



The Window into the heart of

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

Volume 7, Number 2, Spring/Summer 2021

Faith for Today 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

Faith for Today (FFT) 2021 has a new and updated format, different from FFT 2020. Last summer, the use of technology, mainly Zoom, allowed us to continue with our MLUMC lecture series, albeit very abbreviated. In 2021, the unbroken FFT legacy continues.

This year we are approaching Faith for Today "normalcy." Changes include a trimmed down 10-week series beginning June 27, and a Welcome Center location, where we will keep CDC guidelines of mask wearing, social distancing, or whatever they may be at the time. Hooray for vaccines.

Our personal and church lives have continued. We grieve with one another for the pain and loss some have suffered, and rejoice for the opportunities for learning and growth this time of isolation has also afforded. Come join us as we share with one another both from our sisters and brothers at MLUMC as well as from the community around us. Learn, change, grow and join us at Faith for Today 2021.

Thank you, from the Faith for Today team.

Faith for Today

2021 Sunday Summer Speaker Series

9:30 am, June 27-August 29 The Welcome Center

June 27 "O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord"

A time of song, testimony and discussion with Mitchell Stecker, our new Director of Music.

July 4 America: A Land of Immigrants and Refugees

Our church has a number of foreign-born members, and also sponsored a family from Vietnam in the late '70's. Come to hear their stories as our nation celebrates the beautiful and unique diversity of our shared American heritage this July 4th.

July 11 "Make a Joyful Noise"

Members of the congregation will perform hymn tunes on a variety of instruments, and we will sing a few favorite hymns.

July 18 Kids Like Me

As our nation struggles to find a way forward, the church can be a place of unity and hope, beginning with our children. This kid-friendly program will focus on ways to help parents talk to their children about racism.

July 25 We are alive and with God's help we will thrive

This is the story of Warren United Methodist Church, the last historically all Black church in the Pittsburgh area. Warren is located on Centre Avenue in Pittsburgh's Upper Hill District. The program will feature clergy and laity discussing Warren's history, current status, and future plans, some of which may involve MLUMC.

(Faith for Today continued page 3)

2021 Sunday Summer Schedule

The 10:45 am Sunday Traditional Service will move from the Sanctuary to Asbury Center on Sunday, June 6th. The Gathering is changing to an 8:30 am start June 27. Here is the complete schedule:

June 6 - June 20

8:30 am	Traditional Service	Sanner Chapel
9:30 am	The Gathering	Wesley Hall
10:45 am	Traditional Service	Asbury Center

June 27 - August 29

8:30 am	Traditional Service	Sanner Chapel
8:30 am	The Gathering	Wesley Hall
9:30 am	Faith for Today	Welcome Center
10:45 am	Traditional Service	Asbury Center

Please note that we continue to follow all federal, state, and local guidelines pertaining to crowd size, physical distancing, hygienic practice, and masking as we reopen the various activities on our church schedule.

From Pastor Tom Strandburg:

Back to Normal?

We have definitely reached the point in our pandemic journey in which everyone is wondering, “when will we finally get back to normal?” School children and their parents are wondering when they will finally be able to resume a schedule and routine that is fully “back to normal” once again. Baseball fans are wondering when limits on crowd size will finally disappear, and the atmosphere at PNC Park will be “back to normal” once again. Workers are wondering when their routine will finally be “back to normal,” at least enough for them to say goodbye to their home exile and rejoin their co-workers back at the office. These are just a few of the many settings in which people are yearning to get “back to normal.”

In the church too there is a deep yearning for a return to normalcy. There is no doubt that our situation is vastly improved over where it was one year ago. Our church is open for worship in all three services on Sunday morning, and our people are slowly returning. That is a vast improvement over one year ago, when we were still in the midst of a societal shut-down. Still, we human beings tend to be an impatient lot. We want what we want when we want it! We want to see all of our former activities back on the schedule. We particularly want to see all of our people back with us in worship again, seated in their usual pews. It bothers us that this has not yet happened and if we are honest, it scares us too. The longer it takes for things to get “back to normal” the more we wonder if they ever will. As your pastor, I can feel your anxiety, and I can understand your fear.

