

# THE MESSENGER

The newsletter of Leesburg United Methodist Church

## April 2021

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### Message from Pastor Jim: Dare to Dance

#### 50 Days of Easter: Dare to Dance



**Rev. Jim  
Wishmyer,  
Pastor**

What a beautiful day we had, Easter Sunday! It began a little chilly, but by the close of our SONRise worship, some were shedding their coats – and the message/dramatic dialogue was not that long! The sun, hiding behind the clouds early on, finally came out in full force as we gathered for worship at the Old Stone Church site. And, even worshiping indoors at 11, we could see the sun shining through the windows of the sanctuary.

The joy of the sunshine paled in comparison to the joy of celebrating the resurrection – AND seeing one another face-to-face for worship and Holy Communion. For many, it had been over a year since last sharing the sacrament with our faith community! It was great to see folks hanging around to talk, catch up, laugh, and share stories following each worship time.

(Continued on page 7)

## Sunday Worship: “Daring to Dance”

The Easter Season (the “Great Fifty Days”) begins at sunset Easter Eve and continues to the Day of Pentecost, May 23. In joy and celebration (dance!) the season invites us to focus on Christ’s resurrection and his ascension into heaven.

As Easter people, we are called to the dance of resurrection life in all its fullness and joy. We dance together in community the dance of healing, help, prayer, perseverance, caring, and more. We dance together giving witness to the power of resurrection to change us, set us free, establish justice, love. The resurrection story and our stories point to the joy of living in the beloved community as we dare to dance again! This year, the growing community of Christ followers in Acts gives us the steps, the Holy Spirit inspires the music, and the risen Christ extends the hand of invitation to and through us – care/dare to dance?

April 11:	Healing Community; “The dance of healing...” (Acts 3:1-10)
April 18:	Helping Community; “The dance of helping...” (Acts 4:32-37)
April 25:	Praying Community; “The dance of praying...” (Acts 4:23-31)
May 2	Persevering Community; “The dance of persevering/enduring...”
May 9	Caring Community; “The dance of caring...” (Acts 6:1-7) ( <i>Mother’s Day</i> )
May 16	Witnessing Community; “The dance of witness...” (Acts 6:7-15; 7[selected])
May 23	Spirit-filled Community; “Dancing in the Spirit!” (Acts 2; 10) ( <i>Pentecost</i> )
May 30	Trinity Sunday
June 6	Youth/Confirmation Sunday

**Sanctuary  
Worship:**

**[Click Here  
to Register](#)**



**Sunday  
Online:**

**[Click Here  
for Webpage](#)**

## Summer Programs: We Need You!

We are beginning to bring back a few of our programs to help us in our mission of making disciples — ***and we need you!***

### Vacation Bible School

**We have two weeks of a modified VBS planned for June 21—25 and June 28—July 2.** We are reducing numbers from what we've had in the past and changing how we do things to be in compliance with Covid protocols.

Currently, we have over 100 kids registered between the two weeks and only a handful are LUMC families. In fact, most list no church affiliation at all. We have a huge opportunity to connect with these families by sharing God's love with them.

Our groups will be walking to and from the field across from the old hospital to give us more outdoor space (kids won't be vaccinated by June), so we'll need extra supervision in the form of crossing guards and walking buddies. We could use a couple of adults who will be present in the field (you can bring a chair).

[Click here to add your name](#) to the list of volunteers.

### Youth Mission

**July 10 - 16, we'll be hosting our own mission trip for our youth.**

Our hope is to create as similar an experience as possible to what we would normally have if we went away. We will gather at LUMC for opening session then disperse into the community for work projects, returning for dinner and evening programming. (We are hopeful that we'll be able to eat meals together by July; probably outside.)

Volunteer roles that we'll need (separate from team chaperones):

Lunch Crew      Snack Crew      Dinner Crew      Fun Stuff Crew

Half Day On-Site (Serve as an extra adult at one of our sites for a half day)

Full Day On-Site (Serve as an extra adult at one of our sites for full day)

[Click here to add your name](#) to the list of volunteers.





