



The Back to School Messenger

The newsletter of
Leesburg United
Methodist Church

Volume 32, Issue 9

September 2019
(published 8/29/19)

Message from Pastor Jim: Back to School!

10 Spiritual Practices for Growing Your Faith*

1. Pray throughout the day. Is it possible for families to “pray without ceasing” throughout their busy days? Super-short, frequent prayers may be the way to go. Here’s how one dad does it.



2. Change a diaper or two, or two thousand. Secular society may tell you that changing diapers is the most menial of tasks, but by spending most of her adult life in such menial tasks, Mary gave them a special dignity. One dad reflects on how we can recover the dignity of parenting through Mary’s quiet example.



3. Love one another. Easier said than done sometimes, but it’s the command Jesus leaves for his disciples in the Gospels. Together with other family members, try to find as many verses in the bible as you can that encourage us to love others. As you read and share, talk about what it means to love and why it is so critical that we do. Remind each other of God’s love for us, sharing your stories of experiencing God’s love.

4. Teach your kids about the unique treasures of your church traditions and faith journey. How do you teach kids the unique beauty of the Christian faith? With a treasure chest and a lesson plan, of course! What are the important symbols of your faith? Your

church tradition? Who were some of the pioneer mothers and fathers that helped shape your denomination or even your local church? Who helped form you as a disciple of Jesus?

5. Try these best practices to raise faith-filled kids. How do you raise faith-filled kids? By integrating the practice of the faith into the everyday life of your family. Here’s a roundup of the research from family faith formation expert John Roberto—including a list of the best practices of faith-filled families.



6. Use special days, holidays, and important family days to teach your children to pray. Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day provide opportunities to pray for our armed forces. Election day becomes an opportunity to pray for our elected leaders. Mother’s Day and Father’s Day are ideal for talking about parenting and praying for all parents.

7. Practice saying “thank you.” Don’t you wish you heard the words “thank you” more often in your home—even for the small stuff? Look for ways to make this more creative.

8. Make dandelions for dinner. “Can we make dandelions for dinner?” You might think they’re a weed, but the lowly dandelion actually has deep roots in Catholic culture... and was a favorite of G. K. Chesterton. Mom and wildlife biologist Lynda Marie shares her

(Continued on page 11)

Inside this issue:

Connect: Fall Worship	2
Connect: Membership; September Schedule	3
Connect: Faith Friends; Keeping Up	4
Connect: Prayer; Listening; Acolytes	5
Connect: Spiritual Gifts	6
Connect: Thanks; Card Ministry; Coffee Hours; Popsicles	7
Connect: Celebration	8
Grow: Small Groups; Disciple; Legacy	9
Grow: Leadership Development	10
Grow: Pastor message (concludes)	11
Reach: Neighbors; Mission Room; LHR	12
Reach: Signature Mission	13
Reach: UMW	14
Reach: Concert report	15
Reach: Mini-REACH report	16
Reach: GB Preschool	17
Reach: School workers; Women’s Event	18
Steward: New Tech; Building Access	19
Breakthrough Prayer	Back page

Connect

Fall Worship: “Ready, Set, BEGIN!”



Rev.
Jim Wishmyer,
Pastor

“Papa, where do rainbows come from? And why do we only see them after the rain? And where does rain come from? And why do the clouds change color and go from dark to light? And why...”

“Mama, how did we come to be a family? And where do babies come from? And why did you hurt so much when Yacov was born – you screamed and I was afraid; I thought you would die? And...”

“Papa, why are we called ‘Israel’? And what makes us ‘the people of God’ and those strangers are not? And why do they speak funny? And...”

Questions, questions, questions. Kids ask them. They always have. Adults ask them. They always have. “How?” “Why?” “When?” “Where?”

In ancient times, and even today, people told stories to explain what was and what is. The book of Genesis – literally the book of beginnings – tells some of those stories from the point of view of faith. Every story, and every story teller, has a point of view. On the surface, many Jews and Christians have long believed that these stories, and others in the Bible, were “inspired” by God; literally, God-breathed. What does that mean? There’s a story for that... Come, gather around in our sanctuary to listen. On Sunday morning, of course.

