



Circuit Rider

December 2023 | January 2024

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

Live streamed Worship Sunday mornings at 9 AM Facebook or YouTube

2023 Advent | Christmas Schedule

- 12/3 *Communion*
10:15 AM Hanging the Greens & Luncheon
- 12/10 12:30 PM Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins
- 12/24 9 AM Worship
- 12/24 4 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Children's Choir Singing
Children's Sermon
- 12/24 7 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Adult Choir & Brass Band



Family Hanging of the Greens and Light Luncheon Sunday, December 3

Everyone is invited to the annual Hanging of the Greens service followed by a light luncheon! Directly following our service on December 3rd, we will join together to decorate the beautiful sanctuary. After this, we will head into Stringer Auditorium for a festive light luncheon and traditional singing of the 12 Days of Christmas! All are welcome, make sure to bring friends and family, it will be very child friendly! Please sign up for this fun event so that we plan accordingly. Questions? Contact Maryellen Reinmiller at 215-913-1666.



Christmas Eve Worship

Yes, there will be a Sunday morning worship service at 9 am on Christmas Eve. We had contemplated canceling Sunday morning worship since we would be having two Christmas

Eve worship services that same evening because Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year. We asked for feedback, and you gave us some great responses. Two primary responses were 1) what happens if a new person comes to worship Sunday morning and the doors are locked, and 2) Some people aren't able to drive when it is dark outside so it would be good to have a morning service for folks. Thank you for your feedback and insights. We will have one 9 am regular worship along with 4 pm and 7 pm Christmas eve services December 24.

Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins

Calling all carolers and junior carolers! We will be meeting earlier than scheduled! Please be in Stringer Auditorium by 12:30pm on Sunday, December 10th. We will have pizza and drinks available. Make sure to mark the sign-up sheet if you are able to join us for food so that we can order enough. We will be dividing into 2 groups, handing out song sheets, and a sheet with addresses we will be visiting. Carpools will be arranged. We will need to leave by 1pm. We plan to be back at LUMC by at least 5pm. All are invited to stay after and walk to a Live Nativity at Lansdale Baptist Church which is planned for 5:30pm.



Note from the Pastor

This is my first ever addendum to a sermon. I preached on Acts 15:1-11 the last Sunday of November. The first rendition of the sermon seemed to be pretty much the same thing I had

preached just a couple months earlier. I was looking for a different angle or approach to the same theme and nothing was coming. I was drawing a blank. I knew I couldn't stand up on Sunday and say, "I've got nothing new for you today." And I worried someone would call me on preaching a very similar sermon just weeks earlier.

Then it came to me as I wondered who today's Gentiles are. Acts shares the story of how Paul challenged the Christian church to reach out to outsiders called Gentiles. I wondered who our modern-day Gentiles are. And several stories from past ministries and churches came to mind as I shared how God led churches and groups to reach out to the Gentiles of today. I didn't tie that point up as tightly as I would have liked.

Then I went on to share some stories I've already shared in past sermons anyway. Now here's the cool thing. Several people came up to me that day and also later in the week with some feedback about the sermon. One person asked me what the point of the sermon was. Others told me I'd shared the same stories before. And there were other comments shared with me as well. All of these people shared in a compassionate way. None of them seemed to come across as mean or critical. And I already knew it was a badly put together sermon.

I prayed and worked through the sermon all week and nothing was coming. I had already committed to preaching on Lucado's book and this was the chapter for the week. So I couldn't change topics like I might have done in the past. And I figured I couldn't stand up front and say, "I got nothing this week."

There was a time in my life when I really dreaded preaching a sermon people thought was really good. Then I felt the pressure that every sermon had to be

great and that's just not possible. Then I went through times when I felt horrible when I preached a really bad sermon because I thought I was a failure. Today I reflect on words from Pastor Adam Hamilton that I heard him share many years ago. He shared how he faced a similar dilemma when preaching. Then he came to the conclusion that about 40% of his sermons would be really good. Then a smaller percentage would be "okay." And that an even smaller number of sermons would be duds. I'm not sure I got the percentages correct, but what I do remember is that life is like baseball where a batting average over 300 is good and that no one bats 1,000 and not even 500. Success 1/3 of the time is actually pretty good. I had to accept the duds as well as the successes.

