



# *The Window* into the heart of

*Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church*

Volume 8, Number 3, Fall 2022

**Rev. Dr. David H. Watson**  
**September 23, 1929 - July 6, 2022**

*"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, trustworthiness, gentleness, and self-control. "* Galatians 5

The fruit of the Spirit, exemplified – that is how Bishop George Bashore described his colleague and dear friend, Dr. David Watson at the Celebration of Life Service for David. The Service took place on Saturday, August 20, at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church, where Dr. Watson served as an Associate Pastor and a beloved Pastor Emeritus for 43 years. Dr. Watson's colleagues, congregants, friends and family attended, watched online and participated in the love-filled service. The Rev. Dr. David H. Watson died on July 6, at the age of 92.

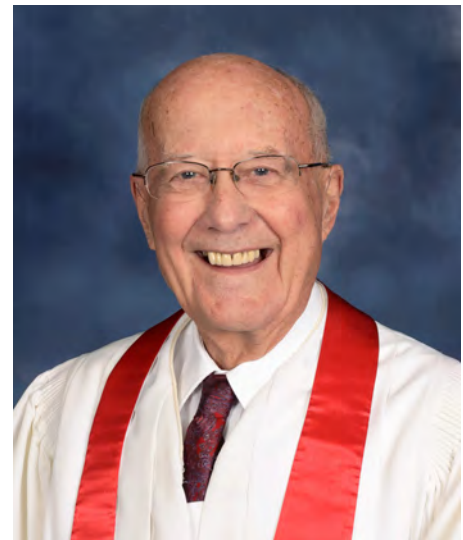
UMC Pittsburgh District Superintendent Rev. Deborah Ackley-Killian presented the Circuit Rider Medallion on behalf of Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, the cabinet of the WPA Conference and the congregations and ministries served and impacted by Dr. Watson throughout his sixty-year ministry. Rev. Ackley-Killian spoke of how Dr. Watson and his wife of 69 years, Barbara, had touched her life and those of her family – sharing the sacred Bread and Cup at her late husband Earl's bedside, offering prayers and poems of peace after her husband's death and supporting her daughter Grace in education and call to ministry.

David's four children shared memories of their family life and their father's love and kindness. The family, as well as colleagues, told of joy and amazement in hearing David so often recite poetry, the perfect appropriate verse for the situation at hand. Many speakers reminisced about David's expressive phrases and descriptive language, demonstrating his love of words and sense of humor. When one asked David how he was doing, he answered with a variety of engaging responses, "Couldn't be better – all things considered," "All the better for seeing you," and "Flourishing!"

Rev. Tom Strandburg, worship leader of the service, spoke of the definition of flourishing - to grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way, especially as a result of a particularly favorable environment. He said of Dr. Watson's work and life, "This man's ministry was all about creating a particularly favorable environment in which all of God's children might flourish and grow. . . The core of the belief system of David Watson could be summarized in the Great Commandment, to love God with heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself; and the Golden Rule, to do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

And as Dr. Watson may have responded, "And all shall be well."

*A recording of the Celebration of Life Service for Dr. David Watson is available on the church website, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org), under the category of "Church News."*



## Envisioning the Future

*"If people can't see what God is doing,  
they stumble all over themselves;  
But when they attend to what God reveals,  
they are most blessed."*

Proverbs 29:18, "The Message"

Proverbs 29:18 is one of the most familiar and oft-quoted verses in the entire Bible. The very traditional rendering in the King James Version states – *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* Having a vision means **we have a clear sense of purpose**. It means we have a much larger picture of our business, or our life, than simply setting and reaching short term goals and tackling problems as they come along. The teacher in Proverbs is undoubtedly right, without such a vision, people perish.

Eugene Peterson's rendering of this famous verse in The Message, as quoted above, has helped to clarify this notion for me. Vision helps us to see what God is doing, and can be doing, in our community and our world. Once we know this, we can then become partners with God in that work. Peterson's book was published almost thirty years ago. There was no way in which he could have been influenced by recent events, or even known of them, since he died in 2018. Which makes the words above even more striking. Has it not been difficult in recent years to "see what God is doing" amid the challenges of pandemic, social division, denominational tension, and their accompanying forces? Yet, this verse extends the promise that when we attend to what God reveals, we shall be blessed.

