



Circuit Rider

February 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

Ash Wednesday and Communion



We will gather for Ash Wednesday worship on February 14 at 7 PM. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Communion and

imposition of ashes will be offered. This will be a time for reflection as the choir also leads us in music this evening. Communion will not be served on the first Sunday of February since we will be sharing in the sacrament of holy communion on Ash Wednesday. Come and begin the season of Lent with prayer, worship, communion, and imposition of ashes.

2024 Church Directory

We are putting together the 2024 Church Directory. We plan to have the new LUMC Church Directory sent out electronically and available for pick up by February 18th. Thank you for your patience during this process.

"Soup"er Bowl Sunday

UWF will collect beef and bean soups on February 11 for "Souper" Bowl Sunday. Look for a display for depositing your soup on that Sunday. You can leave canned soup on the altar between now and February 11. We will take the soup to Manna On Main Street.

2024 Offering Envelopes

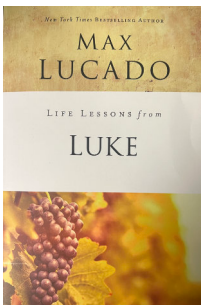
Offering envelope boxes for 2024 are being prepared and will be available to congregants for pickup at the church in mid-December. Picking up your envelopes will help us to save on postage. Your envelope giving number for 2024 may differ from your 2023 giving number as the number of members who use boxed 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

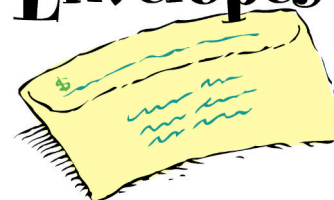
Lenten Sermon Series & Study

Pastor Warner will be preaching on the gospel of Luke during Lent. He will use Max Lucado's book "Luke" as a springboard for a six-week sermon series. You can purchase the book from Amazon. The sermon series will begin on Sunday, Feb 18. Luke

seeks to recount Jesus' life and teachings. You are invited to purchase the book and invite some of your friends and family to join you in a small group to walk through the book of Luke. Pastor Warner is offering a challenge for at least three people to start a small group in your home, at a coffee shop, at the church or some other place. Invite family, friends, co-workers, to join you in walking through this exciting story of the life of Jesus. Groups can be anywhere from 2-10 people in size. Tell Pastor Warner if you are leading a group so we can keep track of groups that are being offered.



Offering Envelopes





Note from the Pastor

This title showed up in my newsfeed as I was preparing to write my note for the February newsletter, “Religious ‘Nones’ Now Outnumber All Individual Religious Cohorts, Outpacing

Catholics and Evangelicals”. You can read the article here, (<https://www.nationalreview.com/news/religious-nones-now-outnumber-all-individual-religious-cohorts-outpacing-catholics-and-evangelicals/>) .

The article states that “Over one quarter (28 percent) of American adults now identify as religiously unaffiliated compared to just 16 percent back in 2007, outpacing Catholics (23 percent) and Evangelical and Protestants (24 percent), according to a Pew Research study released this past Wednesday.”

I also had a very provocative conversation with someone recently as we talked about the way religious leaders rejected Jesus during his day. We reflected which people Jesus sought to reach and how the religious leaders, church of his day, rejected Jesus and his message. And then we wondered how today’s church would respond to Jesus today. Would we accept and follow Jesus, or would we reject Jesus? Would Jesus challenge the various traditions and practices of today’s Christian Churches? Which church or churches would Jesus condone, and support and which ones would Jesus reject? We conjectured that Jesus would most likely challenge both liberal and conservative churches in our world today. That Jesus would criticize us for the ways we have made faith in him merely a political or intellectual construct. Jesus criticized people for seeing the speck in the eyes of others while ignoring the plank in our own eye.

Matthew 7:3–5 (NLT)

3 “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? 4 How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.”

Who was/is Jesus? What did he teach? What was his life like? How and why did Jesus change history? Why

was he killed? Why did people follow him? What would Jesus say to our current world situation?

Most of what I read today is more about people leaving and rejecting the church as an institution. There is a lot of discussion about saving the institutional church but not as much discussion about following Jesus who is the reason the church exists in the first place. The same studies seem to say there is still a spiritual hunger and search for many people but that the current, institutional churches, of all denominations and backgrounds, aren’t meeting people where they are searching. We are often more concerned about survival, buildings, traditions, and comfort, than we are in understanding who Jesus is and what it means to follow Jesus.

