

# THE MESSENGER

The newsletter of Leesburg United Methodist Church

## March 2020

Volume 33—Issue 2 (published 2/28/20)



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## Christian Formation: STEAM on Sundays

### Making church more engaging, purposeful, and relevant

You might have noticed that our attendance and participation levels have been declining over the past several years, particularly among children and youth (and their families).

#### What's going on?

There are a lot of things going on, but there's a little secret that we don't always like to talk about: church can be boring (shhh... don't tell anyone).

What's the difference between when we were kids and today? There are other options on Sunday—more engaging, purposeful, and seemingly more relevant options. Going to church is not going to help kids get into college.

#### So, how do we make church more engaging, purposeful, and relevant?

*Imagine* kids coming and exploring Bible stories through robotics. Imagine that instead of putting on a little skit, they create a stop-animation video or construct the village of Capernaum from all sorts of odds and ends over several weeks.

*Imagine* kids wanting to come to Sunday school and gaining a deeper understanding of the stories and traditions than word search puzzles could ever provide.

*Imagine* kids telling their friends that Sunday school is cutting edge and the best part of their week. Imagine kids recruiting friends to come and work on projects with them.

*Consider* that this approach is no more expensive to maintain than buying the printed curriculum packets that end up in the trash.

*Imagine* reaching kids through summer camps that prepare them for college while they learn the classic Bible stories and church traditions.

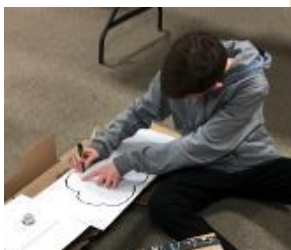
#### Are you excited for the possibilities?

Do you have ideas to share? Or supplies to donate (see the following page)?

Can you help once a month? **We need hall monitors:** adults who can provide extra supervision so our teachers can offer more personalized coaching. 9:35-10:50 on the third floor of the Education Building. Especially on Easter Sunday.

Our plan is to start small in March and build to Easter, then experiment over the summer with full implementation in the Fall.

Please contact [Angela Becek](#) if you'd like to join the team (no meetings necessary).



#### If you're unfamiliar with STEAM and Project Based Learning, check out these links:

<http://www.makerspaceforeducation.com/>

<https://education.cu-portland.edu/blog/leaders-link/steam-shapes-student-thinking/>

<https://ideas.demco.com/blog/create-amazing-low-tech-library-makerspace-easy-ideas/>

STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. The end results are students who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process. These are the innovators, educators, leaders, and learners of the 21st century!

(<http://www.saintlukeitasca.org/steam-lab>)



Straws  
 Pipe Cleaners  
 Pasta  
 Tape (All Types!)  
 Glue (All Types!)  
 PVC Piping  
 Cardboard Boxes  
 Office Supplies  
 Rubber Bands  
 Marbles/Balls  
 Paper (All Types!)  
 Toilet Paper/Paper Towel Tubes  
 Legos/Building Toys  
 Pencils/Pens/Markers  
 Magazines and Newspapers  
 String or Rope or Twine  
 Marshmallows  
 Toothpicks  
 Matchbox Cars  
 Popsicle Sticks  
 Wiring  
 Fabric  
 Bubble Wrap  
 Corks  
 Tools  
 Hot Glue Gun & Glue Sticks  
 Soldering Irons  
 Batteries  
 Aluminum Foil  
 Plastic Wrap  
 Sewing Machine  
 Storage Containers  
 Label Maker  
 Craft Supplies  
 Sewing Supplies  
 Building Supplies  
 Paint (All Types!)  
 Clay/Play Dough  
 Recyclables (Cans, Bottles, etc.)  
 Electronic Parts  
 Household Goods  
 Shoe Boxes/Cereal Boxes

**Supply list—if you have lying around or can pick up when you're out and about.**

**Order from our [Amazon Wish List](#) and items will be shipped directly to church**



**Youth using their creativity to share the story of David & Goliath**



## **EASTER SUNDAY HALL MONITORS NEEDED**

**9:35–10:50**

**Third Floor of Education Building**

Adults to provide extra supervision so our teachers can offer more personalized coaching.

Come early for 11:00 and help out.