In recent months, our Church Council has felt that now is the time to spend some time envisioning our future, in light of the realities of the present, but not limited by them. We have begun to ask ourselves questions like: What kind of a church is God calling us to be in the years ahead? What are the current needs in our community, and how can we act to meet those needs? How can we work even more effectively in each of the five areas of focus, as identified by and affirmed by the United Methodist churches in Western Pennsylvania – develop principled Christian leaders, renew our congregation, engage in ministry with the poor, promote abundant health, and dismantle racism? We have reached out to Rev. Larry Homitsky of United Methodist Church Union to serve as our facilitator in this task. The result will be a blueprint for action in the months and years ahead. I would encourage you to watch this space in coming months for reports of our progress. I would also encourage you to respond with your presence and support as you have the opportunity in the days ahead. Continue to pray daily for the Lord's work through the Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church!

Yours in service,

*Pastor Tom*

Thomas Q. Strandburg, Pastor

### IN THIS ISSUE

	Story	Page	Story	Page
<b><i>The Window</i></b>	Rev. Dr. David Watson	1	<b>Community Events &amp; Outreach</b>	7
is published quarterly	Pastor Tom's Page	2	<b>Covid 19 Testing Site</b>	7
by Mt. Lebanon	Combined Adult Sunday School	3	<b>Music at MLUMC</b>	8
United Methodist Church	Seeking Justice for All Proposal	3	<b>Calling All Handbell Ringers</b>	8
3319 W. Liberty Avenue,	Sunday School	4	<b>United Women of Faith</b>	9
Pittsburgh, PA 15216	Confirmation Classes	4	<b>Mum Sale, Mission News</b>	9
412-531-7131	Youth Group	4	<b>Weekday Ministries, VBS</b>	10
www.mlumc.org	Kerygma Open House	5	<b>Terrific Tuesday, Reveille</b>	11
Monica Kao	Financial Info	6	<b>Flowers</b>	12
Communications	New Financial Manager	6		
Coordinator				

# Join Our Combined Adult Sunday School Class

Sunday, September 4, 2022 9:30-10:30 AM The Welcome Center

As we have done in recent years, a combined adult Sunday School class will be offered Labor Day weekend. The topic will be "Ministry Spotlight: MLUMC's recent efforts toward dismantling racism." For the past decade, "dismantling racism" has been one of the "five areas of focus" for United Methodists in Western Pennsylvania. The other four are – Developing Principled Christian Leaders, Creating New & Renewed Congregations, Engaging in Ministry with the Poor, and Promoting Abundant Health (see [www.wpaumc.org/fiveareasoffocus](http://www.wpaumc.org/fiveareasoffocus)). In the past couple of years, our church has been making some intentional efforts in the last focus area, "dismantling racism." Join us as we discuss this important and timely subject and hear a report on all our recent efforts.



## Acknowledging Discrimination, Fighting Racism, and Seeking Justice for All

*by Clark Remington*

"The United Methodist Church recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history. Racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places." (UMC literature)

Since 2020 when our church council approved a proposal to focus on acknowledging discrimination, fighting racism, and seeking justice for all, various church members and groups have done a great many things to forward this cause. All the adult Sunday Schools have had classes on racism and discrimination. The Do No Harm Committee has hosted a number of programs. Our volunteer Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion leader has made a strong connection with ART (The Pittsburgh Anti-Racism Team.) We have had several church-wide book discussions on racism and discrimination. The Community Events and Outreach Committee has reached out to many groups in the community including Hello Neighbor which helps refugees and SHIM. We have made connections with St. Paul's AME, Beulah Baptist Church, and Warren Methodist Church.

Recently, church council voted to renew this focus by passing the following proposal: **Proposal: Renew our 2020 Focus** to dismantle discrimination, eliminate racism and foster justice for all throughout our community and the world. We propose to support this focus with education and a variety of action items below. We will expand MLUMC's understanding and capacity to serve those in need or hurt, especially due to sexism, race or economic status. By name and intention this includes our black brothers and sisters, POC (People of Color) and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

In addition to continuing the work that is already being done, we have generated a list of possible "To-Do's" which individuals and committees may consider. For example, there will be more book discussions. Titles include, "Color of Compromise" and "Inspired." DNH will have movie nights. We will continue connecting with African American Churches. We will continue our relationship with the Pittsburgh Ant-Racist Team. The Community Outreach will continue with its work. On September 4, at the Unity Sunday School meeting, more ideas will be discussed.



