



The Window into the heart of

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

Volume 9, Number 2, Summer 2023

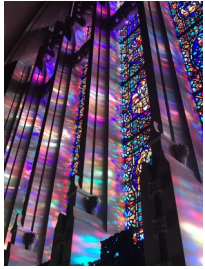
Faith for Today 2023 Sunday Summer Speaker Series

9:30 am

June 4 – September 3

The Welcome Center

June 4 Great is Thy Faithfulness



Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow is the theme for honoring the 100th anniversary of our sanctuary which was dedicated in November 1924. This session will present all of the planned activities for our year-long celebration.

July 2 Not Your Parents' Church



We are well-versed on the worship, Sunday School, and program activities for our congregation that take place every week inside the walls of MLUMC. Not as familiar to many of us, however, are the number of groups that use our Church on a weekly basis for their networking, social service, and community-related activities. Please come and learn about the many groups and organizations besides our congregation that call MLUMC "home."

June 11 Make a Joyful Noise

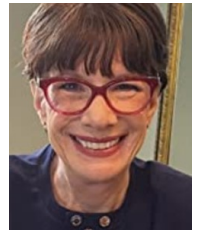


This annual presentation includes favorite hymns and songs presented by our church's members and friends of all ages. We will learn the history behind our favorite hymns and hear them played on a variety of instruments as well as sung by

our soloists. In addition, there will be opportunities for everyone to join in and sing some of our most popular hymns.

July 9 Miracles Part I

Internationally recognized theologian, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, will meet with us via Zoom to discuss her study book, *Signs and Wonders*. We will have the opportunity to ask questions about well known miracles of Jesus, such as the feeding of the five thousand and the healing of the man who was lowered through the roof.



June 18 Adam's Quest—Bob Jamison

Adam's Quest was formed in September 2012 as President Bob Jamison saw the need to forge a new generation of men, men of character, men who are well equipped to meet life's challenges, to become great husbands and fathers, and to make a positive impact on their community.



July 16 Miracles Part II



Two members of our congregation, Kathy Michael and Judy Phelps, will share their stories of miraculous physical healing. In addition, we will discuss ways of acceptance when miracles hoped for don't occur.



June 25 Erie United Methodist Alliance

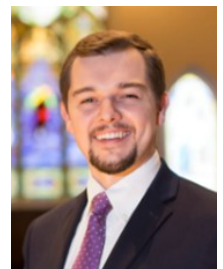


Kurt Crays, executive director, will share with us the many exciting ministries that United Methodist churches in Erie are providing for needy people in their city, including veterans, the homeless and other groups.

July 23 Liturgy

What it is and why do we do it?

Our Music and Liturgy Director, Mr. Mitchell Stecker, will share with us the meaning, history, and spiritual power of liturgical worship.



July 30 Harriet Tubman

A Woman of Great Faith

Harriet Tubman, known as the conductor, guided slaves to freedom using the underground railroad. For African Americans she has been a person of inspiration and hope. For all people she is a model of who we should be. Harriet Tubman was a life of courage, hope, reality and yes, faith. The Rev. John (Jack) Aupperle, retired pastor of Baldwin Community United Methodist Church, will present this program.



August 6 Stephen Haluszcak

Ukrainian Orthodox Church



Stephen Haluszcak is well-known for his work in the Ukrainian community in western Pennsylvania. He is the author of the book "Ukrainians of Western Pennsylvania," published by Arcadia Publishing through its "Images of America" series and founder/Executive Director/President of the Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute (UCHI). Stephen also has led UCHI in developing its Ukrainian Refugee Information Exchange. He has designed training programs for Ukrainian professionals hosted locally under the "Open World" program of the US Library of Congress and the "Community Connections" program.

August 13

MLUMC Youth Mission Trip



Youth and adults who attended the 2023 mission trip will report on their experiences.

August 20 Zwicksburg!

