



The Messenger

The newsletter of
Leesburg United
Methodist Church

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Message from Pastor Jim: Jesus and Money...

True or False: Churches talk too much about money. What do you think? **Fact: Jesus talked a lot about money!** Sixteen of Jesus’ thirty-eight recorded parables deal with our attitudes and responsibilities toward money and possessions. Unfortunately, when churches do talk about money, we often fail to connect our money-talk with the relevant financial issues of our personal money-walk!

When Jesus spoke about money, he connected with people’s felt need for financial freedom. He focused not on how to get more, but on how to live free of the burdens of debt, and the unbridled desire for more or better. Instead, he pointed people to the wise and beneficial use of our assets to further reveal the presence, and reflect the priorities, of God’s kingdom.

True or False: Churched people don’t like to give. What do you think? **Fact: On average, active members of churches contribute “the bulk of disaster recovery” through volunteer efforts and financial giving.** A USA Today article from two years ago noted that “about 75% of the organizations that are part of the [National VOAD] alliance are faith based.” As we read stories of heartbreak and loss in the Bahamas or Houston following hurricanes and tropical storms, the reality is that “religious institutions [are] vital in responding to disasters” (<https://philanthropy.iupui.edu>). By some estimates, people of faith give three to four times as much as non-churched persons to charitable causes, including their

churches – especially in the wake of natural disasters – and they remain in the communities hardest hit for years to continue the rebuilding and recovery. Why? Because we realize that we are created in the image of God, who’s nature is to give generously and sacrificially in the face of need. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son” (John 3:16).

We all have financial worries and even fears: mortgage payments, paying for college, saving for retirement, paying off debt, the rising cost of medical care, and the list goes on. And, every one of us is powerfully and seductively influenced by the materialism of our culture and the profoundly alluring siren song to have more. Let’s face it, money matters – and we need to be talking about it as followers of Jesus Christ. We need to allow the searching light of God’s Spirit to penetrate our walls of resistance and our fortresses of fear.

When it comes to money and faith, it all begins with our consecration: what are we devoted to? Consecration is an old fashioned word that means devoting ourselves fully to God. The issue is not how much we give, it’s realizing that all we have comes from God. Do we acknowledge that it all belongs to God? In the weeks leading up to our Consecration Sunday, October 27, we will hear about personal choices and decisions, along with the personal struggles that most of us have,

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Connect

“In the Footsteps of Our Ancestor, Abraham”



Rev.
Jim Wishmyer,
Pastor

When we read the words of the “Great Commission” Jesus spoke to his disciples, “Go, and make disciples of all the nations...” (Matthew 28:18-20), we hear an echo of God’s commission to Abram (Abraham) over one thousand years earlier: “and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed” (Genesis 12:2). The story line of Genesis takes a turn with the story of Abram and Sarai, as God’s intention to bless all humanity centers first on a family, and then a people. God’s plan of redemption and reconciliation of all things flows through the Jewish people, the Messiah, his disciples, and through us today: to be “a light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6).

A year ago, the Rev. Kirk Nave used “The Blues Brothers” movie (1980) to challenge us, as part of our Next Level Innovations (NLI), to recognize and partner with God’s mission in the world through LUMC. In the movie, the two brothers set out on “a mission from God” to reunite their defunct and dispersed band to help save an orphanage. God calls us to continue the mission of Christ to reconcile and bring salvation to all people, beginning here... and now.

In October, we continue our journey through Genesis, the book of beginnings, to hear the call of God through the lives of Sarah and Abraham and their descendants, who are our ancestors in the faith. The story of Abraham and Sarah, the spiritual forbears of Judaism and Christianity; (Islam also traces its roots back to Abraham and Hagar, Sarah’s maid) invites us to follow in their footsteps of faith. Their stories come alive for us again as we celebrate the anniversary of NLI, and as we reflect on our partnership and investment in God’s work today.

We’ll have some fun along the way reflecting on and sharing our own family ancestors. We’ll gain inspiration from testimonies and stories shared in worship. And together, may God work in us and through us to extend the story of redemption to include many more!