**Rev Heather  
Wray, Director  
of Connect  
Ministries**

## Neighborhood Groups Happenings

The Neighborhood Groups have been busy connecting with each other throughout the pandemic in safe ways. In February our Neighborhood Group Leaders shared Valentine care packages that were a sweet treat.

In March and April they Egged homes - but not in the traditional mischievous and messy way. The leaders set out egg hunts for families as a surprise, and other Neighborhood Group folks got a bag of eggs with no hunting necessary. Thank you to all who donated empty egg cartons; we were able to use them for our egg hunts.

Every time a Neighborhood Group leader goes and shares a gift bag they check in on members, connect, and pray for the families in their neighborhoods. We are looking forward to the summer as more folks are vaccinated and restrictions are lifted to gather together for fellowship. Our care packages have held us together but we look forward to getting together soon.

Enjoy the pictures below of two of our Neighborhood Group kiddos who couldn't wait for mom to get their Easter baskets and jumped right in with a helmet and bucket, very creative! Plus a bonus photo of our egg hunts and bags being put together.



## Homeless Services Center

On April 2nd, LUMC once again provided a pizza dinner for approximately 30 people at the Center. The dinner was paid for from the generous donations our congregation has made to the pandemic relief fund.

Thank you all for your generosity in supporting the homeless community in Loudoun County. If you have any questions, please contact [Vicky Weaver](#) or [Natalie Hartmann](#).





## CLT Corner: Highlights from your Church Leadership Team

### This Month: Finance

Giving and expenses for February were both less than projected but resulted in a loss of approximately \$8,000 for the month/\$11,000 for the year. See table below.

#### Finance Summary

2/28/21

	Monthly				Annual			
	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>\$ Delta</i>	<i>% Delta</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>\$ Delta</i>	<i>% Delta</i>
<b>Operations</b>								
Giving Income (Non Designated)	\$ 52,978.00	\$42,082.12	<b>\$(10,895.88)</b>	-20.6%	\$ 110,839.00	\$ 93,964.52	<b>\$(16,874.48)</b>	-15.2%
Rental Income	\$ 4,589.00	\$ 4,589.17	\$ 0.17		\$ 9,178.00	\$ 9,178.34	\$ 0.34	
Total Income	\$ 57,567.00	\$46,671.29	<b>\$(10,895.71)</b>		\$ 120,017.00	\$ 103,142.86	<b>\$(16,874.14)</b>	
Expenses	\$ 63,851.00	\$54,618.81	<b>\$(9,232.19)</b>	-14.5%	\$ 127,701.89	\$ 114,079.10	<b>\$(13,622.79)</b>	-10.7%
Increase/Decrease to Reserves	<b>\$(6,284.00)</b>	<b>\$(7,947.52)</b>			<b>\$(7,684.89)</b>	<b>\$(10,936.24)</b>		
<b>Mortgage</b>								
Designated Giving	\$ 8,279.00	\$ 9,668.16	\$ 1,389.16		\$ 15,248.00	\$ 19,248.16	\$ 4,000.16	
Payment	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00			\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -	
Interest	\$ -	\$ 641.13			\$ -	\$ 641.13		
Principal	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 7,358.87			\$ 16,000.00	\$ 15,358.87		
Loan Balance (Est.)		\$91,786.35						
Estimated Pay off date		February 2022						

## Backpack Buddies

*"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." Proverbs 22:*

Backpack Buddies is continuing its mission to deliver 80 bags per week to Catoctin Elementary School for the children in need.

**Next packing dates: April 29–May 2. [Sign up here.](#)**

Now more than ever we know there is a great need in our community for assistance, and we are very grateful to the LUMC congregation for their monetary contributions and their help in packing the bags of food for the children. With your continued support we will be able to carry on the work of this mission and assist families in our community.

#### Food items to donate:

milk (shelf stable), juice boxes, fruit cups, applesauce cups,  
Cheese crackers (not peanut butter), granola bars (without nuts), instant oatmeal,  
cereal (individual size), Chef Boyardee single serving cups or cans,  
Mac n' Cheese single serving cups, and Ramen Cup-O-Noodles.



