

# Circuit Rider

August 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](#)

## August Congregational Meeting

Church Council will hold a congregational meeting on Sunday, August 13 at 10:15 AM immediately following worship to consider a redistribution of funds to help us meet ministry expenses. Council will propose a plan to move funds from three different areas to meet ministry expenses.

\$15,057 from balance remaining in the Covid-19

Impact Fund

\$4,000 from the Library fund

\$1,700 from the Living Water Service fund

\$20,757 Total (estimated amount)

Monthly expenses tend to be around \$26,000 each month. Total monthly income is around \$18-19,000 per month. We typically make up income shortfalls around Easter and in December of each year around Christmas.

Church Council wants to move the above funds into the budget to meet ministry expenses. The August meeting is an attempt to be transparent and to test the will of the congregation around taking these steps. Please plan to attend the August 13 meeting. Any other second mile giving over and above your regular giving will also be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving.



## New Boiler

The boiler that provides heat for the church broke down and stopped working several times this past winter leaving the building with no heat. The boiler is more than 30 years old, so many of the parts are no longer available. The Trustees have worked very hard to keep the boiler running and to get it repaired multiple times. The decision was made to replace the boiler. The new boiler will be replaced this August. Parts have been on order and the boiler will be installed this summer before we get to the cold winter months.

## Block Party Music Search

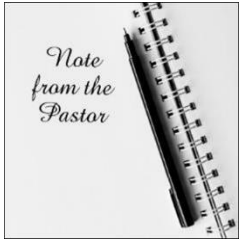
Our community block party is coming up quickly this September, Saturday 9/16 from 12 noon to 4 PM. We are looking for local person(s), band(s), that can provide music during the block party. Please contact Pastor Warner [stewwarner@outlook.com](mailto:stewwarner@outlook.com) if you know of anyone who might be able to provide live music.



## Block Party Planning Meetings

- Wednesday August 2, 7 PM
- Wednesday August 16, 7 PM
- Wednesday September 6, 7 PM

## Note from the Pastor



How do you measure vitality? That's a question many of us ask as we grow older. Our bodies change and our outlook on life changes with maturity. While at the same time, we admire the energy of youth, the idealism, the sense of invulnerability. How do we remain vital as we grow and change?

Exercise is an important factor in remaining vital, whether we are young or older. Sitting down and eating junk food decreases our energy and vitality. We need to get up and keep moving. Movement is essential.

Reading, learning new skills and hobbies, are also ways we can continue to be vital. Filling our minds with new experiences and ideas refreshes and renews us. Failure to read and to seek new experiences can leave us stagnant. Our brains also need exercise.

So how do churches remain vital? How do congregations avoid becoming stagnant? I've heard people say that if someone from the 50's travelled to some of our churches, they wouldn't see anything new in some churches who have remained the same even though the world has changed dramatically.

LUMC has entered into a process called Pathways. The EPA website describes this process as, "*Pathways to Congregational Fruitfulness & Health offers a menu of intentional processes congregations can use to prepare, assess, learn and grow in their understanding of what it means to be a healthy, fruitful congregation.*" <https://www.epaumc.org/news/step-into-pathways-now-available-on-epas-website/>

Pathways looks at five areas that deal with church vitality.

1. Growing a Vital Mission Congregation
2. Sustainability
3. A Path Toward Wholeness Training and Planning
4. Re-Envisioning Space / Property Development
5. Conflict Resolution

While each of these areas is important, congregations are asked to choose one area to focus on. Our congregation is focusing on the area, "*Growing a Vital Mission Congregation.*" This is our focus and we will also continue to work on the other areas as well.

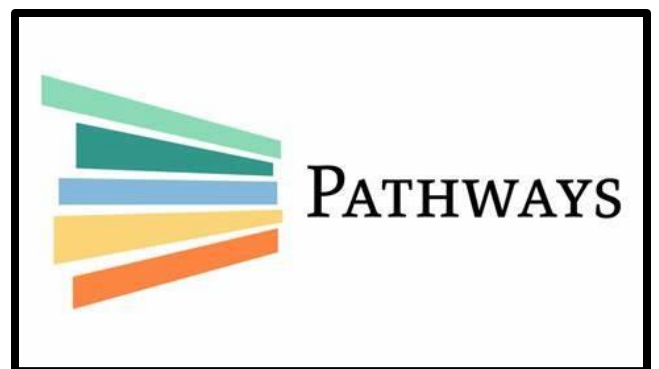
We had our first meeting with our Pathways facilitator, Rev. Brad Leight, on July 25, 2023. Rev. Leight asked the Pathways team to respond to four questions.