I also learned that it's important to deal with any issues that may be going on in our lives because they will come out one way or the other. God spoke to me that day and pointed to some issues I needed to face and deal with. I'd been letting them fester inside of me rather than dealing with them head on. The failed sermon that morning was a much-needed kick in the butt for me. I went on to face and deal with the issues I'd been putting off and ignoring and felt a wonderful freedom afterward. Problems still remain but I'd taken some concrete steps to move forward and placed things into God's hands.

Sometimes we just have to show up and the results may not always be what we hope for. Sometimes things work out well. Sometimes things bomb and we fail. Both success and failure are part of life. And so is showing up. Not everything is going to happen the way we wish. Not everything will be a huge success. And sometimes things go poorly. And we always have the option to choose whether or not to show up.

I'm thankful for people who were willing to be honest with me in a loving and non-demeaning way. People who cared enough to tell me how I came across, and also tell me they cared about me. This is what Christian community is all about. Loving one another. Caring for each other. Being honest and supportive of each other. And recognizing that God loves us even when we fail and mess up.



Children's Christmas Choir

Hey budding carollers and little songbirds! With the joyous season of Christmas approaching, we are thrilled to extend a warm invitation to all little ones to be a part of our special Christmas Children's Choir. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to experience the magic of the season and share the gift of music with our congregation. Children's Choir practice will be about 10 minutes long at 9:45 AM in the Junior Church Room (Room A103) Audio for the song is linked here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDpcnjFwsJU> for children to practice. Please contact Liz, Rays or Laural

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias

Forms are available for you to order your Christmas Poinsettias for Christmas Eve. These Poinsettias will be used to decorate the Sanctuary for our three Christmas Eve services (9 AM, 4 PM and 7 PM). Please return your order form along with your check on or before Wednesday, December 13, 2023.



Wawa Coupons

Looking for an easy Christmas gift? Our United Methodist Women of Faith group sell Wawa "shorti" coupons for \$5 each. All the profits go to our UMWF missions budget. Any funds we raise are distributed to both local and international charities that we support. Contact Maryellen Reinmiller @ 215-913-1666 or maryellen.reinmiller101@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to order coupons.

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 for an application

Pastor Warner on Vacation

Pastor Warner will be on vacation January 2-15. He will return to the office on January 16. Pastor Warner was originally planning to travel to Israel with Bishop Schol, clergy, and others. The trip was canceled due to the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas. Pastor Warner is now taking this time for rest and renewal following the Christmas season.



2024 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelope boxes for 2024 are being prepared and will be available to congregants for pickup at the church in mid-December. Picking up your envelopes will help us to save on postage. Your envelope giving number for 2024 may differ from your 2023 giving number as the number of members who use boxed offering envelopes has changed. If you give through Realm, via text or other on-line method, you will not receive a boxed set of envelopes. Please email your questions / concerns to financialsecretary@lansdaleumc.org

John Wesley Covenant Communion

Deacon Debra Neild will be preaching. We will begin 2024 with communion on the first Sunday of the year, January 7, 2024. The communion service will be an adaptation of John Wesley's Covenant Communion Service. Come and begin this new year with the powerful spiritual insights from this moving liturgy by John Wesley.



Laity Sunday

Laity Sunday will be celebrated on January 14. Rays Koshy, Music Director, and Paul Bonner, Lay Leader, are planning this service that will be led entirely by lay folks. Alex Holnick will deliver the Old Testament reading, sermon, and benediction. Rays Koshy and the musical trio will perform the music. Luann Ingram is participating also. If you're interested in participating please contact Paul Bonner at Bonnerbunch6@aol.com or see him after church by December 17th.

Confirmation Class

Pastor Warner is considering leading a Confirmation Class for youth 7th – 12th grade. The class will begin in February and conclude at the end of May. Confirmation would be the first Sunday of June 2024. Confirmation class provides an opportunity to explore their faith and offers them the opportunity to become members here after going through the class. Pastor Warner will have a meeting with parents and youth to explain the process and expectations. Please let Pastor Warner know if you would like your youth to participate in this upcoming class.

