



The Messenger



The newsletter of
Leesburg United
Methodist Church

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Message from Pastor Jim: More Than an Opinion

A wonderful thing happened in church on Sunday recently! Some might call it an “unintended consequence” – my initial reaction. I now see it as a God-incident, through which the Holy Spirit was working.

On Sunday, July 21, we asked the question in worship, “Why do people need the Church?” The congregation then participated in an instant online poll. We responded to the question, choosing five of ten possible reasons why people might need the Church. Using smartphones we selected our top five reasons out of the ten listed. Several who were not able to participate with a smartphone completed and turned in a paper version of the poll. Based on the overall number of responses, 57 people/couples/families participated.

And here are the results: “Grow in faith” was the reason most of you chose, with 89% selecting this as one of their five. Second, 80% of you selected “Encounter God” as one of the reasons people need the Church. Coming in third, 75% chose “Supportive Community”; and in fourth, 66% chose “Serve Together”. “Experiencing Forgiveness”, the topic for my sermon, was the fifth reason chosen, with 49% selecting it as one of the five. Participants included all ages in worship, from youth to older adults.

As I later compiled the results from PollEv.com and added in the paper results, the Holy Spirit revealed through our collective responses why we believe LUMC exists, and what our church has to offer. Your responses, in a Spirit-inspired way, reminded us that LUMC exists to Know Christ (Encounter God), to Grow in Christ (Grow

in Faith, Supportive Community), and to Show Christ (Serve Together). And, while many may not be able to quote our vision statement, your responses also bore witness to our LUMC vision that we become “Followers of Jesus-One with God and each other-Ministers to all the world.”

Thank you, Leesburg United Methodist Church, for being a faith community that knows why we exist and what we are called to do as we welcome all to come and KNOW Christ, to GROW in Christ, and to SHOW Christ through witness and service!

And to think, this came to light from an instant online poll... a sign of the Spirit at work? Yes! Now, may God continue to empower and bless us to live out and live into our calling.

To God be the glory in the Church and in the world – beginning with you and me.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Jim Wishmyer



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Connect

Summer Worship: “Growing Together in Community”



**Rev.
Jim Wishmyer,
Pastor**

The phrases, “individual Christian”, “personal faith”, and “personal relationship with Jesus” are almost oxymoronic. The Christian faith is not lived in isolation; and when one acknowledges Christ as Savior and Lord, one immediately enters into relationship with every other Christian – past, present, and future – as a member of the body of Christ. Christian faith is meant to be lived in community, not in isolation. When the founder of Methodism, the Rev. John Wesley, declared “The gospel of Christ knows no religion, but social...” (Works of John Wesley, Vol 14, p.321), he emphasized the essential requirement of Christian community for growth in grace, love, and holiness.

During the time of year that we are most likely to not be together, we nonetheless turn our focus to the centrality of Christian community for shaping our faith and helping us live faithfully. During July and August, we’re looking together at creative ways to connect in community in response to Hebrews 10 – “Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on,...” (verse 25).



| Date | Theme/topic | Scripture | Speaker | Specials |
|--------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aug 4 | Living your Strengths (Spiritual Gifts 1) | 1 Cor. 12:1-11 | Pastor Jim | Communion Guest musician, Dr. Charles Barrett |
| Aug 11 | Finding Your Fit (Spiritual Gifts 2) | Romans 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11; Eph. 4:11-12 | Pastor Jim | |
| Aug 18 | Better Together (Spiritual Gifts 3) | Acts 2:43-47, 6:1-7; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 4:11-16 | Pastor Jim | Blessing of Backpacks Teacher Commission |
| Aug 25 | Dare to Dream (Spiritual Gifts 4) | 1 Samuel 3:1-5; Matt. 4:18-22; Acts 20:24 | Rev. Heather | Bible Presentation New Members Visiting Missionaries |
| Sept 1 | REACH Sunday | | | Communion REACH slideshow |

Sundays in Summer: AUGUST

Join us for worship at 9:30 am.

Join a group.

Join a service opportunity.

Join in fellowship.

Bring an open mind, an open heart, and a willingness to go where the Spirit may be leading you, then wait expectantly for our awesome God to do far more than we can ever imagine!

