

# *The Window* into the heart of

*Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church*

Volume 8, Number 4, Holiday 2022

## ***Christmas Season Worship: Beloved, Bright and Beautiful***

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church invites you to hear the nativity story, sing cherished Christmas carols and light candles of joy. It is Christmas Season Worship time. The church is offering Candlelight Traditional Services, a Service for Family and Children, *The Gathering's* modern Christmas service, and online livestream experiences.

Our Christmas worship begins with a Traditional Candlelight Service on the evening before Christmas Eve. On Friday, December 23rd, Pastor Tom Strandburg will officiate and Music Director Mr. Mitchell Stecker will lead the music for a candlelight service in the Sanctuary. The liturgy, music, candle lighting, and atmosphere will be the same for this worship service as for our Christmas Eve traditional Candlelight Service.

On Christmas Eve, at the family-friendly hour of 3 pm, MLUMC invites our younger church attendees to be a part of the Service for Children & Families. And if upbeat Christmas music is your choice for Christmas worship, don't miss *The Gathering* at 5 pm on Christmas Eve.

If you unable to attend a Christmas Season service in person, you can still worship and celebrate with MLUMC. The Christmas Eve service of *The Gathering* and the Traditional Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve will be livestreamed, as well as our Sunday services on December 25 and January 1.

*Whenever and however you choose to worship with MLUMC this Christmas Season, know that it will be a joyful experience.*



### ***Christmas Season Worship***

#### **Friday, December 23**

Traditional Candlelight Service - 8 pm in the Sanctuary

#### **Saturday, December 24**

Service for Children & Families - 3 pm in the Sanctuary

The Gathering Christmas - 5 pm in Asbury Center  
Livestreamed and recorded on Facebook

Traditional Candlelight Service - 8 pm in the Sanctuary  
Livestreamed and recorded on the MLUMC website,  
Facebook and YouTube

#### **Sunday, December 25**

Morning Worship - 10:45 am in the Sanctuary  
No children's Sunday school, Kids' Praise or Nursery  
Livestreamed and recorded on the MLUMC website,  
Facebook and YouTube

#### **Sunday, January 1**

Morning Worship - 10:45 am in the Sanctuary  
No children's Sunday school, Kids' Praise or Nursery  
Livestreamed and recorded on the MLUMC website,  
Facebook and YouTube

From Pastor Tom Standburg:

# Three Marks of a Methodist

## *Love God + Love Others + Give Thanks*

My love for the holiday of Thanksgiving has grown through the years. As a child, I thought of it as simply one of the milestones on the way to Christmas, which was my ultimate focus. Now, I love the fact that we are encouraged on the fourth Thursday of November to take a break from the busyness of life, return home, surround ourselves with family and friends, and give thanks to God. I also view the act of giving thanks as a fundamental part of our Methodist faith.

One of my favorite works by our founder John Wesley is his 1741 essay entitled, "The Character of a Methodist." In it Wesley notes that the distinguishing marks of a Methodist are "not his (or her) opinions of any sort." The things that we usually argue about are beside the point. Instead, Wesley writes:

*"What then is the mark? Who is a Methodist, according to your own account? I answer: A Methodist is one who has the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost given unto him; one who loves the Lord his God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his mind, and with all his strength."*

Love is the mark of a Methodist – love for God and love for others. Did not Jesus also say to his disciples, "by this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." As we enter the upcoming holiday season, we would do well to remember to love God, love others, and give thanks. These three marks of a Methodist could make an indelible mark upon our families, our community, and our world, not to mention our church, if we all consistently displayed them in our lives.

Here are three very practical ways to do just that in the coming weeks: **Let us demonstrate our love for God** by attending worship with our church family in the days ahead. This opportunity is finally available once again after the disruption of the past two years. **Let us demonstrate our love for others** by engaging in acts of service. This newsletter is filled with opportunities to do just that. Finally, **let us give thanks to God** through our giving. This might be the perfect time to financially support God's work through our holiday offering, and by making a pledge of support for the coming year. Instructions for doing so can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Yours in Service,

*Pastor Tom Strandburg*

Thomas Q. Strandburg, Pastor

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# Vision Casting: Looking out for the Future of MLUMC and Its Congregation

Who is Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church? Who is its congregation and its community? These are questions being discussed by the church's new Vision Team. As our church attempts to resume and reunite after the pandemic while dealing with the unknown future of the United Methodist denomination, one thing becomes evident: MLUMC needs a vision.