Digging deeper, the stories of scripture usually have a question behind their telling; similar to the children’s questions above. What are the questions behind the stories we find in Genesis that led to their telling? Are they stories of events that actually happened? Are they history? Myth?

And perhaps most importantly why do we retell these ancient stories today? Of what relevance are they to our story – my story?

So many questions! Genesis is the book of beginnings, “bere’shith” – “in the beginning”. And we’ll begin to explore these stories September 8. So, bring your questions; ask, listen, read, and learn how these timeless stories contain timely wisdom for you, for me, and for our world.

Ready? Set. Let’s begin at the beginning.

Date	Theme/topic	Scripture	Specials
Sept 1	REACH Sunday		Communion REACH slideshow
Sept 8	“Image Is Everything”	Genesis 1:26-2:4	Regular Worship Schedule Resumes
Sept 15	“Hide and Seek”	Genesis 2:4-3:24	
Sept 22	“Partners for Life”	Genesis 6:1- 9:17 (selected passages)	
Sept 29	“When our Plans Collide with God’s Plan”	Genesis 11:1-9	

New Member Sunday & Orientation

Our next New Member Sundays are Oct 20 and Nov 24. 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 fall, in September-October and again in November. Sessions meet on Sunday afternoons at 4 pm:

Sept 29—Membership 101; Oct 6, Membership 102

Nov 3—Membership 101; Nov 17, 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



Connect

Faith Friends Care Package Program

Fill the Boxes!

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:

Congregation—Let's Fill the Boxes! Due by Sept 29th

Donate Items. Access the [Public Amazon Wish List](#) (search the list with the name "Erica Dobscha") and choose ship your items directly to the organizer.

Donate Dollars. You can make a financial contribution anytime 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.

College Students...Are you signed up? There is still time!

Sign Up for the Faith Friends program for 2019-20 school year. You must enroll in the program each year. Enroll here **BEFORE SEPT.15th**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A49ACAD28A75-faith3> or [email Erica Dobscha](#) at dobscha@verizon.net with the following information:

Student's name

Mailing address (Please be sure this is an address where they can receive packages)

Cell phone number

Any allergies

Keeping Up with the Congregation

New Members

Please extend a hearty welcome to our newest professing members who joined on August 25th:

- Al & Susan Ruggles; their children, Jared and Kirsten, were baptized and are now Baptized Members.
- Charles & Joan Knight
- Mark Osburn
- Bob & Sophie Reed



Are you ready to join us? Read how to prepare to join on page 3.

September Birthdays

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



How Does Prayer Work?

The impact of prayer on people's everyday lives will be explored at Forever Young on, **Sunday, September 8, 2019 in AG1 at 3:30 pm.**

The one-hour program, titled "How Does Prayer Work? Exploring the Mystery of Connecting with God," features filmed interviews with Nathan Matz and Tosha Williams, two people who pray daily, but in very different ways.

"I originally thought prayer was about pleading to God like he was a genie in a bottle," says Matz. "Prayer to me now is about trust. When I pray, sometimes I'm crying, sometimes I'm laughing, sometimes I'm screaming, and sometimes I'm angry. When I pray, I find God continuously pushing me into deeper waters."

The session will also include discussion opportunities. Come join the conversation!

Forever Young is a place where people gather for conversation about life and faith in a casual, comfortable setting. Questions about Forever Young may be directed to Wayne Reynolds at 703 777 4796 or Rev. Heather Wray



Become an Acolyte

Rising 2nd Graders are invited to come for Acolyte training on the following Sundays: September 15th and 22nd at 11:00–11:30 in the Red Room in the Education Building. One parent or guardian must be present for the training. Once trained students can begin serving God on Sunday mornings. Questions? [Contact Rev. Heather](#)

"Listening Well" Class

If you've ever wanted to become a better listener or add to the listening skills you've already had come join our opening Listening Well class with the Stephen Ministers. This one hour training class will give you practical tips on how to listen well at home, in your workplace, or in other caring situations. It will be held on Monday September 23rd at 7:00 in AG1.