Drop in on a Group

Drop-in on a group, listen in on the conversation, and add your own perspective

8:30 am:

Explore Ezra-Nehemiah with the Friendship Class in AG1

10:45 am:

Explore the New Testament Letters with the John Wesley Group in AG1

Explore different Social Justice and Missions Topics in AG2

“Living Your Strengths” led by Pastor Jim

“Living Your Strengths”

Join Rev. Wishmyer at 10:45 AM, following worship, for “Living Your Strengths”, a time of discovering your God-calling by uncovering your strengths, gifts, and abilities. Thus, you can live the life God created you to live! Sundays, through August 18.

“Be yourself, everyone else is taken” – Oscar Wilde.

Lunch Bunch

All who stay following worship to participate in one of our disciple groups are invited to take part in our “Lunch Bunch” each Sunday by going out together to eat locally! No agenda, just good food and fellowship.

August 4

Building Community

- Swimming Fellowship at AV Symington
- Paintball Fun—for those 13+

August 11

Building Community

- Teens Opposing Poverty: Prepare meals with our youth and carpool to DC to serve those on the streets.

August 18

Building Community

- Scavenger Hunt around downtown Leesburg after worship
- Hershey’s Shake Shop end of summer celebration

August 25

Building Community: One Body, Many Parts

- Meet a Ministry in a Minute - after worship, explore all of the ministry opportunities available for you to join and serve through.
- Serving on Sunday training—learn what you need to know to serve in various ministries.

September 1

Serve Together: Worship & Serve

- Neighbors Helping Neighbors—serve our neighbors in need

Connect

New Member Sunday & Orientation

August 25 is our next New Member Sunday—are you ready to join?

All who are interested in joining Leesburg United Methodist are invited to our two orientation sessions: Membership 101, and Membership 102. In Membership 101 and 102 you'll get to know others who are new to LUMC, learn about our Wesleyan heritage, our mission and vision at LUMC, and how to grow in your discipleship journey at LUMC. All are welcome!

Membership 101 & 102 will be offered twice this summer: in July and again in August. Sessions meet on Sunday afternoons at 4 pm:

August 4—Membership 101; August 11, Membership 102

Contact Rev. Wishmyer or Rev. Wray; or call or email the church office to sign up.



Regular Sunday Schedule Returns Sept 9

Our regular Sunday morning schedule returns on Sunday, September 9!

Sanctuary Worship:

- 8:30 Traditional Worship
- 9:45 Contemporary Worship
- 11:00 Traditional Worship

Gallery Worship:

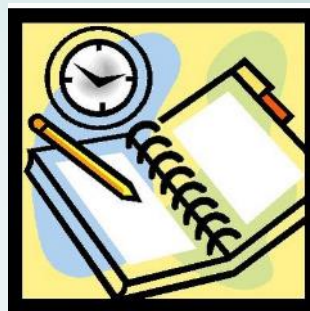
- 9:45 AG-2

Sunday School and Disciple Groups:

- 9:45 Children in Asbury Hall/
Ed Building
- 9:45 Adults in AG-1 and Parlor
- 11:00 Adults in AG-1 and 3rd Floor Ed Building

Fellowship/Hospitality:

- 9:30-11 Wesley Hall



"Meet a Ministry in a Minute" – August 25, after worship

August 25, 10:45-11:15 am in AG2 (Aldersgate middle room)

Everyone is invited to join us for an opportunity to learn about many of the ministry areas at LUMC. We will be doing a speed round with different ministries, so you'll have an opportunity to learn about lots of different ministries in a short amount of time. Find out where you can use your gifts and talents to serve in ministry in the church.

Ministries you will meet:

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Worship Servants | Music Ministry | Hospitality Team |
| Children & Youth Ministry | Adult Discipleship | Congregational Care |
| United Methodist Men | Missions Team | Evangelism/Reach |
| United Methodist Women | Media Team | Leadership Development |

Our visiting missionaries, Dan and Kaylynn Mills, will also be present and you can talk with them about their ministry in Papua New Guinea.



Serving on Sundays Info/Training Session

When: August 25, 11:30-12 (Following Meet-a-Ministry)

Where: Various locations around the church, meet in AG2

Who: Anyone interested in these ministry teams:
USHERS, HOSPITALITY TEAM, COMMUNION SERVERS,
CHILDREN/YOUTH MINISTRY, AUDIO/VISUAL

Some areas of serving require a bit of information and training. If you are interested in one of these areas, please plan to stay for our Serving on Sundays session to get more info and some training. Persons currently serving in these areas are also encouraged to attend for a refresh and update on training and an opportunity to meet with others on your team.