March 15th, 2020 was the last “normal Sunday,” just one day before the initial closure of Pennsylvania’s schools and businesses began. Actually, it wasn’t entirely normal, since many of our people had already wisely decided to begin their quarantine a day early. The church was open, however, and all three of our worship services were held on that day. Those who were present heard me preach on the topic, “Give to the Winds Thy Fears.” I took the title of my message from a poem that was written by the German poet Paul Gerhardt in the 17th Century. His words were then translated by Methodism’s founder John Wesley in the 18th Century, and then most famously set to a tune by William Walter in the 19th Century. It took over 200 years for this hymn to coalesce into the form that we have it in our United Methodist hymnal today. It begins with the stanza, “Give to the winds thy fears, hope and be undismayed. God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears, God shall lift up thy head.”

Next to Martin Luther, Paul Gerhardt is acknowledged to be the most significant Lutheran hymn writer. Hymnologist Albert Bailey notes: “No doubt [Gerhardt] repeated these lines to himself many a time in the after years when, one by one four of his five children died, his influential position in Berlin was taken away, and his wife succumbed after a long illness, leaving him with a single surviving son.” Over a century later, Gerhardt’s hymn came to Wesley’s attention through his association with the Moravians. He immersed himself in the hymns of the Moravians while sailing to Georgia in October 1735. While on board the ship, the Moravians practiced their *Singstunde* (singing meetings). The German version of our hymn was contained in this collection, prompting our hymnal’s editor Carlton Young to suggest that the “first stanza may have been a comfort to Wesley during the stormy voyage to Georgia.” Though the circumstances that Gerhardt and the Wesleys faced were different, this hymn served as a source of comfort for two influential leaders in two different cultures, languages and centuries.

I remind us all of the powerful truth of this hymn, as we face our own challenges in the 21st Century. In another stanza of his hymn Gerhardt writes, “Through waves and clouds and storms, God gently clears thy way; wait thou God’s time; so shall this night soon end in joyous day.” I know that these times have been hard, and that many have suffered. I also know that God will see us through. Our recovery from this stormy season might not be as fast as we would like, which provides us with the perfect opportunity to trust in God. Wait thou God’s time! So shall this night end in joyous day! Remember, one year ago we did not even publish an edition of The Window in May, because we knew that we were months away from the resumption of of any sort of “normal” church activities. We have made progress, my friends! As you read the articles in this newsletter rejoice! We may not be “back to normal,” and our full return may yet be months away. However, the church is reopening, and God’s people are assembling once again. In God’s time, and when you are ready, I would love to see you in church!

Yours in Service,
Pastor Tom Strandburg

Faith for Today
2021 Sunday Summer Speaker Series
9:30 am, June 27-Aug. 29 The Welcome Center



The View from The Gathering

by Rev. Scott Miller

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! When Mt. Lebanon UMC re-opened for in-person worship, The Gathering, of course, was right there with the other services. However, because of the need to be able to clean each individual space, The Gathering is temporarily moved to Wesley Hall, and the time has changed to 9:30 am. This new, later time has allowed some folks that previously had not been able to join the contemporary worship experience to come and join, and that has been a great blessing. We are changing back to our original time of 8:30 am in June. (see paragraph below)

Pastor Scott is still preaching his down-to-earth sermons, and BJ Collins still leads the worship band, which varies from week to week: our old friend Keith Moorehouse provides the drums, our own Eric Palmer the bass, Joe Broward the saxophone, and Bob Banerjee provides violin. The music that praises our Lord is wonderful and varied, with new contemporary Christian songs to old favorites from our hymnal given a little bit more speed and beat. We've even had some wonderful Southern Gospel songs thrown our way.

As always, Holy Communion is still every Sunday, so if you feel in need of strengthening from the Lord's table, you need not wait until the first Sunday of the month. We would love to have you attend at any time!