Our Zwicksburgh intergenerational team of 22 visited our partner church in Zwickau in June and July. Our MLUMC team will share experiences of our visit and tell you about some of our partner friends (and your friends!). Why have we been doing this for 20+ years? What can we learn from our partners? What are the future plans? Let's catch up on stories about our partners and also look to the future.



August 27 Fellowship Breakfast

Join your church family for a casual breakfast with conversation and planning for the new program year.

September 3 Combined Sunday School

Pastor Tom will report on the 2023 Annual Conference and current state of the UMC.



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2023 Lenten Community Fish Fries Fun, Fellowship, & Fish to All!

Rob Spicher, Community Events and Outreach Committee Chair



Take-Out Meals Volunteers

Many thanks to our Church's members, neighbors, and friends for supporting this year's 2 Lenten Community Fish Fries. 500 meals were served via eat-in, take-out, and delivery on the First Friday of Lent. The

700 meals served on Good Friday not only topped that amount but also set a record (hopefully to be broken in 2024). Great work by all, including our 3 portable deep fryers (which fortunately stayed lit and did their thing)!

The tradition of Lenten Fish Fries at our Church started with one in 2016. We subsequently began to have two each year, but Covid 19 limited us the past few years to only having a Fish Fry on Good Friday. Nice this year to have been able to hold one not only on Good Friday but also on the First Friday of Lent as well.

As is our practice, there was no charge for these Fish Fries, although free will donations were accepted. Thanks to the generosity of not only "day of" diners but also "financial" sponsors, we were able to cover our costs with room to spare!

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



Dine in service

Thanks again to the volunteers who staffed these events and made them possible. And please start preparing your stomachs for bigger and better Lenten Community Fish Fries in 2024!



2023 Confirmation Class | Jumonville

Pastor Scott Miller

This year's Confirmation Class made their annual retreat to Jumonville on April 28 – 30, 2023. It was a wonderful time of fun, fellowship, and of course, much learning!

Marcy Picardi, Laura Shoff and I helped the confirmands learn about the fruits of the Spirit, and different types of prayers they could use in their everyday lives. We also had a lengthy discussion (actually, several discussions!) about the vows they will take at confirmation, and what prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness mean to them – not only personally, but in relation to their friends, family, and the larger church.

Of course, the weekend was not all going through the Bible and the coursework...there was also plenty of fun to be had! The kids enjoyed their walk to the cross, and down to the Green Cathedral, and over to Washington's Rocks, where I led them in a brief history lesson about the origins of the French and Indian War (that's the 7 Years War for those of you from Europe!). Then it was back up to the cross again for the ropes course. The ropes course proved both challenging and fun for the confirmands, although don't think it was all sunshine and rainbows...there was plenty of ropes course frustration too! But in the end, they came out a better team than they went in.

Speaking of sunshine and rainbows, there was a decided lack of both of those during our weekend – cloudy, cool, and windy were the order of the day, and although rain threatened all weekend, by God's grace it held off until a light sprinkle started Sunday morning.

Most of the kids had not been to Jumonville before this, and I think this was a wonderful introduction for many of them. I believe they had a great experience that they will be able to take with them on their Christian journey. A reminder that Confirmation Sunday this year will be on June 4, and we invite everyone to come and share this wonderful and joyous occasion as the confirmands take the most important decision of their lives!



What are we paying for, and why?

By Larry Bridge, Treasurer

WPA Annual Conference

I once read a comment about connectional apportionments from someone who asked the question, “Is this like the baggage fee I have to pay when flying?” Another person wanted to know if Apportionments were similar to dues you pay to belong to a club. I suppose these are not unreasonable questions to ask if you have never had the opportunity to receive an explanation of how Connectional Apportionments are an integral part of the fabric of the United Methodist Church.

When John Wesley was beginning to realize the full extent of the reformation he was leading in the Anglican Church, he began to develop fundamental principles upon which his reformation would stand. Three of the very important pillars he conceived were that the church should be connectional, clergy should be itinerant, and the church should have doors that are wide open to all believing Christians and to people yearning to discover how to move toward a Christian life.