Children's Ministry Updates

By: Liz Bonner, Director of Christian Education

December is here- and so is all the excitement that this time of year brings. We have exciting events coming up in Jr. Church and Sunday school! In Jr. Church, we will be celebrating advent with stories, movies, and crafts.

During Sunday school we will be studying about the birth of Jesus, and the amazing Journey that Mary and Joseph took, from the moment the angel appeared to Mary, to the birth of our savior in the stable on that Holy Night.

On Sunday, Dec. 3, we will celebrate the start of Advent with a special event. Following the church service, (during the normal Sunday school time) we will be having a church wide event to decorate the sanctuary and learn about the meaning of the decorations and lights that we use to decorate our homes at Christmas time. It will be an entertaining and meaningful event. It will be followed by a light lunch and fellowship in Stringer Auditorium. Please make sure to come on out! You really don't want to miss this.

On Sunday, Dec. 10 @ 1:00, the church will be caroling to several shut ins. Families and children are encouraged to come! Then on Christmas Eve the children will be singing at the 4:00 PM service. We are practicing at 9:55, in-between church and Sunday School. Make sure to come out and be a part of the fun!

Just as the birth of Baby Jesus brought light to the world so many, many years ago, he is still bringing light to the world today. Let this Christmas time be a time of renewal in your life! Let Jesus' light shine in your life, so others can see him through you!

Baptism



Eliza Jade Nall

Baptized on November 26, 2023

Parents: Lauren and Walter Nall

Annual UMM Men's Retreat Recap

The 12th annual United Methodist Men's Retreat was held at Camp Innabah Nov 10-12, 2023. Our UMM here at LUMC sponsored the retreat & organized by Ed Hartmann. There were 17 Men from Lansdale UMC, Christ UMC, and other churches in the EPA Conference who attended. Rev Zachery Hopple, Sr Pastor from Christ UMC led 4 spiritually enriched lessons on "Distortion" and served communion.

The Men worked Saturday on various service projects for the camp to prepare for winter. These included storing mattresses from some cabins, taking down the archery net for storage, A fence was built around the dumpsters as well as cutting & splitting wood in the camp. A large canopy over picnic tables by the store was removed & cut up in time for supper.

There was brotherhood throughout the weekend. Music was provided by 4 attendees with guitars and all assigned work was completed for Camp Innabah.

Special thanks to our own Pastor Steward Warner who took pictures and video on Saturday.



The EPA Conference of the UMC has a great article about November's UM Men's retreat this past November. Click the following link to view the article.

<https://www.epaumc.org/news/mens-retreat-creates-band-of-brothers-through-labors-of-love/>

December Mission: St. John UMC

The Blue Envelope for December will support St. John United Methodist Church. St. John UMC, Bridgeton, NJ, is designated as an Historic Native American Methodist Church, the only church with such designation in the state of New Jersey and is the fifth oldest Native American Methodist Church in the nation. It is the home church to many members of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation.

The church building has been described as a “place of meeting for tribal affairs when none were available or allowed and a place of ministry to help the spiritual and physical needs of those in need.”

The information below is condensed from an article published in the United Methodists of Greater New Jersey Website.

We Are Still Here

The United Methodist Church is a major partner, having provided a safe and supportive environment for Native Americans for decades. St. John’s United Methodist Church has partnered with South Jersey Family Medical Centers to spearhead a rural health initiative, which actually began in the U.S. almost 50 years ago. Their mission is to provide high-quality, culturally-sensitive care to all people of any race, culture, creed, or economic status. Cynthia Mosley is the “boots on the ground” person who is setting up the vaccine clinics and recruiting the participants. Gould shared, “Cindy and I have a passion for helping not only Native Americans but all people.” Gail’s name is quite fitting, as it means “gentle leaves.” She says, “the limbs of the trees protect all,” and that is exactly what she intends to do. Not only to they provide vaccines, but they also provide much through the church food bank, including meals, produce, baked goods, clothing, household goods, diapers (for babies and adults), baby formula, wipes, hygiene products, and other essentials to families in need. During Covid, they serviced 450 families, and now they are at 400, including Ukrainian refugee families. They recently purchased 60 winter coats, 60 queen-sized blankets, hats and gloves, snow suits for children, and boots, distributing them to families at the end of October. Overall, they are doing so much good for the community in every way possible. As Cynthia shared with us, they are more than just a church; they provide social services to the community. She says, “Scripture tells us to do that, and that’s what we do.”

