

The Window into the heart of

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

Volume 9, Number 1, Lent/Easter 2023

Is the UMC really...

Pastor Tom Strandburg

1. Splitting at this time?

No. The term “split” applies when there is a negotiated agreement within the denomination to divide assets and resources. No such agreement has been made in The United Methodist Church. The earliest point at which such an agreement could be made would be at the next General Conference to be held in 2024.

A more accurate term, as suggested by the Rev. William Lawrence, is “splintering.” What is happening is that some traditionalist leaders have decided to create their own denomination (the Global Methodist Church). Leaders of that denomination and other unofficial advocacy groups are encouraging like-minded United Methodist congregations and clergy to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church and join their denomination instead.

2. Asking traditionalists to leave the denomination?

No. The requests for disaffiliations are coming largely from the traditionalists themselves. Keith Boyette, former president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and now leader of the Global Methodist Church, describes the reasons he and other leaders are asking traditionalists to leave in various Global Methodist Church communications.

3. About to alter its doctrine to deny the virgin birth, the divinity of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, or salvation through Christ alone?

No. All of these positions are bedrock in the doctrinal standards of The United Methodist Church, more specifically in the Articles of Religion and the Confession of Faith. These cannot be altered without a two-thirds vote of the General Conference followed by a three-fourths aggregate approval of all annual conferences of The United Methodist Church worldwide. There is no basis to conclude such majorities can be achieved to alter the Articles and Confession for any reason.

4. Intending to change the Bible?

No. The United Methodist Church has no official translation of the Bible and has never sought to alter the Bible at all. United Methodists have always had a variety of views about how to interpret specific passages of Scripture and likely always will.

You have probably noticed an increase in the number of mentions of our United Methodist denomination recently, as the result of our denomination’s current debate over issues concerning human sexuality and the church. As you read and watch various stories in the media, you might be prompted to ask yourself the question: Is the UMC really doing the things that are alleged in this media account?

Our denominational leadership has published some resources to help answer this question. If you are active online, we would refer you to our denominational website (www.umc.org) for reliable, ongoing coverage of this issue. In particular, you will want to consult their series, “Is the UMC really . . .” This series of articles is filled with the answers to questions that you might be wondering about. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact the church office and we will gladly provide you with a printed copy of these very informative materials. In addition, we will periodically reprint some of this series’ answers to various questions of broad interest, beginning with the four questions above:

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Membership Vows Get Us “Back to Basics”

It has been my pleasure this year to spend three weeks out of each month with our Confirmation Class on Sunday mornings. What a wonderful group they are! Ten young people, who are all trying to discern their own personal credo. Among our many topics of discussion are the traditional vows of membership in the United Methodist Church – that we will support the church through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. I would like for us all to reconsider our own vows of membership during the upcoming Lenten season.

How much more fundamental can we get than to start with **prayers**? Throughout my ministry, I have often asked members to pray every day, with their church directory in hand, by name for every person listed over the course of the week. With a membership list that is as long as ours here at MLUMC, you might wonder if such a discipline would even be feasible. Praying for persons by name? In the past, this has become a powerful tool for the prayer ministry of my congregations. “It took me a lot longer to do my prayers,” said one member, “but, I liked it!” I have also prayed daily for groups of leaders and persons in need in the area, following a model from Richmond Hill (www.richmondhillva.org) to consciously focus on ministries and needs beyond our walls.

Next, we consider what it means to pledge your **presence** to God and to the community of faith. This vow must mean more than attendance at worship and coming to committee meetings. Seeking to be attentive to God’s presence in our midst and to Christ’s presence in our neighbors, friends and family produces something qualitatively transformative. One person noted after focusing on this practice intentionally that there was a different awareness of God’s peace and presence in the midst of receiving difficult news and in the face of troubling circumstances. Another commented on the simple joy of spending time reading a book with her spouse.

