Borough of North Wales. The building is now being used as a community center. This reminded me of other churches I've seen over the years that have closed and been turned into community centers or art galleries.



I did a Google search for "*churches converted to community centers.*" There is a long list of churches across the country that have closed and have been converted into community centers.

Here are a couple of titles that were listed:

- Historic city churches find new life as neighborhood centers
- Sacred spaces: Church buildings repurposed as community hubs
- Let's revive empty churches as vibrant community hubs
- Losing My Religion (But Not the Building)

These churches were once vibrant and active yet for many different reasons, they have closed. I've noticed, from my limited perspective, that many churches that close have become isolated from the communities in which they are located. Church begin to face inward and prioritize those on the inside while insulating themselves from people and needs outside the church. Many people in the community don't even realize these churches exist.

Church congregations face many challenges today. The rapid pace of change presents new and sometimes frustrating challenges and issues for the church today. And, I'm also reminded that the church is not the building itself. We the people, followers of Jesus the Christ, are the church. The church building has always been a tool to help us fulfill our ministry and purpose. Many people begin to worship and care more for the building than they do for our faith in Jesus Christ. Churches get into trouble over time when the building becomes the priority rather than the instrument to help us share the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

*Stew*

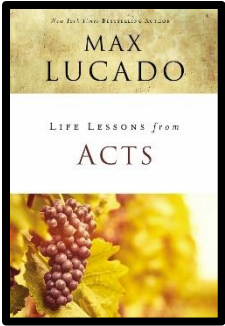
## Boiler Update

By Bob Kennedy

Hertler HVAC will start to remove the old boilers on Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup>. They are aware of our Block Party on September 16, and they will not interfere with it. The new equipment is scheduled to arrive on the 18<sup>th</sup>, they are expecting to complete the installation in 2 to 3 weeks, depending on any potential complications with our existing support system.



## Acts Sermon Series and Small Groups



Pastor Warner will be preaching a twelve-week sermon series on the book of Acts beginning in October. He will use the book "Life Lessons from Acts: Christ's Church in the World," by Max Lucado. Acts tells the story of the beginning of the Christian Church after Jesus' death and resurrection. The series will begin the first Sunday of

October. You are encouraged to purchase and read the book. He will also lead a weekly study series on Wednesday's (1 afternoon & 1 evening group). Let Pastor Warner know if you would like to participate in a study group.

## Chancel Choir- Join Us!

Practice Sessions are on Thursday evenings at 6:45 PM in the Sanctuary. Anyone who likes to sing and would like to join our LUMC Chancel Choir is welcome. A flair and heart to sing for the Lord are the only requirements to join.



## College Student Care Package Teams



We want to support and encourage college students from LUMC and let them know that we are thinking about and praying for them. We'd like to send care packages to them. We're looking for a group of people to organize and put together care

packages for college students. Let Pastor Warner know if you can help again if you were part of the team last year. New people are also welcome to join the team. We'll talk about contents and dates to send the packages when we have our first meeting. A meeting date will be set once we know who this year's team members are. Please contact Pastor Warner if you would like to be part of this team to encourage and support college students from LUMC.

## Crafters Wanted!

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Craft Fair will be held in Stringer Auditorium on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you are a crafter and interested in participating, please contact Doris Shaedle, at 215-692-0667 or Nancy Silkknitter, at 215-368-4025. Cost of a table is \$15. Registration forms are located on the bulletin board outside of Stringer Auditorium. You can also email us at [craftfair@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:craftfair@lansdaleumc.org). You can drop off or mail your completed registration forms to the Church Office at [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org). Please share this information with your friends and family. Proceeds from the Craft Fair support our United Women in Faith.



## UMF (UMW) Receipts

Just a reminder. If you are turning in receipts from Redner's, it must be the entire receipt and you must use your store card when you shop so the correct info is on the receipt. I was unable to use 9 receipts last week (😞). Thank you for participating!- Marilyn Snyder

## Nursery Attendant Search

We are continuing to look for a second person to staff the Infant/Toddler nursery. Donna Fritz is our attendant. We are looking for an additional person to help support her. Contact the church office at [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org) or (215) 855-8364 for an application if you are interested in this position.



## Lay Readers

If you are interested in reading Scripture during Worship on Sundays, please contact Ally in the church office at [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org)



# Missions

## The September Missions Blue Envelope

**Emphasis** is designated for Oak Park Elementary School. Christmas gifts for needy families will be sponsored with children in elementary school & younger for 2023. By your donating in September, we will be able to let the school know how many children we can sponsor this year from LUMC. Names of families are confidential, and we will purchase items or gift cards from wish lists we receive. Please help to support our adopted school with this project this year and make some local children have a happy holiday. Contact Barb Hartmann at ebhartmann1722@gmail.com for any questions, not Oak Park Elementary.