Registration: [Use this link](#) or [contact Rebekah](#) at worship@leesburgumc.org.
(<https://leesburgumc.e360chms.com/external/form/c121bcf1-0c1a-4fea-be0a-8f2e949c15f6>)



Connect

Faith Friends Care Package Program

It's hard to believe summer is almost over and it's time to think about Back to School! The Faith Friends care package program was created to share God's love with our college students through care packages a few times a year. It is our hope that this program strengthens our connections within the LUMC church family and brings students encouragement during this time.

How to Participate:

Students and Parents

Sign Up!. College students can enroll in the Faith Friends program for 2019-20 school year. You must enroll in the program each year. Enroll here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A49ACAD28A75-faith3> or [email Erica Dobscha](mailto:dobscha@verizon.net) at dobscha@verizon.net with the following information:



- Student's name
- Mailing address (Make sure this is an address where they can receive packages)
- Cell phone number
- School name
- Any allergies

Please SIGN UP BEFORE SUNDAY SEPT. 15th

Congregation

Donate! Information will be published in the Weekly Info, Head Start email, and on our Facebook page about how to donate items to be packaged for the students. You can also make a financial contribution any time to the Faith Friends program to pay for boxes, contents, and shipping, this can be done in the offering by indicating Faith Friends in the memo line of your check on Sundays or give donations directly to the organizers Erica Dobscha or Celesta Miller.

Keeping Up with the Congregation

Condolences

... to Mike and Mary Ellen Megeath on the unexpected loss of their son, Michael, who passed away on July 28th.

New Members

We haven't had any new members since last month, but we look forward to people joining on our new member Sunday on August 25th. Read how to prepare to join on page 4.

August Birthdays

The August birthday list is available on the Just Ask desk.



Connect

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Community Office Hours



Wednesdays from 9:00 am—12:30 pm

Stop by the Starbucks off of Edwards Ferry Road in Leesburg on Wednesdays from 9:00—12:30 for Rev. Heather's Community Office Hours. She would love to pray with you, lend a listening ear, and share some coffee. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates or changes to the coffee hours: www.facebook.com/LeesburgUMC/



*Rev Heather Wray,
Director of
Connect Ministries*

Swimming Fellowship: Aug 4th at 11 am

Come out for some fun in the sun!

Enjoy playing and lounging poolside on August 4th (this is a date change) at AV Symington (the outdoor pool at Ida Lee). Bring a picnic lunch and your swimming clothes and meet us there at 11 a.m. We'll have snacks to share. All ages welcome. Look for our LUMC sign when you come into the water park.

If you plan on attending please [email Rev. Heather](mailto:heather.wray@leesburgumc.org) at heather.wray@leesburgumc.org



Popsicles in the Park

Kids and kids at heart are invited to enjoy popsicles and fun at Foxridge Park on Sunday evenings at 6:30 through August 11th. Come bring your kids to play on the playground or bring a lawn chair to sit and chat. Either way we'll provide the sweet treat so that you can get to know your fellow LUMC members.



Family Scavenger Hunt: Aug 18th at 11 am

Think you know downtown Leesburg? Come find out!

On August 18th following worship at 11:00 you can compete in a downtown scavenger hunt with your family and friends. The first team to complete the hunt correctly will win a Leesburg-themed prize. Win or lose, enjoy the Hershey Shake Shop as a sweet treat when you return to church!



Young Adult Tubing: August 17th

Join the young adults for tubing at Watermelon Park on Saturday, August 17th.

We will meet in the parking lot across from the church (between Exxon and Blossom & Bloom) at 8:30 am to carpool together.

For questions email Katrina or Nate: katrina.weirup@leesburgumc.org
nate.rathjen@leesburgumc.org

*Rain plan is to meet at IHOP at 9 am for breakfast.



Connect

Church Family Pictures

Below are our church family pictures, taken July 14th and 21st after worship.

How many of these folks do you know by name?



