

December 2, 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME! If you are a visitor or new to Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church—we're glad you're here. Please sign the attendance sheet in the pew. Worship at our church is a joyful, prayerful, music-filled, traditional experience. We worship to glorify God and build up the community of believers to live in this world as followers of Jesus Christ. The **8:30 am** service meets in Sanner Chapel, immediately inside the front entrance of the church, and the **10:45 am** service is in our beautiful sanctuary. Kidz Praise, a special worship service for ages 3 through 3rd grade, takes place during our 10:45 Sunday service. **For more information: www.mlumc.org or 412-531-7131.**



**OPEN
HEARTS**

Our congregation would like to thank the following persons for making a financial pledge in support of our church's ministry in 2019:

Mark and Judy Lewis

Sara Mercer

Clark Remington

2 Anonymous

Pledges can still be made via commitment card (available on the literature tables in the narthex), telephone, e-mail, or through the church's website. Questions and email pledges should be addressed to financial secretary Joanne Dempe, jdempe@mlumc.org.

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS
3319 W. Liberty Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15216 412-531-7131 mlumc.org
Reverend Thomas Q. Strandburg, Pastor tstrandburg@mlumc.org



Christmas Cookie and Gift Bazaar

Saturday • December 8 • 9 am to 2 pm

**Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church
3319 West Liberty Avenue**



- Delicious homemade cookies
- Unique gifts
- Pick-a-prize raffle
- Authentic British tea room

*Proceeds to benefit women, children and youth
Sponsored by the UMW*

Calling All Cookie Bakers



To make the United Methodist Women's annual *Christmas Cookie & Gift Bazaar* a success, we need help with homemade cookie donations. In the weeks leading up to the December 8th event, please consider:

- Baking a batch or multiple batches of your favorite cookies and freeze the cookies in sealed bags.
- Bring the cookies to the church kitchen on Thursday, Dec. 6 between 9 am and 8 pm or on Friday, Dec. 7 before noon.
- Attend the *Christmas Cookie & Gift Bazaar*, **9 am to 2 pm** at the church, **December 8th** and find the perfect gifts for friends and family.

Ward Home Angel Tree

The Angel Tree in the Narthex is now decorated with Angel Christmas Wishes for our kids at Ward Home.



The wishes may be filled with \$25 gift cards from many stores in the South Hills area. Most grocery stores have a rack with an offering of gift cards.

Please put the gift card in an envelope or a small gift bag and bring it to the church by Dec. 14.

Food Pantry Donation Program for **December**

Please
donate
Christmas
meal items



(non-perishables)
Drop-off box near
entrance to
Food Pantry



Wanted: Tableaux Help

Volunteers are also needed to assist behind the scenes and to participate in the annual **Christmas Tableaux**, scheduled for December 16 at the 10:45 service. Children and teens are needed to play the parts of angels, shepherds, and kings. Adults are needed to help the participants get into costumes and enter the sanctuary on cue. Participants and adult helpers must be available for a rehearsal on Wednesday, December 12 at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Please contact Kim Rhoton to volunteer or with questions – krhoton@mlumc.org

First Sunday in Advent



Each year the W PA Conference and Eastern German Conference create daily Advent and Christmas devotionals for use in our homes and churches. We have chosen devotionals from each

Sunday, 2 December; Isaiah 42: 11-12

Rev. John Mize, Westmont UMC

Let the desert and its towns lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the tops of the mountains. Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare his praise in the coastlands.

These verses from Isaiah are part of a great hymn of praise to Jehovah. It begins in verse 10, where it says the praise will ring from the ends of the earth. Then it gets gradually more specific. The Kedar lived in the rocky desserts of Arabia, while Sela refers to a city. The mountain dwellers will sing with those on the coastlands and islands. All the world will sing together for joy when Jehovah walks in the world. As we groan and strain in this world, yearning for peace, love and hope as we experience the tragedies of this world, we are reminded that God is in charge. That He has strode among us and had broken the bondage of sin. What we yearn for is already available through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus, who offers us His peace, His righteousness and a life of joy kneels before us in quiet reminder of who He is. Let the praises resound.

Blood Pressure Screenings Cancelled Today



Community Thanksgiving Day Meal Feeds Both Body and Spirit

On behalf of the Community Events and Outreach Committee, I would like to thank our congregation for your support of the Community Thanksgiving Day meal. As you may know, this meal is a joint activity between Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church and MLUMC. Eat-in meals are served at Bethany, while home delivery meals originate from our Church. On

Thanksgiving Day, more than 500 meals were delivered to individuals, families, and groups – the number of meal deliveries exceeded the prior high (set in 2017) by more than 100. Not only were many mouths fed, but many lives also were touched by the hospitality and fellowship that accompanied each and every meal delivery.

