

The Window into the heart of

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

Volume 3, Number 3, Fall 2017

The Nyadire Connection (TNC)

2 Ways to Help: Sewing Party & Friend Raiser

**Sewing Party for Girl Empowerment Pads
Sunday, September 10 3-6 pm Asbury Center**

Come to the TNC sewing party and help tackle a problem for young women in Zimbabwe. Girls are not permitted to attend school during their periods if they cannot obtain sanitary pads. At this party we'll assemble kits of cut material, needles, and thread to be shipped to Zimbabwe for the girls to make reusable sanitary napkins. Girl Empowerment Pads, we call them.



*Nyadire girls with their
Girl Empowerment Pads kits*

No experience is necessary to cut fabric and put the kits together at the party, but bring scissors to use and items to donate. Kit items needed include new girl's underwear, sizes 10 to 14, misses sizes 5, 6 or 7; needles, thread, and fabric; and bars of soap, any size. Be a part of this important mission, its fellowship and fun.

**Information and to RSVP: Bonnie Lawson 412-343-3498
bonnielawson58@comcast.net.**

Friend Raising Event

All are invited to The Nyadire Connection (TNC) Friend Raiser, 4-8 pm on Thursday September 21 on the north side at Calvary UMC and the Brother's Brother Foundation. We will support and learn not only about this 10+ year Zimbabwe mission, but also about the nationally renowned charity, Brother's Brother. Tickets are \$25, with scholarships and carpooling available for those interested. Call **Bonnie Lawson** at 412-343-3498.

TNC is a multi-church, faith-based, Pittsburgh non-profit. It seeks to support and sustain the Nyadire United Methodist Mission in northeastern Zimbabwe, Africa.

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Monica Kao
Communications Coordinator

Happy Quincentennial, Protestants!

I've mentioned during worship a few times this year that 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. That reformation changed Christianity forever. Roused to action by the corruption and abuses they saw in the Roman Catholic church of the time, visionary pastors and leaders like Martin Luther and John Calvin spearheaded a movement that transformed Christianity and eventually led to the emergence of the Protestant denominations that exist today.

The Reformers were guided by the conviction that the church of their day had drifted away from the essential, original teachings of Christianity, especially regarding what it was teaching about the doctrines of justification and eternal life with God. The Reformation sought to re-orient Christianity on the original message of Jesus and the early church.

"The Five Solas" are five Latin phrases (or slogans) that emerged during the Reformation to summarize the Reformers' theological convictions about the essentials of Christianity. They each began with the Latin word, *sola*, which means "alone."

1. Sola Scriptura ("scripture alone"):

The early reformers taught that the Bible was the ultimate authority in matters of faith and Christian practice. To this day, Protestants may disagree concerning the interpretation of scripture, but they all agree that it carries great authority in the lives of believers, since the Holy Spirit inspired both its writing long ago, and our interpretation of its ancient words for today. Protestants hold the scripture in high regard.

2. Sola Fide ("faith alone"):

We are saved solely by faith, because of God's grace and Christ's merit alone. We are not saved by our merits or by our good works. God grants salvation not because of the good things we do, and despite our sin. God graciously preserves us and keeps us. When we are faithless toward God, God is still faithful toward us.

3. Sola Gratia ("grace alone"):

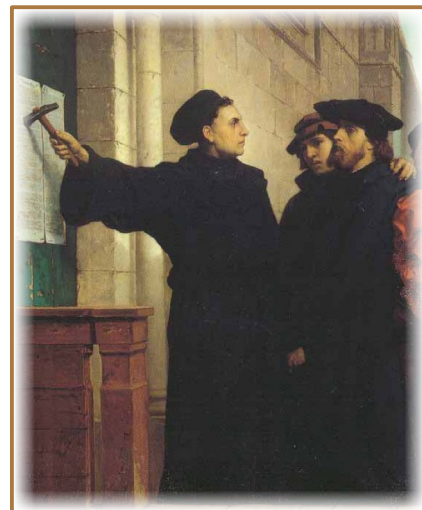
Sola fide and *sola gratia* express the teaching of Ephesians 2:8 – "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

4. Solus Christus ("Christ alone"):

Once again, the emphasis here is upon God's action, versus humanity's action. We are not delivered from sin and death by our own actions, or by the actions of the church. As the apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossae – "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." (Colossians 1:15)

5. Soli Deo Gloria ("to the glory of God alone"):

Glory belongs to God alone. God's glory is the central motivation for salvation, not improving the lives of people—though that is a wonderful by product. God is not a means to an end—God is the means and the end. The goal of all of life is to give glory to God alone: "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). As the Westminster Catechism says, the chief purpose of human life is "to glorify God and enjoy him forever."