Enter Rev. Larry Homitsky. Rev. Homitsky is the recently retired Pastor of Calvary UMC on the North Side. In his retirement he has taken on the task of helping congregations develop and grow in today's uncertain climate of church member numbers declining.

*Rev. Larry Homitsky*

At a recent meeting of the church's Vision Team, Rev. Homitsky lead the discussion on the demographics and passions of our congregation and community. He urged team members to welcome, invite and involve congregation and community members, as a first step in fusing our vision with reality.



*Recent meeting of the Vision Team*

If you would like more information on the Vision Team, contact Pastor Tom Strandburg at [tstrandburg@mlumc.org](mailto:tstrandburg@mlumc.org).

## Office and Communications Coordinator Welcome to Kate Naugle

We are pleased to announce that Kate Naugle has accepted the new Office and Communications Coordinator position. Coming to us from Moon Township, Kate is not only a lifelong Pittsburgh resident, but is also a lifelong United Methodist having grown up attending Coraopolis United Methodist Church.



Kate recently graduated summa cum laude from Ohio Northern University (ONU) where she earned degrees in Literature and Communication Studies along with a minor in Writing for Business, Science, and Technical Fields. Following graduation, she has been gaining professional experience working on the marketing team for the Galley Group, a

restaurant chain based out of Pittsburgh. Along with her communications experience, she is also familiar with how offices run. Working in the Dean's Office for the Getty College of Arts and Sciences during her time at ONU, Kate was responsible for the organization of several hundred students while completing other administrative tasks. Along with her paid positions, she also spent time coordinating events and managing the social media accounts for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Club as well as the English Department for Ohio Northern. Her combined experience has well prepared her for the work she is doing for Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church.

*So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, good night!  
I hate to go and leave this pretty sight!*

Indeed, MLUMC and The Window are pretty sites, but I am retiring at the end of 2022. I would like to thank the many readers of The Window who have encouraged and complemented me through the years. And to the group of church volunteers who fold, seal and label this newsletter - you are the best! Thank you all.

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3319 W. Liberty Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15216  
412-531-7131 [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org)

Monica Kao, Communications Coordinator

## Volunteers Needed: Advent Candle Lighting



Volunteers are needed to help with lighting Advent candles each Sunday during Advent and during Christmas Eve services. No special skills required! Candle lighters can be families, including children couples, or friends.

If you are interested, please contact Kim Rhoton with a date and service preference. The candles are to be lit on November 27, December 4, 11, 18 at the 8:30 and 10:45 traditional services.



*Moreblessing*

## Children's Sunday School Mission Sale Sunday, December 11

The Sunday school children work together throughout the year to support an orphan in Zimbabwe named Moreblessing, who lives in the Home of Hope Orphanage.

Moreblessing is new to the orphanage, and is estimated to be about six years old (in many cases children come without any documentation such as a birth certificate). Our sponsorship helps to provide for all the necessities of life, including food, medical care, and education expenses.

On December 11 the children will offer for sale a variety of small treats and crafts they have made. Please plan to stop in the Narthex after both services to help support this mission. All proceeds will go to help support Moreblessing and the Home of Hope Orphanage in Zimbabwe.

## Advent Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 11 7 pm

The MLUMC choir will lead a traditional service of Advent Lessons & Carols in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 11 at 7:00 pm.

## Christmas Tableaux Sunday, December 18

Volunteers are needed to assist behind the scenes and to participate in the annual **Christmas Tableaux**, scheduled for December 18 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 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please contact Kim Rhoton to volunteer or with questions – [krhoton@mlumc.org](mailto:krhoton@mlumc.org)

## Community Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 18



Please join us for Christmas caroling at the homes in the church neighborhood on Sunday, Dec. 18. This is a fun event that requires no special singing talent, just the willingness to spread good cheer to those who live near MLUMC!