I would like for us to notice two things about **gifts**: every person has three of the same ones — time, talent and treasure — and every follower of Jesus Christ, water-washed and spirit-born, has some spiritual gift God has given for the good of the person, for the well-being of the community of faith, and for the fulfilling of God’s mission in the world. There is no room for saying “I’m not gifted!” when we have been fashioned in the likeness of a creating God, and when God has already breathed God’s own Spirit into us! We can’t help but be gifted and graced for loving God and neighbor... It’s in our spiritual DNA!

The remaining two vows involve pledging **service** to the church and our **witness** (which was added to this historic list in 2009). These two seem to be essentially knit to one another, and bound to the previous four. The quality of service we offer in Jesus’ name becomes our witness, and the sincerity of our witness is authenticated by the character of our service. Service without a connection to our witness moves us toward a type of “works righteousness,” or thinking we get to heaven by a multitude of good works. Witness, without service and behaviors consistent with the message, is like the “wah-wah” sound of the voice of Charlie Brown’s teacher in the old “Peanuts” TV specials: Words are unintelligible — just so much more static in a noisy world.

Prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness — these basics are not simply for getting through 40 days of Lent. These vows help us develop strong and healthy practices for nurturing faith, for sharing faith every day. If we can live into a fuller and fuller experience of God’s presence through them, we will begin to know even more of what it means to live as Easter People, actively engaged in God’s mission in the world.

Renewing my vows of membership along with you,

Pastor Tom Strandburg

LENT & HOLY WEEK SERVICE TIMES



Ash Wednesday, February 22nd

7:00-7:30 am Service of Morning Prayer in Sanctuary
7:30-8:00 am Individual Communion & Imposition
of Ashes in Sanctuary
7:00 pm Service of Evening Prayer in the
Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 6th

7:30 pm Tenebrae Service in Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 7th

7:30 pm Good Friday Service in Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 9th

7:00 am Outdoor Sunrise Service on Wesley
Patio, Rain location—Wesley Hall
8:30 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
9:30 am The Gathering in Asbury Center
10:45 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

2023 Easter Memorials

Purchase flowers or make a donation for the MLUMC Food Pantry in honor or memory of friends or loved ones. The flowers will be on display in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 9, and may be picked up after the 10:45 service or any time after Easter. Brighten someone's day - deliver your flowers to a shut-in or ask the church to deliver.

2023 EASTER MEMORIALS

ORDER DEADLINE— MARCH 12

Make check payable to MLUMC with memo line marked "Easter Flowers," or "Food Pantry."

Food Pantry Donation \$ _____

Flower Selection (color cannot be guaranteed)

_____ Lilies (1 stem)	@ \$12.50 = _____	_____ Mums	@ \$10.50 = _____
_____ Tulips (5 plants)	@ \$8.50 = _____	_____ Pansy Basket	@ \$14.50 = _____
_____ Hyacinths (3 plants)	@ \$8.50 = _____	_____ Gerber Daisy	@ \$10.50 = _____

Total Flower Amount \$ _____

Given in (circle) "memory" or "honor" of (please print): _____

Donor Name (Please Print) _____

Phone _____

☐ I will pick up flowers

☐ I will deliver to a shut-in

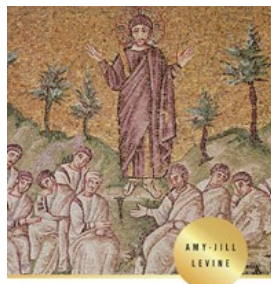
☐ Deliver to a shut-in

TERRIFIC TUESDAY

Special Lenten Terrific Tuesday Series

Beginning on Tuesday, February 28th, 2023

Our adult study will focus on the teachings of Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Sermon on the Mount: A Beginners Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven. The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings have meant to his disciples, and to the others who first heard them? How do they enhance our reading of the rest of the Gospel of Matthew, and how do they speak across the centuries to listeners today? How, if we pay careful attention to his words, does Jesus provide us a road map to living as God would have us live? As usual, activities will be provided for the entire family, beginning with dinner at 6:00 pm in Asbury Center, followed by age-appropriate activities at 6:45 pm. We will finish each evening at 7:30 pm.