Contact [Angela Becek](#)

## LUMW on Valentine's Day

### Leesburg United Methodist Women Honor Inova Loudoun Pediatrics and Observations Units on Valentine's Day!

What started as a morale builder for INOVA hospital staff, has continued for over 20 years with the Leesburg UMW circles. Our annual Valentine's Day gift of cookies, fruit, healthy snacks, teas, cocoa, and more, on is a small way to show the love of Christ to those who take such good care of all residents of our community.

The following note is from the Inova Chaplaincy Manager, who chose the units to be honored:

Dear Betsy,

I want to thank you and the Leesburg United Methodist Women for the loving and kind remembrance of our observation and pediatric nurses on Valentine's Day. You made a great impact upon the nursing staff with all of the treats, and it is a wonderful legacy that you continue each year. It is acts of love and kindness such as these that truly put Christ in the community at large, and your women's group should be commended for their deeply appreciated ministry here at the hospital. I hope you all will join us on March 28 for our Community Open House to celebrate the new patient tower. It will be open from 10 to 2 pm that Saturday.

God bless you!

*Debbie*

Deborah Carlton, BCC, MDiv, DMin

Chaplaincy Manager, Chaplaincy Services, Inova Loudoun Hospital

A special thanks to the members of the LUMW who support our Valentine's Day ministry! Also, a special thanks to Sheree O'Neil, pediatric nurse, who delivered treats with us, and gave us a short tour of the amazing pediatric unit! We are blessed to have such loving and caring professionals, in such a wonderful hospital close to our home.

Mark your calendar for the Inova Community Open House on March 28, 10 to 2 pm; all are invited.

**Want to be part of this sort of project? Check out the United Methodist Women's page on our website for how to get involved and join a circle: <https://leesburgumc.org/umw/>**



## VBS 2020: Knights of North Castle

Venture Into A Frozen Land In Search Of The King's Mighty Armor

**June 22-26, 9 am—Noon**

**Registration Opens February 1**

North Castle is hidden in a frozen land. The King's valiant knights are on a quest in search of the King's Armor. But the armor isn't what they think it is.

Kids will have a blast as they explore through science, arts, and play how God's armor keeps us strong. Snack is provided each day (we are a nut free camp). Kids must be 4 by 9/30/20 and fully potty-trained.

Super Early Bird Pricing: \$30 through February 29

Early Bird \$37 through March 31

Regular Price \$45 through April 30

Late Registration \$50 through May 31

[Register Here](#)

<https://leesburgumc.org/event/1713892-2020-06-22-vbs-knights-of-north-castle/>



### Join a Small Group

**Our on-going groups; contact the church office or check the Weekly Info for more information.**

#### ON SUNDAYS:

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

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

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

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

#### WEDNESDAYS:

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

#### THURSDAYS:

**9:30 am Women's Study Group**—AG1; Facilitator: Sharon Reith

#### FRIDAYS:

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





BACKPACK BUDDIES

## Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies will meeting on **March 1 after the 8:30 am service in Wesley Hall** to fill 240 bags of food for the Catoctin Elementary School children. **Everyone** is invited to come and join us. These bags of food will be given weekly to the students in need to provide them with breakfast, lunch and dinner over the weekend.

The Backpack Buddies program will continue to meet on the first Sunday in April and May after the 8:30 am service in Wesley Hall (unless otherwise noted) to pack bags of food. Your help with this Mission is greatly appreciated!

**A little history of the program:** the Backpack Buddies Program was started in Loudoun County in 2011 by Galilee UMC to help feed the local elementary school children who are part of the reduced or free lunch program and who have limited availability for food over the weekends. Our church joined the program in 2012 as an ongoing Missions program to help provide meals for these children.

### How You Can Help

There are several ways you can help support the Backpack Buddies program:

1) With a monetary donation (be sure to write “Backpack Buddies” on the check memo line or church giving envelope).

2) Donate food items such as:

- |                                 |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| individual cups of Mac N Cheese | Ramen noodle cups               | Chef Boyardee Ravioli |
| granola bars (without nuts)     | Fruit cups                      | cheese crackers       |
| cereal (individual size boxes)  | Applesauce cups                 | 1 lb bag dry beans    |
| instant oatmeal                 | shelf milk (white or chocolate) | 1 lb bag of rice      |
|                                 | juice boxes                     |                       |

*(Please place items on the shelves in the Missions Room.)*

3) Donate your time to help fill the backpacks. It is a great time to get to visit with members who attend other services, it is lots of fun, and it is a wonderful way to help serve our children in our community – and best of all, you don’t need to sign up – just show up and bring the kids.