We will meet in Asbury Center at 6p.m. and set off together, and then back to the church to warm up with cookies and hot cocoa. The entire evening will wrap up before 8p.m. Please dress for the weather and bring a flashlight; caroling booklets will be provided. Register with Kim Rhoton, [krhoton@mlumc.org](mailto:krhoton@mlumc.org)

# Order Homemade Christmas Cookies & Support a Good Cause



This year, the United Women of Faith will be selling boxes of delicious homemade Christmas cookies lovingly prepared and safely packaged.

Two sizes will be available for order:

- A large box for \$20
- A small box for \$10

Each box will contain an assortment of the tasty, cookies you know and love from our Christmas Cookie & Gift Bazaar.

To reserve your boxes, you must pre-order by Thursday, Dec. 1. Call the church office (412.531.7131) with your name, phone number, email, and the number and size of the boxes you want to purchase. You can pick up the boxes at church on:

- Saturday, Dec.10 from 10 a.m. to noon
- Sunday, Dec. 11 before and after church services

All proceeds from the sale benefit relief organizations that support women, children and youth. Thank YOU for your support during this challenging year of fundraising!

*Please note: Cookies may contain nuts, eggs, flour and other allergens.*

## Calling All Cookie Bakers

Cookie bakers are needed for this year’s modified UWF Christmas Cookie Sale. If you like to bake, but don't like the calories, please:

- Bake a batch or 2 of your favorite Christmas cookies. It’s okay to bake now and store the cookies in a sealed plastic bag or container in the freezer.
- Leave the cookies in the church kitchen on Thurs. Dec. 8 between 9 am and 8 pm or on Fri. Dec. 9 before noon.

For more information, contact Sandy Waters at 412.833.3702 or [bluepen1123@yahoo.com](mailto:bluepen1123@yahoo.com).

*NOTE: Based on input from last year’s sale, we kindly request no mint-flavored cookies, which can be overpowering in the boxes. Also, small to medium-sized cookies work best for layering.*



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## Food Pantry Fund Christmas Memorials

Give a donation to the Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church Food Pantry in honor or memory of your loved ones. The deadline for the Food Pantry donation memorial will be in December. Make your donation check payable to MLUMC and mark the memo line *"Food Pantry."*

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Weekday Ministries Childcare Center - Holiday Happening

by Beth Brack, WDM Director

*"When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy."* Matthew 2:10



The holiday season brings so much excitement that young children don't always know what to do with their emotions. It begins a few weeks before Halloween and continues through the Christmas season. It is our job in childcare to plan activities to use up this energy. But, it is our mission to teach the children that Jesus is the true meaning of the Christmas Season! The hallways will be full of Christmas music, laughter, and pure joy! Our wonderful teachers will have their patience tested as these precious little ones learn what to do with all of these feelings!

I love that the children can remind us about the excitement of the season. Taking time to enjoy and not get caught up in the hustle and bustle!



## Youth Group

by Stephanie Lowe, Youth Director

The youth of the church have had a busy fall season. We meet most Sunday evenings for Bible studies and discussions, with some fun activities mixed in. During Sunday school, we have been discussing how God calls all kinds of people for His work. We will kick off Advent with a trip to Market Square for ice skating on Sunday, December 4th (look for details in the bulletin and your e-mail). As always, friends are welcome.

Save-the -date for the annual mission trip to Project Crossroads in Marion, VA. Our ninth annual trip will be July 9th through 15th, 2023. Sign-ups will begin in early spring. Our first soup sale of the season was a success so look for another during the winter as we continue to raise money for the trip. We appreciate the congregation's never-failing support of the youth group.

# Community Thanksgiving & Christmas Meals - Many Ways to Help

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Castle Shannon, and MLUMC are once again teaming up to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to those in need in the South Hills. These long-standing outreach ministries provide the opportunity to share in faith, food, and fellowship.

Historically, the meals included both eat-in and delivery. COVID 19 necessitated many changes in both 2020 and 2021, particularly the elimination of the eat-in option at both meals and the addition of a take-out option for the Thanksgiving meal. These changes, which helped ensure the success of these meals, will continue to be in place in 2022. The adage “when there is a will, there is a way” was and continues to be evident.

There are many opportunities to help with the meals:

- 1) Provide a roasted, carved turkey for Thanksgiving or a cooked ham for Christmas.
- 2) Volunteer to help in the preparation & packaging of meals.
- 3) Deliver the meals by car to South Hills area recipients.
- 4) Make a monetary donation towards the cost of food and supply items.

If you would like to help with either/both of these meals, please call the Church office (412-531-7131) or Community Events and Outreach Committee Chair, Rob Spicher (412-720-4589). Rob can also be reached at [robert.spicher@pnc.com](mailto:robert.spicher@pnc.com). Thank you in advance for your help with these very important community outreach ministries.

## Fall Festival Weekend - Start of a New Tradition

The weekend of October 14, 15 & 16 launched what hopefully will become a new tradition at MLUMC. Organized by the Community Events and Outreach Committee as a “Fall Festival Weekend,” attendees were treated



to a Friday Night Fish Fry, a Saturday Indoor/Outdoor Festival, and a Sunday Movie Night. What a whirlwind weekend it was! Fish Fries during Lent are nothing new at MLUMC, but a Fall Fish Fry was something “out of the box.” Approximately 300 meals were served through a combination of eat-in, take-out, and delivery. In addition to a scrumptious meal and wonderful hospitality, diners were treated to an array of piano tunes played by our Director of Music, Mitchell Stecker. A good time was certainly had by volunteers and guests alike.

After a three-year hiatus due to COVID 19, the Indoor/Outdoor Festival returned in earnest! The festival was highlighted by indoor craft stations, outdoor games, including a bounce house, and plenty of grilled food. Although the cold and windy weather was not ideal, the attendees had a great time. The Movie Night featured a real-life documentary followed by discussion over food and beverage. Do No Harm did the heavy lifting for this event.



All three events attracted many non-church members, several whom live in the nearby neighborhoods. Great that so many took advantage of the food, fun, and fellowship that was provided.

Thanks again to all who helped support this inaugural “Fall Festival Weekend” through the volunteering of their time and talents as well as their partaking of the many activities that were offered.

Rob Spicher, Community Events and Outreach Committee Chair

# 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 Church financial information in The Window. Summarized below are the Church's 2021 actual, 2022 budgeted, and 2022 third quarter financial results.

The 2022 budget projected 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 third 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 through the fourth quarter and towards year-end, it will be imperative for pledgers to finish paying their pledges in full and for non-pledged givers to make meaningful year-end gifts. The Church's annual generosity (stewardship) campaign will be in full swing by the time you read this financial summary. Hopefully, you will have made a meaningful financial commitment during the campaign to support the Church's staff, ministries, and facilities in 2023.

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

	2021	% Of	2022	% Of	2022 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr.	% Of
Church Budget	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Revenue:	\$704,368	93.5%	\$744,310	88.4%	\$536,243**	93.5%
Expenses:						
Personnel	\$455,492	60.5%	\$470,255	55.9%	\$303,362	52.9%
Programs & Facilities	129,549	17.2%	154,883	18.4%	130,660	22.8%
Utilities & Taxes	92,293	12.2%	98,240	11.6%	86,302	15.0%
Insurance	41,589	5.5%	48,687	5.8%	41,429	7.2%
Connectional Contribution to WPA UM Conference *	34,560	5.0%	69,652	8.3%	12,000	2.1%
Total Expenses	\$753,483	100%	\$841,717	100%	\$573,753	100%
Total Net Income (Loss)	(\$49,115)		(\$97,407)		(\$37,510)	

\* \$69,119 requested in 2021, did not pay \$34,559

\*\* Includes estate gifts of approximately \$27,750

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

# LOVE GOD



# LOVE OTHERS GIVE THANKS

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."<sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and first commandment.<sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'<sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." MATTHEW 22:36-40*

The church's 2023 Generosity Campaign, "LOVE GOD + LOVE OTHERS + GIVE THANKS," teaches us not only to love God and others, but also to be thankful for all of God's gifts, and to be generous in our own giving. In our gratefulness, we need to consider what we might give in support of our church's ministry in the coming year.

A 2023 Estimate of Giving Card has been mailed to church members and friends. Additional cards are available on the narthex literature tables. We invite you to return the card by mail or in-person. You may also make your pledge of support online. Simply go to our church website ([www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org)), select "Giving" and then "Pledge."