SERMON on the MOUNT

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

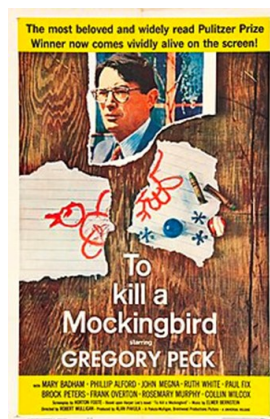
To Kill A Mockingbird Watch Party

Sunday, March 5th at Noon

The Welcome Center

"You have been told...what YHWH requires of you: to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"

MICAH 6:8



Join the DoNoHarm Committee as we further our understanding of injustice and seek ways to "do justice" by watching *To Kill a Mockingbird* with Gregory Peck.

A lunch of chili, salad, muffins and dessert will be served, a free-will offering available.

RSVP is not necessary, but is appreciated.

Please RSVP to the church office at 412-531-7131.

An easy and tasty way to help Ukrainian refugees!

Pyrohy, also known as pierogi, are the delicious filled dumplings made by Ukrainians (and other European cultures). Locally, The Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church makes and sells pyrohy to support and employ Ukrainian refugees relocated to Carnegie, PA.



By ordering pyrohy, for \$10/dozen, you will contribute to their success. Order by emailing or calling Louanne at lbaily0@gmail.com or 412-719-7063 by Thursday evening for your pick-up on Sunday mornings starting now through March. Leave a message of how many bags of one dozen potato-filled pyrohy you'd like. Payment can be made by cash or check at pick up.



United Women in Faith

Focusing on racial justice

Thursday, March 9 at 10:00am

Please join members of the United Women of Faith on March 9 at 10 am in Wesley Hall for our annual "Call to Prayer and Self Denial" event.

This year, our speaker is Betsy Harkins who will focus on the "school to prison" pipeline in which students begin school but eventually end up in juvenile and criminal justice systems -- especially children from underserved communities.

Our annual Call to Prayer and Self Denial gifts will support this long-standing, racial justice issue.

Drinks and dessert will be provided after Betsy's presentation.

EGGstravaganza 2023

Kim Rhoton, Christian Ed. Director

MLUMC's annual Easter EGGstravaganza will take place on **Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to noon**. This family friendly event is perfect for all ages, especially children preschool through elementary school age, and is open to everyone in the community at no charge. Please invite friends and neighbors to come! Children and their parents will move at their own pace between several stations including egg decorating, crafts, and games. No food will be served at this year's event.

Please consider volunteering to help make this year's EGGstravaganza a success! We need adult and teen helpers with stations, set up helpers on Friday and Saturday, and a clean-up crew. Please contact Kim Rhoton (krhoton@mlumc.org) to help.

Can't be there the day of the event? Consider donating hard-boiled eggs for the egg decorating station. These may be dropped off in the church kitchen in the marked refrigerator on Friday, April 8. No other food or candy donations will be needed since we will not be serving lunch.



Weekday Ministries

Beth Brack, WDM Director

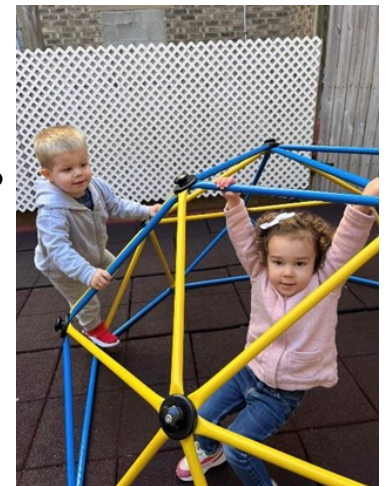
Weekday Ministries is preparing for Lent to begin! We strive to teach the children that the joy of Easter is knowing how much Jesus loves us.



