

HELP WANTED:



Communion Steward Volunteers

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

*Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words.**

The Food Lift is looking for a few volunteers—sturdy lads and lasses to pick up donated food from groceries and bakeries , and deliver the food to hungry people. The Food Lift works 365 days a year, so whatever your schedule—we can use you. **For more info, call Don Langston— 412-894-5559.**

**attributed to St. Francis of Assisi*



Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

The Food Pantry of our church is a very active ministry serving over 180 individuals within 75 families. The need is great in our community and requires an abundance of dedicated volunteers to shop, pack, distribute and deliver food to our growing number of clients. Additional volunteers are needed, especially to shop, deliver and distribute food. Please consider becoming part of our volunteer group to help those who depend on our services to feed their families. The time commitment is minimal but the joy of helping others is a blessing! **Please call Liz DiPietro at 412-279-4592 for information on how you can become involved.**

**Food Pantry
Donation Program for
December**

**Please
donate
Christmas
meal items**



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



December 9, 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. Kids Praise, a special worship service for ages 3 - 3rd grade, takes place during our 10:45 Sunday service. More information: www.mlumc.org or 412-531-7131.

Today is Teddy Bear Sunday

Thank you for donating teddy bears and stuffed animals to outreach charities and services. The UMW Faith Circle will be 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.



LESSONS
& CAROLS

This afternoon, 4 pm at St. Bernard's RC Church

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

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



Today: Mission Sale



The Sunday School children have been working hard to create

crafts and treats to sell. Stop in to the Narthex after services today and have a look at the small gifts and stocking stuffers available! All proceeds are used to sponsor a child at the Home of Hope Orphanage in Nyadire, Zimbabwe. Thank you!



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

*Betsy Rayner,
Eric and Courtney Schmidt
1 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

Church Council Endorses 2019 Emphasis

At its recent meeting on December 3, the Church Council endorsed a plan to continue emphasizing our membership vows during 2019. The congregation will be offered many opportunities to fulfill our membership vows of prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness from January through May. A special emphasis on prayer will begin next month. More details will follow.



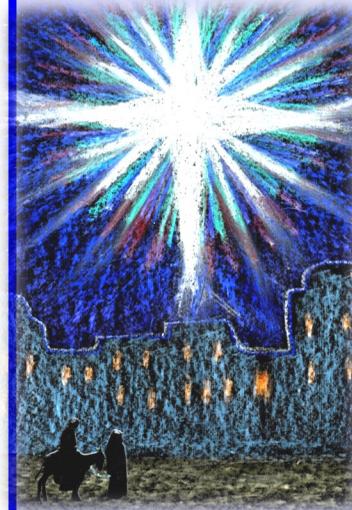
Ward Home Angel Tree

Thank you all so much for fulfilling the wishes of our kids at the Ward Home. Your gift cards will spread good cheer to the kids for a Merry Christmas. Please bring your angels to the church office by December 14 so they can be delivered to the Ward Home.

Pastor Hendrik Walz, Neudorf

Divide et impera [Divide and Rule] – that was French King Louis XI's motto. If one divides a group into many small groups and assigns them leaders, it is much easier to rule. Niccolò Machiavelli realized the efficiency of this principle too and recommended this rule to the House of Medici's rulers. Yet, people in such small groups often experience a strong feeling of powerlessness. They think, "I cannot change anything. I am only one among many." In our days, similar powers are active, trying to divide Christians. They make too much out of minor issues that stand between us. 'The Ancient Prince of Hell' sows the seeds of hate and discord amongst us. And, unfortunately, we fall into the traps again and again. Then, we Christians forget what our main purpose is: Love. Love that overcomes the walls and does not build them; love that one devotes to our neighbor; love that is not guided by fear of loss and does not see every stranger with suspicion; love that overcomes borders and does not reinforce them. God is our role model. He loves each of us unconditionally because he is love. Love came to us on earth in Jesus Christ and has removed anything separating us from him. "And walk in love, as Christ loved us." God does not rule according to the principle of 'Divide and Rule'. On the contrary, he wants a united body in Christ, a Community created from one, divine love, the communion of saints. God's love brings healing for us. By loving each other first, God raises us out of the abyss of the world. And when we love each other, God remains in us—and his love is complete and undivided.