Whether you pledge in-person, online, or through the mail, know that God will be honored, and many will be blessed by your response.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

PSALM 100:4-5

## Community Events and Outreach Committee Financial Partners Needed

Many of the events such as large community meals hosted 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 plans its 2023 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 cost of these activities but also be given the opportunity to assist with them.

One of the activities undertaken by the Committee in the latter half of 2022 was the providing of backpacks filled with school supplies to children of Food Pantry clients, St. Paul AME members, and Beulah Baptist members. Although one-time donations played an important part in the backpack drive funding, reserves provided by "financial partners" guaranteed the drive's success. Having "financial partners" in place will ensure that activities such as these can continue to occur in 2023.

If you are interested in becoming a "financial partner" of the Committee, please contact Committee Chair Rob Spicher at either 412-720-4589 or [robert.spicher@pnc.com](mailto:robert.spicher@pnc.com).

### MLUMC Staff

Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg, Pastor  
Rev. Scott A. F. Miller, Associate Pastor  
Kim Rhoton, Director of Christian Education  
Mitchell Stecker, Director of Music  
Beth Brack, Weekday Ministries Director  
Monica Kao, Communications Coordinator  
Kate Naugle, Office and Communications Coordinator  
Paula Phillis, Financial Manager  
Stephanie Lowe, Youth Director  
B.J. Collins, Contemporary Music Director  
Juliette Mariani, Administrative Support  
Michael Drabick, Maintenance Manager  
Michael Staab, Facility Prep and Setup

### MLUMC Volunteer Staff

Bishop George Bashore, Bishop-in-Residence  
Nancy R. Lutz, Director of Handbells  
Joanne Dempe, Financial Secretary  
Kirk Lowe, Multimedia/Sound  
Natalie Miller, Multimedia/The Gathering  
Evan Shoff, Sound

# The Albright Society Meeting 2022

Three years ago, our church established the Albright Society to recognize members who have made contributions to our endowments and/or have remembered Mount Lebanon United Methodist Church in their wills. The third annual meeting of The Albright Society was held in Wesley Hall on October 28.

After a delicious meal prepared by Donna Chesleigh, the gathering received an update on the church's endowment. Over the past year, over \$57,000 was received in interest. These funds supported the general budget, scholarships, the food pantry, the youth mission trip to Virginia, and other projects.



In the photo of the meeting, Rob Spicher is explaining the projects and mission programs that were made possible from the Grace and Bill Gullborg bequest. Their generosity contributed to the purchase of the live-streaming equipment as well as a generous contributions to the conference camping ministry and other local mission projects. Ed and Bette Lou Reichard added funds to the Gullborg bequest which made the purchase of the live-streaming equipment possible.

If you are interested in contributing to the endowment and/or making a bequest through your will, please call the church office or see John Esaias for further information.

## *The Albright Society*

*The following people have generously remembered the church in their wills and/or have made contributions to the endowment fund. Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church thanks them for their generosity and love for the church.*

Pat and Betty Lou Albright  
Arthur and Marian Belton  
Brookline UM Church  
John and Donna College  
JoAnn Conner  
Cleon and Vera Jane Cornes  
Dormont UM Church  
John and Ruth Ann Esaias  
Mary K. Gibson  
William and Grace Gullborg  
Harold and Micki Heard

Newton and Mary Lou Heston  
Ella B. Ion  
Oscar and Annie Larson  
William and Kathryn Karns  
Sara Mercer  
Scott and Natalie Miller  
Bill and Judy Moeller  
Josephine Newman  
Spencer and Gayle Radnich  
Edward and Bette Lou Reichard  
Lee Rumberger

Bradley, Laura, Emily and Evan Shoff  
Elmer and Frances Shumaker  
Andrew and Jane Smith  
Howard R. Spicher Legacy Fund  
Elizabeth Stevenson  
John and Mary Taylor  
Chuck and Brenda Vogel  
Kay Wasser Family  
Irene Wickline  
Dwight and Ellen Worthy

# Angel Tree Returns Supporting "Hello Neighbor"



*The 2019 Angel Tree*

The Angel Tree is back, this year supporting the local organization, Hello Neighbor. You can find the tree in the Middle Narthex around November 20th. Each paper angel will list an item that is listed on the "Pressing Needs" list of Hello Neighbor and will be distributed to new immigrants in the Pittsburgh area. After you purchase the item, just return it to the base of the tree (no need to wrap anything).