Wesley considered a connected church to be essential to building and maintaining outreach and disciple-making far beyond the walls of local churches by multiplying the resources of any one church many times over. Remember the Apostle Paul’s work gathering resources from among the gentile churches of Asia Minor to support the Christian communities in Jerusalem.

Through the years, the connected churches of John Wesley’s time have become the United Methodist Church we know today. The principles on which it was built are as vital today as they were then. We are CONNECTED. Our global reach in support of disasters, the disadvantaged, those seeking to find their way into a Christian life and those continuing the mission of disciple-making are supported by every member of the world-wide United Methodist community through our Apportionment system.

Although much larger, more global and more diverse, our Connectional Apportionment system today “connects the dots” between our local churches, Conferences and the denomination to Kingdom-building efforts in our communities and throughout the world. Our resources are marshaled at various places such as our own Mission Barn and other United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) depots, colleges, global missions and ministry centers.

We don’t often see all of this from our individual churches, but be assured that it is working and effective and each and every one of us is united in outreach as we work to fulfill our great mission of “providing resources to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”



Walking With Nehemiah

“Our society will crumble if the people of God do not return to serious community engagement informed by a return to covenantal relationship with God and others . . .” - Walking with Nehemiah, Joseph W. Daniels, Jr.

Joseph W. Daniels, Jr. makes a pretty shocking statement in his book *Walking With Nehemiah: Your Community is Your Congregation*. Our society will “crumble,” he says, if the people of God do not return to serious community engagement and to a covenantal relationship with God and others? Sounds pretty harsh, doesn’t it? But Daniels believes that much in the power of the Holy Spirit working through the church, that he is willing to make such an extreme statement. He knows that such a partnership between a loving God and a faithful people would be unstoppable, if only we would hear God’s call and respond.

The Rev. Dr. Daniels is the lead pastor of Emory United Methodist Church in Washington, DC, and superintendent of the Greater Washington District. He is known for asking the congregations that are under his care a single question – “What would it take for you to think of your community as your congregation?” He says that most church leaders—lay and clergy—don’t think like this. In fact, when he asks them this question, it can take a minute or two for them to even understand it, let alone answer it. So much of our attention in everyday congregational life is spent dealing with internal issues and opportunities that we turn more and more inward. Even our “outward” work smacks of our “inward” bias, as we invite people to our events and ponder how to make our events more compelling for those who aren’t yet in our congregations. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, is known for saying that “the world is our parish.” Simply stated, the streets are our sanctuary. Our community is our congregation. Yet, too often, congregations ignore their neighborhoods. They don’t consider the vast resource of people around them, and they seem to forget that Pentecost, the very event that gave birth to the church, happened in the streets. It’s time for churches to engage with the people around them—most of whom have not yet made a faith decision and are hungering for the grace that only God can provide.

I was heartened to know that our church has been thinking along the same lines as Dr. Daniels describes. During the upcoming season of Pentecost, let’s consider Dr. Daniels’ basic outline, as we follow the path of Nehemiah and experience how God can give us answers for engaging your community in a transformative way:

Step 1: Feel your heart break.

It isn't until you know for whom or what your heart breaks that God can reveal where in the community and with whom your ministry needs to be done. This broken-heartedness isn't just the stuff of love songs; it is what lifelong missions are made of.

Step 2: Pray as if life depended on it.

If you sincerely pray, God will create a way for you to help the very people and situations that break your heart. Nehemiah shows us how to sincerely pray: by recognizing God as the Lord of our lives, by understanding that God keeps God's covenant with us, by confessing our sins and the sins of others, and by declaring to God that we are joyfully "all in."

Step 3: Use your position for good.

If you position yourself for divine purposes and use your position for divine purposes, God will give you all you need to change lives and communities for the better. You don't have to be in a position of privilege to have your position count. Sometimes we don't think our position is significant. Yet when we surrender our agenda to God, God can use our position to turn things around for the better.

Step 4: Walk with others in your neighborhood.

Too often we end up doing ministry for people instead of with people. This happens because of two things: we see an "us" and "them" divide; and we identify a need based on statistics or what we think needs to be done, instead of building relationships with those in the community and letting them tell us what they will partner with us to accomplish. If, like Nehemiah, you walk before you talk, then when you talk, people will walk with you.

Step 5: Do something.

When our action is rooted in who our hearts break for, in prayer, in our role, and in a thorough inspection of our community, the opportunities are endless. When we don't do anything about it, opportunities are lost. Before Nehemiah surveyed the situation, he saw himself as one of the community. This enabled him to speak the truth and summon the people to rise up!

Step 6: Organize the work.

Any community engagement effort requires strong organization. People need to know what their assignments are and what is expected of them. Additionally, folks need to learn how to stay in their lane while supporting the common good.

Step 7: Ignore the haters.

Whenever a group of people commits itself to the common good—fully engaged in bringing hope to the vulnerable and defenseless—you can expect some people to ridicule and others not to participate. It is critical to keep your attention on those who are engaged and not be distracted by others.

Dr. Daniels' words are inescapably personal. It is as if he is looking each one of us squarely in the face, and saying to you: Let's journey with Nehemiah, and discover who God is asking you to encourage, what walls God is calling you to repair, and what ministry God might be calling you to lead, and where.

Blessings to you,

Pastor Tom



Flower Planting Time!

Saturday, May 27th | 9:00am—Noon

We will be planting flowers at the church. Please bring your own hand shovels and knee pads. If you have any questions please call Tom Michael at (412) 389-9411.

Hope to see you there!



Vacation Bible School: Harvest Love

Kim Rhoton, Director of Christian Ed.

In the ten years I have been on staff at MLUMC, I have often said that we should just write our own VBS curriculum since I end up reworking the purchased ones anyway. Well, this year with the amazing support of Laura Ward and Cori DeLuca, that dream is becoming a reality! We began last August to brainstorm how we could put together a program that would celebrate God's rich diversity of people and intentionally welcome those in our communities whom we have yet to reach. Our lessons include a variety of Bible stories that highlight different languages, cultures, genders, abilities, and more. For extra fun, we have scheduled a special guest for each day. These include the Pittsburgh Zoo, Therapy Pets from Animal Friends, and a pet pig that lives in Dormont.

In order to make this program a success, we will need the help of the entire congregation! Please contact me if you are able to volunteer before or during VBS week. And of course, please make sure that you share this information with children you know. Registration is available on the church website, or contact me with questions: krhoton@mlumc.org

Thank you for helping us teach everyone in our community "You are beautifully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139).

RUMMAGE SORT

Tuesday, May 30th | 6:00pm

Asbury Center

The Rummage Sort will begin, with the help of the Boy Scouts, Tuesday, May 30th.

There will be refreshments provided for all volunteers. Come ready to help out and sort some rummage!

Summer Rummage Sale

June 3rd, 2023 | 9:00am – 2:00 pm

The Summer Rummage Sale is the perfect opportunity to donate all of the treasures you found while spring cleaning, but no longer have a use for.

You can support the rummage sale and missions it benefits in two ways:

Donation of Your Items: Contributions include clothing, housewares, furniture, jewelry, books, children's clothing, toys, and decorations. We cannot accept computers, older TVs, or non-working appliances. Please bring your donations to Asbury Center. As always we have volunteers with trucks who can pick up large pieces. Please call the church office if you need assistance with the donation of your goods. The church is in need of a new lawnmower, so please consider donating any unwanted lawn mowers. Additionally, we will be accepting car seats.

Donation of Your Time: We need volunteers to set up and sort items starting Wednesday, May 31st. We will also need volunteers the day of the sale to assist in selling, bagging, and clean up.

During the sorting of items taking place Wednesday, May 31st – Friday, June 2nd, all volunteers will be served lunch along with a dinner of leftovers served on Thursday, June 1st. If you cannot donate your time and have no goods to donate, consider preparing food for the volunteers. If you wish to prepare food, please email Mary Garber at mgarber1989@aol.com.