With summertime and our popular Faith for Today series starting up again, The Gathering will have a time change. **Beginning on Sunday, June 27, we will meet at 8:30 am. Our location will remain the same: we will meet in Wesley Hall.**

August 1 A Call to Ministry

Newly-appointed Pittsburgh District Supt. Rev. Debbie Ackley-Killian and daughter Grace Killian will reflect on their calls to full-time Christian ministry. They will include the life of Rev. Earl Killian.

August 8 Dismantling Racism

Tracey Merrick, a leader in the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference, will lead a discussion on this most timely topic. He has a great deal of experience with churches as they seek to achieve a just society.

August 15 Chabadza!

In rural Zimbabwe, neighbors stop to help neighbors, building a sense of community. This kid friendly program will update us on what is happening at the Nyadire mission in Zimbabwe, and what we can do to help our neighbors there. We are stronger when we work together!

August 22 How We Not Only Survived but Thrived During Covid-19

Various members of the congregation will share stories about our church's many ministries that continued to be very effective during the pandemic despite many obstacles.

August 29 MLUMC Youth Mission Work in Virginia

This year's youth mission team will share their experiences at Project Crossroads in Marion, VA, providing home renovations for low income families.

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CAN THURSDAYS BE "TERRIFIC," TOO?

Of course they can! Many of you will recall our popular mid-week gatherings, "Terrific Tuesday (TT)," which have been closed for more than a year now, due to the pandemic. We've been itching to get back together for quite a long time!

We are pleased to announce that a TT-style event is being planned for **Thursday, May 20th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** We will begin with dinner provided by the church, followed by activities for children, youth, and adults. The adults will engage in a study of Philippians 4:4-8, entitled "Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World." You are invited to attend. No pre-registration is necessary. Since we may use the portion of our upper parking lot that is closest to Wesley Hall, please park accordingly, in either the lower lot, or the West Liberty Ave. end of the upper lot. Both indoor and outdoor seating will be available for the dinner portion of the event, weather permitting. Please join us!

May 23 - Confirmation and Graduation Sunday



Welcome in
Christian love
the 2020 and 2021
Confirmation classes
at the 10:45 service.

Honor the high school, college and post-grad graduates on their special day.



If you are graduating, or if you know of anyone graduating from high school, college or a post-grad program, contact Kim Rhoton at krhoton@mlumc.org.

Weekday Ministries Child Care Center

by Mettelise Ziegler, WDM Director



For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18.

Operating a childcare center at this current time is challenging, to say the least. But then, God never promised worthwhile endeavors would be easy. There are rewards!

Working with children is guaranteed to pay benefits. Children are growing through a healthy environment of solid early childhood practices and biblical lessons. The Sr. Pre-K teachers marvel at the children's insatiable appetite for Bible stories and songs. What a privilege to see God's Holy Spirit at work in these tender hearts.

Ten children will be "graduating" on May 27th. Our staff may be vaccinated against COVID-19, along with the majority of parents, but we are still being careful by holding an outdoor "commencement" ceremony.

We could be up to "normal" numbers if we had adequate staff in place. Numbers are added to our waitlist each day. But like other small businesses, we are having a tough time finding both part time and full time staff. If you know of anyone that would enjoy a few afternoon hours or a full time position, please send them our way.

When summer comes, we expect our activities to spill into the outdoors where we can enjoy projects in gardening, bug watching and water play. We thank God that he has kept us healthy and praise Him for allowing us to hear his Word every day!

VBS Coming soon!

SAVE THE DATE!

**GREAT
BIG
beautiful
WORLD**

Vacation Bible School

July 26-July 30

9:30—11:30 a.m.

Children age 4 through 5th grade

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Monica Kao, Communications Coordinator

Adult Sunday Schools Stay Connected

As we slowly emerge from the 1½ year long pandemic, perhaps it is a good idea to look back. One question we can answer and learn from may be, "How did church members and friends stay connected during this time?" Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church is known for its adult Sunday Schools, so it is no surprise that we can find answers concerning connection among these groups.

