

THE MESSENGER

The newsletter of Leesburg United Methodist Church

November 2019

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Message from Pastor Jim: Thanksgiving

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November. You can read more about the story behind one of the earliest "thanksgiving" celebrations at the link below.¹

For many today, Thanksgiving celebrations focus around food and family, and not surprisingly, football and the Macy's Parade. Yet this holiday provides a wonderful opportunity to teach and impress upon our children, while reminding ourselves, the spiritual practice of gratitude ([Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#)).

Here are some creative and practical ways to have fun while also practicing gratitude together as a family.

Start a Family "Thanksgiving Journal"

This is something new for me that I will bring to my family this year. Purchase a nice, blank journal and simply pass it around the table during dessert, or leave it in a central spot, for family members and guests to write down at least one thing for which they are thankful. Parents can act as secretary for those who are too young to

write, inviting the child to make a mark or scribble so they have the joy of participating. Next year, read aloud the entries prior to writing more.

Volunteer as a Family

There are many opportunities to volunteer together – such as ring the bell for the Salvation Army kettle. One of our LUMC family brings their musical instruments with them! Check the Weekly Info, our Facebook page, or our website for other opportunities, now and throughout the year.

Make room at your table

Not everyone has someone to share Thanksgiving dinner with: co-workers who live far from home; a member of our church who lives alone; a neighbor. Extend the invitation with sensitivity and genuine hospitality. If you are away for Thanksgiving, consider inviting someone living alone over for a meal before or after the holiday.

Go for a family walk, or run

Take a walk together as a family, especially if this is not your normal routine. Or, if there is a local benefit run, consider running with at least one other family member.

Play table games

Not everyone is into football. Play a table game or put together a puzzle. One suggestion is to have everyone write

(Continued on page 8)

Inside this issue:

Connect: November Worship	2
Connect: Membership; Gathering of Angels	3
Connect: Forever Young; Xmas	4
Connect: Advent stories/Devotional; Worship Help	5
Connect: Community hours; Keeping Up	6
Grow: Small Groups	7
Grow: Help with our Kids & Youth	8
Grow: Sunday School; Xmas Pageant	9
Grow: Youth Calendar; TOP	10
Grow: Youth Retreats	11
Reach: Backpack Buddies; LHR	12
Reach: Thanksgiving Dinners; Xmas Child	13
Reach: Halloween; Arlington Tour	14
Reach: GB Preschool; Vendor Fair	15
Steward: Our Way Forward	16
Steward: NLI Update	17
Steward: Teach Your Children	18
Steward: Veterans	19
Breakthrough Prayer	Back page

Connect

November Worship Theme: “This Is Us”



**Rev.
Jim Wishmyer,
Pastor**

The television series, “This is Us,” in it’s 4th season on NBC, “is a beautiful tale about life. The story revolves around a few characters that seem to be unrelated. However they have more in common than you realize. What sets this show apart isn’t the ending, but the journey you take in-between.” – H. Karali, <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5555260> .

In Genesis we read about a family in whom, and through whom God worked. Like the plot of “This is Us” the story of Abraham’s and Sarah’s family depicts life as messy, complicated, and at times ambiguous. It is a journey from the present to the promise God has given. The scriptures lay bare the family’s failures and their successes. Through it all, God is present, God is at work, and despite their flawed humanity, God manages to work in them and through them. Like the flashbacks in “This is Us”, this biblical family functions as a flashback for the people of Israel throughout their history, helping to explain who and why they are. We, as followers of Jesus, are their legacy of faith, their heritage of faithfulness, passed down from one generation to the next. We are here because of them and all who have come before us.

What heritage and legacy will we leave for those who follow us? How will we be remembered – our failures, our successes, our stories of disappointment and faith, our examples of leading and serving?