BACKPACK BUDDIES

## LUMC Days at JK Community Farm

**May 15 and/or June 19, 9 - 10:30 am or 10:30 - Noon**

**35516 Paxson Rd, Purcellville**

[Click here to RSVP](#)

What to Bring - *(please do not plan to share or borrow any items)*

- Sun hat
- Sturdy shoes (no open toes)
- Sunscreen
- Water
- Gardening or Rubber Gloves
- Face Coverings



## Spring College Care Packages

The Faith Friends program is preparing the final mailing to college students as they prepare for exams. There is no Amazon wish list for this mailing to simplify the deliveries to students who will be departing campus housing at different times this spring.

If you'd like to make a donation towards gift cards and shipping costs please send in your contribution either through the mail to the church noting Faith Friends as the ministry to receive or use LUMC [Online Giving Special Donations](#), and select "Faith Friends".

We thank you for your continued support of our young adults. If you have any questions please [contact Erica Dobscha](mailto:dobscha@verizon.net) at [dobscha@verizon.net](mailto:dobscha@verizon.net).



## Third Breakthrough Prayer

In the midst of this pandemic, with news of natural disasters affecting so many, and personal losses affecting us all, we've turned to the Immerse Messiah volume of the Bible for a new Breakthrough Prayer. On the inside of the front cover, the first page contains this prayer which our CLT approved as recommended by our Outreach/Evangelism Team:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we pray  
that we might be grounded and settled in your truth  
by the coming of your Holy Spirit into our hearts.  
What we do not know, reveal to us;  
What is lacking within us, make complete;  
That which we do know, confirm in us; and  
Keep us blameless in your service,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As with our previous Breakthrough Prayers, we commend this one to all in our church family for prayer at 7:14 in the morning, and/or 7:14 in the evening (see 2 Chronicles 7:14). Also, we encourage all of our ministry and administrative teams/committees, small groups, etc., to begin or end their meetings with this prayer.



## Message from Pastor Jim

*(Continued from page 1)*

Once again, our sincere gratitude goes to our musicians, tech team, ushers and greeters for your efforts to help make worship possible!

We are now in the Easter Season – 50 days of celebrating the resurrection. On that first Easter morning, Mark's gospel records the women leaving the empty tomb "terrified and bewildered... They said nothing to anyone..."

Well, since we have the story, we know they eventually did tell others, and for that we are most grateful! But what happened as a result? Each of the other gospels end with Jesus meeting with the disciples and giving them their mission and instructions about what to do next. Filled joy – and even some doubts – they went forth to fulfill their commission. The book of Acts describes what happened in the decades following Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven and how the first followers/believers in "the Way" grew into a community that continued Jesus' ministry: healing, teaching, and preaching the good news of the kingdom. They dared to dance their new-found faith in ways that transformed lives.

We have our own dance to which Christ invites us, as we anticipate, pray for, prepare, and plan for, our new normal as a faith community. This dance requires learning some new steps, with both familiar and new melodies.

Church is not a building. Church is people – wherever we are. But – we have a building (actually several), and our physical center gives form and substance to our spiritual and Spirit-filled identity as followers of Christ.

We will grow not through the programs and events of the past, but through a concerted focus on relationships and lifestyles of faith (see Acts 2:42-ff). Still,

our collective destiny as a church remains grounded in our history of forming and being formed as disciples of Jesus.

The latter 20th Century priority on "attracting" people to our building (for programs and events) must give way to a 21st Century priority of building people-connections where we live, play, and work. Instead of trying to promote our name, we're being called to form friendships and fresh expressions of community.

And, instead of cleverly crafted announcements – virtual and otherwise – we will grow our faith and expand the dance through personal invitation. Personal experience, analytical studies, and the confirmation of common sense all point to the efficacy of personal invitation to Christ, to community, to the dance.

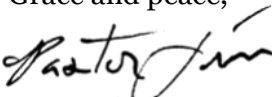
So, dare to dance this Easter Season – the dance of hope, the dance of freedom, the dance of justice, the dance of healing... in community. And dare to invite others to the dance!