Young Adult The Young Adult Class remained quite active during the pandemic. In fact, hardly a Sunday was missed, thanks to Zoom. As attendees learned to use Zoom, membership increased, connecting those in the church with members who had moved away, as well as friends who joined from other cities. The class has been meeting for five years, and some of its largest number of attendees have occurred during the pandemic!

Since the church reopened, the class has Sundays with as many people meeting in person as on Zoom. One of the most interesting lessons was when Bishop William Willimon led a Zoom discussion from his home in North Carolina. Members asked questions about his study book, "Fear of the Other."

The class's only mission project was in the Spring of 2020, when members completed a drive-by parade to church members and friends' houses who had been confined to their homes. The Young Adult Class sang, held up greeting signs, gave them a small gift and Pastor Tom offered a prayer all from a safe distance.

Mixers The Mixers Class members stayed in touch with letters and shared devotions. Each week a Mixer member sent an email full of family news and good wishes to the whole class. From the Knabb family, "We are so much better off than so many people is this world. We are blessed to have a roof over our heads, food on the table, and the security that a loving family gives you."

At Easter, Joanne Dempe told of a surprising change, "As most of you know, I am used to hosting big, noisy holiday meals with family and some friends. This past year of small holidays has been weird, and while I will go back to the hosting and cooking of tons of food . . . It has been an unexpected blessing."

After sending family updates, the members share a devotion. Bob Mallery's contribution was from an unknown source:
"Faith doesn't always take you out of the problem, Faith takes you through the problem.
Faith doesn't always take away the pain, Faith gives you the ability to handle the pain.
Faith doesn't always take you out of the storm, Faith calms you in the midst of the storm."

And From Betsy Harkins:

"Dear God, please help me to be ready and willing to "seize" every opportunity You give to me to serve You, trust in You to help me to do it, and to claim every promise You have for me. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully in Jesus's name. Amen."

From the book *Seize the Day! Enjoy the Moment*

Kerygma The ties of friendship within Kerygma seemed to tighten during this pandemic time. Revolving teachers from within the class and speakers from outside the class tackled spiritual and social justice issues of the country, denomination and our hearts. The discussions happened on Zoom, of course. Because of Zoom, Kerygma also continued its tradition of a retreat and a Christmas party, complete with the singing of carols.

A day or two after an official Sunday morning Zoom class each week, the importance of connecting and supporting would come into play for the women of Kerygma. The women set up their own weekly half hour of conversation on Zoom, usually on the following Tuesday. "Coffee Talk," as it was called, was organized by Deanna Baird, and attended by all the women.

The year 2020 was not just difficult, but heartbreaking for Kerygma member Martha Clarke. Her husband Ed, also a Kerygma member, was now a resident of Asbury Heights. She says of Coffee Talk, "This was a life line for all of us. We could see each other, talk about what we were doing and how we were coping. This was particularly important for me, since I was not able to visit Ed for more than six months. They gave me the added support that I so needed."

Ed passed away before the end of 2020. At that time and continuing now, Martha has the love of Kerygma.

MLUMC Anti-Discrimination Activities

by Clark Remington

During the COVID quarantine a great many actions have occurred through MLUMC to address our Church Council's focus to, "acknowledge discrimination, fight racism, and foster social justice." Our social justice group, Do No Harm, has been meeting virtually on a regular basis. Viewing videos from WPAUMC and other sources, discussing articles and books, and sharing updates from the general conference are activities that occur in the DNH meetings. DNH is making plans for a Unity Lunch when it is safe to meet together.

Our Christian Education programs at MLUMC have addressed discrimination in meaningful ways. The youth have had Sunday School classes where they viewed videos on racism. Parents were given a list of books to use to talk to their children about racism. The Young Adult class explored a unit called, "Other."