Connect

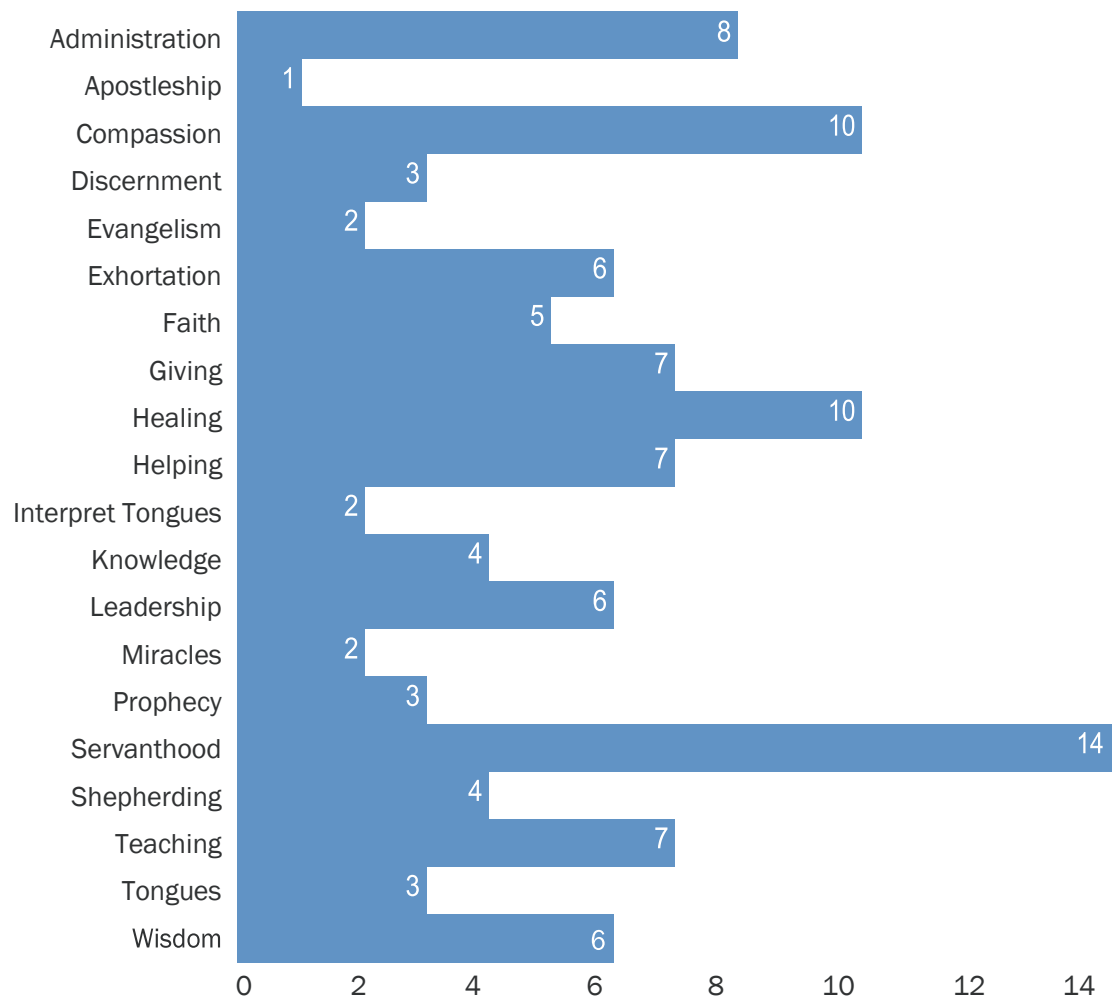
LUMC's Spiritual Gifts Survey

Results from our Sundays in Summer August series on Spiritual Gifts

Thank you, to all who completed the Spiritual Gifts Survey, and then entered the results in our poll. Out of 110 spiritual gifts entered, you can see the results below.

Those interested in learning more about their spiritual gifts, the role of gifts with our talents and strengths, and how God can work through you and your giftedness, please contact Pastor Jim (jim@leesburgumc.org).

LUMC Members' Spiritual Gifts, 2019 *(Respondents selected their top three.)*



Connect

Page 7

Thanks for the Challenges

Church, thank you for the participating in our Connect Challenges on Sunday morning in Wesley Hall. I hope that the Challenges sparked some enjoyable conversations for you this summer as you spent time getting to know more about others over a cup of coffee and a treat. Congratulations to our many winners and thank you all who participated.