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.  
– John 20:30-31

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.  
– Luke 24: 50-52

May I have this dance?

Grace and peace,

  
Pastor Jim



**Angela Becek,**  
**Director of**  
**Discipleship**  
**Ministries**

## **Bible Adventure:** **A Most Excellent Adventure of Transforming the World**

**We have reached the final leg of our Bible Adventures Journey!**

Our next Bible Adventure to take over the AG will be *A Most Excellent Adventure of Transforming the World*.

We will travel through time as we discover how the Church has evolved from Pentecost, through persecution, into the Middle Ages and the Reformation. We will follow the path of change that brings us to our place in the story and glimpse ahead to what the future might hold.



**[Click on this link to reserve your slot.](#) Available April 17 through May 24**



### **Health and Safety Precautions**

- Each family (household/bubble) will schedule a timed entry.
- One group at a time, with a minimum of one hour between groups to clear the air.
- All frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned between groups.
- Hand sanitizing stations are placed within, and sinks are available for hand washing.
- Head of Household will affirm adherence with the **Health Acknowledgment** poster on behalf of all household members upon entry.

### **Special Thanks to:**

#### Following Jesus:

Rev. Heather Way  
Jack Dobscha  
Dan Whitt  
Sarah Klein

Sammie Boyer  
Stephanie Reed  
Carina Martinez

#### Transforming the World:

Steve Chapin  
Carl Snyder  
Maggie Ginman  
Katherine Ginman  
Cynthia Ginman



## Drive-By Shower for Rev. Heather

**Please join us in celebrating the upcoming birth of baby Boy Wray.**

Let's show our love from a safe distance to Rev. Heather, Rev. Daniel and Nora.

Please drive by their home on:

**Saturday, April 10 between 1-2 pm**

304 Deer Path Avenue SW, Leesburg, VA

Please drive past the Wray's home and drive around the pool parking lot to come back down Deer Path Avenue so you can stop your vehicle on the correct side of Deer Path Avenue. They will be standing in their drive way to wave to you.

Registered on Amazon: [Heather Wray and Daniel Wray](#)  
Questions: Celesta Miller, [csmiller94@verizon.net](mailto:csmiller94@verizon.net)



### A Poignant Moment from *Walking with Jesus*



*Sarah lighting a candle in the prayer stations  
(Garden of Gethsemane)*

## Serve Saturday

The celebration of Earth Day each spring, on April 22, gives Christians an opportunity to consider God's good creation and our stewardship of it. Here are some of the many suggestions for Earth Day; or make it an Earth Week of activities.

- 1) **Measure your carbon footprint:**  
[www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/](http://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/)
- 2) **Plant a tree:** Trees produce oxygen and help reduce air pollution. A single tree can absorb 10 pounds of air pollutants a year, and produce nearly 260 pounds of oxygen, according to the nonprofit, American Forests.org.
- 3) **Recycle reusable materials:** The average person generates more than four pounds of trash every day and about 1.5 tons of solid waste per year, according to DoSomething.org.
- 4) **Donate or recycle used electronics:** Electronic waste includes computers, cell phones, televisions and other electronic devices in working or non-working condition that are no longer used.
- 5) **Clean up the earth:** More than 51 billion pieces of litter land on U.S. roadways each year, and litter cleanup costs the nation almost \$11.5 billion each year, according to the nonprofit Keep America Beautiful.

#5 provides the basis for a planned activity for LUMC individuals and families to combine cleaning up litter, fresh air and exercise, and an opportunity to “prayer walk” in our community/downtown/our neighborhoods. We’ll meet on Saturday, April 24, to pick up litter around Leesburg.

Plan to gather on the front outdoor patio area of our sanctuary building, 9 am. We’ll provide trash-bags and encourage everyone to bring their own gloves so we don’t have to rely on disposable nitrile or latex gloves unnecessarily. After a short devotional and prayer, we’ll head out to nearby streets and neighborhoods to pick up litter before meeting back at the church at 10:15 am. Along the way, each group can be praying silently and aloud for the homes, businesses, and people we pass.