The idea of helping immigrants blossomed during the MLUMC Book club's reading of "The Grapes of Wrath." At the end of the discussion, led by Clark Remington, we were encouraged to find ways to put our emotional reaction to the book into concrete action that would help current immigrants. Members of the MLUMC Do No Harm Committee will deliver the donated items to Hello Neighbor office in mid December.

Many of us were first introduced to Hello Neighbor this summer at Faith for Today. A local non-profit they work to improve the lives of immigrant families in Pittsburgh. Join us as we continue to support and assist these families.

As we are reminded by Matthew 25:35

*"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."*

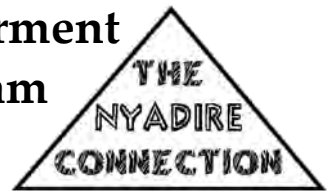
## Proposed Items Include:

Blankets	Frying Pans (full size-large)
(twin, double, queen	Soup Pots (large)
NOT KING)	Saucepans (large)
Space Heaters	Baby Swaddling Blankets
Pillows	Sponges/Cleaning Rags
Bath and Hand Towel Sets	and Dish Towels

## Thank You Rev. Tim Reichard

On Sunday, November 20, at MLUMC's Unity Lunch, those attending listened to a presentation on *Implicit Bias* by Rev. Tim Reichard. Thank you, Rev. Reichard, for your time, your presentation and your expertise.

# Girl Empowerment Pad Program Update



The Nyadire Connection's Girl Empowerment Pad (GEP) Program has some **exciting news to share**, including two new initiatives designed to bring the program into its next, more self-sufficient chapter. "We're grateful to all who have supported this program, and **invite everyone to help with the new initiatives** as the holiday season approaches," said **Bonnie Lawson**, TNC's GEP Program Leader.

## Program Update:

- GEP **goals** have been to keep girls in school during their menstrual cycle to avoid learning loss; to give them tools to make their own sanitary supplies; and to provide culturally- and age-appropriate health education.
- In 10 years the **program has evolved** from providing complete pads to furnishing materials for pad-making kits to purchasing kit materials in Zimbabwe. In addition, TNC volunteers have trained teachers and have paired health literature and education with sewing activities. And they have sent refurbished manual and electric sewing machines to seven primary schools.

## Two New Initiatives:

- To keep the program sustainable, we cannot have our partners dependent on U.S. supplies, and we must cultivate new leadership as teachers move on. For these reasons, we're launching a **Giving Tree** and a **Sewing Scholarship**. Proceeds from donation cards returned via the Giving Tree initiative will allow partners to buy supplies in Zimbabwe, thereby avoiding shipping container delays and storage fees. The **Sewing Scholarship** will fund tuition at the Tabudirira Vocational School, enabling recipients to earn income by sewing and to train other students to sew.

## What You Can Do:

- Contact Bonnie for **Giving Tree Cards**. Churches could consider setting up a tree in a specific location and/or for special events such as craft fairs and Christmas bazaars. The scholarship could be supported by a variety of initiatives, such as: Covenant or prayer groups could agree to pool donations; or fundraisers held by sewing circles or other church groups could donate a portion of their proceeds.

## For More Information:

- Please contact Bonnie Lawson at [www.bonnielawson58@comcast.net](mailto:www.bonnielawson58@comcast.net) or 412-759-3546

**Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church**

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## Reveille Men's Breakfast Returns to MLUMC

*by David Seitz*



*Speaker Mike Arnold  
Pittsburgh Area Director,  
Christian Business Men's Connection*



*Bob Jamison  
Adam's Quest,  
President & Founder*

Reveille returned to our church on September 10, 2022 after nearly a two and a half year hiatus. Sponsored by Adam's Quest and supported by Mt. Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church, MLUMC men and women provided food, fun and most important, faith to 125 men that morning. There were many returnee volunteers along with a few others but extremely key to the success of the event was Donna Chesleigh who effortlessly navigated the challenges of the day. Bob Jamison, founder of Adam's Quest thanked the group for their efforts and wanted us to know that with God's leadership and inspiration the event was a huge success. He said that the food was great too! Reveille returns to MLUMC in October 2023.