If you have any questions please contact Barbara Luna at [blunalsbrg@aol.com](mailto:blunalsbrg@aol.com).

*~ The Backpack Buddies Team*

## 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/](http://www.facebook.com/LeesburgUMC/)



## Lent and Easter Special Offering

This year, half of our special Lent and Easter Offering will go to Loudoun Homeless Services Center (LUMC's Signature Mission) and half to missionary support. Here's a little information about each.

### **Loudoun Homeless Services Center**

The Loudoun Homeless Services Center (LHSC) is a multifaceted program that provides extensive services to prevent, support and help end homelessness within Loudoun and surrounding counties. The Loudoun Homeless Services Center is a program operated by Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas and Loudoun County Family Services. The primary goals are to assist households from homelessness to permanent housing, and prevent at-risk households from becoming homeless. The program staff utilize evidence based practices such as trauma informed care, motivational interviewing, housing first approaches, and low barrier programming to motivate, empower and support households experiencing homelessness.

### **Missionaries**

Delbert and Sandy Groves are a United Methodist missionary couple with the General Board of Global Ministries based in Kitwe, Zambia and serve at the New Life Center. The center, established in 2001 through Delbert and Sandy's efforts, has grown into a resource for the young United Methodist Provisional Conference of Zambia. It has numerous outreach ministries, including New Life Press, health education, PET Zambia (handicap bikes for mobility), a learning and computer lab, English instruction, instruction in new church construction, and other training ministries. Additional information is available online at [www.NewLifeZambia.com](http://www.NewLifeZambia.com). The couple also hosts volunteer-in-mission work teams.



Dan and Kaylynn Mills work with the Pacific Islands Regional Team based in Auckland, New Zealand. Dan and Kaylynn are aunt and uncle to Sean Daugherty (a member of LUMC).

Their job is to give direction & focus to their Papua New Guinea ministry (as acting National Directors) — encouraging, advising, training, and mentoring the staff (and key volunteers). They do this through visits and weekly phone calls from New Zealand. For the past 28 years, they've been working in the Pacific Islands; living in Palau, Guam, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands, and for the past 14 years, in New Zealand. Papua New Guinea has over 830 different languages (and cultures), and it's a huge challenge to reach every people-group. Their strategy is to work on the University campus, especially the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) in Port Moresby. The university acts like a magnet drawing the best & brightest from every people group in the country (at least 836) using one language, English. For more information you can visit <https://www.gcx.org/mills/>



## Loudoun Homeless Services Center: Our Signature Mission

### Dinners for Shelter

If you would like to participate as an individual or family, please consider signing up for one of the following dates: Thurs March 19th, 7:30-9pm or Wed. May 13th, 5:30-7pm. You will not be the only one providing and serving food. Please sign up by contacting Margrit Snyder at 703-777-2845 or e-mail [missions@leesburgumc.org](mailto:missions@leesburgumc.org).



### Dinner for Shelter Residents

Leesburg UMC will provide and serve a hot meal for homeless shelter residents on the second Wednesday of the month. Sign up through Sign-up Genius by scanning the QR code or by going through the church website ([www.leesburgumc.org/article/loudoun-homeless-services-center/](http://www.leesburgumc.org/article/loudoun-homeless-services-center/)). If your group would like to serve more often, you can contact Linda Kimble (703-771-5429) to see if other dates are available to serve.

### Lunch bags for Shelter Residents

LHSC provides lunch bags for the people using the Cold Weather Shelter, about 15-25 people. If you or your group would like to provide sandwiches, fruit cups, granola bars, 4oz water bottles, please contact Linda Kimble at 703-771-5429.

If you have questions, please contact Margrit Snyder at 703-777-2845 or [missions@leesburgumc.org](mailto:missions@leesburgumc.org).

## Keeping Up with the Congregation

### Condolences

Please pray God's comforting grace for:

- The Ruggles family. Susan's dad passed away on February 18.
- The Thorne family. Melissa's dad, Woodrow Williams, passed away on February 1.
- The Megeath family. Jack Bestgen, Mike's brother-in-law, passed away on January 21.