Summer Reading Plan

Explore the period of the early church and their trials and triumphs

This summer, explore the period of the early church and their trials and triumphs through daily readings in the New Testament Letters and the Book of Acts. These readings will enrich your walk with Jesus as we continue through the narrative of Scripture.

As you read, imagine you are sitting in a church: a small church in the country or perhaps an old European cathedral. Imagine others (from any time period) sitting around you and hearing the words of Scripture. Allow the words to connect you in space and time to Christians around the world and throughout time.



Angela Becek,
Director of
Discipleship
Ministries

“... Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” - Romans 12:2 (NLT)

ABOUT THE READINGS: The Letters readings are inserted between the Acts readings at approximately the points when they were written. The “...Overview Video” links will take you to a video that gives some background and overview of each respective book. Some of the readings have dates noted—for Acts they are the dates when that part of the story is believed to have taken place; for the Epistles the dates are when they were believed to have been written.

Thursday, August 1: James 1:1-27

Friday, August 2: James 2:1-3:18

Saturday, August 3: James 4:1-5:21

Sunday, August 4: [Intro to 1 Peter](#) (Youtube search “read scripture 1 Peter”)

Monday, August 5: 1 Peter 1:1-3:7

Tuesday, August 6: 1 Peter 3:8-5:14

Wednesday, August 7: [Intro to Hebrews](#), CE 63 (Youtube search “read scripture Hebrews”)

Thursday, August 8: Hebrews 1-2

Friday, August 9: Hebrews 3:1-4:13

Saturday, August 10: Hebrews 4:14-6:12

Sunday, August 11: Hebrews 6:13-7:28

Monday, August 12: Hebrews 8:1-9:28

Tuesday, August 13: Hebrews 10

Wednesday, August 14: Hebrews 11:1-12:3

Thursday, August 15: Hebrews 12:4-13:25

Friday, August 16: [Intro to 1 Timothy](#), CE 63 (Youtube search “read scripture 1 Timothy”)

Saturday, August 17: 1 Timothy 1

Sunday, August 18: 1 Timothy 2:1-3:13

Monday, August 19: 1 Timothy 3:14-4:16

Tuesday, August 20: 1 Timothy 5:1-6:10

Wednesday, August 21: 1 Timothy 6:11-21

Thursday, August 22: [Intro to Titus](#) (Youtube search “read scripture Titus”)

Friday, August 23: Titus 1- 3

Saturday, August 24: [Intro to 2 Peter](#), CE 65 (Youtube search “read scripture 2 Peter”)

Sunday, August 25: 2 Peter 1-3

Monday, August 26: [Intro to 2 Timothy](#), CE 66 (Youtube search “read scripture 2 Timothy”)

Tuesday, August 27: 2 Timothy 1:1-3:9

Wednesday, August 28: 2 Timothy 3:10-4:22

Thursday, August 29: [Intro to Jude](#), CE 75 (Youtube search “read scripture Jude”), read Jude (1 chapter)

Friday, August 30: [Intro to 1, 2, 3 John](#) (Youtube search “read scripture 1-3 John”)

Saturday, August 31: 1 John, CE 95-110

Sunday, September 1: 2 & 3 John

Sign-up to receive links each morning to the daily readings via [text](#) (www.remind.com/join/7gde329)
or [e-mail](#) (<https://leesburgumc.us17.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=30e4416970eef40632116ccba&id=32380771f4>).

Grow

“Legacy:” A Women’s Bible Study

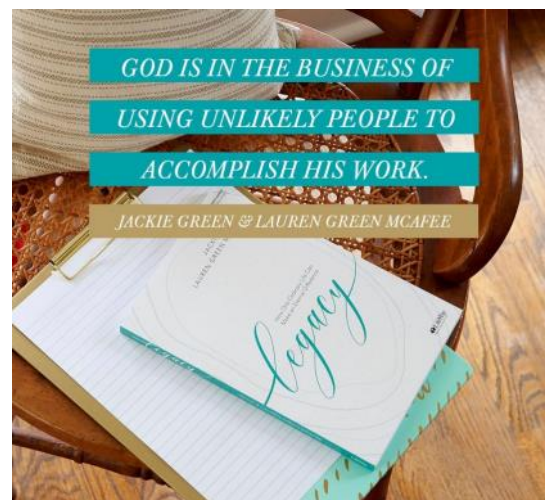
Women of All Ages are Invited to Join Us This Fall for Thursday Bible Study

Open to LUMC Members and Your Friends and Neighbors...