Luke, a physician, and a follower and friend of Jesus seeks to set the story straight about Jesus. There were tons of stories and rumors about Jesus even during Luke’s time. Luke sought to sort through all the stories and rumors and to write an account about Jesus so he could help his young friend, Theophilus, know the real story about Jesus. Maybe you too are sifting through all the noise and fog of our day to know more about Jesus? Then you might enjoy the Lenten sermon series on the Gospel of Luke written by Max Lucado. I’ll be preaching a six-week series using Lucado’s book as a reference and starting point. Let’s learn, discover, and be transformed together as we seek to know Jesus better as we study Luke’s account of his life.

Pastor Warner Announces Retirement

After much prayer and thought, I’ve decided to retire from full-time ministry at the end of June 2024. I give thanks for all my years of ministry as I sought to serve where Jesus Christ sent me. Now it’s time for me to change directions as I look to shift to part-time ministry that might include video and photography while serving a small congregation part-time. I’m also looking forward to some travel time and time with family and friends. I give thanks for what will be three years of ministry here at LUMC. We have had our challenges and we’ve also seen God do some wonderful things as we’ve connected with people both within and outside the walls of the church. May God’s peace and grace surround each of you during this time of transition.

Redner's Receipts

United Women in Faith (UWF) is still collecting Redner's receipts which are tallied and submitted to Redner's. In return we receive 1% of our totals by check. This is one of our "fund-raisers", which we use 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.

Thank You For Your Support

Lansdale United Women of Faith (UWF) wish to thank the congregation for supporting our Women's Group. In the last 3 years, we received \$309.49 from Redner's because you have shopped, used your shoppers card and turned in your receipts! In the last 3 years we saw a profit of \$1,288 from your purchase of Wawa Coupons. Thank you!

This January we were able to make monetary donations to the following organizations: Bridge of Hope, Camp Innabah, Church World Service, Family Promise, Heeding God's Call, Knight's For Life, Laurel House, Manna On Main Street, and UMCOR. This represents both Global and Local Giving. Thank you all for your continued participation and support.

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. You would be confirmed 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.

Nursery Attendant Search

We are continuing to look for a second person to staff the Infant/Toddler nursery. We are looking for an additional person to help support Donna Fritz. Contact the church office for an application

Camps for Children & Youth

Our Eastern PA Conference for the UMC offers three Christian Camps to reach and serve children, youth, and adults. 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.
Gretna Glen, Innabah, Pocono Plateau, Carson Simpson Farm



Children attending summer camp at Gretna Glenn

Church Workday Thank You

Wayne Wylie, Trustees President

Thank you to everyone that came out to help on the Church Workday, Monday January 15. Many hands make light work- when we all come together! We were able to complete the following tasks at LUMC: *outside door latch repairs (stringer alley & mosaic), swept & cleaned stairwells, outside plexiglass placed back on to cover lower basement windows, sticks and leaves collected, trash collection around building, light bulbs in main hallways, conference room and in basement hallway replaced, leaking toilet and door closer in basement fixed, returned ceiling tiles under kitchen to appropriate locations, sanctuary received a general clean with specific attention to wax from Christmas Eve.*

2024 Tools For Ministry Workshops

The 2024 Tools For Ministry for the South Eastern Region will be taking place Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 9 AM- 12:30 PM. This will be a workshop training for church volunteers. The venue is Palmer Theological Seminary, located at 1300 Eagle Rd, Wayne, PA 19087. <https://www.epaumc.org/conference-calendar/2024-tools-for-ministry-south-east-region/>

Christian Education

Greetings Families!

We invite all children to attend Jr. Church and Sunday School. JR Church meets at 9:15 AM each Sunday. The children attend the first 15 minutes or so of church and then accompany Miss Liz to the Jr. Church Room (A103/ Bright Beginnings Room). Sunday School meets upstairs in the Sunday School room right across from the stairs (A205). Sunday School starts at 10:15 AM and ends at 11:00 AM. Please come and join us- join the fun! If you would like more information, please contact Liz Bonner.

Liz Bonner, Director of Christian Education

Liz Bonner

(215) 353-0965

lumceducation@verizon.net

Mark Your Calendars!

We have some fun events for children coming up this spring and summer. Come on out and join us! Invite family, friends and neighbors to partake in some fun and to celebrate Jesus' love!