*Pittsburgh District Superintendent Deborah Ackley-Killian with Anti-Racist Team Co-Chair Jay Pendleton (left) and Jason Rivers at an ART event at MLUMC.*



# Sunday, September 11

- 8:30 AM - The Gathering returns to Asbury Center
- 8:30 AM - Traditional Service in Sanner Chapel
- 9:30 AM - Children's & Adult Sunday School, Confirmation Class
- 10:45 AM - Traditional Service returns to the Sanctuary
- 12 Noon - Kerygma New Room Open House
- 5 PM - 2 Organ Concert New Organ Dedication
- 6 PM - Youth Group Kick-Off & Parent Meeting

## A Return to Sunday School

With eager anticipation, we are planning a return to Sunday school this fall! Children ages three through high school will have the opportunity to meet with peers and caring adults to learn more about God's Word beginning Sunday, September 11. There are also a number of adult classes for every age and interest. Church membership is not required to attend. For more information or to register your child, please contact Kim Rhoton [krhoton@mlumc.org](mailto:krhoton@mlumc.org).



# Youth Group, Fall 2022

*by Stephanie Lowe, Youth Director*

As usual, the highlight of the youth group this summer was our mission trip to Marion, Virginia, to work with Project Crossroads. We were able to help two families this year. For the first family we built a wheelchair ramp and repaired a concrete porch. For the other family, we moved the laundry room from the basement to the main floor of the house to allow accessibility. In



addition, we worked on the shoring up the walls and repitching the roof of the Walker Creek house that the Project will use to house volunteers in

Other activities this summer included Capture the Flag – water balloon style, ice cream parties, and decorating cookies for Christmas in July.

## Kick-Off Event: Sun., Sept. 11 6 PM

The youth group will be holding a kick-off event along with a parent's meeting on Sunday, September 11th at 6pm.

Come hear about the fall events that we have planned. Also when the days start turning cooler, look for a soup sale as we begin to raise funds for our 2023 mission trip. Come join us for Terrific Tuesday beginning October 4th. The youth group will be having a puzzle discussion group. Dinner is served at 6pm and all activities wrap up around 7:30 pm. Hope to see you there.



## Confirmation Class 2022-2023

A new confirmation class will begin this fall with a target date of confirmation on May 28, 2023. Confirmation meets during the Sunday school hour (9:30 a.m. on Sundays), and makes a few special trips during the year, such as the spring retreat weekend to Jumonville. The aim of this class is faith formation, learning more about Christianity in general, and Methodism specifically. Students will begin to discern their own beliefs in preparation for the decision to join the church. All students enrolled in eighth grade or older who have not already completed the class are welcome to join. Please contact Kim Rhoton ([krhoton@mlumc.org](mailto:krhoton@mlumc.org)) or the church office for more information.

# *Kerygma* New Room OPEN HOUSE

## Sunday, September 11 following the 10:45 service

The Kerygma Class met in the church library for many years and had lively discussions around the table. However, we had outgrown the space. When the Mixers room was kindly offered to us early this year, we moved in! We realized that we had an opportunity to update the space with our style. The center piece of the room had to remain a table. Our next objective was to have a classroom with tech capabilities, so that we could continue to connect with people who were changing locations for various reasons or simply were not able to attend church on a Sunday morning. The new ability to meet in-person and through zoom has been a blessing! We are reaching more people each Sunday.



Our Kerygma Community is highlighted by the stories on the walls. The focal point of the room is a print over the fireplace of a philosopher and a young woman exchanging ideas about the interplay between religion and reason. It describes our class perfectly. We have a seating area with class photo albums, a Joyce Langston prayer book, and wall pictures of class members and events. Other visuals in the room include a photo of the stained glass window in Sanner Chapel, various works of art that depict the life of Jesus from the Annunciation to his Ascension, and a grouping of the many faces of Jesus.