Luther Posts His 95 Theses

In a world that is filled with many voices that claim to have authority over us, we would do well to remember these fundamental pillars of our Protestant faith. Ours is a legacy of empowering the laity for ministry, and of removing any barrier between the individual Christian and God. Even the Roman Catholic Church itself was reformed by the work of our courageous forbearers, who dared to take a stand. Join us in worship this fall, as we continue to celebrate the distinctive blessings of our Protestant faith.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Pastor Tom

United Methodist Women

UMW kicks off season of local and global outreach to women, children and youth.

Tuesday, September 12, 6 pm Asbury Center

Northside Reading Program Bring a spouse, significant other and/or friend to our opening meeting and learn more about the extensive Northside outreach ministry, including the Northside Reading Program. Our speaker is Rev. Larry Homitsky.

Please bring a covered side dish to share. We'll provide a main meat dish, rolls, drinks and dessert.

Thursday, October 12, 11 am Wesley Hall

Vision Program in Zimbabwe Learn how over 1,500 patients in Zimbabwe have been helped by donation of your old eyeglasses. Our speaker is Don Zeigler who'll be telling us about some of his more memorable patients who are benefitting from your generosity.

Lunch will follow the presentation at noon. Please bring any old prescription or reading glasses you no longer use.

Thursday, November 9, 11 am Wesley Hall

The Foundation of HOPE Join us as we learn more about The Foundation of HOPE, which offers Pittsburgh inmates and ex-offenders the opportunity for a new life through chaplaincy, pre-release and aftercare. Our speaker is Rev. Kimberly Greway.

Lunch will follow the presentation at noon.

Cost for lunches in October and November is \$6 each. Reservations can be made by calling the church office at 412.531.7131 — or JUST DROP IN.

Thank you for supporting the UMW

At its executive board meeting on Tuesday, June 13, the United Methodist Women (UMW) disbursed approximately \$9,000 the group earned thanks, in large part, to your support of fundraisers, including the Christmas cookie sale, British tea room and Spring Craft Creations event.

That money includes \$4,000 paid as the group's pledge to the larger UMW body of 800,000 members who advocate on behalf of women, children and youth around the world. The rest was given specifically to the following women, children and youth via organizations local and global, including:

Angels' Place in Pittsburgh — \$100

Bethlehem Haven in Pittsburgh — \$100

Book 'Em in Pittsburgh — \$100

Compassion International (support of a child) — \$456

Family Promise in Pittsburgh — \$500

Foundation of Hope in Pittsburgh — \$100

Grace Killian (for seminary at Harvard) — \$500

Hearing Impaired Organization in Zimbabwe — \$100

Henderson Settlement in Kentucky - \$500

Julia Michael (FORGE mission work in Colorado) — \$500

MLUMC Food Pantry — \$500

Red Bird Mission in Kentucky — \$500

Ruth M. Smith Center in Sheffield, Pa. — \$500

Vision Program in Zimbabwe - \$500



If you would like to learn more about the UMW organization, including our local group, events, and membership, please contact Kathy Michael at 412.344.6937 or Sandy Waters at 412.833.3702. All women are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly UMW events.

September 17

First Day of Sunday School



Youth Group Kick Off

Youth Group will also start the season on Sunday, Sept. 17 at 5 pm with a Kick Off Event. There will be food, games and information about the new Youth Group year. Come with family and invite your friends.

New Member Orientation

Interested in joining the Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church community? New member orientation sessions are 2 Sundays, September 10 and 17 during the Sunday School hour, 9:30 - 10:30 am. Each session begins with refreshment and fellowship at Coffee Café in Brookline Parlor, and then moves to the Schultz Conference Room for the remaining time. Call the office to register: 412-531-7131 or email churchsecretary@mlumc.org.

TERRIFIC TUESDAY

Begins September 19

6 pm - Dinner in Asbury Center
6:30 pm - Activity for all ages:
Children's Choir, Youth Discussion
Groups, Adult Study and Discussion

Church family and community members of all ages are invited to Terrific Tuesday, from 6 to 7:30 pm on Tuesdays in Asbury Center. Participants share dinner, then children and youth depart for activities while adults engage in discussion. There's no cost, though freewill donations are accepted.

This Terrific Tuesday session begins September 19th and continues through December 12. There will be no Terrific Tuesday on Halloween (Oct. 31), Election Day (Nov. 7), or during Thanksgiving week (Nov. 21).

Weekday Ministries

by Mettelise Ziegler, WDM Director

Our new school year is about to begin!

The Pre-K program is nearly full, but we still have room in our class for four-year-olds. Classes begin right after Labor Day, so if you know anyone who is interested, suggest they call right away. Our children receive great preparation for kindergarten while having fun in a wholesome atmosphere.