### 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](mailto:office@leesburgumc.org)) or submit a prayer request to [prayerchain@leesburgumc.org](mailto:prayerchain@leesburgumc.org), or use the Prayer Chain form in the "Contact Us" section of our new App. 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](mailto:prayerchain@leesburgumc.org) to be prayed for by our prayer chain members.

### Birthdays

The monthly birthday list is available in Wesley Hall.





## Great Beginnings Preschool

Happy March to all our LUMC friends! We had a fabulous February at GBP! The dentist came to visit during Dental Health Month and we celebrated Valentines Day with our friends. Our Sunbeams participated in our first annual Great Book Pick (GBP) Award—think mock Caldecott Award. We shared four books, read live on Facebook, and our students voted for the winner. Our students also created artwork for the GBP Award itself! We read **The Adventure of Beekle, The Snowy Day, Where the Wild Things Are** and **Extra Yarn**.

March brings Dr. Seuss' birthday and all the fun of St. Patrick's Day. Our color of the month is green; our shape is the diamond. We'll be concentrating on the following additional themes: dinosaurs, color/shape recognition, rhyming, opposites, the zoo, Lent, and Easter.

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be open March 16-20 in Asbury Hall during school hours and Sunday, March 22 in Wesley Hall from 8:30 am-12:30 pm. This year's jungle theme has us saying, "Lions and Tigers and Books OH MY"!

GBP's Spring Fling Events:

- Our Father-Daughter Dance is Sunday, April 19 from 5:30-7 pm in Asbury Hall.
- LEGO Building and Bonding event is Monday, April 20 from 12-2 pm in AG.

Visit our website to purchase tickets for these events: [greatbeginningsleesburg.com](http://greatbeginningsleesburg.com).

Thank you for your continued support of our preschool! We are blessed to be part of the LUMC Family.

Have a wonderful month! Blessings,  
[Heather Gonzalez](mailto:Heather.Gonzalez@leesburgumc.org)  
 Director, Great Beginnings Preschool  
[greatbeginningsleesburg@gmail.com](mailto:greatbeginningsleesburg@gmail.com)



## Prayer Chain Reboot: March 15

Leesburg UMC has a group of people who have committed to praying for our shared prayer needs. If you send a prayer request to [prayerchain@leesburgumc.org](mailto:prayerchain@leesburgumc.org), your prayer request will be forwarded to the prayer chain members for prayer. Over time, however, people move away or change churches or email addresses and the list needs to be refreshed. **Now is that time!**

If you are a current prayer chain member, you should have received an email message asking you to opt-in to remain on the prayer chain distribution. Any current prayer chain recipient who does not respond and ask to remain on the distribution list, will be removed. **If you are not currently on the prayer chain and would like to be, now would be a great time to join**—ask to be added by sending a message to [prayerchain@leesburgumc.org](mailto:prayerchain@leesburgumc.org).

We thank all of our faithful members and friends who pray for the needs of LUMC.



“And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we already possess what we have asked of Him.”  
 1 John 5:15

## Dinner Church During Lent

**Can't make it to church Sunday morning or looking for a fresh expression of church to invite a friend to? Come to Dinner Church this Lent!**



Each Sunday in March, from 5 to 5:50 pm, we'll gather in the AG for Dinner Church, where we'll share a meal, hear scripture, listen to music, engage in conversation, and more. All ages welcome and the food is free (donations accepted).

We'll be ordering food from South Street Under, so we'll need you to [sign up by Noon each Sunday](#). You can use the paper sign-up in Wesley Hall. Otherwise use our mobile app. (In the app, select Forms and scroll down to find "Dinner Church"; use "Add Another Name" to include family members or friends)

## Pillars of Lent—Family Devotional

During the season of Lent, we invite you to share a family devotional adapted from Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home, by Traci Smith, called "Three Pillars of Lent." This is an active/interactive and individually tailored Lenten devotional centered on the three traditional Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting, and Alms-Giving.

For each of the three practices, you decide together as a family, or with a spiritual friend, how you will observe that practice for each of the 40 days of the Lenten season. We'll give you enough guidance and creative suggestions to get started.

Instruction booklets are available at church or [as a PDF on our website](#). For the Alms-giving activity, we have bags of bingo chips available to pick up, or you might use a bag of dried beans.