Date	Theme/topic	Scripture	Specials
Oct 27	Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Michelle Chaney	Genesis 24	Consecration Sunday
Nov 3	“Living Forward; Looking Backward” (Rev Jim Wishmyer)	Genesis 25:19-28	All Saints Sunday, Holy Communion
Nov 10	“In the Moment” Rev Heather Wray	Genesis 25:29-34	Recognition of Veterans
Nov 17	“To Be Chosen—or Not” Rev Jim Wishmyer	Genesis 27:1-46	
Nov 24	Speaker: Walter Tennyson, Lay Leader	Genesis 28:10-22	Christ the King Sunday Leadership Recognition

Wesley Hall Display

During our sermon series, This Is Us, we are focusing on our Biblical ancestors and how their legacy lives on today through us, the people of God. In the display case in Wesley Hall we have a collection of documents, pictures, and items that reflect the ancestors, heritage, and history of our members.

The Worship team hopes this display will be another lens through which you can think about how we all are descendants of our ancestors and how our heritage, together, speaks to our present and future as God’s people.

New Member Sunday & Orientation

Our next New Member Sunday is 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 in November. Sessions meet on Sunday afternoons at 4 pm:

Nov 3—Membership 101; Nov 17, Membership 102

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



A Gathering of Angels, November 3rd, All Saints Sunday

The United Methodist Women celebrate All Saints Day with “A Gathering of Angels” in Wesley Hall. You are invited to visit the angel tree and choose a collectable angel as a personal keepsake or to give as a gift. You may also select a hand cut paper angel to honor or memorialize a loved one. The tribute angels will bear their name and be placed on the angel tree in Wesley Hall for all to celebrate. These angels are available for a free will donation to support the Georgia W. Bange Scholarship Fund.

Background

The Georgia W. Bange Scholarship Fund was established by The Leesburg United Methodist Women to support education goals within our church community. The fund has awarded over \$19,000 in college scholarships since 2010. Georgia Bange (1930-2009), was a LUMW member, a dedicated teacher, an astute business woman, a devoted public servant, and a compassionate counselor to so many in our community. She collected angels for many years and asked her friends and visitors to choose an angel from her collection to enjoy as a keepsake. To honor Georgia, the UMW asks that you, too, select an angel and remember someone special in your life.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gathering of Angels fundraiser this year!

Thank you for your loving and continued support,
The Georgia W. Bange Scholarship Committee



Connect

Forever Young

"Declutter Your Life: Practical Ways to Find Outer Order and Inner Calm"

Sunday, Nov. 17 at 12:15 pm in the Aldersgate building.

We will be sharing a program from Lifetree Café* with practical tips for decluttering your life. The program features a filmed interview with Gretchen Rubin, author of the New York Times #1 best-selling book *The Happiness Project*.

"As I've studied happiness, I've been surprised about how much outer order contributes to inner calm," says Rubin. "Clutter-clearing seems insignificant, but it energizes people. By getting control of their stuff, people feel they have more control of larger things."

Participants will get practical steps for decluttering their homes and their schedules and living calmer, happier lives.

Open to all; 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.

Planning Ahead for Advent and Christmas

Sunday, December 1st:	First Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 7th:	UMW Prayer Breakfast , 9 am
Sunday, December 8th:	Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 15th:	Third Sunday of Advent
	Christmas Pageant , during 9:45 am worship
	Choir Cantata , during 8:30 & 11 am worship

Sunday December 22nd:	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Tuesday, December 24th:	Christmas Eve worship
	<i>Lessons and Carols, Holy Communion, Candle-lighting</i>
12 Noon	Traditional
3:00 PM	Families with young children
5:00 PM	Family-friendly
7:00 PM	Contemporary
11:00 PM	Traditional



Advent—Stories of Courageous Hope

Our Advent Planning is in full swing and we are looking for individuals who would like to share their stories as part of our worship.

. Our theme for Advent is "Courageous Hope." We are looking for personal stories of a time when you had hope in the face of disappointment, doubt, or fear. Or perhaps a story of daring to dream big, step out in faith, or share the hope you have with others. Sharing your story does not mean you have to stand up and speak. We are planning to publish these stories for sharing and reflection throughout the weeks of Advent.

If you have a story of Courageous Hope to share, please contact Rebekah - worship@leesburgumc.org



**Rev Heather
Wray, Director
of Connect**

Advent Devotional—Writers Needed

Our Advent theme this year is "Courageous Hope" as we explore aspects of hope and courage: courage to dream/dare, courage to overcome doubt, courage to overcome disappointment, and courage to believe.

We are preparing our own LUMC devotional guide in which we invite you to share your passion for writing! If interested, please contact [Angela Becek](#) or [Pastor Jim](#).



Worship Help Needed

A/V Team

The A/V Team is in need of your help. We will train you! If you can offer your time to one of these positions please contact Rebekah - worship@leesburgumc.org

Positions (in order of highest need):

9:45 Sound Tech (run the board for
the band)

A/V Team Coordinator

8:30 A/V Tech (basics of sound board
and video)

11:00 A/V Tech

9:45 Video Tech

Communion Servers

The Communion Team is in need of servers, especially at the 8:30 worship service. If you can help please contact Heather Klein:

heather.klein@gi-de.com

Ushers

The Usher Team is in need of ushers at all services. Please consider joining this important ministry and extending hospitality to our congregation.

8:30 - We only have 3 regular ushers. We need 2-3 more to help relieve them and fill in when they are unavailable.

9:45 - We need 2-3 new ushers as some have recently moved or stepped down.

11:00 - We need 2 more ushers who can serve on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

If you would like to join the Usher Team please contact Head Usher Walter Halfmann, walter.halfmann@computer.org

Connect

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/



Keeping Up with the Congregation

New Members

Phoebe Noor Baracat-Donovan, daughter of Brian and Candy Baracat-Donovan, was baptized on October 13th.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Heather and Tripp Robbins on the birth of their son, Spencer Everett Robbins IV ("Quade"), on October 5th

Condolences

... to the Pierce family on the passing of Kathi's father, Roger Stone, in mid-October.
 ... to Joanne Suit and her family on the passing of her brother, Edwin Cross, on Oct 2nd.
 ... to the family and friends of Sue Wiggins, who passed away on Sept 25th.

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 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.

November Birthdays

The November birthday list is available in Wesley Hall.



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

We are beginning the study "Hosea: Unfailing Love Changes Everything" on Thursday, October 31st from 9:30-11:30 in Wesley Hall; books are \$14.

Hosea, an old-testament prophet, preached his own life message using his marriage as the sermon illustration. Be amazed by the love of Hosea for his wayward spouse—and more amazed by the unfailing love of God for His wayward people and for all people. Hosea showers us with hope: hints and portents pointing to the coming of the promised Messiah.

For more information, contact [Sharon Reith](mailto:sreith88@gmail.com) at sreith88@gmail.com.

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



Angela Becek,
Director of
Discipleship
Ministries



Grow

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:



Message from Pastor Jim: Thanksgiving *(continued)*

(Continued from page 1)

something they're thankful for; fold and place in a jar or bowl; and take turns reading one and letting everyone try to figure out whose it is. For the competitive ones, you can even devise a scoring system.

The point is, on this holy-day, whose sole purpose is to reflect on all we've been given, let's choose to be more intentional in expressing our gratitude and teaching our children (and grandchildren) to do so. In

Psalm 50, verse 23, we read: "Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me; to those who go the right way I will show the salvation of God."

Happy Thanksgiving!

Rev. Jim Wishmyer

¹ <https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving>





Children's Sunday School

For children in pre-K through 5th grade
Please pre-register; click images above to be taken to registration pages.

Sundays: 9:45 to 10:45 am

Preschool: meets in the Preschool Blue Room (Bees)

K–2nd grade: meets in Asbury Hall

3rd–5th Grade: meets in the third floor Red Room

Club 345 PM: will meet on November 24

Kids' Christmas Pageant

December 15 at 9:45

Our “Simple Christmas Pageant” will retell the story of Jesus’ birth through narration, a few key roles with speaking parts, and several non-speaking roles for kids to dress in character. Preschool kids are encouraged to participate as animals - they’ll get to choose a costume that morning (pigs, cows, sheep, dogs, donkeys, etc.)

We'll do a practice during Sunday school on Dec 8th with those present.