Do you want to pass down something of worth? Do you want your influence to last? Do you want your life to matter in the future?

We all want to be women of legacy, but how do we begin? In this 6-session study, examine the character and actions of women in Scripture—Esther, Mary Magdalene, Ruth, Deborah, the woman at the well, and more—to inspire and challenge you to leave a gospel-centered legacy.

Join us for Legacy, starting September 12th at 9:30 a.m. in Wesley Hall.



Our Current Breakthrough Prayer:

O God, Awesome and Holy, we praise and adore you!

Thank you, Jesus! for walking with us and calling us to be your church.

Thank you, Holy Spirit! for empowering us to serve, witness, and work according to your will.

Thank you, Father! for helping us to do more than we dreamed.

Forgive us our doubt and stubbornness. Kindle our hearts with hope for the future, love for neighbor, and faith to persevere in doing your will.

Keep breaking through our lives, our church, and our community to bring new partnerships, new life, and new power to do far more than we can even imagine.

May it be, O God! In Jesus’ name. Amen.



AUGUST 18: A BIG DAY FOR KIDS—DON'T MISS THE FUN!

Go Beyond Celebration: Hershey's Shake Shop



Which special summer flavor should we choose:

~Peach~ or ~Key Lime Pie~

E-mail [Angela](#) with your vote!

On August 18th after worship, EVERYONE is invited to celebrate the close of the kids' "Go Beyond" summer challenge.

Following up our VBS space theme, we have been challenging kids to continue to "Go Beyond". If you missed it and want to join in completing challenges, use the following link to the "Go Beyond" page on our website, where you'll find the registration link, and a link to the Go Beyond mission log:

<http://www.leesburgumc.org/gobeyond>.



Bible Presentations

3rd-Graders
& Preschool

Contact
[Angela](#) to
receive one



*Kid Zone Fellowship:
Sundays at 9:30*

*Blast off with the Magic School Bus
Adventures in Faith and Science
this Summer!*

Kids Zone Fellowship for Summer

During Sundays in Summer worship (through September 1st), kids will have their own program following "The Magic School Bus" for adventures in faith and science.

Parents can take their kids directly to the Kid Zone before going in to worship themselves, or they can keep their kids with them until the kids are dismissed before the sermon.

Grow

Mini-SPY/REACH Leesburg

This Service camp for rising 5th & 6th graders is designed to prepare you for week-long mission trips in middle and high school.

The program is a smaller version of what LUMC Youth experience every July on their mission trip in the Roanoke area. Mini REACH is local, and kids stay overnight at Leesburg UMC for two nights; work on service projects during the day and spend the evenings having fun together and participating in worship.



<https://leesburgumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/206571>

Can you volunteer during Mini SPY/REACH?

Help is needed in various ways:

- Meals prepared (2 dinners, 2 breakfasts, lunch)
- Supervision and chaperoning
- Volunteer a project at your home for us to come work on for you

Contact [Angela Becek](#), 703-473-7487

Youth Key Summer Dates

Visit www.leesburgumc.org/ywc for more information and full calendar

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| August 4 | Paintball |
| August 9-11 | Mini SPY/REACH |
| August 11 | TOP |
| August 16—18 | Lock-in |



Youth Lock-in info and registration:

<https://leesburgumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/271329>

REACH Roanoke Trip Report: July 6– 12

By Angela Becek, Director of Discipleship Ministries

This year, the youth mission trip was to REACH in Roanoke after 14 years of going to SPY in Christiansburg. The first few days, everyone adjusted to the different building and other changes that were inevitable with a new place.



On Sunday, we worshipped with the host congregation, a group of about 15 people in their 70s and 80s who had voted several years before to join forces with REACH and allow their building to be used for this ministry. They were a very energetic and joyful bunch who loved seeing all the young people bring life and hope to their old church. Following worship, we went to a park for team building exercises and river play.