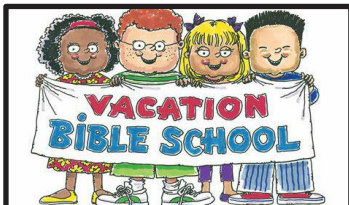


Easter Egg Breakfast and Hunt

Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024

Breakfast at 9:00 AM

Hunt at 10:00 AM



New VBS Date!

Vacation Bible School

Date: Monday, July 22nd through Thursday July 25.

Light Supper: 6:00 PM- 6:30 PM

6:30 PM- 8:00 PM- VBS



Missions

February Mission Emphasis

The mission emphasis for February supports The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States. When disaster strikes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. This basic understanding—that disaster response is local—forms the foundation for UMCOR's US disaster training and response. When responding to a disaster in the United States, UMCOR provides training, financial assistance, expertise, community collaboration to churches and partners making them more resilient to disasters. As you can see from the 2023 UMCOR response, there was great need, and I'm sure there will be great need in 2024. Thank you for any support that you can provide. In 2023 UMCOR responded to the following disasters:

INTERNATIONAL

- Hurricane Otis in Mexico
- War in Israel/Gaza
- Earthquake in Afghanistan
- Flooding in Libya
- Earthquake in Morocco
- Flooding in Haiti
- Super Typhoon Mawar in Guam
- Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar and Bangladesh
- Flooding in Congo
- Conflict in Sudan and South Sudan
- Tornado in Côte d'Ivoire
- Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria
- Cyclone Freddy in southeastern Africa

UNITED STATES

- Tornadoes in Tennessee
- Hurricane Idalia
- Wildfires in Hawaii
- Tornadoes in Oklahoma
- Tornado in Mississippi & other parts of the southeast region
- Severe weather and tornadoes in Alabama & Georgia

Letter From Global Ministries UMCOR

Dear Friends in Mission, Thank you! The dear people that you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be – Thank you! And through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in the U.S. and in more than 60 countries in which UMCOR and partnering agencies engage in direct ministry to persons in need. May we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

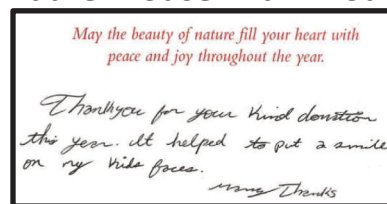
Your generous gifts helped to support:

- Church World Service, Blankets and Tools
Gift Amount: \$ 30.00
- UMCOR International Disaster Response & Recovery
Gift Amount: \$ 20.00
- UMCOR US Disaster Response & Recovery
Gift Amount: \$ 570.00
- UMCOR- Where Most Needed
Gift Amount: \$ 505.00

Total Gift Amount: \$ 1,125.00

Grace and Peace, Roland Fernandes, Secretary

Laurel House Thank You



Your gifts matter! Here is a thank you card, received from a single mother at Laurel House.

American Red Cross Blood Drive Update

By: Mary Noll

We had 31 people come in to donate and we were able to collect 33 pints of blood! This blood will go on to help so many patients; it's absolutely lifesaving! Lansdale UMC has been absolutely amazing during our critical times- you've helped give donors a home. The next blood drive is April 29. From 1PM to 6PM.

Christian Summer Camps

Winter & Spring Activities for Children, Youth & Adults!

Pocono Plateau Camp and Retreat Center

"There's no winter hibernation for Pocono Plateau, whose 750 acres will be bustling with retreats, especially during Presidents Day weekend in February. The Children's Winter Jamboree Retreat for 3rd-to 6th-graders and the Winter Blast Retreat for Youth will both happen February 16 to 18. And both promise tons of fun, indoor and outdoor, including games and recreation, Bible learning, campfires with 's'mores and yes, so much more.

Meanwhile, the Plateau will host seven-hour Winter Day Camps Feb. 16 and 19, while school is out, and two-hour Plateau Youth Fellowship Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m., for church youth groups (6th to 12th graders). The three Youth Fellowship Sundays are scheduled for February 11, March 10 and April 14.

"We offer time for games, adventure program activities, snacks and devotions," says camp director Carmen O'Shea, describing the events as "great for church youth groups and parents looking for something fun to do with their kids."

Spring begins March 19, and Pocono Plateau will be ready to host an Easter Family Retreat March 22-24, featuring the stations of the cross, an Easter egg hunt, crafts, games and Palm Sunday worship, all in the peace and sacredness of the camp's mountaintop. A Spring Day Camp will follow March 28 and April 1; then the Confirmation Retreat April 19-21; and finally, the fun, fascinating and fearless annual Father & Son Dangerous Retreat April 26 - 28. "



Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center

Gretna Glen will continue its traditional, monthly Free Youth Event Sundays. The next ones are February 18 and March 17, all from 4 to 6:30 p.m. They invite youth to come enjoy the outdoors (and indoors if necessary) for play, worship and fellowship, joining together as part of a larger church community.

"Gretna Glen is excited to partner with you and your youth ministry," says camp director Apryl Miller. "Our Free Youth Events are designed to give youth groups of all sizes a large-group worship experience. Plus, games, outdoor fun, interesting speakers, interactive worship and a snack will be provided by the Gretna Glen team." Be sure to let them know you're coming by contacting guestservices@gretnaglen.org.

Gretna Glen will also host its weekend Youth Winter Blast February 2-4, for ages 13 to 18

"It's a way to get away from the busyness of everyday life and just be at camp with friends, old and new," says Miller. "Throughout the event we will play awesome group games, have renewing worship experiences and reconnect with nature. There's something for everyone, and a great chance to see camp in the crisp winter air, with the wood stove cranking out the heat."

And the 24-hour Children's Spring Blast retreat March 22-23 will gather 6-to-12 year-olds to enjoy brisk, spring time weather, music, games, food, Christian nurture and memorable experiences as children of God.



Christian Summer Camps

Innabah Camp and Retreat Center

Check out Innabah's brand new website that illustrates the beauty, wonder and excitement of this favorite camp and retreat venue. Sign up for the Crafty Connections Retreat February 9-11, a good time to recharge one's creativity in the stillness of winter during a cozy weekend getaway. Or take advantage of the Children & Youth Retreat February 2-4, for children in grades K-12.

Innabah's 10th annual [Spring Challenge Trail 5k race](#) happens April 6, a perfect time to run, walk, romp and hike around its scenic, rolling hills and dales, alongside French Creek. Start the day with the popular pancake and bacon breakfast and the race.

Then stay to enjoy the free Spring Fest, which runs from 11:30 AM to 2 PM and includes an Easter egg hunt, where over 6,000 eggs will be hidden.

We break everyone into groups so each person has a chance to find some eggs!

Age Groups include:

2 and under, 3-5, 6-9, 10-12, 13-17, 18-25, 26-49, and 50 and over!

- Cooking hot dogs & s'mores over a camp fire
- Sling Shot Range
- Wagon Rides
- Tours
- Hammocks
- Ping Pong
- & More!



(The event is FREE and no registration is necessary. This event is also, rain or shine.)



Additional Summer Camp Information

While so much is happening at these three active camp and retreat centers during this winter season, so rich in lessons of faith and beauty, all four camps are preparing for an even busier Summer Camp season starting in June. They are registering summer campers, hiring staff, seeking volunteers, planning programs and preparing their sites to welcome record numbers of campers from across Eastern PA, Greater New Jersey and beyond.

But first, all four camps, including *Carson-Simpson Farm Christian Center*, will welcome everyone to their annual Open Houses in May and June, where visitors can get a peak and a feel for the summer enjoyment and enrichment experiences soon to come!

Links for Summer Camp Information

Camp Innabah: www.innabah.org

Gretna Glen: www.gretnaglen.org

Pocono Plateau: www.poconoplateau.org

Carson Simpson Farm: www.csfarm.org

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/>

Next Newsletter

The next Circuit Rider newsletter will come out for March. Please send your articles to the church office by February 20, 2024.

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

	Liturgists	Ushers
February		
4	<i>Michele Dasch</i>	<i>Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann</i>
11	<i>Michelle Johnson</i>	<i>Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper</i>
14	<i>Luann Ingram</i>	<i>Ed Ingram, Luann Ingram</i>
18	<i>Liz Bonner</i>	<i>Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller</i>
25	<i>Verna Colliver</i>	<i>Barry McGuire, Neil Hagenbuch, Alan Dickel</i>
March		
3	<i>Luann Ingram</i>	<i>Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann</i>
10	<i>Paul Bonner</i>	<i>Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper</i>
17	<i>Alex Holnick</i>	<i>Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller</i>
24	<i>Michele Dasch</i>	<i>Barry McGuire, Neil Hagenbuch, Alan Dickel</i>
28		
31	<i>Michelle Johnson</i>	<i>Richard Hardisty, Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann</i>

<p>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 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM</p>	
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