Dress rehearsal will begin at 9 am on the 15th.

Sign-up Here:



Grow



**MIDDLE SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP**



**HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP**

Youth Dates

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

November 3	9:45 Gallery
November 10	9:45 Gallery 9:45—2:30 TOP
November 15—17	Fall Retreat
November 24	9:45 Gallery 6 pm—7:30 Youth Group

TOP: Teens Opposing Poverty

Sunday, November 10th

Youth gather to prepare meals after worship and then go into DC to distribute the food and extend Christ's love into the world through smiles and conversation.

Youth should participate in worship (Gallery) at 9:45, then we'll transition to preparing meals. We will depart for DC around Noon and expect to return around 3 pm.

We generally serve outside the DC Central Kitchen and Union Station



Details & Sign-up Here:



Youth Winter Retreat

Feb. 14-17 at Canaan Valley Resort

A weekend of skiing (or snowboarding), fellowship and worship.

We will leave Friday after school and return Monday around 1 pm. Two full days of skiing/snowboarding, three nights lodging, two nights of programming, three breakfasts, and two dinners are included.

Cost per person: \$400 (youth sleep 4per room; adults sleep 2 per room). Deposit of \$150 (plus rentals) is due on registration; balance due by January 5.

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

NO REFUNDS. You are welcome to try to "sell" your spot, but it is not the responsibility of LUMC to do this for you. LUMC cannot get a refund for registrations paid, therefore cannot refund if you cancel at any point.

Registration deadline to guarantee your spot is December 6.



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.

"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!"

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



Details & Sign-up Here:



Reach



BACKPACK BUDDIES

2019-20 Packing Dates

Nov 3 (AG1)

Dec 1

(Wesley)

Jan 5

Feb 2

Mar ch1

April 5

May 3

June 7

Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies will host its 2nd backpack packing session on Sunday, Nov 3rd. Please join us in AG1 after the 8:30 service to help us pack 320 bags.

The bags of food will be delivered to the Catoctin Elementary School throughout the month of November. This program provides support to local school children who have been identified as needing additional food over the weekend. Each child receives a backpack filled with six meals for the weekend during the school year.

There are many ways to support this mission: with your monetary donations, with food goods for the backpacks, and with your time. Everyone is invited to come and be a part of this wonderful community service.

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 serve 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) on Sundays or 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.

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 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, an outreach of Samaritan's Purse that LUMC has been supporting for quite a few years. It 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 have something special for Christmas.

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.samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/
- **Pay for Shipping:** Go to www.samaritanpurse.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.



Reach

Halloween Hospitality

For the Leesburg Halloween parade on Thursday the 31st, we'll be welcoming passers-by with hot cider and candy through our own Halloween Hospitality!

Needed:

- Four to six of our members who would be willing to pass out candy and serve hot apple cider outside our sanctuary doors, any time from 5:30 to 8 pm on the 31st.
- Help with setup at 5 PM

Come out and help for the whole time or just part of the time as we share our hospitality with trick-or-treaters of all ages, and extend our invitation to LUMC! If you would like to help with this event, please contact [Rev. Wishmyer](#) or the [church office](#).



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.

Great Beginnings Preschool

Happy Fall LUMC friends! October was a busy month at Great Beginnings. We enjoyed a visit with our Favorite Firemen from Station 20, smiled for picture day, and had gorgeous weather for our 4th Annual Recess Run! It was so wonderful to see our GBP Sunbeams, church families, and community members at the race. Thank you for your continued support.

In November, we're excited to concentrate on the following themes: Community helpers, transportation, manners/thankfulness, and color matching/sorting. Our color of the month is brown and our shape is square.

In music, our composer of the month is John Philips Sousa. We'll look at tempo and dynamics using his song "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and introduce crescendo with his "Sempre Fidelis."

In Chapel, we'll follow Joshua and Samuel's journeys. Our November bible verse is found in 1 Chronicles 29:13, "We thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name". GBP's Thanksgiving Feast and Special Chapel are taking place on November 25th and 26th.