Date	Theme/topic	Scripture	Specials
Sept 29	“When our Plans Collide with God’s Plan”	Genesis 11:1-9	
Oct 6	“Leave the Canoes Behind”	Genesis 12:1-9	World Communion Sunday
Oct 13		Genesis 13:1-18	Laity Sunday
Oct 20	“Overcoming Disappointment	Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7	
Oct 27	Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Michelle Chaney	Genesis 24	Consecration Sunday

Connect

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.



Forever Young

Helping Others Cope with Cancer— Practical Tips for Helping Loved Ones Cope with Cancer

Sunday, Oct. 13 at 1 pm in Aldersgate building.

Join us for a light lunch at 12:30.

We will be sharing a program from Lifetree Café* that includes filmed interviews with a cancer caregiver and a cancer patient.

“Most people today are affected by or know someone who is struggling with cancer,” says Lifetree Café representative Craig Cable. “But people often don’t know the best ways to deal with someone who is battling cancer. In this program we’ll explore how to cope as caregivers and head home with practical tips for supporting those in our lives who are struggling with cancer.”

Open to all: Feel free to bring a friend!

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 LUMC@assessnselect.com, or to Rev. Heather Wray at heather.wray@leesburgumc.org.

*Lifetree Café is an hour-long, interactive video experience featuring real people’s real stories, guided conversation, biblical insights, and time to connect with people on a deeper level.



Connect

Extending the Table

We are restarting lay involvement in taking communion from Sunday mornings to those in our congregation who cannot attend due to prolonged illness, a new baby, or other life circumstances. We are looking for at least one other set of people to serve communion to our congregation the first Sunday of every month. If you are interested in serving please [email Rev. Heather Wray](mailto:Rev.Heather.Wray). You will be trained and equipped prior to serving on your Sunday. Once trained you can serve any time. Families are welcome to serve.

Card Ministry Position Welcome

Welcome to Jessie Goyne our new Card Ministry Coordinator. Jessie has been involved in the life of our church for many years and looks forward to serving God and our congregation in this way. Thank you to all those who have supported this ministry in the past. We hope that you will continue to extend God's love to others by signing the cards in Wesley Hall between services.

Live-streaming Help

The Worship Team needs help with Live Streaming.

Needed: Project Manager and/or AV Engineer

Task: Research and recommend best ways to begin live streaming our worship services.

Challenges to address: equipment needed, sound integration, streaming platform, ease of implementation

If you are interested in helping with this project or would like more information, please [contact Rebekah](mailto:Rebekah).

Keeping Up with the Congregation

New Members

Are you ready to join us? Our next new member Sundays are October 20 and November 24. Read how to prepare to join on page 3.

Healing Prayers in the Worship Program

Those in our congregation in need of healing prayer are listed each week in the Worship Program. People are listed based on prayer chain requests or information from Pastor Jim or Rev. Heather. If you need to be listed for healing prayer, please contact the church office (office@leesburgumc.org) or submit a prayer request to prayerchain@leesburgumc.org. Names will be listed in the worship program for four Sundays. To remain on the list longer, please contact us with an update; to be taken off sooner just let us know. Requests for prayer for others outside our church family can also be sent to prayerchain@leesburgumc.org to be prayed for by our prayer chain members.

October Birthdays

The October birthday list is available in Wesley Hall.



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*

Coffee Stories...

Here's a peek into what happens during my Community Office Hours.

The sights and sounds remain mostly the same week to week, it's only the people who change. Behind the coffee bar are the baristas I have come to know by name, but only a few remember me week to week. There are the regular customers whom I observe come to the shop every Wednesday like clock work to get their coffee fix.

Some Wednesdays I talk to almost nobody, unnoticed by the hurried crowd, and other weeks I have deep and meaningful conversations with strangers and parishioners alike. What normally starts the conversation with the strangers is my clergy collar. I haven't worn it as much in the warmer months but with fall temperatures soon upon us, I will wear it every week again soon.