Monday through Friday, the focus was on serving the people of Roanoke. One of the struggles for many of our youth was that they would not have a “homeowner” to interact with like they did at SPY. Eventually, the houses they worked on would become homes for families, but they missed that connection during the work. The neat thing about REACH, though, was the ability to connect with many different people. I felt like the church was the homeowner, or the woman who runs the Christian Soldiers Food Pantry who was so grateful for the work our teams did, or the man who runs the Rescue Mission who came and talked with us about using our “hands, feet, and praise” to serve God. He got us up in song and dance and helped us to realize that, while we might not have worked with a single homeowner, we met and touched the lives of several people who we wouldn't have otherwise.

The hardest job of the week was working with disabled adults at Goodwill's Discovery Day Center, even though unloading food at the food pantry took a larger physical toll. Working in the community gardens started off boring for some, until they met the single mom who depends on their work to feed her children. Hanging drywall in the bedrooms of a house that was originally built about 100 years ago was also challenging, as there was not a single straight wall. Most enjoyed tearing out plaster and removing old fixtures from the next house and painting a mural was a fun project that drew lots of local media attention.

Thank you all for your support and prayers for our REACH teams. They do take adults and families throughout the year (and hotel rooms are available). If spending a weekend or a couple of days interests you, please contact Angela Becek or Margrit Snyder.



Reach

Virginia Conference Young Women's Event

"The Year of God's Women: Navigating Our World as Women Who Are Called, Empowered, and Made in the Image of God"

Friday, Sept. 13 - Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019

Blessings Lodge, Camp Overlook, Keezletown, VA, 22832

This event is open to all women age 18 (out of high school) to age 40. The retreat leader will be Rev. Genevieve M. Bowles. You do not have to be a member of United Methodist Women (UMW) to attend this event. Scholarships (to help with registration for first time attendees, and travel expenses) are available from the UMW.

Registration deadline is September 6th. Registration forms are available online <https://www.vaumw.com/events/young-women-s-retreat/> or see the LUMW bulletin board across from the LUMC office.

Please [contact Betsy Creamer](mailto:betzcream@aol.com) (703-615-1218, or betzcream@aol.com) if you have any questions, or are interested in a scholarship.



New Technology Features: Coming Soon!

As part of the NLI Communications Initiative, we have selected a new vendor for our church management software (CHMS), online giving, and website.

The **CHMS** migration has been completed, and the staff is busy getting p to speed on the new system. We'll be using it for small group and Sunday school attendance as well as congregational recordkeeping of various types.

The **online giving** is up and running for those who were already giving online. We'll be rolling it out to the rest of the congregation soon. There is a text-to-give feature that we think is really exciting, and can hardly wait to show you all!

This new technology also includes our very own **mobile app** (for both Android and Apple). We're doing behind-the-scenes setup now to get it ready. The app will provide sleek and easy access to events and registration, online giving, contact us forms, and more!

Last but not least, our **new website** development is working to get content entered/migrated, so it will be ready before you know it.

Watch for updates as we roll out our exciting new technology features in the near future!

Tools for School Supply Drive

Benefitting Children in Loudoun County
Drop off items in the Missions Room (next to church office) by Sunday, Aug 4th.



What to donate:

Writing tablet (K-1st grade)
Wide rule notebook paper
Spiral notebooks wide rule
Loose leaf binder
pencils/sharpeners/eraser
Crayons, magic markers
Scissors (blunt)
Glue Sticks/Glue bottles

Rulers
Pencil Boxes/Bags
Colored Pencils
Pocket Folders
Box of Tissues
Composition notebooks—wide rule

Great Beginnings Preschool

Hello all! Hope you are having a wonderful and safe summer! GBP is busy gearing up for a new school year. Our teachers will be back in the classrooms at the end of August to plan and decorate.

Mark your calendars! GBP's Recess Run is Saturday, October 19th at Evergreen Sportsplex (note the new day and location). Our Fun Runners (and 5K-ers) are invited to wear church/preschool appropriate costumes to the race again this year, in keeping with our Halloween theme. The 5K begins at 9AM and the Fun Run begins at 9:45AM.

Proceeds from our previous races have made our new playground a reality as well as funding mulch fill and playground maintenance. This year we are hoping to raise enough funds for a playground sunshade. **We are looking for race sponsors** to help offset the behind-the-scenes cost associated with our race (registration, t-shirts, venue rental). Sponsor logos will be featured on our race and preschool Facebook pages as well as our race t-shirts. For more information on registration, sponsorship, or volunteering, please visit our website, GreatBeginningsleesburg.com.