Giving Tree Report 2023

Thank you to all of you who contributed gifts and donations to the Giving Tree Ministry for 2023. The following agencies were sponsored on the Christmas Giving Tree:



Methodist Services:

Philadelphia, PA

Toys & other gift items: 43
Gift Cards: 11 totaling \$355.00
Cash donations totaled \$350.00
Total of Gift Cards and Cash donations: \$705.00

Laurel House: East Norriton, PA

Gift Cards: 16 totaling \$415.00
Cash donations totaled \$255.00
Total of Gift Cards and Cash donations: \$670.00

Glad Tidings Christmas Shop:

Haws Ave UMC, Norristown, PA

Toys, games, etc: 34
Total Cash donations: \$210.00

Totals: Toys & other gifts: 77

27 Gift Cards: \$ 770.00
Cash/Checks: \$ 815.00
Total Gift Cards/Checks: \$1,585.00

Craft Fair Update

Thank you all who helped make the Craft Fair on Nov. 4 a success. We especially want to thank the Soul Sisters and their spouses, also Bob and Cathy Kennedy who helped with the set up and clean up. Thanks to all who donated food and craft items and helped in the kitchen (led by Marilyn Snyder) and helped at our craft table. Total profits to date are \$1,000.75 . Profits will go to global and local missions of the United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women). Thank you all for your support. Doris Shaedle and Nancy Silknitter.



Address Changes | Corrections

May 2023

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

David & Lynn Whitman
1523 Windward Lane
Lancaster, SC 29720

Donna Millman
74 Elm St, Apt. 4
Sellersville, PA 18960
267-897-3020
millmandonnag@gmail.com

July 2023

Jane Bradford
Living Branches
2343 Bethlehem Pike, Apt 300
Hatfield, PA 19440
215-872-2852

Ally Hediger
4103 Bethlehem Pike
Telford, PA 18969

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

August 2023

Darren & Michelle Johnson
357 Apian Way
Trappe, PA 19426

November 2023

Skip & Shirley Bradley
323 Harrington Way,
Souderton, PA 18964

New Members 8/27/2023

Paul Howard
21 N. Richardson Ave
Lansdale, PA 19446
(215) 514-3987
pch133@gmail.com

Esau Collins
112 Church Rd.
North Wales, PA 19454
(610) 931-5628
esaucollins10@gmail.com

Conference and District News

East District News

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

EPA Conference News

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

Newsletter

The next Circuit Rider newsletter will come out for February. Please send your articles to the church office by January 20, 2023.

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

Month	Liturgists	Ushers
December		
3	Paul Bonner	Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silkknitter
10	Luann Ingram	Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper
17	Michele Dasch	Geri Hare, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller, Michele Dasch
24 (9 AM)	Michelle Johnson	Barry McGuire, Neil Hagenbuch, Bob Kennedy, Alan Dickel
24 (4 PM)		
24 (7 PM)		
31	Liz Bonner	Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silkknitter
January		
7	Verna Colliver	Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silkknitter
14	Alex Holnick	Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper
21	Paul Bonner	Geri Hare, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller, Michele Dasch
28	Luann Ingram	Barry McGuire, Neil Hagenbuch, Bob Kennedy, Alan Dickel

Lansdale United Methodist Church Praising God - Making Disciples - Serving All 300 N. Broad St, Lansdale, PA 19446 Phone: 215-855-8364 Email: office@lansdaleumc.org Website: https://lansdaleumc.org Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM	
Servants	
Ministers - People of God	
Bishop- John Schol	
District Superintendent- Rev. Dr. Andrew Foster	
Lead Pastor- Rev. Steward Warner Email: stewwarner@outlook.com Phone: 215-990-4581	
Leadership Paul Bonner- Lay Leader Kris Neild- Church Council Chair Darren Johnson- Treasurer Bob Kennedy- Trustee President Michelle Johnson- Staff Parish Relations Chair	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