Kerygma has presented classes such as, "And All Flesh Shall See It Together-God's Reign of Radical Inclusivity," "Trouble I've Seen-Changing the Ways the Church Views Racism," and "Creating Spaces for Minority Students to be Themselves."

On Wednesdays, robust and eye-opening book discussions enabling readers to acknowledge and begin to understand racism have been ongoing this year. White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo was discussed from July through September. White Rage by Carol Anderson was considered from Nov. to Dec. Caste by Isabel Wilkerson was talked about in January. See No Stranger by Valerie Kauer was chewed on in March and April. Discussions of The Sum of Us by Heather McGee took place in April and early May. In addition to individuals from MLUMC, there have been participants from Nevada, Colorado, Washington DC, and CUMC. If you would like to join a book discussion group you would be very welcome! Contact: Clark Remington corkrem@verizon.net, Louanne Baily lbaily0@gmail.com, or Francie Robb francierobb@gmail.com



Is MLUMC Ready to Become an Anti-Racist Church?

by Louanne Baily

We know that all people are sacred and worthy. We are made equal by God, who created humanity in God's own image. Out of our deep love of God and neighbor, when we see people being treated as less than equal we must speak out. What would it look like for us to seek justice, do the work, and end racism as disciples of Jesus Christ?

Several initiatives are bubbling and will be made available to you and MLUMC over the upcoming months. We need to be willing and prepared to have our eyes opened to disparate experiences lived by people who merely look different. We need to confess where we have been complicit in systems that do not deliver justice and we must actively seek to right these wrongs.

UMC's *WE RISE UNITED SO THAT ALL MAY BE FREE* (<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/commitment-to-becoming-an-anti-racist-church>) asks churches to contemplate the following and commit to the following anti-racism tasks: Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our shared history includes a primary emphasis on Christian living, on putting faith and love into action.

Live: Our church commits to include the spiritual discipline of justice as a part of our understanding of discipleship and congregational vitality. John Wesley's Rule of Discipleship needs to be understood and resurrected today: "(T)o witness to Jesus Christ in the world and to follow His teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

Resist: Our church will regularly uplift our shared [baptismal vows](#) to encourage believers to a) repent of the sin of racism; b) resist evil, injustice, and oppression as it relates to racism; so that, c) we might be able to live into the vow to be in union with people of all ages, nations, and races.

Organize: Our church commits to directly engage with our local leaders and officials to work toward ending racism, poverty, and violence based upon the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ, our United Methodist Social Principles, and Book of Resolutions.

For some of us, this is too much to ask; for others it is not enough. Let us all pray about how God is calling us to be engaged in dismantling racism, not for a moment, but for a lifetime.

Church Financial Information

by Rob Spicher, Finance Committee Chair

One of the recommendations in early 2017 from our Church stewardship consultant, Scott McKenzie, was more transparency regarding financial matters. The Finance Committee implemented this recommendation in early 2018, and began to share quarterly financial information in *The Window*. To continue this information sharing, summarized below are the Church's 2019, 2020, and 1st quarter 2021 financial results.

As shared in the financial update contained in the Fall 2020 edition of *The Window*, the COVID 19 pandemic created great financial uncertainty for our Church. With in-person worship and many other activities cancelled, there was concern that the needed level of stewardship to pay staff, maintain facilities, and support ministries and programs would not continue. As the actual results shown below for 2020 indicate, said concern fortunately did not come to pass, thanks to the continuing generous financial support of Church members and friends.

Relative to the 1st quarter of 2021, you will note that expenses if annualized would be higher than in years past. This is somewhat of a misnomer, as certain annual expenses (such as worker's compensation) are front end loaded. The preceding having been said, the 1st quarter expenses do reflect a 3% salary increase for all staff plus unusually high snow removal expenses due to a rougher than normal winter. Regarding 1st quarter revenues, they are on track (if annualized) with prior years. The on-going monitoring of revenues and expenses will include comparisons to the 2021 YTD budget starting in the 2nd quarter. Continuing financial support of our Church's staff, facilities, ministries, and programs during the remainder of 2021 will be very much appreciated.