Card Ministry

We are in search of an individual or a group of people who would be interested in continuing our meaningful card ministry at LUMC. The card ministry sends cards to our church members, and our extended church family during life's major transitions and occasions. The card ministry is in charge of placing cards out on Sunday in Wesley Hall for the congregation to sign and then sends the card in the following week. All costs are covered by the Congregational Care Ministry. If you are interested or have questions please [contact Rev. Heather](#).



*Rev Heather Wray,
Director of
Connect Ministries*

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/

Popsicles in the Park

Thank you to everyone who came out to Popsicles in the Park this summer. Young and old enjoyed popsicles and fellowship at Foxridge Park on Sunday evenings throughout the summer. We were able to share some tasty treats with our neighbors who were at the park too. Here's a peak into one of our evenings together:



Connect

End of Summer Celebration: Aug 25th

A great time was had by all at our End of Summer Celebration on August 25th. Kids got their backpacks blessed, and third-grade and preschool Bible presentations were done in church. Afterwards everyone enjoyed treats from Hershey's Shake Shack. What a lovely morning we had!



Photo Credit: Walter Halfmann



Join a Small Group This Fall!

Sundays—

9:45 am: “Friendship Class,” contact Kim Kadesch

11 am: “Wesley Discipleship Class,” contact Carl Snyder or Steve Chapin

11 am: “Royal Rebels,” contact Sue Bourke (begins Sept 8)

6 pm “Friends & Followers,” contact Steve & Celesta Miller (begins Sept 22)

Fridays—

7 am: “IHOP Breakfast Club,” contact Rev. Jim Wishmyer



Angela Becek,
Director of
Discipleship
Ministries

Disciple Bible Study

This enduring classic study that takes us through the Bible in 34 weeks will be offered and led by Pastor Jim, beginning this Fall. An orientation for those interested will be held on Wednesday, September 4, at 7:00 PM. Contact Pastor Jim or the church office for additional info and to indicate your interest.

“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.



Grow

Leadership Development & Spiritual Formation Opportunities

Lay Servant Training, Sept 13-14

Classes offered: Basic Course (great introduction to United Methodist theology), Preaching, Leading Prayer, United Methodist Polity, and more, 11 in all. For a brochure, course descriptions and registration, visit www.vaumc.org/layservanttraining. For questions regarding the Academy, contact David Bailey, dwb.bailey@comcast.net, 804-338-3168. For help with registration, contact MaryKaye Cochran, marykayecochran@vaumc.org, 804-521-1155.



Bishop's Convocation on Prayer, Sept 21

The Bishop's Convocation on Prayer is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 21 at Trinity UMC in Richmond. Both clergy and laity are invited to attend the gathering which will include Dr. Terry Tekyl as plenary speaker and breakout small groups. Deadline to register is Sept. 13. For more information contact the Rev. Ted Smith, director of Connectional Ministries, TedSmith@vaumc.org.

5 Talent Academy Fall Event, Nov. 13-14

The theme for this year's 5 Talent event is Engage 2019: Community Transformation. There are two events: one just for clergy and one for clergy and laity.

Wednesday, Nov. 13 will be a Clergy-only pre-event at Woodlake UMC and will feature Bishop Ken Carter, Florida Conference UMC. He will speak about redefining the UM connection and evangelism, the role of fresh expressions, and how to shape missional relationships in the current cultural landscape.

Thursday, Nov. 14 will be the main Clergy and Laity event at Woodlake UMC and livestreamed to 11 satellite locations around the state. Bishop Carter will be preaching and speakers will be the Rev. Michael Adam Beck, Wildwood UMC, Wildwood, Fla.; the Rev. Jaqueline Lewis, Middle Collegiate Church, New York, N.Y.; and the Rev. Andy and the Rev. Anjie Woodworth, Neighborhood Church, Atlanta, Ga. They will address what it looks like to be a neighborhood church, what is a community partner, and what is a fresh expression.

If you plan to attend in a group from your church, every fifth person in a group registration goes free. Fees for the events are as follows: Nov. 14 event - \$35; Nov. 13 & 14 events - \$60; Nov. 13 event only - \$50. Registration prices increase after Sept. 30. Register at www.vaumc.org/5talent. For questions, contact MaryKaye Cochran, marykayecochran@vaumc.org.