If you have any questions or wish to volunteer, please email any one of the following individuals:

Mary Garber: mgarber1989@aol.com

Rob Spicher: robert.spicher@pnc.com

Linda Minnotte: lindaminnotte@gmail.com



Zwicksburgh

A Tale of Two Cities

Zwicksburgh, say what? The following excerpts are from pt. one of a two part article about the MLUMC partnership with the Peace Church of Zwickau, Germany.

A look into German *Friedenskirche* (Peace Church), an *Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche* in Zwickau, Saxony, and our Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We'll first learn how Zwickau has fit within German history, then how our two churches formed a relationship that has grown and strengthened into a beautiful friendship through the ensuing years...

“...In 1520 Martin Luther dedicated his treatise *On the Freedom of the Christian Man* to his friend Hermann Muehlpfort, the Lord Mayor of Zwickau...”

“...The Anabaptist movement of 1525 began here under the inspiration of the Zwickau prophets...”

“...This small evangelical Methodist church has gathered for Sunday services for over 150 years...”

“...Through German military conflicts, two World Wars and the Soviet occupation of eastern Germany, they have continued to put their trust in the Lord...”

You can find the full article on our website, mlumc.org.



United Women In Faith June Meeting Honoring Barbara Watson

On Tuesday, June 13 at 6 p.m. in Asbury Center, the UWF will hold its final meeting of the season where, we'll present Barbara Watson with a mission recognition pin that honors her years of faithful service on behalf of women, children and youth.

Everyone is invited to attend and celebrate! As this is a salad supper, please bring your favorite salad to share. We'll provide desserts and drinks.

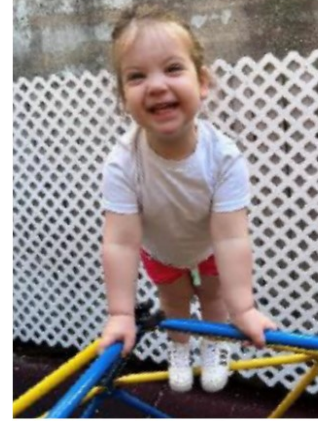
What's happening at Weekday Ministries

Beth Brack, Weekday Ministries Director

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. (Proverbs 22:6)



The Senior Pre-K class will participate in a graduation ceremony on May 25th. Ten children will be graduating this year! Some of our graduates will leave in June others will stay until Kindergarten begins in the fall. But for all of them, they will be embarking on a whole new journey. As many of them have been part of the Weekday Ministries family for the past five years. We wish them all well and will miss each one of them!



Our children be spending the summer playing outdoors, having picnics, exploring bugs on the patio (a favorite), and enjoying water play in the courtyard. We try to get the children outside every day! They learn so much when they have the opportunity to explore the outdoors. We are blessed to have such nice spaces to take the children.

2023 Events and Activities

The Community Events and Outreach Committee will be sponsoring a number of 2023 events and activities. With several events having already passed, events quickly approaching, and some still in the planning stages, there is never a dull moment! Please plan to attend as many of these events and activities as you can.

If you would like to learn more about these events and activities, please contact Rob Spicher at robert.spicher@pnc.com or 412-720-4589.

June

Daily Bread Lunch (6/1)
EECM Dinner (6/25)

July

Daily Bread Lunch (7/6)
Community Barbecue (TBD)
Addiction Series (TBD)
Backpack Drive (TBD)

August

Daily Bread Lunch (8/3)
Pirate Game with Churches of Color (8/12)
EECM Dinner (8/27)
Addiction Series (TBD)

September

Daily Bread Lunch (9/7)
Addiction Series (TBD)

October

Daily Bread Lunch (10/5)
EECM Dinner (10/22)
Community Fall Festival (TBD)

November

Daily Bread Lunch (11/2)
Community Thanksgiving Meal (11/23)

December

Daily Bread Lunch (12/7)
Christmas Caroling (12/10)
EECM Dinner (12/24)
Community Christmas Meal (12/25)

Note – Daily Bread Lunches are served on site at their Northside location; EECM (East End Cooperative Ministries) Dinners are served on site at their East Liberty location (adjacent to the East Liberty Home Depot); the Christmas Dinner is served on-site at Castle Shannon Presbyterian Church; all other events originate on-site at MLUMC

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 2022 actual, 2023 budgeted, and 1st quarter 2023 actual financial results.