Christmas Season Worship Services



Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Service for Children & Families, 5 pm

Traditional Christmas Eve Services with Chancel Choir, harp and oboe, 8 and 10 pm (*time change*)

Wiggle room for children provided at 5 and 8 pm services

Sunday, December 30

10:45 service only, in Sanctuary



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 week.

Rev. Bruce Davis, Trinity UMC Erie

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4: 7-12

The woman met Jesus as a part of her daily tasks - every day go get the water at the well. Jesus sat by the well waiting, waiting for her. He spoke to her as she approached the well. That conversation would change her world, shattering her neat and tidy world.

When Jesus started the conversation all her preconceived beliefs about Jesus and Jews, about her past, and her own worth began to change. This was a divine appointment. Guided by that same Spirit that took Him to the desert to be tempted and the same constraint of the Father's direction, Jesus was compelled to be at that well at that time to talk to this certain woman.

She began to awaken to the reality that Jesus was not just an ordinary Jewish man sitting by a well. He immediately offered her a reality that was not a part of her normal day. The offer of living water surprised her. She asked an important question, "Are you greater than our father Jacob?" How did the Savior of the world happen to stop by an ancient well to meet a woman who by all accounts an outcast? It was a "God moment" He stooped down and stopped by to reach into her life. Jesus left the equality with God behind Him as He entered our world. He came on an appointed time. The fullness of time came as Paul reminds us in Galatians chapter 4:4 Jesus was born to redeem you and me. Are we ready to meet Jesus?

Our meeting Jesus was no more a coincidence than Jesus' meeting a Samaritan woman at a well at noon. It was a divine appointment that He revealed Himself to us along our road of life. Maybe we were discouraged and felt cut off from others as well. Then Jesus came and we realized that someone greater than our ancestors arranged to speak into our life. We have good news to share that God would go out of His way to meet with us.

Packaging & Delivering Christmas Gifts at the Allegheny Co. Jail

**Thurs. Dec. 13, 8 am - 12:30 pm (packaging)
5:30 - 9 pm (delivering)**

**Restrictions: All volunteers must be
21 or older**

**RSVP: Call Marci at 412-350-2057 or email
marci.burkhart@alleghenycounty.us**



Volunteer to help pack and deliver Christmas Care packages to inmates separated from their families and holiday activities.

Next Sunday, December 16:

10:45 Worship - Nativity Scene Tableaux with Lessons & Carols



Community Christmas Caroling and Dinner

Gather to sing Christmas carols at homes in the church neighborhood and nearby apartments

on **Sunday, December 16**. This is a fun event that requires no special singing talent, just the willingness to spread good cheer to those who live near MLUMC! It starts with dinner at 5 pm in Asbury Center, then caroling at 6, and back to Asbury Center at 8 for hot chocolate and cookies. Don't forget to dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. Register with Kim Rhoton, krhoton@mlumc.org.



Christmas Meals

A ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Castle Shannon, Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church & Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

Reach out to members of our community who may be in need of a good meal or are alone on Christmas Day. Help provide a holiday ham dinner, served from 1 to 4 pm at Castle Shannon Presbyterian Church on Poplar Ave. The meal is free of charge and is served at the church as well as delivered to individuals and families all over SW PA.

Ways you can help:

- 1) Volunteer before and on Christmas to put together and serve meals. Call Bob Stokes at the church as early as possible to tell him you are able to help out before and/or Christmas day.
- 2) Make a cash contribution. Checks should be made out to FPCCS with "Christmas Dinner" in the memo line and sent to the church.
- 3) Donate a fruit pie which you should deliver directly to First Presbyterian and not to MLUMC. For safety reasons, please do not donate pumpkin pies or pies with egg or cream filling. Pies may be delivered on Christmas morning or prior to that, but you should notify the church so workers are able to keep a count and receive the pies.
- 4.) If you are interested in delivering meals, please provide Rob Spicher with your contact information (robert.spicher@pnc.com or 412-720-4589.) Rob will contact the delivery coordinator, George Libby, with your information.

Volunteer (other than meal delivery) contact phone # - Bob Stokes, 412-760-3574

Pie donation phone # - First Presbyterian Church, 412-561-0401

Check donation mailing address:

**First Presbyterian Church of Castle Shannon
3636 Poplar Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15234**

If you know someone who needs a place at the table of a Christmas meal, or who needs a meal delivered, contact First Presbyterian Church: 412-561-0401 between 8 am- 4 pm, no later than Tuesday, December 18.



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