### 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 included on a separate sheet in this newsletter. Please take some time to reflect on and respond to these questions. Please drop off, mail, or email your responses to the church office [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org) on or before August 21. 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.

*The Pathways Team: Shweta David, Kathy Herbert, Maya Koshy, Pat McNamara, Lance Patterson, Nancy Sweigert, Pastor Steward Warner*



## 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 had Children's Vacation Bible School in July and are currently 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](mailto:nickerson66@msn.com) or Warren Shaedle [wshaedle29@gmail.com](mailto:wshaedle29@gmail.com) if you would like information on how to setup online giving through Realm online giving.

## College Student Care Package Teams

We want to support and encourage college students from LUMC and let them know 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 persons are also welcome to join the team. We'll talk about contents and dates to send the packages when we have our first meeting. 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.



## 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

## 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, 215-692-0667 or Nancy Silkmitter, 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). Please share this information with your friends and family. Proceeds from the Craft Fair support our United Women in Faith.



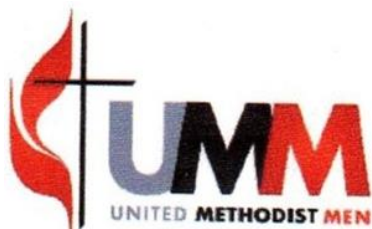
## Nursery Attendant Search

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. We have seen a couple of families taking advantage of the nursery since Donna began running the nursery in August 2022. Contact the church office for an application.

## Thank you from Joe Millman

I would like to thank all who have sent cards and visited me during my over 2 month hospital and rehab journey. I am getting better! Your prayers are most appreciated! God is Good!- Joe Millman





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.



## 2023 Children's VBS Pictures



*Thank you to Miss Liz and all the  
volunteers who helped to make Hero  
Hotline Children's Vacation Bible School  
such a fun time for all of the children!*



# Christian Education

I'm sitting here, on the last day of July, reflecting on what an awesome month it has been. A major part of it was Vacation Bible School. We had such an amazing week. We had 13 children attend. You may think that's not very many but let me tell you about how God answers prayers. The Sunday of VBS week we had 8 children registered. We prayed in church for God to send us more children. That day and the next morning we received 5 new registrations!! Wow, talk about God hearing us when we pray!!

We also had the most amazing volunteers! From making decorations, planning, and preparing meals, leading children to the different areas, Story Tellers, Game leaders, and Arts and Crafts helpers, we were hopping! There were over 25 people that made up our VBS team! Thank you to everyone that helped in any way. What an amazing church we have! God is good!!

Summer is in full swing, and children have been attending Jr. Church during the Service hour. We recently started a new series about "Saul" and how God changed him, and even gave him a new name- "Paul". Saul was such a feared man, who persecuted any early Christian he could find. So, when he all of the sudden tells everyone he has changed, and wants to spread the message of Jesus, people don't quite trust him. Isn't that true, even today? When we know someone who has been mean, and hurt us, it's hard to build that trust again! Paul proved to be such an important witness for Christ! Every time he left a city, he wrote a letter of encouragement to the citizens, to encourage them in their faith. These became important books of the New Testament. We will be following the travels of Paul and all the cities and people he shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with.

Sunday School will be starting in September, and so will school! We will be having a "Back to School Blessing" and children's sermon on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> during the 9:00 Service. We ask that all children Pre-school through College attend and receive a blessing and a gift to start off their year! Stay tuned to the bulletin for more details!



# Missions



## Prison Ministry Donation

By: Mark Reinmiller

On Thursday July 27, 2023 Pastor Stew and I went to prison. Actually, we went to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility to meet with Chaplain Kevin Bone. Marilyn Schneider, Coordinator for Prison Ministry for EPA Conference has been assisting the Chaplain with funding for various needs. Chaplain Bone is the only Chaplain for the approximately 900 inmates and does not have a budget to purchase items such as Bibles or self-help books. He had reached out to Marilyn Schneider regarding purchasing books titled *Experiences of Grief* which deals with the loss of loved ones. Pastor Stew purchased copies of this book, which we delivered during our visit.