Looking forward to sharing more Back to School news next month. For now, we invite you all to pray for our staff and students as we embark on new adventures. It is such a blessing to serve the youngest members of our community! Thank you for supporting our preschool and mission.

Blessings,
Heather Gonzalez, Preschool Director
greatbeginningsleesburg@gmail.com



Reach

Backpack Buddies: Summer Donations

If you continue to purchase food for this ministry,
please ensure the expiration date is after October 30th.

Your donations of food, money, and time really impact these children.

Thank you from the Backpack Buddies Team:
Barbara Luna, Charlie Luna, Celesta Miller, Sarah Quadros

The LUMC Missions Team: For more information or if you have questions about Missions at Leesburg UMC, please contact Missions Chair Margrit Snyder at missions@leesburgumc.org.

LUMC Supports Loudoun Hunger Relief (LHR)

Did you know that the First Sunday of each month is Loudoun Hunger Relief Sunday?

Please support Loudoun Hunger Relief by bringing food and other items to the Missions Room (next to church office). If you know you aren't going to be here, you can drop off your donations any time the church is open.

Shopping List:

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Cereal | Canned green beans |
| 100% juice | Canned corn |
| Canned tuna | Toothpaste |
| Canned chicken | Toothbrushes |
| Peanut Butter | Feminine hygiene products |
| Canned fruit | Diapers |
| Canned peas | |

URGENT NEED FOR LOUDOUN HUNGER RELIEF.

For the summer, LHR provides an extra day of food for families with school age children. Food supplies are low for these items; please help if you can. Pasta, rice, cereal, macaroni & cheese, snacks - nutigrain bars, crackers, goldfish, cheez-its, etc.



Community Concert at the Courthouse, August 18th

Community Concert at the Courthouse/Blessing of the Backpacks (NLI #4 - Reach Team)

**Invite family and friends for an evening concert
on the west lawn of the Loudoun County Courthouse grounds.**

Date: Sunday, August 18

Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Music By: Chorus of the Old Dominion
Loudoun Bluegrass Association
Mt. Zion UMC Choir
Leesburg UMC Choir
Evergreen UMC Praise Band

Bring your lawn chairs and a donation for Loudoun Hunger Relief (see below) as we come together to hear lots of great music and join our hearts to pray for the new school year.

We will:

Bless the backpacks for all students
Pray for teachers and school administrators
Pray for support personnel
Pray for bus drivers, crossing guards, and safety personnel
and more!

Suggested food items for Loudoun Hunger Relief: dry beans, whole grain pasta, rice, cereal, canned meats (tuna or chicken), mac and cheese, peanut butter, hearty soups, cooking oil

Help Still Needed!

1000 Watt generator
Several folks to help with setup starting at 5:00 PM
Greeters to welcome and pass out programs
Several folks for clean-up and take down

Contact Pastor Jim or church office if you can help with any of these items.



Steward

Report on Annual Conference 2019

Good morning, Church. If you don't know me, my name is Rebekah Daugherty. I currently serve as the Worship Team leader and I sing with Raising Praise. I've been a member here for nine years along with my husband Sean, and both our children were baptized here when they were born.

In June I had the honor of attending our Annual Conference for the first time as one of your Lay Delegates. If, like me, you have not been to Annual Conference before, it is an interesting contrast of two types of gatherings combined in one. On the one hand it is the annual business meeting of the church. We followed Robert's Rules, made motions, called points of order, and took votes. It felt a little perfunctory at times, and not very "church-like". The other, simultaneous and interwoven gathering is the more meaningful one, in my opinion. Yes, it is important to approve the budget and vote for delegates, but it is more significant that we "spur one another on to love and good deeds," that we remind one another what it is to be the church.

We joined in worship together around the theme of "Moving Forward in God's Mission." The scripture for the conference was the Great Commission found in Matthew 28, and messages centered on continuing to go into all the world and make disciples; to remember our calling, and to pursue it in new and bold ways. During our sessions we saw videos of Glory Sightings: testimonies from different ministries around our conference where people are seeing God at work. We also honored those retiring from ministry and we celebrated the ordination of new elders, deacons, and licensed pastors.