I am most appreciative of the tremendous outpouring of volunteer help from our congregation. Many members donated food, in particular turkeys (we ended up carving more than 60). Many members also donated their time on Thanksgiving Day to prepare, pack and deliver meals throughout the South Hills area. What I found most gratifying were the comments from some who had never given up personal time on Thanksgiving Day previously to volunteer – they told me that they looked forward to doing it again next Thanksgiving.

The stories reported to me from those who received our meals, as well as those who prepared, packed, and delivered them, confirm my belief in the importance of this ministry. It truly fed both body and spirit for many on Thanksgiving Day.

Rob Spicher, Community Events and Outreach Committee Chair



Sunday School Mission Sale—Dec. 2 & 9

The Sunday school children work together throughout the year to support an orphan in Zimbabwe named Tanaka. Tanaka is nine years old and loves to sing, dance, play games, and go to school. Our sponsorship helps to provide for all the necessities of life, including food, medical care, and education expenses.

Next Sunday, December 2 and December 9 the children will offer for sale a variety of small treats and crafts they have made. Please plan to stop in the Narthex after services to help support this mission. All proceeds will go to help support Tanaka and the Home of Hope Orphanage in Zimbabwe.



Tanaka



December 9—Teddy Bear Sunday

Teddy Bear Sunday will be on Sunday, December 9, when the congregation is invited to bring in a new small to medium size teddy bear for our church outreach. Faith Circle will be collecting and distributing the teddy bears to local community services such as Mt. Lebanon Hospice, our church's food pantry, local police and ambulance services, Power Organization for Women, Asbury Place and more.

Thank you for your support in this special outreach.

A Service of Lessons & Carols

*with MLUMC's Chancel Choir, St. Bernard's
& Our Lady of Grace's Choirs*

The birth of Christ told through readings and music

Sunday, December 9, 4 pm

St. Bernard's RC Church



**LESSONS
& CAROLS**



Holiday Special Events

Sat. Dec. 8 *Christmas Cookie Sale & Gift Bazaar*

9 am Wesley Hall and Asbury Center

Sun. Dec. 9 *Teddy Bear Sunday*

both services, teddy bear and stuffed animal donations for children's charities.

Sun. Dec. 9 *Lessons & Carols*

MLUMC, St. Bernard's & Our Lady of Grace's Choirs
4 PM, St. Bernard's

Sun. Dec. 16 *Nativity Scene Tableaux with Lessons & Carols*

music by Chancel Choir and oboe, flute, percussion, piano 10:45 service

Sun. Dec. 16 *Dinner & Christmas Caroling*

5 pm, Asbury Center and the neighborhood

Mon. Dec. 24 *Christmas Eve Candlelight Services*

5 pm *Service for Children & Families*

8 & 10 pm *Traditional Christmas Eve Services*

with Chancel Choir, harp and oboe

Wiggle room for children provided at 5 and 8 pm services

Sun. Dec. 30 - *Morning Worship* - 10:45 am **only** in Sanctuary



MLUMC's Family Fund

The Family Fund provides confidential assistance to families of the church in times of financial distress. Pastor Tom and lay leader Linda Minnotte oversee the fund. Through their work, we as a congregation extend care in a very tangible way to church families in need. You can help the families through a donation to the church's Christmas Memorials.



POINSETTIA, THE FOOD PANTRY AND THE FAMILY FUND CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

Make a donation to the Food Pantry, the Family Fund or purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of friends or loved ones. The red poinsettias cost \$8.50 and will be on display Sun. Dec. 23 and during the Christmas Eve candlelight services. You may pick up your plant after the 10 pm Christmas Eve service or after Christmas Day. Then, spread the cheer by volunteering to deliver the poinsettia to a shut-in, or ask the church to deliver.

The deadline for ordering flowers is Sunday, December 2.

Christmas Memorials 2018 Order Deadline Sunday, Dec. 2

Make check payable to MLUMC. Mark the memo line

Poinsettia, Food Pantry or Family Fund

Donation to MLUMC Food Pantry \$ _____ Given in (*circle*) memory or honor of:

Donation to MLUMC Family Fund \$ _____ Given in (*circle*) memory or honor of:

Number of poinsettias _____ @ \$8.50 each = _____ Given in (*circle*) memory or honor of:

_____ I will pick up _____ I will deliver to a shut-in _____ Church to deliver to shut in

Donor Name _____ Phone _____