There are many terrific Christian preschools in the south hills, but did you know that our daycare is the only one with a Christian curriculum? The only one. Some daycare centers are afraid of being offensive to non-Christians or being half-empty by implementing Christian lessons. However, we have not found this to be true. We are full to the limit with eager children and satisfied parents!

Families have a choice in daycare, but we see over and over again that they are looking for good, solid character development for their children. Can anything be more solid than the truth of the Bible? Here, children learn very basic and reliable truths:

God loves you! God created the beautiful world. We take care of our world. We love others because He first loved us. We can talk to God whenever we need to. Jesus is our best friend. He took our punishment away so we can be joyful and focus on living fruitful lives. He will never leave us. We are safe!

May Jesus bless our children through Weekday Ministries again this school year. May we always be faithful to His Gospel. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16

HELP WANTED: Volunteers for Worship Services



The Worship Advisory Committee has identified urgent needs for the following positions:

- **Communion Steward** - Volunteers are needed monthly to set up worship service locations for communion. Tasks include gathering supplies, assembling trays with plastic cups and bread, filling cups, and positioning trays on the communion rails.
- **Usher** - Volunteers are needed weekly during worship services to welcome people and distribute bulletins, assist churchgoers with seating, collect the offering, lead people to communion, and help out during the service as needed. Training will be provided.

Please call the church office if you are interested in helping: 412-531-7131.

Lift up The Food Lift

Donate time on a Saturday morning at the church, distributing food with the Food Lift.

On the first and third Saturday mornings of the month, the Food Lift sets up food distribution tables at the entrance to Wesley Hall. Food Pantry families, coming into the church's food Pantry, as well as neighbors and community members are invited to choose from the Food Lift's array of bread, baked goods, fresh produce and other items. They can take home a grocery bag of free food donated to the Food Lift by area grocery stores and businesses. Volunteers are needed to staff the distribution tables, making sure the families receive a bit of Food Lift welcome, as well as food.

For more information and to volunteer, call Don Langston: 412-894-5559.



Food Lift volunteer Steve Howard staffs the food distribution tables on a Saturday morning.

Thank You

Thanks to all who helped in preparing the flower beds, planting the flowers and the weeding to keep our church grounds looking great: Scott Bowes, Donna and Alan Chesleigh, Caryl and Mike Drabick, Betsy and Scott Harkins, Linda and Bob Hoover, Pat Michael, Jon and Jan Rutter, Beth Santore, Laura, Bradley, Emily and Evan Shoff, Pastor Tom and Kathy Strandburg, Lynne Young, members of Boy Scout Troop #23 and all those who weed throughout the year. - Tom Michael



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 2017					1	2 10 AM Food Pantry with Food Lift
3 8:30 AM Worship Sanner 10:45 AM Worship Asbury	4 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	5 7 PM BSA #23 7 PM BSA Parents	6 6:30 AM N Side Lunch Prep 6 PM Homebuilders' Picnic	7 8:30 AM N Side Lunch Prep 9:30 Hands & Hearts 12 Noon TNT 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 1:30 PM Memoirs Group 6:30 Cub Scouts Bear Den	9
HOSTING FAMILY PROMISE SUN. SEPT. 3 THRU SUN. SEPT. 10						
10 SANCTUARY WORSHIP RESUMES 8:30 AM Worship Sanner 9:30 AM New Members Class 10:45 AM Worship 3 pm TNC Sewing Party	11 7 PM Chapel Bells Rehearsal 7 PM Church Council	12 6 PM UMW 7 PM BSA #23 7 PM BSA Reviews 7 PM Cub Scout Planning	13 6 PM Homebuilders' Picnic 6:30 PM Wolf Cub Scout 7 PM Tiger Den Pack 7:30 Finance	14 6:30 PM Promise Bells 6:30 PM Webelo 1 Scout 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study	16 10 AM Food Pantry with Food Lift
17 SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES 8:30 AM Worship Sanner 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM New Memb. Class 10:45 AM Worship Sanct. 5 PM Youth Group Kick Off 6:30 PM BSA Eagle Brd Reviews	18 7 PM Chapel Bells Rehearsal 7:30 PM Community Events & Outreach	19 TERRIFIC TUESDAY RESUMES 6 PM Terrific Tues 7 PM BSA #23	20 6 PM Homebuilders' Picnic 7 PM Koinonia UMW Circle	21 9:30 AM UMW Faith Circle 12 PM UMW Rebecca 6:30 PM Promise Bells 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Cub Scout Bear Den	23
24 8:30 AM Worship Sanner 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Sanctuary 7 PM BSA Leaders	25 7 PM Chapel Bells Rehearsal	26 6 PM Terrific Tues 7 PM BSA #23 7 PM BSA Brd Reviews	27 6 PM Homebuilders' Picnic 6:30 PM Wolf Cub Scout 7 PM Tiger Den Pack	28 9:30 AM Hands & Heart 6:30 PM Webelos 6:30 PM Promise Bells 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	29 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study	30