The most meaningful encounters to me are with people who are hurting. My collar often prompts people to share deep hurt with me that I don't expect most of us would share with a total stranger. I have heard the tales of a person who was once involved with church but after years of fighting in the church decided to be atheist. Another confessed the addiction they struggled with, and a how a chance encounter with God saved them from total ruin. I have had people share the way that church has created deep pain in their life, and how they will never come back to the church.

You may read this and think that my Community Coffee Hours are the most depressing time on the planet, but to me they are not. Instead, I find encounters with people who have sworn off God, to be holy and merciful moments. In these encounters people share their deep pain and I get to offer them back grace, mercy, kindness, and love. I don't know what people walk away feeling after those talks with me, but I hope they feel a release, a release that allows them to draw closer to God, and that our time might break down a wall so God can step in and remind them they are beloved.

I walk away recognizing the gift and privilege it is to listen to others' pain, and I am forever thankful for the opportunity to welcome those conversations week after week.

Connect

Our New Congregational Care Minister

On September 22nd we commissioned Terry Kingsley as a Congregational Care Minister for LUMC. The following message from Terry explains her background and heart for serving in this way.

You may know me as the artist who, inspired by the NLI Breakthrough Prayer, created the Tree of Life sculpture. You may not know that the Breakthrough Prayer led me to become a Certified Grief Counselor (GC-C). What's the difference between a Certified Grief Counselor and other caring ministries?

My certification is awarded by AIHCP, a licensed professional corporation offering certifications, fellowships, and continuing education for specialty healthcare practices. My training is approved by multiple state Boards of Registered Nursing. Moreover, I undertook a rotation under the supervision of a licensed social worker in the area of anticipatory grief counseling (terminally ill patients and their families).

As an AIHCP certified Grief Counselor, I am required to practice under the oversight of ordained clergy. My certification is valid for a period of four years. Like some Registered Nurses, who take this coursework for re-certification of their nursing credentials, I am required to take additional coursework for re-certification as well as serve 400 clergy-supervised hours.

No one escapes this life unscathed by the common experience of loss. Jesus wept when Lazarus died. He knows the pain of grief first hand. God, through Jesus Christ, has called and equipped me to serve anyone facing grief: anticipatory; disenfranchised; or symbolic grief; with the goal of helping the bereaved reach a healthy adaptation.

There is a deep well of commitment to the hurting within me. Come, have a cup of coffee with me. Ask me specific questions and determine for yourself if my skillset is right for you or someone you know. Consider that by receiving, you are actually the one giving someone the opportunity to care so that we both can praise and thank our Father in heaven for the gift of each other and our church. ~ Terry Kingsley, GC-C, kingsley.healinghearts@gmail.com

Message from Pastor Jim: Jesus and Money *(continued)*

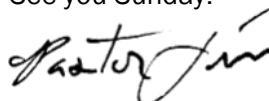
(Continued from page 1)

that go into fully consecrating ourselves, our stuff, and our money to God. Stewardship is not about fund-raising for the church but about faith-raising for we who are followers of Jesus.

So, as Christ's follower, would you do three things? First, pray for God's guidance and blessing as you recommit your finances and possessions to God (2 Corinthians 8:4-5);

second, make plans to attend worship on the October Sundays you are in town; and third, trust God for your present and your future, even as together we trust God for the future of LUMC and our mission to "Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

See you Sunday!



Pastor Jim Wishmyer



Grow

Join a Small Group This Fall!

On Sundays:

9:45 am The Friendship Class—AG 1;
Facilitator: Kim Kadesch

The Friendship Class meets year round. We are currently studying the book of Genesis.

11:00 am Wesley Discipleship Class—AG1;
Facilitator: Carl Snyder and Steve Chapin

We're using Bible Story Basics for our study, the same study being done by the Sunday School classes. Our class is based on John Wesley's Class Meeting format, which had a goal of "looking after each other in love". Everyone is welcome and has something to contribute.