Other than getting to watch Rev. Heather be ordained, which we celebrated last month, the most inspiring worship service for me was the closing service. At this service we received the encouraging and challenging words of Bishop Weaver that the mission is not our mission, but God's mission, which we are invited to join and carry on. He reminded us that the church is the instrument and launching pad of God's mission, and we go not for the sake of new members, but for the sake of Christ. I also helped serve Communion alongside Rev. Heather during this service. Watching our congregation here at LUMC come forward to receive Communion is always meaningful to me. Watching a couple thousand people come forward who represented the church from across the state, and to help serve them, was inspiring.

As for the business of the church, the Book of Reports, agenda, meeting minutes, motions, and videos of the proceedings, including the worship and sermons, can be found on the Conference web site, www.vaumc.org. You can find in those documents reports from all the various ministries in the VA Conference, financial statements, statistical reports, and the various nominations to boards and committees that were approved. If you prefer to see a hard copy of the Book of Reports, I am glad to lend you mine.

I would like to share some business items that relate to the current disagreements in the UMC about the inclusion of LGBTQ persons in the church. First I would share that, while there was some tension regarding the topic, all parties were respectful in the proceedings. The presiding bishops encouraged all present to act in grace toward one another, refraining from celebration or excessive applause, and to take into consideration the feelings of those with differing opinions. Everyone took this instruction to heart.

Our first order of business was to elect our delegates to the 2020 General Conference and the Jurisdictional Conference. We elected 22 General Conference delegates, 22 Jurisdictional Conference Delegates, and an additional 20 alternates. All of these

(Continued on page 19)



NLI Update: July

July has been a good month for the NLI Communications Task Committee.

Signage recommendations are in the hands of our Trustees for implementation, and guests soon will have improved way-finding signs to help guide them around the church.

The new church management system is in place, the website site strategy outline has been delivered, and content development is about to begin. Meetings with key stakeholders to create content for launch will take place in August and September.

Several new functions linked to the website are available now that the church management system is in place. A church mobile app, new online giving and text to give capability, and an improved registration capability are in various stages of development and testing. The task committee is working with Pastor Jim and LUMC staff to refine the new church logo.

We are grateful to staff, church leaders and the congregation for their patience as the behind the scenes work continues.

Find the latest NLI Progress Tracker here:

<http://www.leesburgumc.org/uploads/NLITracker7-8-19.pdf>



Annual Conference (continued)

(Continued from page 18)

delegates, with the exception of one alternate, are known to identify as progressive or centrist in regards to the inclusion of LGBTQ persons in the church.

Several motions were also put forward regarding church policies relating to homosexual persons. A motion was passed to encourage the Bishops and other Conference leadership to delay any inquiries into clergy conduct related to policies surrounding homosexual persons and marriages until after the 2020 General Conference. Also, motions were passed that petition the 2020 General Conference to remove from the Book of Disciplines what is known as the incompatibility language, the restrictions on the ordination of non-celibate homosexual persons, and the prohibitions on same-sex marriages.

As the UMC continues to discern its future in regard to inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons, I hope you will engage in the discussion here in our church. There was another gathering on July 28th to discuss further these actions of our Annual Conference as well as other developments in response to the 2019 General Conference action, and more are being planned.

If you have questions about the Virginia Annual Conference, please feel free to ask and I will do my best to answer. Judy Craun, Janice Webb, Rev. Heather, and Pastor Jim were also all in attendance and I'm sure would be glad to offer their observations and perspective.

Thank you, again, for sending me as a delegate.

**Leesburg United Methodist
Church**

107 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

703-777-2056
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The September Newsletter will be published near the beginning of September. To ensure your item gets in, please submit by 9 am on Monday, Aug 19th. Thank you!

Sundays in Summer Continues!

For more details see the Worship Info and Activities Calendar on [pages 2 & 3](#), and Kids Zone info on [page 11](#)

A poster for "Sundays in Summer" featuring a close-up of white daisies on the left and a green background on the right. The text on the green background reads: "Becoming One with God and Each Other" in white, "Sundays in Summer" in a large white script font, a yellow horizontal line, "ONE WORSHIP SERVICE" in white, "JUNE 16 - SEPT 1" in white, and "9:30 AM" in white.

Becoming One with
God and Each Other

*Sundays in
Summer*

—

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE
JUNE 16 - SEPT 1
9:30 AM