The Preschool children learn about the Easter Story using resurrection eggs. They get so excited waiting for the next day to see what is in the egg and the lessons that go along with it! Through my years of teaching at Weekday Ministries I have had children with so many reactions while I have shared these lessons.

I have had children cry when we talk about what was done to Jesus and I have children jump with excitement to see the "empty egg".

The teachers and I weave the lessons of Lent and Easter to the younger children every chance we have. We will talk about the symbols of Easter, sing lots of songs and make lots of messy art projects!



Have a Blessed Easter!!



Community Fish Fries

Friday, February 24th & Friday, April 7th

4:00—7:00pm



Take-out meals

take-out will be offered. There will also be limited delivery to shut-ins and Food Pantry clients.

The tradition of Lenten Fish Fries at our Church started in 2016. Covid 19 limited us the past few years to only having one Fish Fry on Good Friday, but we are back this year with one on the First Friday of Lent as well.

The menu for the February 24th Fish Fry will include fried and baked fish as well as chicken nuggets (for non-fish eaters), French fries, hush puppies, macaroni 'n cheese, Cole slaw, buns, fruit, and desserts. The April 7th Fish Fry will likely include a few additional items as well as Communion elements administered by Pastor Tom.

As is our practice, there will be no charge for the Fish Fries, although donations will be accepted. To paraphrase Pastor Tom, those able to donate will help ensure that those unable to do so can still eat.

These Fish Fries have proven to be very popular, not only for our Church members but also neighbors in our surrounding communities. They are a great way for us to provide hospitality and all to share food, fun, and fellowship.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. And, if you would like further information on these Fish Fries or wish to help in some manner with them, please contact Rob Spicher, Community Events and Outreach Committee Chair, at 412-720-4589 or robert.spicher@pnc.com.



Dine in service

The Community Events and Outreach Committee will once again be hosting two Community Fish Fries during Lent. These Fish Fries will take place on Friday, February 24th and Friday, April 7th.

Eat-in, with musical entertainment, as well as

Shrove Tuesday

PANCAKE DINNER



Terrific Tuesday Kick-off Tuesday, February 21st

6:00 p.m. Dinner

6:45 p.m. A Celebration of Shrove Tuesday for all ages

7:30 p.m. Dismissal

Welcome Back Coffee Café

During the season of Lent the Coffee Café will be returning to Brookline Parlor. Beginning February 26th thru Palm Sunday, The Coffee Café will be open from 9:15 - 10:30 and again from 12:00 – 12:30. Whether you want to spend some time catching up with friends, are new to the church and would like to visit with our church family or are on your way to another Sunday morning happening, stop by the Coffee Café for a drink, a snack and a time of fellowship.



Calling all volunteers... I repeat...

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Rob Spicher, Community Events & Outreach Committee Chair

Our Church is blessed not only to be involved in many wonderful ministries, missions, and outreach programs but also to have a plethora of volunteers ready, willing, and able to make them all happen. The preceding having been said, have you ever found yourself saying "that sounds like a neat volunteer opportunity – wish I had known about it" or "I need some volunteers but do not know whom to call." Hopefully, your prayers on these matters will soon be answered.

With the help of Kate Naugle, our recently hired Office and Communications Coordinator, the Community Events and Outreach Committee will be putting together a master volunteer list. When completed, the list will include contact information on all current volunteers (and what they volunteer for) as well as folks who would like to volunteer. Said list should be very helpful when trying to find a driver for the Food Lift, a server for a Fish Fry, or a shopper for the Food Pantry, to name just a few.

Please look for updates in the coming weeks on this matter. In the meantime, if you would like to volunteer in some manner but are not currently doing so, please contact Kate at 412-531-7131 or knaugle@mlumc.org so that she can add you to the master volunteer list.