Message from Pastor Jim: Back to School! (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

family's enjoyment of harvesting and appreciating this first sign of spring in this edition of, "Of Heaven and Earth."



9. Serve together in a ministry or mission of your church. Perhaps serve as greeters or ushers together as a family. If there is a mission your church supports, get involved with helping together as a family. One family made the first Saturday of the month their shopping day together for the local food pantry. Talk together at home while at meal about these experiences.

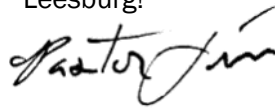
10. Attend worship together as a family.

Central to our faith is the formation of certain habits that nurture spiritual growth. Faith does not form in a vacuum; nor does it grow in a healthy way unless nurtured with

intentionality. Worship is another one of several healthy habits for spiritual growth. It reminds us of the awe and wonder of God who created us, redeemed us, and who calls us to work together to share God's love in word and deed.

This fall as kids are going back to school, renew and refresh your faith through these and other simple ways. And to God be the glory in our church, in our lives, and through us in the world!

See you in Sunday worship at LUMC where faith and life intersect at the heart of Leesburg!



Rev. Jim Wishmyer

(* Adapted from "Peanut Butter Grace"

<https://pbgrace.com/e5c/>)

HA! HA!
HA! HA!
HA!

THE FACT THAT
THERE'S A HIGHWAY TO
HELL AND ONLY A
STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN
SAYS A LOT ABOUT
ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC
NUMBERS.

Reach

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Sunday Sept 1st right after Worship.

We will be kicking off our partnership with the Loudoun Homeless Services Center by providing, serving, and eating lunch with residents. Food is a wonderful way to start building up trust and developing relationships so that we can better serve their needs. We will also be doing yard clean-up.

New Missions Room—Come check it out!

Missions has a new collection and display room. It is located next to the church office. All collections including Loudoun Hunger Relief, Backpack Buddies and Tools for School will have a designated spot for collections.

Backpack Buddies

Coming Soon - ways to help Catoctin Elementary School Children through the backpack program.

Backpack Buddies Team: Barbara Luna, Charlie Luna, Celesta Miller, Sarah Quadros

Tools for School Supply Drive

Thank you to all who donated and helped kick-off a child's first day of school on a positive note!



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	



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.

Announcing Our NLI Signature Mission: Loudoun Homeless Services Center (LHSC)

(LHSC was formerly known as Transitional Housing)

What is LHSC? The Loudoun Homeless Services Center (LHSC) is a multi-faceted program that provides extensive services to prevent and help end homelessness and to support the homeless within Loudoun County.

Type of programs offered are:

- Permanent Supportive Housing Program
- Rapid Re-housing Program
- Emergency Shelter
- Cold Weather Shelter
- Drop In Center

How can you become involved with this ministry? LUMC's partnership will be multi-faceted and phased in over time. Depending on response from the congregation, we might be able to start more than one phase at a time.

Phase 1: Providing and serving meals Providing meals also offers us an opportunity to acknowledge people are valued and loved and to listen to their stories. It is a wonderful gateway to forming trust.

Phase 2: Minister to permanent Senior residents We are still determining what that looks like. Weekly visitation would be part of this ministry, not necessarily by the same person each week. We can create a rotating schedule.

Phase 3: Staff the Homework Help Desk When elementary, middle and high school students are being housed at LHSC.

Phase 4: Provide basic medical care This would be things like blood pressure readings, diabetes management class etc. Those interested in this ministry must have a valid license to practice medicine. This is still a work in progress.

For more information please contact:

Margrit Snyder, missions@leesburgumc.org or 703-777-6690

How was the NLI Signature Mission selected? LUMC's Signature Mission team has felt God's guidance throughout this process. We don't think it's a coincidence that Beth Driggers, executive director of LHSC, came to our meeting right before we found out the results of the survey. In light of discussions in our meetings, listening to your thoughts, and with MLT and CLT approval and blessing, we are excited to create a partnership with Loudoun Homeless Services Center (LHSC) and they are excited to partner with LUMC.