11:00 am Royal Rebels—Blue Room (upstairs education building); **Facilitator:** Sharon Reith

We meet from 11-12 after the 9:45 Service in the Blue Room. We discuss the Sermon (or anything else of interest!) All are welcome to join or just drop in.

6:00 pm Friends and Followers—Wesley Hall;
Facilitators: Steve & Celesta Miller

We are studying the book of Genesis.

Wednesdays:

7:00 pm Disciple Bible Study—AG1;
Facilitator: Rev. Jim Wishmyer

We will be studying this enduring classic study that takes us through the Bible in 34 weeks. Contact Pastor Jim or the church office for additional info and to indicate your interest.

Thursdays:

9:30 am Women's Study Group—Wesley Hall;
Facilitator: Sharon Reith

Join us for "Legacy", a six session study through October 17th. Women of all ages, church members or friends and neighbors, are invited to join. 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. For more information, contact Sharon Reith at sreith88@gmail.com or 757-641-3824.

Fridays:

7:00 am Men's IHOP Meeting—IHOP restaurant; **Facilitator:** Rev. Jim Wishmyer

Join Rev. Wishmyer for breakfast and conversation at IHOP on Edwards Ferry Road.

Daily:

Receive Daily Emails

You can sign-up to receive daily e-mails at mailchi.mp/23ac72cc4601/dr

Each morning, Angela sends out an e-mail to those on a subscribed list with a daily scripture reading and some thoughts to ponder, or even wrestle with.



Angela Becek,
*Director of
Discipleship
Ministries*



Connect

Fall 2019 Volunteer Opportunities with Children & Youth

We have several opportunities to serve through our children's and youth ministries. We have leaders for our groups and classes, and need adult assistants each week: Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings.

There is no prep work, just come with an open heart and ready to serve by being a loving presence, helping with activities and assisting with clean-up.

Please plan to arrive 10 minutes before start time and stay until all children/youth picked up; this helps to keep us in compliance with our child protection policy. You will be contacted prior to your selected date with policy required information.



Details & Sign-up Here:



Leadership Development & Spiritual Formation Opportunities

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.



Connect

Children's Sunday School

Sundays: 9:45 to 10:45 am

For children in pre-K through 5th grade

Please pre-register; click images below to be taken to registration pages.



Reptiles Alive came to visit our Sunday school on September 15 as we learned about the world God created and our role as stewards.



Club 345 kicked off the year at Atomic Trampoline on Sept. 8th



Grow

Youth Dates

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

October 6	9:45 Gallery 6 pm—7:30 pm Youth Group
October 13	9:45 Gallery
October 20	9:45 Gallery 6 pm—7: 30 Youth Group
October 25-26	Middle School Mini Retreat
October 26-27	High School Mini Retreat



Youth Team Building at Evergreen Sportsplex

Our youth had a great time with team building activities and zip lining as we kicked off the new program year on September 8th.



Fall Mini Retreats

The Mini Retreat is designed to be a time of space away from the constant demands of our heavily scheduled lives.

We will meet at Oak Lodge at Camp Highroad.

Middle School is Oct 25-26:
6:30 pm Friday - 9:30 am
Saturday

High School is Oct 26-27:
11 am Saturday - 1 pm Sunday



Details & Sign-up Here:

VAUMC Fall Youth Retreat

Nov. 15-17 at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg

The Conference Fall Retreat is open to both Middle and High School this year.

LUMC is promoting as our Middle School Retreat, but any High Schoolers who love the Fall Retreat are welcome to join (they are only offering the one retreat). We will have a separate High School Retreat in January for LUMC's high school students.

"In divided times it's easier to stick with our tribe, our comfort. Jesus offers another way that seems harder but could change the world!"

We can't wait to see you this November. Join hundreds of youth in exploring what it takes and what it looks like to be ONE! Spots are limited this year, so move quickly and guarantee your spot!"



Details & Sign-up Here:



All parent chaperones must be willing and able to drive and transport other youth.