## New Members Orientation

Our next New Member Orientation 101 and 102, will be March 1 and March 8, from 3:00 to 4:15 pm, in the front room of AldersGate (AG-1). Please contact the church office to sign up and to request childcare.

**Our next New Member and Baptismal Sunday will be March 29.**

Please contact the church office ([office@leesburgumc.org](mailto:office@leesburgumc.org)) and Rev. Wishmyer ([jim@leesburgumc.org](mailto:jim@leesburgumc.org)) to schedule.



## Lent and Easter Worship: “Come to the Table”

Come to the Table! – In scripture, the sharing of a meal was a sign of hospitality, friendship, celebration, and even covenantal relationship. The observance of the Passover meal by the Jewish people exemplified all of these. It also communicated through words and through food the deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

The Mishnah (oral teachings based on the Torah/Law) requires that everyone who participates in the Passover meal see themselves as “one who has come out of Egypt,” i.e., one in need of deliverance from slavery to sin. The early Christian church incorporated this tradition and theme in their shared meals in which sinners and saints were invited to eat together and where they learned about Jesus through their sharing of the gospel story, along with each other’s stories. Long before there were cathedrals there was the Christian community gathered in each other’s homes, sharing a meal, and celebrating the deliverance from sin gained through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Messiah. This was the primary vehicle for the transmission of the gospel and the amazing growth of the early church.

Today, we are recovering this basic practice of sharing our faith by way of a meal, coming to the table invited by Jesus. We’ll come to the table Sunday mornings with a focus on what happened during several meals recorded in the gospel of Matthew, and for our traditional observance of Holy Communion.

We’ll also come to the table Sunday evenings at 5 pm\* for an even more ancient observance of Holy Communion in the context of a shared meal, also looking to the same scripture from Sunday morning. The 5 pm gathering is called “Dinner Church” - see the description on [page 10](#). Dinner Church oriented to those who cannot make it Sunday morning and for those who want to invite their friends to an informal worship experience that incorporates food, music, and conversation; all are welcome!



Date	Theme/topic	Scripture	Specials
Mar 1	“Table of Mercy”	Matthew 9:9-13; 14-17	Holy Communion
Mar 8	“Table of Corruption and Compromise”	Matthew 14:1-12	Holy Communion
Mar 15	“Table of Faith and Healing”	Matthew 15:21-28	Holy Communion
Mar 22	“Table of Grace”	Matthew 22:1-14	Holy Communion
Mar 29	“Table of Betrayal and Forgiveness”	Matthew 26:20-30	Holy Communion; New Member Sunday; Sacrament of Baptism
Apr 5	Palm Sunday; “Time for Turning the Tables”	Matthew 21:1-15	Holy Communion
Apr 9—Maundy Thursday    Apr 10—Good Friday			
Apr 12	Easter; “The Great Reversal”	Matthew 28:1-10	Holy Communion; SonRise Worship at Ida Lee

## 2020 General Conference Update

### From Pastor Jim Wishmyer

For Lent, I am following the daily word and scripture readings associated with the prayer portion of the Three Pillars of Lent devotional. In addition to fasting and almsgiving, I am including daily prayers we began last year for our church, and for the United Methodist Church, to experience spiritual renewal, revival, and growth in discipleship. Each day, I send a short prayer focus (during Lent based on Three Pillars) for the day to many of our leaders and others who have signed up to pray daily. We are praying through to Easter and Resurrection.

In addition, I am praying daily for our General Conference and I am including specifically our 22 delegates from Virginia: 11 clergy and 11 laity. Here are their names.



#### **General Conference Elected Clergy:**

Tom Berlin  
Lindsey Baynham  
Meredith McNabb  
Rob Vaughn  
Rhonda VanDyke  
Mark Ogren  
Grace Sun-khil Han  
F. Elizabeth Givens  
Jason C. Stanley  
G. Kirk Nave  
Jonathan Page

#### **General Conference Elected Laity:**

Warren Harper  
Martha Stokes  
Shirley Cauffman  
Darlene Amon  
Beth Christian  
Alison Malloy  
Marshall Bailey  
Jill Gaynor  
Joshua Blakely  
Jacob Paysour  
Mark Elder

I invite you to add them to your prayer list during the season of Lent, and then afterward, leading up to and during our 2020 General Conference, May 5 through 15. Thank you!