## 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 Camps  
May - Vacation Bible School  
June - Family Promise  
July - Laurel House  
*August - Liberty Ministries*  
September - Oak Park Elementary School- Christmas  
October - UMCOR  
November - Red Bird Mission  
December - St. John UMC- Native American

## LUMC Housing 3 Families for September



Lansdale UMC will be working with Inter-Faith Housing Alliance, or as we know it, Family Promise, to house three homeless families in our building during the month of September (8/29 – 9/30).

This is a wonderful opportunity for outreach for our congregation.

Since we last hosted in November the food program has been changed to only include meals for the families on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays. The families will be able to use other resources for the remaining days' food needs. We will gladly accept gift cards for meals and/or gas for the families as a way to participate in this mission as well.

Drivers *may* be needed to transport the families to and from the day facility in Ambler. At this time, the families all have their own transportation, but this may change at any time during the month. We will need to have volunteers ready if the need for drivers becomes necessary.

Watch for sign-ups for the following in August:

- Volunteers to Move-out on 9/30

These sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex of the church. You can also email the church office or Bob Kennedy (trusteepresident@lansdaleumc.org) to help. For questions see Bob Kennedy, Cathy Kennedy, Marilyn Snyder or Luann Ingram.



Family Promise Move In- Tuesday August 29

*Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to provide meals and transportation.*

# Missions



## CROP Hunger Walk- North Penn Area

The Crop Walk for our North Penn/ Lansdale Area will be taking place on Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for a volunteer to organize and promote this event. We are also looking for walkers this year, let Pastor Warner or Ally in the Church Office know if you are able to walk. Our church has participated in the CROP Walk to End Hunger for many years.

The website will give resources:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023>.

## 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 for it's last of 3 blood drives in 2023. The final blood drive will be taking place in Stringer Hall. The date is Monday, November 27 from 1 PM to 6 PM.

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



12<sup>th</sup>

## ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

November 10-12, 2023

**THEME: "Distortion"**

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

**Special Guest Speaker:**

The Rev. Zachary Hoppie, 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.



# Christian Education

## *September Means Sunday School Starts!*

### Children's Sunday School



Summer is coming to an end and the children are heading back to school. This also means we will be going back to Sunday School too! September 10, will be the kick off for the Children's Sunday School Class.

Please come on out and be a part of one of our fun classes. The children's Sunday School Class will be meeting downstairs during the month of September, while Family Promise families are occupying the rooms.

JR Church will continue to meet downstairs during the Sunday Worship service. We invite all children ages kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade to come and join us in the fun on Sunday mornings!

*Liz Bonner, Director of Christian Education*



### Adult Sunday School Classes

- **Upper Room Class**

We will begin meeting on September 17 in the Upper Room classroom (second floor above the Library). Our first study will be Resilient: Restoring the Weary Soul. Led by Darren Johnson

- **New Horizons Fellowship Class**

Our class will begin meeting on September 17 in room A206 above the kitchen. We will discuss selected chapters from the book Fearless by Max Lucado. Maryellen Reinmiller will lead the discussion on the 17<sup>th</sup>, entitled I'm Sinking Fast - Fear of Overwhelming Challenges. All are welcome. Led by Warren Shaedle

- **Wesleyan Class**

Our class will begin meeting in the upstairs classroom after morning worship on September 10. Our class discussions will be based on the lectionary readings for each Sunday and focus on relevant current topics. All are welcome. Led by Verna Collier



# District News | Schedules

## East District News

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

## EPA Conference News

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

## Welcome New Members:

New Members joined August 27, 2023



### ***Esau Collins***

Transfer from  
New Life UMC  
Drexel Hill, PA



### ***Paul Howard***

Transfer from  
UMC of The Redeemer  
Philadelphia, PA

## 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 October. Please send your articles to the church office at [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org) by September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Month	Liturgists	Ushers
<u>September</u>		
3	Michele Dasch	Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silknitter
10	Liz Bonner	Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper
17	Paul Bonner	Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller
24	Verna Colliver	Barry McGuire, Neil Hagenbuch, Bob Kennedy, Alan Dickel
<u>October</u>		
1	Michelle Johnson	Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silknitter
8	Luann Ingram	Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper
15	Alex Holnick	Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller
22	Paul Bonner	Barry McGuire, Neil Hagenbuch, Bob Kennedy, Alan Dickel
29	Michele Dasch	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 Address Changes

*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)

## August 2023 Address Changes

*Esau and Gladys Collins*  
112 Church Road Apt 20K  
North Wales, PA 19446

*Paul Howard and Stephanie Jones*  
(Henry and Penelope)  
21 N. Richardson Avenue  
Lansdale, PA 19446

*Darren and Michelle Johnson*  
357 Apian Way  
Trappe, PA 19426

## July 2023 Address Changes

*Jane Bradford*  
2343 Bethlehem Pike  
Apt 300  
Hatfield, PA 19440  
(215) 872-2852

*Ally Hediger*  
4103 Bethlehem Pike  
Telford, PA 18964

*Joe Millman (Temporary)*  
West Rockville Nursing Home  
Room 212  
3520 State Road  
Sellersville, PA 18960



<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 align="center">           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 align="center">           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>