The 2023 budget projects a deficit of over \$100,000, assuming payment in full of the Connectional Contribution (aka Apportionment).

The 2022 budget projected a similar deficit, but the actual results were much better due to a reduction in personnel costs (staff restructuring) and payment of just over half of the Contribution "ask." Thanks in part to payment in full of several 2023 pledges during the 1st quarter, YTD revenues through March are ahead of budget. It will be important that pledgors keep up with their pledges and non-pledged givers keep up with their giving if the performance through the 1st quarter is to be maintained. Any questions regarding the actual and budget information shown below should be directed to Rob Spicher. He can be reached by e-mailing him at robert.spicher@pnc.com.

	2022	% Of	2023	% Of	1 st Qrt 2023	% Of
Church Budget	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Revenue:	\$744,890*	98.2%	\$745,560	87.7%	\$204,976	97.2%
Expenses:						
Personnel	\$412,921	54.4%	\$409,825	48.2%	\$102,574	48.0%
Programs & Facilities	145,070	19.1%	196,542	23.1%	48,428	22.7%
Utilities & Taxes	97,868	12.9%	103,800	12.2%	35,490	16.6%
Insurance	54,923	7.2%	62,426	7.3%	17,824	8.3%
Connectional Contribution to WPA UM Conference**	36,374	4.8%	66,238	7.8%	6,600	3.1%
Loan Payments	11,251	1.6%	11,251	1.3%	2,813	1.3%
Total Expenses	\$758,407	100.0%	\$850,082	100%	\$213,729	100%
Total Net Income (Loss)	(\$13,517)		(\$104,522)		(\$8,753)	

* Includes estate gifts of approximately \$27,750

** \$69,652 requested in 2022

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

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.

The Nyadire Connection (TNC) is attempting a “moon shot” and we’re asking for your support



Based in Pittsburgh and founded in 2006, TNC is a faith-based, all-volunteer, non-profit organization that partners with the Nyadire UM Mission in Zimbabwe. The Mission includes a hospital, which has responsibility for six rural health clinics. These **clinics serve as a critical medical care facility** for women to deliver babies and for people with infectious diseases; patients often walk many miles to a clinic. Yet, **the clinics have been in disrepair**, with no running water, flush toilets or electricity, and not enough space.

Ten years ago, we embarked on a journey to refurbish all six clinics, even though we had no idea how – or if – we could raise the necessary funding, about \$1.8 million. We were driven by the faith that these **clinics would improve the standard of health care** for tens of thousands of residents, especially mothers-to-be who walk miles to have their babies there. Nurse Patience of the Chikwizo clinic captured this essence when she said **the clinics “mean life”** to her and many others. So we began that journey, with the faith that God would provide.

Today, thanks to the passion and support from **many individual donors**, from our network of **Pittsburgh-area churches** and from the **General Board of Global Ministries** of the UM Church, we’re pleased to say that **God has provided and we are about to complete our clinics journey**. Five clinics have been refurbished – on-time and on-budget. We have started on the sixth and final one, at Chindenga, but **to complete this clinic by year-end, TNC needs to raise \$250,000 by August**. The TNC leadership team is making a collective donation toward Chindenga, and we invite you to join us on this “moon shot” journey. Please **prayerfully consider making a tax-deductible donation to TNC** to help us complete the clinics this year.