Great Beginnings' 5th Annual Vendor Fair is November 13th (6:00-8:30pm) and November 14th (9am-12:30pm) in Asbury Hall. Vendor applications and more information can be found on our website: greatbeginningsleesburg.com. During our fair, local small businesses all gather in one location for your shopping pleasure. Tackle that holiday to-do list and maybe find something special for yourself!

We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!
Blessings,

Heather Gonzalez, Preschool Director
greatbeginningsleesburg@gmail.com



Great Beginnings Preschool 5th Annual

VENDOR FAIR

Wednesday Evening:
Nov 13, 6-8:30 pm

Thursday Morning:
Nov 14, 9 am-12:30 pm

Get your holiday shopping done early • Support local small businesses

Arts, crafts, home décor, skin care products, and much more!

Steward

Our Way Forward Together: Preparing for General Conference, 2020

SAVE THE DATES: January 26, February 9, May 31

Many are aware that the United Methodist General Conference meets next May, 2020, and will once again take up the issues of Lesbian and Gay sexuality and inclusion, along with how the United Methodist Church will move forward. United Methodists worldwide hold differing opinions on the issues of gay/heterosexual marriage, ordination, and what local churches/clergy can and cannot do with respect to celebrating gay marriage. No one can predict what the outcome will be of these deliberations. For those who are not aware, General Conference that meets every four years, is the official voice of United Methodism, establishing mission, priorities, processes, and parameters of our ministry together worldwide.

In order to prepare for what may happen at General Conference, we will be continuing our series of meetings over the past 15 months with a town hall conversation with two Virginia Conference clergy who are or have been delegates to General Conference; followed by a time for theological reflection and discussion. Our two presenters for the town hall each represent a different perspective on the issues, and we have asked them to share 1) what they anticipate and expect, leading up to the Conference, 2) what we can do to prepare leading up to and following the Conference, and 3) how we can effectively pray.

Last, we'll have a town hall to follow-up General Conference, on Sunday, May 31. We have not confirmed yet, but hope to get our two presenters in January to come back at that time.

Our primary focus through all of these discussions is and will remain, how we can effectively and genuinely “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. The delightful paradox of disciple making is that in the process we, too, undergo transformation as the wind of the Holy Spirit continues to stir – and sometimes stir up.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| January 26: | Town Hall: Preparing for General Conference, 3:00-4:30PM |
| February 9: | Reflection and Discussion on our Beliefs – Theological, Biblical, Cultural... 3:00-4:30PM |
| May 31: | Town Hall: Results of General Conference, TBD |

-Rev. Jim Wishmyer, Our Way Forward Together Task Force



NLI Update:

6 ways to increase the impact of God's higher calling for LUMC

As we breakthrough our first anniversary of celebrating achievements related to our Next Level Innovations initiative, here are several ways we can ALL help keep the momentum going.

Pray. Pray that God will continue to work through LUMC to protect our schools, support people in need of food and housing, be a good neighbor, and help transform lives for Christ, one at a time.

Invite a friend. Share with your friends, coworkers and neighbors the many good things happening at LUMC. Invite them to come be a part of our family. Offer your service to help swing wide the doors of LUMC and welcome Leesburg inside!

Get Social. Be a friend of LUMC on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). Each platform has different purposes, but collectively they have the power to reach people who may not know a lot about our mission. Follow and Like our platforms; share news and inspiration with others. Use them to give people a look at how love is at work in our church family.

Help with our Signature Mission. Roll up your sleeves and cook! Prepare meals for residents of the Loudoun Homeless Services Center. Together we can bring encouragement and greater security and hope to many who are unsure what the future holds for them.

Be and make disciples for Christ. Consider yourself asked! Join a class, volunteer to serve, help with an outreach project, lend your talents and skills to fill a need or jump-start a project.

Lead. Finally, we are looking for new people willing to step up and help lead continuing Next Level Innovations efforts in Hospitality, Outreach, Missional Engagement, and Communications and Technology. Email the [church office](#) or contact [Reverend Heather](#) or [Pastor Jim](#) to learn more.