Reach



BACKPACK BUDDIES

2019-20

Packing

Dates

Oct 6

(Wesley)

Nov 3 (AG1)

Dec 1

(Wesley)

Jan 5

Feb 2

Mar ch1

April 5

May 3

June 7

Backpack Buddies

Did you know that over 14,000 children in Loudoun County are food insecure?

What that means is that their families may not know where their next meal is coming from. Through the LUMC Backpack Buddies program, our church provides support to local school children who have been identified as needing additional food over the weekends. Each child receives a backpack filled with six meals for the weekend during the school year. In a survey taken at the end of last year, the parents unanimously requested that rice and beans also be included in the food items, which we will do beginning this year.

There are many ways to support this mission: with your **monetary donations** (we are able to buy in bulk and get more food at a cheaper price); with **food items** for the backpacks (see list below), and with **your time**. Everyone is invited to come and be a part of this wonderful community service.

Help us “fill a backpack” this year by joining us on the first Sunday of each month to pack the food. Our first packing session will be in **Wesley Hall** on **Oct. 6th right after the 8:30 am service**. Packing dates and requested food items are listed below.

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Milk (white or chocolate, shelf stable) | Cheese crackers |
| Instant oatmeal | Mac n’ cheese single serving cups |
| Juice boxes | Granola bars (without nuts) |
| Cereal (individual sizes) | Ramen Cup-O-Noodles |
| Fruit cups or applesauce cups | 1 lb bag rice |
| Chef Boyardee single serving cups/cans | 1 lb bag dry beans |

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 | |



Reach

NLI Signature Mission: Loudoun Homeless Services Center

Our NLI plan states we should “develop a signature, local, hands on ministry of serving a need in the Leesburg community.” LUMC has selected Loudoun Homeless Services Center (LHSC) to be our Signature Mission.

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. Programs offered include: Permanent Supportive Housing Program; Rapid Re-housing Program; Emergency Shelter; Cold Weather Shelter; and Drop In Center.

How can you become involved with this ministry? LUMC’s partnership will be multi-faceted and phased in over 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 contact Margrit Snyder, missions@leesburgumc.org or 703-777-6690



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.

Reach

Thanksgiving Dinner Collection

For LHR, Due Nov 10th

LUMC Missions is asking everyone to fill a grocery bag with Thanksgiving Dinner items (minus the turkey) Each bag should contain enough items to feed four people and should include the following items:

- Gift card for \$10-\$20 to a local grocery store for purchasing a turkey or meat. **No fresh or frozen turkeys as we do not have any way to refrigerate them!**
- Powdered gravy mix or jarred/canned gravy
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Three types of canned vegetables
- Canned sweet potatoes/yams or a mashed potato mix
- Stuffing mix
- Cornbread, muffin, or bread mix
- Canned fruit for dessert or a box dessert mix



Bring your filled bag(s) to the Missions Room and put in the Loudoun Hunger Relief cart. Please put gift card(s) in the basket on the LHR shelf.

Thank you for helping to ensure that Loudoun families in need have a Thanksgiving meal!

Operation Christmas Child

Missions Team is organizing the collection of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. This is an outreach of Samaritan's Purse that LUMC has been supporting for the past several years.

How to participate:

- **Get a Box:** Pick up an easy-to-assemble Operation Christmas Child box in the Missions Room
- **Fill With Gifts:** Use this link to find suggestions and ideas - www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/
- **Pay for Shipping:** Go to www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box/ to pay the \$9 per box shipping cost (and as a bonus be able to track where your box goes—great fun for families!), or you can write a check to Samaritan's Purse (note "OCC" on memo line) and place it in an envelope on top of the gift items inside your box (if you are preparing more than one box, please make one combined donation).
- **Drop Off at LUMC:** Drop-off deadline is **Sunday, November 4th**, in the Missions Room

You can start bringing in your shoeboxes right away. This is a wonderful mission opportunity for families to do together. Children love to fill the shoeboxes with items that they would like themselves and to know that they are helping another child to have something special for Christmas. Please support this wonderful program and bring Christ's love to a child.