The survey results made it very evident that our church wants to be involved in the community and the survey results were fairly evenly spread out over the different age groups (children, youth, seniors) and demographics (homeless, at-risk, and food scarcity). A partnership with Loudoun Homeless Services Center LHSC) will enable our congregation to work with various age groups and demographics and provide LUMC the opportunity for community engagement.



Reach

United Methodist Women

It's September and the UMW circles are resuming their meetings!

At LUMC, the United Methodist Women is organized into four circles which meet monthly, either at the church or in a member's home. Circle programs encompass mission education, spiritual growth, and social action with a continuing focus on the needs of women, children, and youth. The names of the circles, their meeting times and contact information are listed below. Please consider visiting a circle. Take this opportunity to grow in your faith and serve your community!

The Susanna Wesley Circle meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 pm in AG1.
Contact Nancy Wolford at ncw683@comcast.net for information.

The Kathryn Eye Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am in Wesley Hall.
Contact Martha Robin at martharobin@verizon.net for information.

The Sunshine Circle meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in a member's home. Contact Connie Snodgrass at csnodgrass@icloud.com, or Lynn Kolonich at bkolonich@verizon.net for information.

The Hannah's Sisters Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the home of Erica Dobscha. Contact Erica Dobscha at dobscha@verizon.net for information.

The United Methodist Women holds their executive meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm in Wesley Hall. All UMW members and non-members are welcome.

Library Corner

A unique, educational aspect of the United Methodist Women is its Reading Program. A special shelf area in our church library is set aside for books on the reading program list which are in five different categories: Leadership Development, Social Action, Education for Mission, Spiritual Growth and Nurturing for Community.

Among the reasons for such reading is to encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today, to inform and strengthen involvement in local and global Christian missions, to enhance one's understanding of scripture as it relates to Christian faith, and to increase sensitivity relating to human beings' needs, interests and contemporary life. Reading at least one book in every category each year will award the reader a UMW District certificate. Reading at least three books in any category will assure the reader an invitation to the Fall tea at one of our UMW member's home. This year's report announces that over 100 books have been read this past year! We applaud our readers for broadening their exposure to a variety of concepts.

Books currently on the list that are especially interesting are: Eleanor (about E. Roosevelt's spiritual life), Up..A Mother and Daughter's Peakbagging Adventure, and Kind of Kin (about undocumented immigrants). See Amber King, Secretary of Program Resources, for a recommendation!



Community Concert & Blessing of the Backpacks

As a direct result of our Next Level Innovations, the Reach Task Force envisioned and planned for what we pray was the 1st Annual "Community Concert and Blessing of the Backpacks" on the grounds of the historic Loudoun County courthouse. Five different music groups shared their musical gifts in an evening of joy, fun, worship, and fellowship, as we offered prayers for our schools, our children, teachers, administrators, support staff, and more.

Many, many thanks to the Chorus of the Old Dominion, Morningside Community Bluegrass, the Mt. Zion UMC Choir, the Evergreen UMC Praise Band, and our own Leesburg UMC Choir. Also, thanks go to all who helped out with planning, set-up, greeting and welcoming, clean-up, and more.

Reviews:

"It was a wonderful event indeed! I had my doubts at 2 pm when my dog didn't want to go out for a walk because of the heat. Four unchurched people from my circle of friends and acquaintances came."

"It was wonderful meeting so many who are intentional about seeing God move through our schools this year."

"It was great listening to all of the groups who participated. As I watched the people in the audience, I could see how much everyone enjoyed the music and the joy it brought. The prayers were so meaningful. I am so glad to have been a part of this event. I look forward to doing it again next year."

"Thanks to all who helped setup, run, and take down the sound. It was a pleasure working with all of the groups and musicians. I had never done anything like that before."

"It was a wonderful concert."

"When I got home last night, I could not stop thinking about how terrific our first annual backpack blessing concert was! The intense heat dissipated as the choir from Mt. Zion resonated exuberance. The gentle breezes and the accompaniment of the cicadas made me feel the presence of our Lord as the symphony of talent unfolded during the evening! I watched the faces of those in attendance and could see and feel His peace! There even was a young couple taking a selfie of themselves at the concert! All of the music and prayers were wonderful!"