Thanks to everyone in class for making this possible! We had those who painted, assembled chairs, offered suggestions and ideas, and those who shopped and pulled it all together. A special thanks to Mike Drabrick who repaired the plaster, moved furniture, and helped whenever asked. During this time of COVID it has been so gratifying to be able to work together and to create something new.

**Please join us at our Open House after the 10:45 service on September 11.**  
Pastor Tom will offer an official blessing of the room, which is just off of the balcony.



# 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. Pursuant to this recommendation, summarized below are the Church's 2021 actual, 2022 budgeted, and 2022 second quarter financial results.

The 2022 budget projects a deficit of almost \$100,000, assuming payment in full of the Connectional Contribution. This is the latest in a series of negative budgets approved by the Finance Committee and Church Council. A balanced 2022 budget would require more revenues and/or less expenses – both are easier said than done. Although the second quarter numbers (if annualized) look favorable compared to the budget, such would still result in a bottom-line deficit and significant shortfall in the Connectional Contribution payment.

As we move into the third quarter and beyond, it will be imperative for pledgers to keep up with their pledges and for non-pledged givers to contribute on a regular basis. In 2021, the combination of many pledgers falling behind in their giving and fluctuations in non-pledged giving created significant cash flow challenges throughout late summer and early fall. It is hoped that such can be avoided in 2022.

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

	<b>2021</b>	<b>% Of</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>% Of</b>	<b>2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr.</b>	<b>% Of</b>
<b>Church Budget</b>	<b><u>Actuals</u></b>	<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>Actuals</u></b>	<b><u>Expenses</u></b>
<b>Revenue:</b>	\$704,368	93.5%	\$744,310	88.4%	\$391,953	99.1%
<b>Expenses:</b>						
Personnel	\$455,492	60.5%	\$470,255	55.9%	\$207,250	52.4%
Programs & Facilities	129,549	17.2%	154,883	18.4%	78,611	19.9%
Utilities & Taxes	92,293	12.2%	98,240	11.6%	73,980	18.7%
Insurance	41,589	5.5%	48,687	5.8%	28,648	7.2%
Connectional Contribution to WPA UM Conference *	34,560	5.0%	69,652	8.3%	6,959	1.8%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$753,483</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$841,717</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$395,448</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$49,115)</b>		<b>(\$97,407)</b>		<b>(\$3,495)</b>	

\* \$69,119 requested in 2021, did not pay \$34,559    Net losses are covered by cash on hand, special gifts, and reserves.

## Welcome to Our New Financial Manager

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce the hiring of Paula Phillis as our part-time financial manager. Paula has extensive experience in the accounting field, and especially with churches. She currently manages the finances of two churches in Washington County, and she volunteers for financial matters in her home parish. In addition, she managed a credit union for seven years. Paula received her BSBA and MBA from Waynesburg University. She lives in the Washington area and is married to Joe Phillis with whom she has three grown children.

Paula is in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays and will work remotely on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Feel free to drop by the office to greet her.



# Community Events & Outreach Committee

## Financial Partners Needed

Many events such as Lenten Fish Fries sponsored by the Community Events and Outreach Committee are self-sustaining, with free will donations covering event costs. However, this is not always the case.

As the Committee continues with its 2022 activities, there is an opportunity for members of the congregation to play a major role in ensuring their success. By becoming a “financial partner” of the Committee, you will not only help to underwrite the activities, but also be given the opportunity to assist with them.

Throughout this year, the Committee plans to get back to a pre-pandemic schedule of community meals. While free will donations may cover most event costs, having support from financial partners for these events enables the frequency of them to be increased. More fellowship could then be shared with more lives touched.

Current Committee activities are: 1) providing backpacks filled with school supplies to children/grandchildren of our Food Pantry clients, St. Paul AME church members, and Beulah Baptist church members; and 2) providing baby and toddler supplies to Hello Neighbor and SHIM, social service organizations that assist refugees and immigrants. These backpacks and supplies are funded primarily by individual donations. Having “financial partners” in place ensures that activities such as these continue to occur.