Any questions regarding the actual and budget information shown below should be directed to Rob Spicher (Finance Committee Chair) or Virginia Katinsky (Business Administrator and Treasurer). Both can be reached by calling the Church office (412-531-7131).

	2019	% of	2020	% of	2021	% of
	Actuals	Expenses	Actuals	Expenses	First Q Actuals	Expenses
Church Budget						
Revenue:	\$745,032	101.5%	\$723,354	100.2%	\$180,138	89.2%
Expenses:						
Personnel	\$418,369	57.0%	\$445,945	61.8%	\$118,925	58.7%
Programs & Facilities	153,145	20.8%	117,981	16.4%	36,491	18.0%
Utilities & Taxes	90,014	12.3%	80,122	11.1%	33,008	16.3%
Insurance	37,160	5.1%	41,288	5.7%	13,423	6.6%
Connectional Contribution to WPA UM Conference	35,508	4.8%	36,307	5.0%	912	0.4%
Total Expenses	\$734,196	100%	\$721,643	100%	\$202,759	100%
Total Net Income (Loss)	\$10,836		\$1,711		(\$22,621)	

* \$70,071 requested in 2019, did not pay \$34,563;
\$70,611 requested in 2020, did not pay \$34,304

Net losses are covered by cash on hand and special gifts.

Community Events and Outreach Committee



Good Friday Fish Fry - A Tradition Resumes

For many years, those in our community who desired a full course Good Friday dinner counted on the Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church Fish Fry. The COVID 19 pandemic caused MLUMC to cancel the Fish Fry in 2020, but thanks to dedicated outreach leaders, a redesign of the process, and God's help, the Good Friday Fish Fry tradition returned this year.

Instead of having eat-in and delivery as in the past, this year's Fish Fry was "drive-up" take-out and delivery only. Approximately 300 meals were served to church members, Food Pantry clients, and community neighbors. Though the pandemic caused the committee to simplify the menu, meal recipients still received baked or fried cod, French fries, cole slaw, macaroni and cheese, hush puppies, an apple, a cookie pack, a bun, utensils, and condiments. A full course meal, indeed, well received by all.

An added feature this year was the providing of pre-packaged communion elements. Pastor Tom prepared a reading to go with the elements and on-line instructions on how to take the elements. Approximately 200 dinners served included the elements, some going to people who had not had communion for some time, if ever.



Pre-packaged communion elements

Many thanks to the members and friends of MLUMC who supported the Fish Fry through donations of time and money. Special thanks to MLUMC's own Donna Chesleigh and her husband Alan, and to Matt Baker with daughters Hannah and Samantha. They not only redesigned the preparation, packing, and distribution processes for the meal, but also helped to ensure its success by donating countless hours of time.

A 2021 Good Start - Outreach to Communities in Need

The Community Events and Outreach Committee had a very active 1st quarter of 2021, COVID 19 notwithstanding. Here is what the committee has accomplished from the beginning of the year until now:

- **Food Pantry** – Continued to provide 60 families totaling 140 individuals with food items and household necessities every month
- **Food Lift** – Maintained daily pick-up and distribution of perishable food items to Food Pantry clients and shelters, churches, and community service organizations
- **Daily Bread** – Provided lunch the 1st Thursday of every month to 100 individuals in need on the North Side
- **Family Promise** – Provided financial support to an organization assisting families in transitional housing
- **Good Friday Fish Fry** – Served 300 meals, many with communion, at no cost to attendees from the Church and surrounding community
- **East End Cooperative Ministries** – Provided dinner on the 4th Sunday of every other month to 50 residents of a transitional housing/social service building in East Liberty
- **COVID 19 Prevention Kits** – Provided 365 kits including masks and hand sanitizers to the Daily Bread, East End Cooperative Ministries, and Hello Neighbor outreach organizations
- **Church Initiative to Address Racism, Discrimination, and Social Injustice** – Heard presentations from Daily Bread, which serves homeless people, and Hello Neighbor, which serves refugees and immigrants

For more information contact Committee Chair

Rob Spicher at robert.spicher@pnc.com or 412-720-4589.