Great Beginnings Preschool

Happy Autumn LUMC friends!

We are having a fabulous time at GBP making new friends and settling into routines!

In October we will concentrate on the following themes: Fire Prevention Week, the farm, football, fall, seasons, leaves, patterns, Halloween, scarecrows and pumpkins. Our shape and color of the month are circle and orange. We are looking forward to a visit from the fire trucks and our favorite firemen from Station 20 on September 30th and October 1st.

Our GBP Recess Run 5k and Fun Run is fast approaching on Saturday, October 19th at Evergreen Sportsplex! The 5k begins at 9am, and the Fun Run at 9:45am. We are excited to enjoy this beautiful new location with our LUMC/GBP family! Evergreen Sportsplex is located at [19623 Evergreen Mill Road in Leesburg](#). As the Sportsplex shares a parking lot with Evergreen UMC, we are not able to use the facility for events on Sundays.

There will be games for children and their parents on the soccer field during the 5k. Our Halloween-themed Fun Run will take place on the soccer field as well. Fun Runners are invited to wear their preschool-appropriate Halloween costumes to the race.

This event is a fundraiser designed to offset the cost of playground maintenance. More importantly, it is also an opportunity for our families to join together in fellowship and fun!

Added bonus: 10% of all GBP fundraising goes to our Grace Grants scholarship fund. This scholarship allows us the opportunity to help GBP families in the event of an emergency or unforeseen circumstances. For registration and volunteer information, visit our website: greatbeginningsleesburg.com. Hope to see you at the Sportsplex!

Have a wonderful month!

Blessings,

[Heather Gonzalez](#), Preschool Director
greatbeginningsleesburg@gmail.com



Reach

Next Level Innovations: Reach & Connect Task Force

The Reach and Connect Task Force has been busy coming up with ways to reach and connect with our neighbors.

Art of Neighboring: We read and considered the book “The Art of Neighboring” earlier this year. Read the article by Terry Kingsley called “Who Is My Neighbor” for her experience with this material.

Prayer Walking: We have had previous rounds of prayer walking in the Leesburg community. Our latest iteration is prayer walking for our schools; read the separate article for more information.

Pilgrimage Tours: The latest Pilgrimage Tour on offer will be a trip to Arlington National Cemetery on October 31st. Find more details in the “Pilgrimage Tours” article.

Halloween Parade: For the second year in a row, we’ll be providing hot apple cider, candy, and water to the Leesburg Halloween Parade participants. If you would like to help with this event, please contact [Rev. Wishmyer](#) or the [church office](#).

Who Is My Neighbor?

By Terry Kingsley

The Art of Neighboring came in a brown shipping box. It reminded me of the large number of commercial moving company boxes, curbside, next door to me. Yep, a new neighbor! Following a long litany of not-so-nice neighbors, getting to know what the cat had dragged in, was furthest from my mind.

I picked up The Art of Neighboring with the same lack luster enthusiasm with which I read James Joyce’s *Ulysses* back in college. Cracking open the book solely for church and country, I expected it to be a waste of my time. But this book changed not only how I engage with my neighbors but with ALL people.

The Art of Neighboring taught me to see the obvious; that “the most natural way to connect with people is through shared activities.”¹ The author stressed focusing faithfully on the everyday small stuff of living. In other words, “just share what you love to do.”²

Wonderful things started to happen in my life, too many to list here, and not just with the new neighbors. As a skeptic playing reruns of past neighbors, I decided to start slowly. An experiment was needed with a pair of impartial observers; enter stage left, Bill and Boonie Henry, who by the way, are always up for something fun.