Steward

Teach Your Children Well

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month marked the signing of the armistice to end what was then called, “The Great War”, and which would later become known as WW1, in 1918. One year later, President Wilson declared the day Armistice Day, and veterans of the war were remembered and honored. They marched in hometown parades and were honored with speeches by local and national politicians. In 1938, Armistice Day was voted a national holiday, and then in 1971 the name was changed to Veterans Day, honoring veterans of all wars and those who have served in peacetime.

In every church I have served, I have been privileged to minister among men and women who have served our country in our Armed Services. They taught me to not only appreciate, but also to cherish this day (and Memorial Day) as a way of honoring those who have served and are serving, and to honor their families for the sacrifices they make. Over the years, I have heard about, read, and participated in a variety of ways to observe this holy-day. I commend them to you and your family.

1) Pray

Pause for a moment at 11 am on November 11, Veterans Day (Monday this year) to consider those who have served and silently thank them for their willingness to serve, protect, and uphold our Constitutional freedoms.

2) Hug a vet

It may sound trite to some, but a genuine hug conveys a depth of appreciation and affection. And, for those of us fortunate enough to have a veteran at home or in your family, hug them tightly and thank them for their daily sacrifice and service to our country.

3) Celebrate

Support the businesses that support our military. Many restaurants and stores offer promotions on Veterans Day to military members and their families. Take your vet to lunch or, if you're not military, simply show your support for our troops by patronizing one of the many participating vendors.

4) Connect

Reach out to veterans and their families in our church and community. Remember those who have shared in our struggles, our joys, and our sorrows. Call up a service member and/or spouse and let them know they are in your thoughts and prayers.

(Continued on page 19)



Teach Your Children Well (continued)

(Continued from page 18)

5) Honor those we've lost; those who were wounded

We've all been touched by the loss of a friend or loved one in the military. Take the time to honor especially these veterans of war who've fought for our country and who've made the ultimate sacrifice; as well as our "Wounded Warriors". Donate or volunteer your time; for example learn more about Boulder Crest

www.bouldercrestretreat.org

6) Teach

Explain to your children or family members that Veterans Day celebrates all members of the military, those currently serving and those who have served previously, those who have served in times of peace as well as war. This differs from Memorial Day, which is a day to commemorate specifically those who died while serving, especially those who died in combat.

7) Support

Contact our closest Fisher House at Fort Belvoir, BelvoirFisherHouse@gmail.com, the non-profit "home away from home" that provides free lodging to families of military members during hospitalization at major military medical facilities. Get the kids involved and ask if the Fisher House could use any donated goods.-Have your kids select a new toy or other new comfort items to donate. See if they could use some homemade goodies or tabletop decorations, or even fresh flowers to brighten someone's day. Show your children that they're never too little to help others.

8) Learn

Visit one of our national cemeteries (Arlington, Quantico) and ask to place flags at the headstones; or join with helping the Rotary Clubs in their effort to do so.

9) Participate in community observance

Come out for our Leesburg community's Veterans Day commemoration at The Marshall House, 312 E Market Street, at 10:30 AM, Monday, November 11. Make this event a family tradition.

10) Remember all year

We are fortunate to have a day that provides a national platform through which to show our appreciation for our veterans. But a simple "thank you" at any time during the year is a great way to show appreciation for all our military members past and present for the service they provide every day.

Veterans Day is the opportunity to give recognition and honor to all who serve and have served. It is with great appreciation that I pray God's blessing on all of our veterans and their families, not just today, but every day!

Grace and peace, Rev. Jim Wishmyer

(source: <https://www.militaryspouse.com/military-life/10-meaningful-ways-to-celebrate-and-honor-veterans-day/>)

Veterans Recognition on Nov 10th

LUMC veterans will be listed in the Nov 10th bulletin. If you are new here or haven't previously shared your information, please [contact the church office](#) by Nov 6 with your name, service branch, and years you served (are serving).

**Leesburg United Methodist
Church**

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The December Newsletter will be published near the beginning of December. To ensure your item gets in, please submit by 9 am on Monday, Nov 18th. Thank you!



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



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.