Financial Partners Needed

Rob Spicher, Community Events & Outreach Chair

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. Relative to activities organized by the Committee, however, such is not always the case.

As the Committee plans its 2023 activities, there is an opportunity for members of our 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, funds provided by "financial partners" guaranteed the drive's success. Having "financial partners" in place will ensure that activities such as these can continue to flourish in 2023.

Several Church members and friends have already become "financial partners" of the Committee. If you would like to join them, please contact Rob Spicher at either 412-720-4589 or robert.spicher@pnc.com.

Food Pantry Update!

Liz DiPietro

The Food Pantry is currently serving close to 100 individuals. The past year has continued to provide challenges such as safety and health issues along with job losses and other hardship that have touched our clients. Grocery prices have increased dramatically even though our shoppers still need to buy more and more to fill the shelves.

Thanks to the generosity of our church congregation and other donors, we not only been able to continue our pantry mission without interruption but were able to give grocery gift cards to each family for the Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions. Please consider a donation to the pantry so that our efforts to feed the hungry may continue. Below is a list of items that can be contributed on a monthly bases to keep our shelves stocked. Please consider making a monetary donation or venture out on a shopping trip for the needed products. Thank you for your prayers and support of the MLUMC Food Pantry!

2023 Food Pantry Donation Requests

January	Paper Products	May	Cereal/Oatmeal	September	Pasta & sauces
February	Peanut Butter & Jelly	June	Snacks for children	October	Cookies and Crackers
March	Pasta & sauces	July	Paper Products	November	Thanksgiving meal items
April	Tuna & canned meat	August	Peanut Butter & Jelly	December	Christmas meal items

The Food Lift Working with Beulah Baptist Church

Monica Matviko Kao

Once a month, Beulah Baptist Church, feeds hungry people. The church's large, encompassing Food Pantry program takes place with the help of MLUMC's Food Lift and a group of significant food donators, as well as resources for purchase.

Who are the recipients of the food? The coordinator of Beulah's Food Pantry describes those who receive the food with inclusive and intentional words. According to Coordinator Denise Helton, Beulah's Food Pantry feeds hungry people, not the hungry, not the poor, the black, brown and white, not the immigrants, but people. God's people.

This recognition of blessed humanity is the fuel for Beulah's monthly Food Pantry at the Beltzhoover church. On the third Tuesday of each month volunteers show up at 8 am to unpack and sort the food and products for distribution. This includes bread, produce, and pastries donated by Giant Eagle, Breadworks and other bakeries, delivered by MLUMC's Food Lift. Beulah receives another shipment of groceries from Trader Joe's; meat from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank; and paper and personal care products from Bountiful Blessings Ministry. After hours of unpacking, packing, laughter and fellowship, the volunteers sit down together for a blessing and a prepared lunch.

As the luncheon finishes, hungry people are beginning to line-up outside the church, waiting for the food distribution to begin. At 2 o'clock, mothers and fathers, young and old people begin picking up their food bags. According to a computer analysis by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, one Tuesday this past fall Beulah Food Pantry fed 143 households and 266 individuals. By 5 o'clock on a Food Pantry Tuesday, the line has dissolved, the people who are in need have their food bags, and the volunteers begin cleaning-up.

The Beulah Baptist Food Pantry, with its donors and volunteers are a community of giving, recognizing that we are all God's people.

If you would like to be a part of this community, contact the Food Lift's Don Langston to volunteer at 412-894-5559. You can also make a donation to the Beulah Baptist Church Food Pantry Virtual Fundraiser through the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Donation Website: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/bbcfpvf2/>



Volunteers filling distribution bags



Unloading from the Food Lift



Volunteers ready for lunch

Church Financial Information

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

The 2022 budget projected a deficit of almost \$100,000, assuming payment in full of the Connectional Contribution (aka Apportionment). As the 2022 actual numbers show, the deficit was much lower, due largely to a reduction in personnel costs (staff restructuring) and payment of just over half of the Contribution "ask." This less than full payment of the "ask" has been the case for the past 6 years, as revenues have not been sufficient to pay the "ask" in full and neither the Finance Committee nor Church Council have wanted to dip into the Church's endowment accounts to cover the difference.