On this particular evening, I had already planned a nice buffet dinner for someone else in my usual color coordinated style. (Martha Stewart would have been proud.) I kept thinking, “just share what you love to do,” so I slipped a note in the neighbor’s mailbox. I told myself it was no big deal if they didn’t turn up. Well, they did and so did their teenage son. Bill and Boonie made mental notes of the evening to be discussed later and my husband thought Bill to be “one heck

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2019-20 LCPS Prayer Walking

Join others in our congregation in praying for our schools where our children, youth, and adults either attend or work. Whenever you walk, ride your bike, or drive by one of our schools, lift a prayer for that school and all who attend, work, and visit that school! Your prayers, joined with the many prayers of others throughout the school year, will make a difference! When you sign up, indicate which school(s) you'll be praying for, and pick up a copy of the yellow Prayer Walking instructions.

Sign up by **October 13th** on the clipboard in Wesley Hall, by contacting the [church office](#), or use this [signup genius link](#).



"Who Is My Neighbor" (Continued from page 16)

of a nice guy." The neighbors weren't so bad either. In fact, they were nice.

Sharing your faith isn't hard. Anyone who has ever dined at my house knows I take a spoon to a glass which rings out a call to prayer and thanksgiving for both friends old and new. Nobody's complained yet.

Over the cold wintery months, the new neighbors and I exchanged emails and texts on getting settled into Virginia life. Their basement pool table brought to mind scenes from Paul Newman's movie, "The Hustler" and I've always longed to be a good pool player since college, albeit not like the lead character in the movie. Plans were hatched over the pool table for things we'd see together when the weather got better. Spring and summer brought ordinary encounters and new opportunities to talk about many things to include God.

So, who is my neighbor? And who is your neighbor? Well, it's everyone in the ordinary ebb and flow of our lives.

Pilgrimage Tours: Arlington Cemetery

On October 31st, "All Hallows Eve", we'll be heading to Arlington National Cemetery for a riding tour of the cemetery, to include: witnessing the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns, a visit to the Kennedy Family Gravesite, other notable gravesites, several of historic monuments such as the Spanish American War Memorial, and more. This tour takes approximately an hour, with opportunities to disembark and walk around before re-boarding.

We'll depart Blossom & Bloom parking lot at 8:30 a.m. to drive to ANC. After the tour, we'll follow-up with lunch and then head back to Leesburg no later than 2:30 PM to prepare for our Halloween Parade hospitality.

Tour brochures are available at the church or [online](#), and we encourage you to invite family and friends to join us as we carpool to the cemetery. We would like to purchase tickets ahead of time: \$15 for adults, \$11 for seniors (65+), \$7.25 for children (3-11); discounts for military and veterans. Or you may purchase tickets yourself through Arlington National Cemetery Tours.

Contact [Al Ruggles](#), [Rev. Jim Wishmyer](#), or the [church office](#) to sign up.

Reach

It's Apple Dumpling Days!

Must pre-order by October 8th. Order on-line at www.leesburgumc.org/appledumplings or use the order forms in the Weekly Info on Sundays.

Don't forget to pick up your apple dumplings on the date you requested when you ordered:

Fresh apple dumplings—Friday, October 4, 11am-12noon
Saturday, October 12, 11am -12noon.

Frozen apple dumplings—Sunday, October 6, 9:30am-12:15pm
Sunday, October 13, 9:30am-12:15pm.

Dumplings will be available in the Asbury Hall kitchen.



Steward

Charge Conference: October 20th

Our annual Charge Conference will be held here at LUMC on Sunday October 20, from 3—5:30 pm. This will be a group charge conference with several other Leesburg area UMCs. Come and worship, hear preaching from our District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Steven J. Summers, and learn how LUMC and our neighbors are planning to meet the Bishop's discipleship initiative. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this gathering, however, only members of our Church Leadership Team will be able to vote on our business: pastor salaries and leadership nominations.



Staff News: Wayne Reynolds

We regret to announce that Wayne Reynolds has chosen to resign his position as a staff member of Leesburg United Methodist Church. Wayne has given devoted service to Christ and LUMC for over 55 years, first as a lay person, and then during the past 13 years as a staff member. His pioneering spirit inspired our Stephen Ministry, our ESL program, the Alpha Bible Study, and more recently, our Forever Young program.