Community: The Boy Scouts, The Church and Spaghetti

This year, MLUMC-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 23 faced a problem caused by the Covid-19 virus: how to serve the community spaghetti dinners, keep CDC protocols and fundraise, too. The answer? Like the church's Good Friday Fish Fry, serve drive-thru and take out only.

Some Dormont residents wanted to help the scouts and hungry families. They donated money to buy dinners for those in need, giving the money to the church to buy the dinners and identify the families. The church added a personal donation and a contribution from the Outreach Committee.



Boy Scout Troop 23 preparing the take-out and serving the drive-thru

Thanks to those who donated, at 5 o'clock on May 1st, 21 dinners were ready to give to families in need. At that time, Food Lift workers Bev and Bob Fester and volunteer for the day, Jessica Langston arrived to deliver the dinners.



Bob and Bev Fester and Jessica Langston delivering meals

The Boy Scouts served 186 dinners this year, about half of their normal number. One troop leader called it "wonderful," considering the Covid 19 obstacles. They made approximately \$1,800 and . . . 21 hungry people sat down to a good plate of spaghetti.



United Methodist Women

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church's UMW is Waiting and Watching

The United Methodist Women are watching the CDC guidelines before they plan the start-up of next fall's season or any event. Stay tuned to the Church and UMW websites and the Sunday bulletin for UMW announcements.



EASTER SUNDAY 2021

Dear people of the Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church,

What an absolute joy and blessing it was to gather together and worship the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday. How wonderful to see our church so full, to hear all of our voices joined in praise and bolstered by brass and bells, and to get a glimpse of things going back to normal. God is good!

We continue making progress towards that goal of normalcy; in accordance with guidelines from our health authorities (and thanks to the newly-warmed weather), we'll continue resuming activities such as our outdoor choir rehearsals, we will begin integrating small ensembles into worship on a weekly basis, and we will continue introducing new programs and opportunities for worship.

*A service of Evensong
in commemoration of
Aldersgate Day*



"I felt my heart strangely warmed..."

The Rev. J. Wesley, May 24, 1738

Monday, May 24, 2021
7:30 in the Evening

An upcoming event in the latter category is an **Evensong for Aldersgate Day**, to take place at 7:30 PM, **Monday, 24 May**, in the sanctuary. Commemorating John Wesley's experience of feeling "his heart strangely warmed" on Aldersgate Street in London on May 24, 1738, this service of prayer, preaching, and song will feature music and poetry by Wesley family members Charles (1707-1788) Samuel (1766-1837), and Samuel Sebastian (1810-1876) as sung by a small ensemble of singers, as well as a reflection for the occasion delivered by Pastor Tom. The service will be live and open to the public, and will also be recorded or live-streamed; more information about these technical elements will be available on the church website in advance of the service. I hope you will join us for this special worship offering.

As we continue our trek through this spiritual wilderness into which we were cast last March by the conditions of the pandemic, I look forward excitedly to summiting our proverbial Nebo and looking out over the expanses of the promised land together as conditions continue to improve, and as we are able to do more and more of the activities which we have all missed so dearly.

May God bless you with a safe, sunny, and spiritually-enriching Summer season! Your friend and brother in Christ,

Mitchell

Mitchell Stecker, Director of Music

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

3319 West Liberty Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15216
(412) 531-7131 • www.mlumc.org

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Flower Planting Time

**Friday, May 28 6-8 pm and
Saturday, May 29 9 am-12 pm**

Be a part of helping plant the spring flowers at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church. All the flowers will be there, just bring a hand shovel, gloves and knee pads. Planting will take place on Friday, May 28th from 6 pm - 8 pm and Saturday morning, May 29th from 9 am to 12 noon. After the flowers are planted, we can enjoy them all summer through fall. Any questions contact Tom Michael at trilobitesix@aol.com or (412) 389-9411. Thanks!