We learned that inmates are given items such as a small bar of soap, tube of toothpaste, and one pair of underwear when entering the facility and must purchase additional items through the commissary, where prices are relatively expensive. Marilyn informed us that they are promoting a program (see <https://www.epaumc.org/news/epa-prison-ministry-launches-toiletry-bowl-donation-campaign/>). As an example, **six** 6 ounce tubes of toothpaste can be purchased for \$9.94 (At the commissary **one** 6 ounce tube ranges from \$3.27 to \$6.62 as of October 2022). This program is not connected to our support for Liberty Ministries, but if you desire to support this ministry you can do so through the above link.

Chaplain Bone and Marilyn Schneider also praised Liberty Ministries for the good work that they do for inmates at the prison and after their release. Liberty Ministries also coordinates volunteer activities at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. If anyone has a desire to get involved in prison ministries, Liberty Ministries, Marilyn Schneider, or Chaplain Bone could provide further 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 2 blood drives in 2023, in Stringer Hall. The dates are:

- August 28<sup>th</sup> from 12 PM to 7 PM
- November 27 from 12 PM to 7 PM.

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 *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

# Missions



## Help Needed to House Homeless Families in September

Lansdale UMC will be working with Inter-Faith Housing Alliance, or as we know it, Family Promise, to house (up to) 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:

- AM drivers
- PM drivers
- People to provide dinners to be dropped off at the church
- Donations of money and/or gift cards for food or gas
  - Donations can be electronically accepted through Realm
- Volunteers to Move-in on 8/29 and 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.



The Blue Envelope for August will support **Liberty Ministries**. Liberty Ministries was established in 1980 to serve the inmate populations of Montgomery County Correctional Facility and the State Correctional Institution at Graterford. Since that time, Liberty Ministries has positively impacted thousands of men and women inmates and ex-inmates with the teaching of the Word of God, spiritual, physical and emotional support, and the life changing power of Jesus Christ. Today Liberty Ministries maintains Liberty House, a dormitory style residence for men, recently released from prison, who enroll in a twelve month educational and discipleship program. Over 160 volunteers visit men and women in prison on a monthly basis teaching, training, mentoring, and preparing men and women for life outside of prison. Liberty Ministries also maintains five thrift stores which offer excellent values to our customers, while providing financial support for the ministry.

"Liberty Ministries exists to serve offenders in prison and ex-offenders in the community by showing God's love, providing practical assistance and supporting biblical standards of justice."

Sadly, over 65% of those who go to prison will return within a year or two because nothing has really changed for the good. Most prisoners receive minimal assistance for their addictions, counseling for their wounds, or the vocational assistance that could help them make a positive difference in their lives and the lives of their families.

Liberty Ministries is committed to providing the resources, tools, and training that these men and women need to turn their life around. Working inside the prisons and in our after-care residential facilities, our team of skilled chaplains, counselors and mentors engage these men and women in a variety of ways. From addiction counseling and support groups, to vocational training, to spiritual development, to character-directed therapy, our programs invest into the lives of those stuck in addiction and crime.



# District News | Schedules

## East District News

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

## EPA Conference News

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

## Hear God's Whisper at Laity Academy #2, August 4-5

United Methodists of Eastern PA may hear God's still, small voice speak to their minds and hearts with new knowledge and fertile aspirations when they attend EPA's annual Laity Academy August 4-5, at Eastern University in St. Davids. The nine courses offered—including four new courses—comprise the core Christ Servant Ministry categories of Speaking, Leading and Caring, along with the Basic Course. **Learn more.**

<https://www.epaumc.org/news/hear-god-speak-at-laity-academy-2-august-4-5/>

## 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 September. Please send your articles to the church office at [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org) by August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Month	Liturgists	Ushers
<u>August</u>		
6	Liz Bonner	Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silknitter
13	Michelle Johnson	Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper
20	Paul Bonner	Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller
27	Alex Holnick	Barry McGuire, Neil Hagenbuch, Bob Kennedy, Alan Dickel
<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	Luann Ingram	Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller
24	Verna Colliver	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)

## July 2023 Address Changes

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

*Ally Hediger*  
4103 Bethlehem Pike  
Telford, PA 1896

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

## Deaths

*Dick Lehman*  
July 3, 2023

<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>