The 2023 Church Budget was approved by the Finance Committee on January 4th and Church Council on February 6th. The budget again projects a deficit of approximately \$100,000, assuming payment in full of the Connectional Contribution. It is hoped that revenues will be sufficient to not only eliminate the deficit but to also pay the Contribution in full.

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) or by e-mailing him at robert.spicher@pnc.com.

Church Budget	2021 <u>Actuals</u>	% Of <u>Expenses</u>	2022 <u>Budget</u>	% Of <u>Expenses</u>	2022 <u>Actuals</u>	% Of <u>Expenses</u>
Revenue:	\$704,368	93.5%	\$744,310	88.4%	\$745,317**	99.0%
Expenses:						
Personnel	\$455,492	60.5%	\$470,255	55.9%	\$412,920	54.9%
Programs & Facilities	129,549	17.2%	154,883	18.4%	143,876	19.1%
Utilities & Taxes	92,293	12.2%	98,240	11.6%	101,858	13.5%
Insurance	41,589	5.5%	48,687	5.8%	54,923	7.3%
Connectional Contribution to WPA UM Conference *	34,560	5.0%	69,652	8.3%	39,455	5.2%
Total Expenses	\$753,483	100%	\$841,717	100%	\$753,032	100%
Total Net Income (Loss)	(\$49,115)		(\$97,407)		(\$7,715)	

* \$69,652 requested in 2022, did not pay \$30,197

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

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

The Nyadire Connection Visits Nyadire

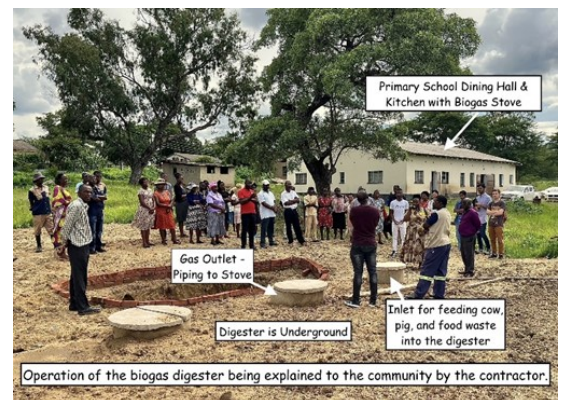
To See Friends & Review Programs

Two Volunteer-In-Mission teams from The Nyadire Connection (TNC) visited the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe in January, to renew friendships and review various programs. Founded in Pittsburgh in 2006, TNC is a faith-based, non-profit organization that seeks to support and sustain the Mission, which includes a hospital, primary and secondary schools, and an orphanage, and provides many other services to the community. Mt. Lebanon UMC is one of TNC's seven network churches in the Pittsburgh area, and several church members are long-time supporters. During the trips, TNC's representatives accomplished the following:

One focus has been on the Hearing Innovation program, which provides learning opportunities to students who are hearing-impaired. The opportunity to receive an education gives students an identity and voice, teaches self-reliance, provides meaningful purpose, and most importantly encourages friendship, values, and goals.

A group of students who are members of Carnegie Mellon University's Engineers Without Borders chapter reviewed their latest Nyadire project: Installation of a Biogas Digester, which uses animal and food waste to provide fuel to cook meals at the mission. The project was completed last year. This initial installation is a pilot unit and if successful can be replicated at many different locations both within and outside of the Mission.