When we meet back at the church building, we’ll take stock of how much litter we collected, share additional ways to celebrate Earth Day every day.

Please sign up here: <https://leesburgumc.e360chms.com/external/form/f0230bec-acd4-467b-9898-9d2710cdc73d>



## UMW: Easter Outreach

The Leesburg United Methodist Women reached out to the Loudoun County community by distributing 75 Easter goody bags to children of families visiting the Ampersand Pantry. The colorful goody bags contained coloring pages, crayons, and plastic eggs filled with toys and candy. The Ampersand Pantry Project, along with local restaurants and community volunteers, began providing healthy meals during the COVID-19 shutdown to families in need, no questions asked, 7 days a week. Their ministry expanded to providing diapers, baby care and personal hygiene items.

The UMW also assembled Easter bags for 14 of our homebound folks, members of our congregation who are now unable to be out and about. The bags contained devotionals, chocolate bunnies, sugar-free candy and an original Jack King wooden cross. The homebound Easter bags were delivered to Ashburn, Hillsboro, and Lucketts and back to Leesburg in "quite a run of the county" but what a great blessing it was to see members of our congregation in person, and share the joy of Easter and let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Supplies and volunteers were gathered via Sign-Up Genius showing how we can be together in mission while we are apart. Even in times of physical distance, our Christ-centered relationship with our community can withstand the separation. Thanks to the generosity and heartfelt thinking of so many; Many hands make light work!

Many thanks to Betsy Creamer and Erica Dobsha for heading up the mission, for the donations of our members, and for Betsy's, Amber King's and Nancy Wolford's delivery of the bags!



## 2021 Georgia Bange Scholarship

**Have a graduating high school senior this spring?  
Headed to college or vocational school in the fall?**

The Leesburg United Methodist Women award the Georgia Bange Scholarship each year to a graduating high school senior pursuing college or vocational school.



If you are a member of Leesburg UMC and graduating this spring, please see the scholarship guidelines and application posted in the United Methodist Women section of the Leesburg UMC website: [leesburgumc.org/umwscholarship](https://leesburgumc.org/umwscholarship)

***Application deadline is Sunday, April 25, 2021.***

## Leesburg United Methodist Church

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[www.leesburgumc.org](http://www.leesburgumc.org)



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

## Do You Have Our App? Have You Tried Text Giving?

### We Now Have an App!

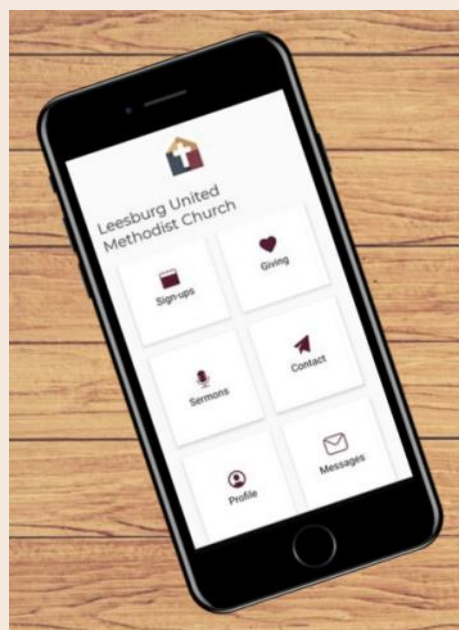
Our new app (available for Android and Apple devices) will help you find event sign-ups, listen to recent sermons, make it easy to give using credit card or direct debit from your bank account, and contact us for general questions or prayer requests.

Use the QR codes to get the Apps. Once it's installed on your device, search for "Leesburg UMC".

### Text to Give

Don't want to bother with the app for your online giving? Just use "Text-to-Give"! Simply text GIVE to 703-440-7222. The first time you give this way, the system will return a link to set up your payment info.

After the one time set-up, you're just a simple text away from quickly honoring God through your giving and gratitude.



Apple:



Android:

