



# *Circuit Rider*

January 2025

**Praising God • Making Disciples • Serving All**

Lansdale United Methodist Church, 300 N. Broad St. Lansdale, PA 19446

website: [lansdaleumc.org](http://lansdaleumc.org) | Email: [office@lansdaleumc.org](mailto:office@lansdaleumc.org)

Live streamed Worship Sunday mornings at 9 AM Facebook or YouTube

## *What's Coming Up?*

### **Praising God...**

Christmas Caroling Pic

Service of Remembrance

### **Making Disciples...**

Sunday School Classes

Soul Sisters (UMW)

Upcoming Special Events

### **Serving Locally Opportunities**

Blood drives

Open Gym Night

January Mission Focus

United Methodist Early Response Team

### **Serving Globally Opportunities**

Wawa Coupons

Redner's Receipts



## **Note from the Pastor.** Happy New Year!

2025 is here! The older I get, the more I realize the truth of the saying “Days go slowly and years fly by.” How is another year finished? But

more importantly, a new year, full of new possibilities is before us. As fresh as a newly fallen snow.

It is common to begin the new year with resolutions, things we want to start, improve, or quit. For some, those resolutions may produce real change – if, of course, they stick with them. While we’re considering our New Year’s resolutions, we have the opportunity to ask ourselves if there are changes, we need to make in our walk with the Lord. I believe it was A.W. Tozer who said, “We are as close to God right now, as we want to be.” The apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:5a, “Examine yourself as to whether you are in the faith.”

As we are currently moving through a series on Rest, it’s the perfect opportunity to pause and take a personal inventory. “Am I where I want to be with God?” “Have I reached my potential in Him?” “Have I discovered my divine destiny?” “How can I glorify Him more this coming year?” “How can I move closer to Him, experience Him more in my everyday life?” Unfortunately, I have to answer “no” to most of these questions. But I definitely want to be closer to Him this time next year than I am right now.

So, I’ve been thinking a lot about the role of the daily disciplines which grow our faith. Disciplines that produce lasting change in our relationship with God and with one another. Disciplines like corporate worship, reading the Word, prayer, fellowship, fasting, generosity and serving all develop and strengthen our spiritual walk.

Let’s ask ourselves, how are we doing with each of these spiritual disciplines? Take prayer, for instance. I often feel overwhelmed with its vastness. We are all called to pray for one another, but the list seems to be continually growing, becoming seemingly unmanageable. So, where do I begin?

Leonard Ravenhill once said, “A man is no greater than his personal prayer life.” Our entire spiritual walk flows from our personal prayer life. If I’m not spending time talking to God about me, I won’t spend time talking to God about others.

I believe God has given us a verse for 2025. “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11) But we won’t know His plans if we are communicating with Him. We won’t see Him moving if we’re not talking with Him. We could miss seeing the hope and future He has for us if we aren’t looking, expecting, and engaged.

In 2025, I want to be known for my prayer life. I want to learn to persist in prayer. To keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking until I receive. And I want to challenge you to commit some time everyday to ask, seek, and knock. Let’s be surprised by what God does.

Here are some prayer prompts to get you started:

1. Pick a Scripture verse. Read it once and sit quietly for a few minutes. Repeat this 3-5 times. See what God speaks to you through that verse. See what you notice that you may have never noticed before.
2. Pick a specific time each day that you will pray. I like have pictures of people as a way of praying for them.
3. Pray for your spiritual walk. Ask God to help you strengthen your spiritual disciplines so that you are closer to Him next year at this time then you are right now.
4. Pray for your family. Concerns, joys, hopes, etc.
5. Pray for your community. Go for a prayer walk, praying for each house as you pass it. You don’t need to know what they need prayers for, but just lift them up to God.
6. Pray for our church. Pray that God would give direction and vision. Pray for our ministries to flourish, making new disciples. Pray for our open staff positions (worship leader & youth pastor), that God would bring the perfect people that will help us fulfill His calling for us.
7. Pray for your pastor. I’m going to be selfish here. I would covet your prayers. Pray for God to give me wisdom, that I would hear from Him as to what we all need to hear. Pray for my family, that God would protect them.

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8. Pray for our country. Pray that our leaders would humble themselves before the throne of God, knowing that their power has been given to them from the Almighty.

Let's all find ourselves closer to God tomorrow, next week, and next year, than we are today.

**Marleah Doyle**

## **2025 Changes**

Jeremiah 29:11:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

I believe this is the verse God has given Lansdale UMC for 2025. God has been moving within us and our church community. 2025 will be an exciting year as we better discern what God's plans for us are. As we seek to be ready to step into God's plans, we need to better position ourselves, to be sitting on the edge of our seats, ready to move as God directs.

Beginning in January, you will notice a few changes in our publications, our Worship, and our giving. Let me explain what will change and the reason behind these changes.

**Children's Message:** A children's message will be offered every week to better include the children in our "big church" worship as well as to be more inviting to families who are likely watching online prior to attending in person. We are beginning to prepare for the families God will bring to us.

**Ministry Moments:** At least once a month, prior to the offering, we will be highlighting different ministries within and supported by our church. Testimonies will be given by those serving in or being served by those ministries to help communicate better what God is doing in and through us as a congregation.

**Bulletin/Newsletter:** Our bulletin and newsletter will be organized according to our mission

statement (Praising God, Making Disciples, Serving All). We have split Serving All into 2 areas: Serving Locally and Serving Globally. You have likely already seen the change to our bulletin boards near the front door. This same arrangement and format will be used across communications such as the bulletin, newsletter, church brochure, etc. The goal is to help connect our activity with our mission statement and also make information easier to find.

Our bulletin will hopefully be shorter. We are working to move towards a 1 sheet format similar to the Christmas Eve bulletin. When providing information to be included in the bulletin, please know that the event title, date/time/location/contact person and a very brief description will be included only. Additional information can be included on our website, the newsletter, and bulletin boards. Our current bulletins are very long and people just won't read that much information. Also, the same information seems to be left in the bulletin for long periods of time.

More complete/expanded information can be sent to Luann Ingram to be placed on the website.

Additionally,

When writing information for any publication, please consider these items:

Does the information include only what is essential for all worship participants to know & make them feel welcomed and included?

How does your information introduce our church's vision and mission?

Have you avoided using insider language (information your group would understand but new people would not)? Might it alienate or distract visitors?

Have you avoided using "us/them" language? Please try to avoid using phrases like "Join Us". Instead, try something like "Serve together".

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We are attempting to position ourselves to be as welcoming to visitors as possible, helping them to feel included with every touchpoint they have with our faith community.

**Giving:**

You will notice when giving online that “Operating Expenses” has been changed to “Ministry Operating Expenses” The purpose of this title change is to better connect with our mission statement, understanding that all we give, do, and provide is to fulfill our calling by God.

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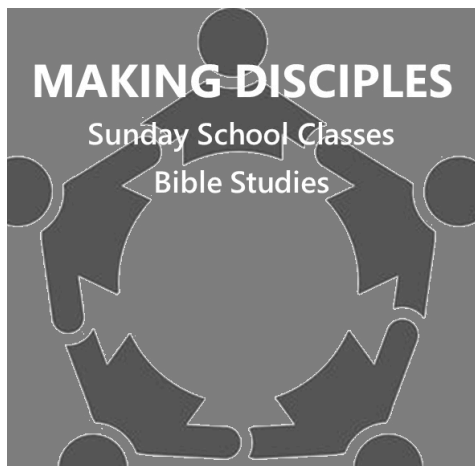


**Praising God**



**Christmas Caroling**





**Making Disciples**

**Sunday School Classes  
10:30-11:30 AM each Sunday**

Children’s Sunday School: 3yrs-4th grade	A 201	Liz Bonner
Youth Sunday School: 5th-12th grade	A 200	Pastor Marleah
Upper Room Adult Sunday School	A 207	Darren Johnson
New Horizons Adult Sunday School	A 206	Warren Shaedle
Wesleyan Adult Sunday School	Library	Verna Colliver

**Soul Sisters (UMW)**

women’s ministry here at Lansdale, invite all women (regardless of age) to participate in the activities, events, and programs. This group typically meets at 12 noon in the conference room of the church. Please bring a bag lunch and enjoy fellowship and a devotional. The upcoming Soul Sisters meeting is on January 20th, 2025, at 12:00 PM.

**Upcoming Special Events:**

**Sight and Sound:**

Would you be interested in going as a group to see Sight and Sound’s next performance? Group will car pool down and have lunch at Shady Maple. If so, please contact Maryellen Reinmiller. (February/March)



**Serving Locally**

**American Red Cross Blood Drives**

Every drop counts donate blood.

- Monday Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- Monday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- Monday Jul 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- Monday Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- Monday Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM



**Open Gym Night**

We are in need of additional chaperones. Snack supply donations would also be appreciated.

**Upcoming Open Gym Nights:**

January 17, 2025

February 21, 2025

March 21, 2025

**April \*\*\* Holy Week No Open Gym**

May 16, 2025

June 20, 2025

July 18, 2025

August 15, 2025

September 19, 2025

October 17, 2025

November 21, 2025





## **January Mission Focus: Manna On Main Street**

Manna on Main Street is committed to ending hunger in the North Penn region by providing food, fulfilling social service and education needs, and conducting community outreach. Through a food pantry and soup kitchen, emergency financial aid, counseling and referrals, and education opportunities, we serve those in need with the hope “that everyone might be fed.

Manna was founded in 1981. At the time, there were many unmet needs in the community. The government and other local agencies were simply not able to respond to needs for food, housing and other emergencies. Under the leadership of Reverend John Touchberry of St. John’s United Church of Christ, local churches and caring individuals from the community came together. Out of that gathering, Manna was born. When a building next door to St. John’s was donated by a parishioner, Manna on Main Street came to life.

In April of 2012, Manna moved to 713 W. Main Street, expanding operations from 800 to 5,300 s.f.

Our volunteers and the families we serve greatly appreciate the elbow room. In fall 2016, Manna moved again to their new home at North Penn Commons (NPC), expanding operations to about 6,300 sq ft. NPC is an innovative partnership to co-locate facilities and share client programming with Advanced Living Communities, the North Penn YMCA and The PEAK Senior Center.

Today, with a staff of 32 and a robust volunteer force of hundreds, meals are served, food is distributed, funds are provided for emergencies, and education classes are held to lift up our community. More importantly, Manna on Main Street is a place where all people are welcome – people in need and people who want to serve to improve the health and well-being of our community.

If you would like to volunteer at Manna you can go to the link below for more information:

<https://mannaonmain.org/give-time/how-to-sign-up-to-volunteer/>

## **United Methodist Early Response Team (ERT)**

Hi, my name is Robin Bresser and I am a member of Christ UMC. Because of the unsettled weather in recent years, we should be prepared by having ERTs trained and ready. At this time we have few people trained as ERTs in our area.

I am writing to the members of Christ UMC, Sanctuary UMC, Lansdale UMC, Chalfont UMC and Bethel Hill UMC to see if there is any interest in becoming or recertifying as an ERT.

If you are interested in the ERT program, please contact me at [robinbresser@yahoo.com](mailto:robinbresser@yahoo.com).

Below are two excerpts from the ERT training manual that briefly explains what is an ERT.

### **ERT Mission**

The Mission of an Early Response Team is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster.

An early response team fills a specific need in the early days after a disaster to establish the caring presence of the church and to

provide hope for the survivors. This team is not a first response group of emergency workers or a recovery rebuild or repair team. While there are specific tasks assigned to early response teams, no task is more important than the people they serve.

Early Response Teams were first created by the United Methodist Church in the mid 1990s. It began, as it remains today, a

cooperative effort between the United Methodist Committee On Relief and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.

In early 2007, a covenant was formed between the two groups and a new protocol was established. It is also important to understand that ER Teams are trained primarily to respond within their own conference.

*(Continued on Page 8)*

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Your team does not need an invitation to respond in your own community or in your own Methodist district.

To travel to another district, conference, or jurisdiction, requires the invitation by the affected community. (For information on jurisdictions and conferences check the web [www.umc.org/directory](http://www.umc.org/directory))

Each individual annual conference must decide how and when it will use ERTs and how they fit into the conference disaster response plan.

### **United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM)**

UMVIM is a grassroots movement within The United Methodist Church designed to provide an official channel whereby Christians, both lay and clergy, may offer their skills and talents for Christian service at home and around the world on short term assignments at their own expense.

Their work includes construction and renewing of mission facilities, teaching, witnessing, conducting medical clinics, conducting Bible study or Bible School for children, and serving in disaster relief efforts around the world.

The UMVIM movement began in 1976 and is organized by jurisdiction.

The General Board of Global Ministries networks with the jurisdictional UMVIM offices, which in turn coordinate with annual conference offices.

The UMVIM network offers guidance, organization, and training for more than 125,000 volunteers serving with the poor; building churches; and assisting in disaster response, community health, and leadership training each year.

Through UMVIM, you can serve with a team (typically 10-16 persons) or as an individual.

Volunteers need to be in relatively good health, complete an application form, willing to pay his/her own

way or help to raise team funds, and agree to attend training sessions conducted by the team leader prior to departure.

<http://www.umcmission.org/Get-InvolvedNolunteer-Opportunities/About-UMVIM>

### **Upcoming Special Events:**

#### **Sunday Feb. 9, 2025:**

“Souper” Bowl Sunday. Please bring canned soup to church (preferably soup with meat in it). These will be given to Manna on Main to support our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity.

#### **Saturday May 3, 2025:**

“The Pride of Erin”, an Irish dance troupe which our own Lexi dances with, will provide a demonstration and share the history and background of the dances.. 11:00 A.M. in Stringer Hall.



# *Missions*



**Serving Globally**



### **WAWA Coupons**

Looking for an easy gift idea that never expires and is loved by everyone? Wawa coupons are your answer. LUMC's own UWF are selling Wawa coupons good for one "shorti". They are a great bargain and still just \$5.00 a piece! The profits from each sale goes to our mission budget which supports both local and global missions. Contact Maryellen Reinmiller at 215-913-1666 to place your order.

### **Redner's Receipts**

United Women in Faith 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.



## 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 February. Please send your articles to the church office by January 20, 2025.

## Ways to Give

1. Mail slot on 4th Street
2. Mail to church address
3. [www.lansdaleumc.org/giving](http://www.lansdaleumc.org/giving) on Realm
4. Text LansdaleFirstUMC to 73256

	<b>Liturgists</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
<i>Jan</i>		
<i>5</i>	<i>Liz Bonner</i>	<i>Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silknitter</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>Verna Colliver</i>	<i>Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>Luan Ingram</i>	<i>Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller</i>
<i>26</i>	<i>Paul Bonner</i>	<i>Barry Mc Guire, Neil Hagenbuch, Alan Dickel</i>
<i>Feb</i>		
<i>2</i>	<i>Alex Holnick</i>	<i>Ed Ingram, Ed Hartmann, Gary Silknitter</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>Michele Dasch</i>	<i>Jim Dietterich, Warren Shaedle, Don Dietterich, Todd Harper</i>
<i>16</i>	<i>Michelle Johnson</i>	<i>Geri Hare, Michele Dasch, Cathy Kennedy, Maryellen Reinmiller</i>
<i>23</i>	<i>Liz Bonner</i>	<i>Barry Mc Guire, Neil Hagenbuch, Alan Dickel</i>

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Servants	
Ministers - People of God	
Bishop Cynthia Moore-KoiKoi	
District Superintendent – Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster III	
<p>Lead Pastor – Rev. Marleah Doyle  <a href="mailto:Pastormarleah@lansdaleumc.org">Pastormarleah@lansdaleumc.org</a> – 610-295-2885 (cell)</p>	
<p>Leadership            Paul Bonner- Lay Leader            Esau Collins- Church Council Chair            Darren Johnson- Treasurer            Wayne Wylie- Trustee President            Michelle Johnson- Staff Parish Relations Chair</p>	<p>Staff            Karima Saddiq - Administrative Assistant            Liz Bonner - Director of Christian Education            Ruth Rineer - Organist            Paul Bonner- Custodian            Donna Fritz- Nursery Attendant</p>