Wayne will continue to be involved in our ministries for he is not retiring, and he will continue to serve our church and the Winchester District in his role as a Certified Lay Minister. We look forward to recognizing Wayne's many positive contributions and sharing our appreciation on Sunday, October 20, in all three worship services.

~ Rev. Jim Wishmyer, and Bobbi Cunningham, SPRC Chair



Stewardship: Consecration Sunday, October 27th

Our 2019 Stewardship campaign has begun with testimonials this month focusing on where and how giving to God fits into our personal priorities. As we move into October, these will continue as we approach Consecration Sunday on October 27th. We are so pleased to share with you that guest Pastor, Rev. Dr. Michelle Chaney, will be preaching that day!

Consecration Sunday is not about asking LUMC members to give, and it is not a final plea. It is a celebration of what we have pledged together, where pledge cards received via mail are tallied with those turned in during worship services. Our Financial Secretary will tally these amounts in real time so they can be celebrated during a beautiful brunch, one following each worship service, prepared for you by our Youth. There is no charge for the meal and we will not be seeking or accepting donations. We wish to maximize LUMC participation.

Please mark October 27th on your calendar and plan to attend worship service and brunch immediately following for us to celebrate the bounty God has given us and our wonderful church!



The Old Stone Church Foundation Annual Dinner

The annual dinner was held at My Zion UMC. The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Chuck Williams, of Mt. Zion UMC, who shared a devotional based on anniversaries of historic events, as we remembered the 9/11, 2001 anniversary. The recent completion of the third section of the prayer garden was reviewed, as well as the development of a Pilgrimage Prayer Walk for the historic site, to be completed in 2020. The Reverend Tracey Lyons of Mt. Zion UMC closed the meeting with a prayer.

The Board of Directors then received a walking tour of the Old Stone Church Cemetery led by Site Manager, John Creamer. The group viewed the prayer garden, and the new burial site adjacent to the property. The Reverend Steve Summers, Winchester District Superintendent, led us in a prayer for those reinterred.

The annual dinner meeting for all OSCF members was opened with a prayer from Reverend Jim Wishmyer, Leesburg UMC, and dinner provided by Mama Lucci's was enjoyed by all. Our guest speaker, Reverend Summers, shared an inspiring and insightful message on "Leadership Lessons from Jenga". The evening closed with a prayer from Reverend Lyons.

The Old Stone Church Foundation, a non-profit open-membership corporation, is dedicated to preservation and interpretation of the Old Stone Church Cemetery Site. The Board of Director members are from Mt. Zion UMC, Leesburg UMC, and Evergreen UMC. Board members from Leesburg UMC are Nancy Wolford, Lou Legard, John & Betsy Creamer.



**Leesburg United Methodist
Church**

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The November Newsletter will be published near the beginning of November. To ensure your item gets in, please submit by 9 am on Monday, Nov 21st. Thank you!

NLI Celebrates its One-Year Anniversary This Month

To become a competent and compelling congregation in the twenty-first century is a very complex, messy, hard, culture-changing, and long process. It requires a great deal of prayer, endurance, hard work, dedication, risk and tenacity. - Bob Farr and Kay Kotan, Ten Prescriptions for a Healthy Church

On October 16, our congregation is celebrating the one year mark on our journey to achieve the next level of God's calling for our church. A year ago we accepted the Next Level Innovation program challenge of focusing in five separate areas of church life to be a better neighbor in Leesburg and the surrounding area. Prayers, endurance, hard work, dedication, risk and tenacity have driven the activities and accomplishments in these five areas over the past year.

This fall, a countdown in Wesley Hall has been the site for a display of posters highlighting innovations in our hospitality, outreach, and missional engagement. **Be sure to visit Wesley Hall to continue watching the story unfold in October, and don't miss the big reveal of our new logo on Sunday October 13.**

Many thanks to all who have volunteered over the past year to bring the NLI vision to life. Please prayerfully consider getting involved and watch for new opportunities in year two as we continue our journey to achieve God's calling.

Regards, Leslie Payne