Family Promise Guests Arrive September 3

Our church is once again providing a home for temporarily homeless families in September. Volunteers are needed to provide meals, drive, and host at the church. Please prayerfully consider whether you could help this important mission. The first of our volunteers will pick up the families at 5 pm on Sunday 9/3 and each afternoon of the week to bring them to Wesley Hall and a good meal prepared by volunteers. One guest family will sleep in each of the Sunday School rooms and eat their dinner here. Early each morning another volunteer will take the group back to the Family Promise center in Crafton, from where they will go to work, school, and be helped to find permanent accommodation. MLUMC has been hosting families for about 8 years. It has been a rewarding privilege to help so many people through this difficult crisis in their lives. **For more information contact Hazel Cope at hazelcope0515@gmail.com.**

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

October 2017

1

8:30 AM Worship Sanner
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship
Sanctuary
5 PM Youth Group

2

6:30 PM Tiger Cub
Scouts
7 PM Chapel Bells
Rehearsal

3

6 PM Terrific Tues
7 PM BSA #23
7 PM BSA Parents

4

6:30 AM N Side Lunch
Prep

5

8:30 AM N Side Lunch Prep
9:30 AM Hands & Hearts
12 Noon TNT
6:30 PM Promise Bells
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

6

9:30 AM Women's Bible
Study

7

10 AM Food Pantry with
Food Lift

← Rummage sale drop-off begins →

8

8:30 AM Worship Sanner
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship
Sanctuary

9

7 PM Chapel Bells
Rehearsal

10

6 PM Terrific Tues
7 PM BSA #23
7 PM BSA Reviews
7 PM Cub Scout
Planning

11

6:30 PM Wolf Cub
Scouts
7 PM Tiger Den Pack
7:30 PM Finance

12

9:30 AM UMW Brd
11 AM UMW
6:30 PM Promise Bells
6:30 PM Webelos I
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

13

9:30 AM Women's Bible
Study
1:30 PM Memoirs Group
6:30 Cub Scouts Bear
Den

14

15

8:30 AM Worship Sanner
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Worship Sanct.
5 PM Youth Group
6:30 PM BSA Eagle Brd

16

7 PM Chapel Bells
Rehearsal
7:30 PM Community
Events & Outreach

17

6 PM Terrific Tues
7 PM BSA #23

18

7 PM Koinonia UMW
Circle

19

9:30 AM UMW Faith
Circle
12 PM UMW Rebecca
6:30 PM Promise Bells
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

20

9:30 AM Women's Bible
Study

21

10 AM Food Pantry with
Food Lift

Festival



Family Fall Festival - Saturday October 21

The MLUMC annual Family Fall Festival is on Saturday, October 21, from 4 to 7 pm. Be a part of the activities for adults and kids, including a bounce house in the parking lot. Church members, friends and community are invited to fun, fellowship and a free or freewill offering dinner.

Rummage Sale - Sat. November 4

Bring us your gently used treasures for the November 4th Rummage Sale. Clothing, furniture, kids' stuff, jewelry, gizmos; you give it, we sell it! Proceeds support international, national and local mission needs. Drop off in the Alcove begins October 1st; call the church office if you need an earlier drop-off date, or pick up. Due to Halloween, preparation for the sale will begin WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1st, (not Tuesday) ... Boy Scout help. Please mark your calendar to help.



Note how "tied-up" we can get with the rummage sale!



Honoring Our Vets - Sunday, November 12

Attention: All Military Veterans On Sunday, November 12, at the 10:45 worship service, our church will recognize and honor our veterans. Please wear a part of your uniform or something that identifies you as a vet - hat, jacket or medals and ribbons. For more information, call the church office: 412-531-7131.

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

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Permit No. 245

Choir Call

The adult choir – is this the year for you to join? Our Chancel Choir sings a variety of music from September through July. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 7:30 - 9 pm. Join us just for the fall if that works for your schedule.

**Call Gretchen for more information: 412-531-7131, ext. 116,
or gfranz@mlumc.org.**



Seraphic Singers - Sept. 24

Seraphic Singers are performing at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, across from South Hills Village, on Sunday, September 24th at 4 pm. The ensemble of 12 professional female vocalists, founded and conducted by our Director of Music, Gretchen Franz, sings a wide variety of music. You will hear Gershwin's "Embraceable you," Sondheim's humorous "The ladies who lunch," and jazz standard "Chili con carne," among others. Admission is by a freewill offering. Come and enjoy this premier Pittsburgh vocal ensemble. A treat not to be missed.