## "Reaching Out" to "Provide Outreach"

The Outreach Committee has relationships with numerous outreach partners, including social service organizations, churches of color, and agencies that support refugees and immigrants. These partners are:

Social Service Organizations – Church Union, North Side; East End Cooperative Ministries, East Liberty

Churches of Color – St. Paul AME, Knoxville; Beulah Baptist, Beltzhoover; Warren UMC, Hill District

Agencies that Support Refugees and Immigrants – Hello Neighbor, East End; South Hills Interfaith Movement, South Hills

The Outreach Committee will soon be identifying and publicizing opportunities to assist our outreach partners. While the Committee will be working with these groups, we are also hopeful that others in the congregation will feel the call to help.

Please look for worship bulletin announcements, weekly e-mail announcements, or separate e-mail blasts on these opportunities. Thank you in advance for your willingness to give your time and talents to help others.

*If you would like to be placed on a list to ensure that you are contacted as opportunities arise to "reach out to provide outreach," call the church office, 412-531-7131.*

*For more information on "reaching out" or becoming a financial partner, contact Outreach Committee Chair, Rob Spicher at either 412-720-4589 or [robert.spicher@pnc.com](mailto:robert.spicher@pnc.com).*



## COVID 19 Testing Site Extended

Do you need a Covid test? Come to church. A Covid 19 testing services trailer will continue to locate in our church parking lot twice a week, for the remainder of the year.

Since early May, healthcare company Curative, in conjunction with the Allegheny County Health Department, has provided a testing trailer on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 AM to 12 noon. A tent is placed along side of the trailer in the corner of the church parking lot to attract attention. Our testing service is in addition to another Curative testing site for the South Hills in Collier Township. Many thanks to Don Langston for making the necessary introductions for this site to become a reality at MLUMC!

So if you are in need, come for your free, quick and easy COVID 19 test on Wednesday and Friday mornings. It will be available til the end of 2022, and maybe longer, if needed.



# Fall 2022 Music Calendar

by Mitchell Stecker, Director of Music

On behalf of the Music Department, I am excited to announce the inauguration of a new concert series for this coming year, Music at MLUMC. Intending to offer our congregation and our broader community a variegated series of opportunities to engage with the musical life of our church, this fall we will offer four programs of various kinds, including a **two-organ concert** with guest organist Dr. John Lowe (Gainesville, FL) to dedicate our new Dormont UMC Chapel Organ; a **silent movie**, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1931) with live, improvised organ accompaniment by Dr. Matt Gender (Mason City, IA) and, hopefully, trunk-or-treating to precede the event (wear your costumes and bring the kids!)

Two special opportunities for worship will be led by the MLUMC choir, an **evensong for All Saints Day** in November, and a traditional service of Advent **Lessons & Carols** in December. An equally exciting series is planned for the springtime, so be on the lookout for more information about those offerings as the time draws nearer.

I hope to see you at these fun and special opportunities to fellowship and glorify God together!

Yours in Christ,

Mitchell Stecker, Director of Music



**MUSIC AT MLUMC**  
*Inaugural Season, 2022-2023*

---

**Fall 2022 Events**

---

<b>September 11, 5:00PM</b> Two Organ Jubilee, <i>Featuring Dr. John T. Lowe, Jr.</i>	<b>November 1, 7:00PM</b> All Saints Day Evensong
<b>October 30, Time TBA</b> Silent Film <i>with</i> Organ Accompaniment <i>Featuring Dr. Matthew Gender</i>	<b>December 11, 7:00PM</b> A Service of Advent Lessons & Carols

---

*All events free of charge & open to the public*



## Calling All Handbell Ringers!

by Nancy R. Lutz, Director of Handbells

The Lord willing and the Covid “cooperating”, the MLUMC Handbell program should resume in September after Labor Day week. Pre-Covid, Chapel Bells, an intermediate-advanced ensemble, met on Mondays at 7. Promise Bells, an ensemble for beginning-intermediate ringers, met on Thursday at 6:30-7:30. Both groups participated on worship about once a month October-December and February-April or May. Berries ‘n’ Bells, the annual spring concert-with dessert!-was held the first Friday of May. I pray we can return to this same schedule.

I’ll be contacting “known” ringers directly. But to those of you who have never rung a bell or have never rung a MLUMC bell, perhaps NOW is the time to join one of our wonderful ensembles. Please contact me directly. Nancy Lutz: [lutzbelz@aol.com](mailto:lutzbelz@aol.com)

Due to the close quarters of the handbell room and the nature of ringing in an ensemble, Covid vaccination will be required to protect the well-being of all involved.

Thank you, Nancy





## SAVE THE DATE! SEPTEMBER 22

United Women of Faith invite you to their first fall event.

On **Thursday, Sept. 22nd at 10 am** in Wesley Hall, the United Women of Faith (former UMW) will hold their first in-person, hands-on project of the season – and we hope you'll join us!

We're considering a few different ideas, but whichever is chosen, it will be creative in nature; benefit women, children and youth; and allow everyone to gather in fun and fellowship – something we haven't done in a long time!

After the project, we'll eat together informally, so please bring a bag lunch. We'll supply the drinks and desserts.

All women are invited – and not just church members. If you know someone who would like to help with our creative outreach, please invite her on our behalf!

## Gorgeous Mums - \$10 per Pot Saturday, September 24

The UWF is holding its 2nd annual mum sale on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 10 am to 1 pm in the church parking lot near the office doors.

Unlike most things, the mums are the same size as last year – for the same great price: \$10 per pot! Choose from assorted colors on a first-come, first-served basis. This year, we'll also be selling pumpkins and hay bales at competitive prices.

Cash or check only made out to the United Women of Faith. Please note, we will not be able to make change at the event.

All proceeds will benefit women, children and youth locally and globally.

**UWF**  
**Pop-Up Mum Sale**



**Saturday, Sept. 24**  
**10 am - 1 pm**  
**Church Parking Lot**  
  
**3319 W Liberty Ave**  
**15216**

**\$10 per pot**  
**Cash/check only**  
  
 Assorted colors — plus  
 pumpkins & hay bales!  
  
 Come early for best selection  
  
Proceeds benefit women, children and youth



## Mission News

**Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus; and yes MLUMC Faithful, there will be a Rummage Sale this fall!**

Mark your calendars for **Rummage Sale on Saturday November 5th**. Scout Troops 23 & 9023 will get things moving for us (pun intended) on Tuesday evening 11//1, after Terrific Tuesday's program. Then we need your help sorting and organizing Wednesday-Friday. It's fun, it's worthwhile and all proceeds support MLUMC's Mission Fund. We will start collecting your donations in early October.

And just so you know, even though it's been 2 years since we had a rummage sale, the Missions Committee was able to distribute funds generously provided by Bill Gulborg's estate to (1) Afghanistan Earthquake relief for children via UNICEF (2) Ukraine war relief via Brother's Brother Foundation and (3) Pittsburgh Refugee support via Hello Neighbor and SHIM

And thanks to the interest generated in the Pat Albright Trust Fund (thank you BettyLou Albright!), The Missions Committee sent funds for the purchase of supplies for MLUMC's Youth Mission trip to Marion, VA. Go Team MLUMC!

# Weekday Ministries - A New Chapter

*by Beth Brack, WDM Director*



When I was asked if I was interested in the Director position at Weekday Ministries my immediate reaction was no way!! I have been teaching for 27 years here at Weekday and I love my job. I thought and prayed A LOT. Decided I would give it a try and begin my training. So, I have been at it now since May 27. I have enrolled several new families, hired a few amazing new teachers, and kept things running smoothly. Now it is time to make a few upgrades. I received a grant that allowed us to gain 8 new tables and a new parent engagement app which will give the parents the ability to check in throughout the day with the touch of a button. It will also be a much more efficient way to track the children's day, attendance, and health records all while saving paper. The teachers will be trained on the app in August and hoping to have it up and running for the parents in September.

We have made many improvements with the help of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Grant. The school has installed a new security system, updated bathrooms, and lighting, and purchased new equipment and toys for the children at zero cost for the childcare!

Enrollment is good, teachers are happy and the children are learning and growing. Amen

## VBS: Food Truck Party

*by Kim Rhoton, Director of Christian Education*

Approximately 50 children and teens participated in our Vacation Bible School program July 25-29. The theme was Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God! The kids had a blast learning Bible stories related to food and about God's abundant provision for us all. This food truck theme even extended to inviting two food trucks to come to the church during the week: Hummus Pittsburgh from down the street in Dormont, and Kona Ice for our last day treat. We made homemade flatbread, experimented with yeast, and shook a bag of cream surrounded by ice to make ice cream! We also created art, played games, sang, and made new friends.



Our final day included a special guest visitor: Quinn the Facility Dog from the Western PA UMC Conference.

*Many thanks to all who helped to make this program a success!*



# TERRIFIC TUESDAY

## Terrific Tuesday is Back Begins October 4

**6 pm - Dinner in Asbury Center**  
**6:45 pm - Activity for all ages**  
**Nursery Services, Children's Choir, Youth**  
**Discussion Groups, Adult Study & Discussion**

What is Terrific Tuesday? Terrific Tuesday is a wonderful mid week opportunity to join with family and friends to share a meal and enjoy enriching spiritual activities. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with a buffet style dinner including a salad bar, entree and dessert. Dinner usually lasts about 40 minutes after which you can enjoy age appropriate activities. No reservations are required and there is no cost (free will offerings are appreciated to cover the cost of the meal).

For children under 4 we offer nursery services with Miss Cheryl and a volunteer church member. **If you would like to volunteer please let us know.** For children ages 4 through 5th grade there is children's choir practice and activities lead by our Director or Christian Education, Miss Kim. For 6th grade through high school there is a mid week youth group meeting which includes spiritual discussions, games and activities lead by our Youth Director, Stephanie Lowe. For the adults, Pastor Tom Strandburg will lead a bible study series which usually includes a video, a message and open or round table discussions.

## Terrific Tuesday Bible Study Begins October 4 @ 6:45 p.m. following the 6 p.m. meal

Light. Bread. Shepherd. Life. The Gospel of John uses these and other symbols to paint a picture of who Jesus is. Through the I Am statements Jesus describes himself with rich images, showing us that he is both fully human and fully divine and calling us as his followers.

In *Jesus Revealed: The I Am Statements in the Gospel of John*, author Matt Rawle explores the "I Am" statements in John as works of art that resonate throughout the Gospel and all of Scripture. He shows how these words point beyond themselves to the deep mystery of Jesus Christ.

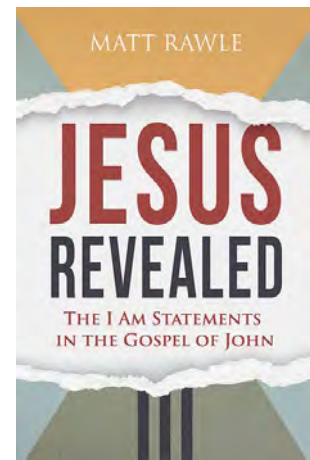
Join Matt on this journey and experience the profound truth at the heart of the "I Am" statements: that Jesus is light and life, and he calls us to himself and offers us the hope of resurrection.

### Chapter topics include:

1. I am the bread of life (John 6:48)
2. I am the light of the world (John 8:12)
3. I am the good shepherd (John 10:11)
4. I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25)
5. I am the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6)
6. I am the true vine (John 15:1)

Terrific Tuesday is a great opportunity for a mid week spiritual pick me up and an opportunity to spend some time visiting with friends. Terrific Tuesday is open to everyone so if you or someone you know is looking for a fun filled evening please join us beginning October 4th. If you have any questions or would like to know how you can help please contact:

Donna Chesleigh @ 412-716-1820. See you there.



# REVEILLE

## MEN'S BREAKFAST



Mike Arnold  
Pittsburgh Area Director, CBMC

"Three Options When You Face A Problem"  
Saturday, September 10  
8:00 - 9:30 AM

Mt. Lebanon United  
Methodist Church  
3319 West Liberty Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

FRIENDS, FAITH, FUN & FOOD  
Register at:  
[adamsquest.org/events/reveille](http://adamsquest.org/events/reveille)



SCAN ME



**Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church**  
3319 West Liberty Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15216  
(412) 531-7131 • [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 245



Thanks to all the church members and Boy Scout Troop 23 for helping to plant the flower beds around the church. We have been enjoying them all summer. Please feel free to pull a weed or two as you pass by the flower beds. Thanks again. *Tom Michael*