Reach

Mini-SPY/REACH Report

August 9-11, seven rising 4th, 5th, and middle schoolers participated in our 4th annual Mini SPY/REACH weekend. They spent time bonding together as a group on Friday evening, participated in a scavenger hunt Bible study, and learned the "Why?" behind serving our neighbors.

On Saturday morning they were up early to serve at JK Moving's Community Garden in Purcellville. They planted squash and harvested vegetables for over two hours. Then they spent the afternoon learning skills, such as painting and construction, that will serve them when they leave for their week long mission trips with the youth group. They also did other service projects like making dog toys for the SPCA and packing lunches for TOP.

On Sunday, we woke up and worshipped with the congregation, helped in children's ministry, and some of our youth went into DC to serve the homeless community there the lunches that they had prepared. It was a



Great Beginnings Preschool

Happy fall y'all! That's right, it may not feel like fall weather but back-to-school season is upon us! Our GBP staff is excited for a great new year. We will back in the classrooms prepping and organizing on Monday, August 26th, and our students' first day is September 4th. Please keep our staff, students, and their families in your prayers as we embark upon this new adventure.

GBP's 4th Annual Recess Run 5k and Fun Run is SATURDAY, October 19th at Evergreen Sportsplex. Please note our new day and location. Bolen Park is undergoing construction in the areas surrounding their cross country course so we are looking forward to creating new memories at Evergreen Sportsplex! Our 5k begins at 9am and fun run at 9:45am. Visit our website, greatbeginningsleesburg.com to register.

The Recess Run is our main fundraiser each school year. It began as a way to offset the cost of our new playground equipment and now allows us to maintain the area and fill the mulch each Fall. But did you know that 10% of every GBP fundraiser goes toward our Grace Grants Scholarship Fund? This fund allows us to support our families when the unexpected happens. We are also blessed by a generous scholarship from our LUMC United Methodist Women.

While promoting fellowship and encouraging a healthy lifestyle, our annual Recess Run goes beyond the playground and allows us to serve our community while keeping our tuition rates low. Thank you for supporting GBP's mission and the youngest members of our town.

We are grateful to be in ministry with you all and pray for a wonderful school year!

Yours in Christ,
Heather Gonzalez, Preschool Director
greatbeginningsleesburg@gmail.com



Reach

Recognizing our school workers

**The following people recently shared that they work in the schools in various positions.
As the new school year begins, please pray for these people.**

Marci Andrews- Simpson Middle School -
English/language arts

Erica Dobscha- Ida Lee - preschool teacher

Chrissy Dugger- Great Beginnings Preschool

Marni Frazee- John Champe High School -
teacher assistant

Heather Gonzalez- Great Beginnings Preschool

Anna Goynes- Hillside Elementary

Caitlyn Goynes Tharp- Evergreen Mill Elementary

Libby Henry- Stafford Elementary School

George Hermann- Heritage High School -
band director

Denise Herman- Belmont Station Elementary -
librarian

Chris Konkus- John Champe High School -
math

Celesta Miller- Great Beginnings Preschool

Melissa Neach- Cool Spring Elementary -
special education reverse inclusion program

Kathy Pierce- Frederick Douglass Elementary -
school nurse

Linda Rives- Loudoun County High School -
bookkeeper

Deb Tripp- Academies of Loudoun-
Graphic Communications

Patty Walsh- Carson Middle School - science

Kathy Wise- teacher's assistant Sycolin Creek
Elementary School

Kelly Wright- Great Beginnings Preschool

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 up 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 busy getting content migrated/entered and everything working correctly and looking sharp. We expect to launch sometime in October.

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

Building Access Reminder to All Keyholders

If you have a key to the church building, please note:

Thou Shalt Not Enter the Building Between 11 pm and 6 am.

Thou Shalt Not Remain in the Building After 11 pm.

Our security system auto-arms daily and includes motion sensors. If you remain in the building past 11 pm when the system arms, or enter the building between 11 pm and 6 am while the system is armed, you will set off an alarm. Our Trustees will be called out, as well as Leesburg Police. False alarm calls cost us \$300 each.



**Leesburg United Methodist
Church**

107 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

703-777-2056
www.leesburgumc.org



The October Newsletter will be published near the beginning of October. To ensure your item gets in, please submit by 9 am on Monday, Sept 23rd. Thank you!

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 deamed.

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.