To make a donation, visit our website at www.nyadire.org and click on the “Donate” button. You can also send a check, with “Clinics” in the memo line, to: The Nyadire Connection, c/o Christ United Methodist Church, 44 Highland Road, Bethel Park, PA 15012

Nyadire Sponsors

Join 15 MLUMC families in becoming a sponsor to make a difference in a child’s life. These children are orphans who walk to the Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe, to attend school. They do not live at the mission orphanage.

Approximately 30 students need sponsors. The program must stretch its budget to cover their expenses.

\$100 sponsors one child

\$75 a year pays the child’s school fees.

\$25 a year buys a backpack and school supplies

School sponsorship forms are sent out in September to be returned with your check by October 31.

To become a sponsor, please contact Brenda Vogel at 412-276-5473 or btvogel44@comcast.net



Sanctuary Centenary Celebration

John Esaiias

November 24, 2024 will mark the 100th anniversary of the consecration of MLUMC's sanctuary. In recognition of this landmark event in our shared history, Church Council has approved a year-long celebration plan that will begin June 4, 2023 and last through the weekend of November 23-24, 2024. This year of festivities will kick off with a special session of Faith For Today on June 4. During the coming year, activities will include a celebration remembering the cornerstone laying as well as special Sunday worship services where current and former members will be invited to renew their marriage vows, remember their baptisms, confirmations, and/or ordinations, along with many other programs and events celebrating our history and envisioning our future. As a component of this work, a capital campaign will be undertaken for improvements to our building and grounds, which are to include a new digital church sign along West Liberty Avenue, refurbishment of the main church doors, and revitalization of the landscaping in front of the church. These, and many other initiatives and activities, will be outlined in greater detail in a forthcoming brochure.



The theme of our celebration is "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"/"Bright Hope For Tomorrow". The programming throughout the year will focus on God's faithfulness in seeing our congregation through a century of worship in our beautiful building, and on the bright hope that our history gives us for many future years of Christian service to our neighbors and our community.

The June 4 Faith For Today program will detail the plans for the celebration alongside photos and information about the history of our sanctuary, especially the process its building and dedication. We warmly invite you to attend in order to learn the details involved in this significant event in the life of our

congregation, and to consider how the Spirit might be leading you to take part in commemorating this milestone of our history.



Memorials Gifts

John Esaiias

Because of a large number of faithful contributors, many financial gifts have been donated in memory of deceased members. The Memorials Committee, established by the Finance Committee in the past year, has implemented new procedures regarding the distribution of these funds. Previously, the funds were mainly used for general operating expenses. Currently, families have the opportunity to select projects that are meaningful to them. Listed below are memorial projects and donations that have been completed in the past year. This list will continue to be updated as more funds are distributed.

- New tables were needed in Asbury Center so they were purchased with memorial funds given in memory of Russ Barber and Edward Reichard.
- A donated piano was placed in the Kerygma Classroom, and gifts in memory of Dr. David Watson were used to pay for moving expenses, tuning and repair.
- Our brass instrumentalists for the Easter service were made possible through donations in memory of Ann Delo, Cindy Reichard and Russ Barber.
- From funds given in memory of Mary Berks, a contribution was made to the Idadee School in Haiti.
- In the future, the front doors to the church will be refurbished through donations in memory of Dr. David Watson.
- Gifts in memory of Edward Reichard will be used to cover costs of our hundredth anniversary celebration of the sanctuary.
- Pastor Scott Miller received a tuition scholarship for his coursework at United Theological Seminary from gifts made in memory of Russ Barber.
- Memorial donations in memory of Russ Barber made possible a contribution to the Nyadire Connection for rural health clinic rebuilds.
- Contributions in memory of Amy Langston were given to the Food Lyft.
- Donations given in memory of Mark Lewis will support the music program.
- A memorial donation was given in memory of the Voelker/Lusk families, and it was used to pay all the taxes on the parsonage and additional funds were given to cover general expenses.

Memorial donations may be given in memory of loved ones at any time. Contributions are most welcome because they help to support our church and missions in many different ways.

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

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