The newest program, Agriculture, evaluates funding requests from the Mission for agricultural-based projects and works with people there to develop the requests into a business plan; the program has the potential to provide food and other resources to the entire Mission. The Nyadire Mission had a working farm prior to 2000, with about 150 acres cultivated. Because of government land reforms in 2001, the Mission lost its farm manager and activities dwindled. Today, the farm grows garden produce year-round and maize during the wet season but only produces a fraction of what was once grown. A major future project will involve a new water pumping system from the Nyadire River to allow the irrigation of more land to reduce the risk of crop failure due to drought. This type of system will cost \$200,000-\$300,000 to install.



Fall Rummage Proceeds Distributed!

Louanne Baily & Dick DiBella, Mission Committee Co-Chairs

Whether you donated items for sale; sorted goods and manned a station the day of the sale; or even purchased rummage treasures - THANK YOU. The following lists the important ways money raised by you was distributed, as approved by MLUMC's Mission Committee. Where possible we contributed to United Methodist Church (UMC) mission efforts and encourage you to support these initiatives too.

**Note-an "Advance" number is a project that has been vetted and approved by United Methodist Global Ministries and staff to ensure that projects are aligned with the goals of The United Methodist Church in the local area.*

Ukraine — Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery: \$3,000

The Nyadire Connection — C/O Christ UMC, Bethel Park, PA - Girl Empowerment Pad Project (GEP); Giving Tree supplies, instruction and sewing machine repair: \$1,000; GEP Scholarships: \$500 ; The Nyadire Connection Rural Health Clinic Rebuilds: \$1,500

Haiti — Advance #418520, Grace Children's Hospital offers pediatric and adult diagnosis and treatment for tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS, general pediatric services as well as an eye clinic.

Spirit Lake Ministry Center — an approved UMC Volunteer in Mission destination working to support the peoples of the Spirit Lake Nation: \$1,000

Project Crossroads — Support for MLUMC's Youth Mission Trip: \$2,000

Daily Bread/Pittsburgh Northside Lunch — monthly purchase, preparation and delivery of lunch to 65-100 individuals experiencing food insecurity on the Northside of Pittsburgh, as organized by WPAUMC's Church Union.

In addition, a total of \$3,500 was equitably distributed to each of the WPAUMC's Mission Agencies, which include Church Union, Eastbrook Mission Barn, Connellsville Area Community Ministries, Erie United Methodist Alliance, Prison Outreach Ministry, United Methodist Human Services of Johnstown and the Ruth M. Smith Center.

Again, thank you for all that you did to raise monies that are doing good for those in need around the world.

Mark Your Calendars

Looking Ahead

UWF Flower Basket Sale

Saturday, May 6

just in time for Mother's Day!

Save the date! On Saturday, May 6, the UWF will be selling big, beautiful hanging flower baskets for \$30 each!

As in years past, we'll be taking your orders after Easter, so look for more information in upcoming church bulletins.



**June
Rummage
Sale**

June 3rd, 2023

We will have set up days starting the evening of Tuesday, May 30th with the help of the Scouts and go through Friday, June 2nd.

Collection of goods usually starts in early May.

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

3319 West Liberty Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15216

412-531-7131 | Fax (412)-531-7155 | www.mlumc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 245

Youth Group Updates

Stephanie Lowe, Youth Ministry Director

The youth have been meeting regularly for time of fellowship, study, and fun. We have been working through an Adam Hamilton study entitled *Half Truths*. As always, the youth embrace challenging discussions. Another project that they are working on is producing an opening for the livestream service that will be used during the spring. So even if you attend church in person, check out the beginning of the live stream in the coming weeks.

Planning is already underway for our annual youth mission trip. We will return to Project Crossroads located in Marion, VA. This will be our ninth trip to the mission to assist with home repairs for low income and disabled individuals. The dates for this year are Sunday, July 9th through Saturday, July 15th. Those wishing to attend (adult or youth) should sign up by March 5th. Contact Stephanie Lowe at 412-584-5446 or youth@mlumc.org. Scholarships are available for those who need them.

Chocolate covered pretzels will be for sale throughout the later part of the Lenten season to help raise funds for our trip.

Thank you for your continued support of the youth and our program!