Finally, several important dates:

- March 2 Winchester District Town Hall with Rev. Tom Berlin  
7 pm, Braddock Street UMC, Winchester, VA
- March 11 Two Perspectives: A Conversation with Revs. Tom Berlin & Keith Boyette  
7 pm, Annandale UMC, Annandale, VA
- March 14 General Conference Delegation from VA – Open Meeting  
9 am to 3 pm, Reveille UMC, Richmond, VA
- May 5-15 General Conference, Minneapolis, MN
- May 26 General Conference Debrief (Clergy)

Please be sure to check these two websites for UM News:

United Methodist News Service – [umnews.org](http://umnews.org)

Legislation and other General Conference news – [resourceumc.org](http://resourceumc.org)

Should you have any questions regarding the 2020 General Conference, please feel free to contact Rev. Heather Wray or me. Thank you for your continued prayers!

## Message from Pastor Jim: Destination: Resurrection!

We are in the season of Lent, with 39 days left to reach our destination – the Resurrection. Each of the gospel writers record different details about that event, yet they all agree on the most important detail: an empty tomb and a resurrected Christ!

During, and in the days following the crucifixion, Jesus' followers were seemingly rudderless. Some were fearful. Some were bold to be near the cross. Some were hesitant, looking on from a distance. On the day of Resurrection, the responses of his followers varied. Some were still bound by their fear. Others were doubtful. Some were oblivious to his presence, not recognizing him. Some fell down and worshiped.

What little we know of the ensuing days reveals that this group of disciples and other followers gradually coalesced into a unified and identifiable community of believers. I can imagine they had many discussions, many questions, and not a few disagreements. Some probably left, although this is not recorded. Yet many continued together, and those who did received a remarkable gift at the feast of Pentecost, that gave them courage, guidance, and clarity to move forward, continuing the message of the kingdom of God come near in Christ; a kingdom opened to all and welcoming any who came repenting, believing, and desiring forgiveness and new life in Christ! All of this took about 50 days, from Easter to Pentecost.

We celebrate Easter this year on April 12; Pentecost arrives on May 31. Fifty days. In between, the United Methodist Church will hold their quadrennial General Conference, May 5–15, a gathering of 862 delegates from United Methodist churches around the world, half clergy and half laity. I find it more than coincidental that this is the “2020” General Conference, and that this conference may well mark a watershed moment in the worldwide Methodist movement begun almost 300 years ago by

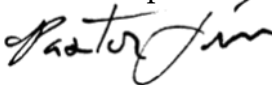
the brothers and Revs. John and Charles Wesley.

I am praying, as many of you are, that those attending this General Conference have 20-20 vision to clearly discern God's purpose for the United Methodist Church with respect to our divided opinions regarding the inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons within and without our churches. We cannot see now what those decisions will be; nor can we fully discern their impact upon our church. We can, however, choose to trust that Jesus meant what he said, “Upon this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). Whether Jesus meant Peter's statement of faith (v.16), or Peter himself, the primary point is that Jesus is the one building. Not us. Not our statements of belief, important as they are. Jesus. We can choose to lean on and lean into his real presence with us via the Holy Spirit: the Comforter, Advocate, Counselor, Spirit-of-truth Jesus promised (John 14, 16).

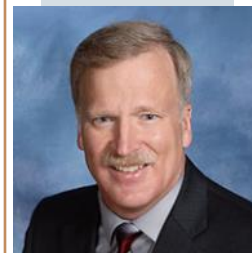
Like Jesus' first followers after the crucifixion and even after Easter, we will experience varied responses and reactions following our 2020 General Conference. Anxiety. Courage. Confusion. Clarity. Disorientation. Doubt. Faith. Hope. All of these are normal and natural reactions to change. Yes, change. It's coming. Like Good Friday. Like Easter! We can choose to focus on fear and death (crucifixion); or we can focus on hope and new life (Easter). I have chosen the latter. I am praying the latter.

Destination: Resurrection!

Grace and peace



Rev. Jim Wishmyer



Rev.  
Jim Wishmyer,  
Pastor



## REACH in Roanoke 2020

**July 11–17: [Register Here](#)**

REACH in Roanoke is a week-long, immersive mission trip for 6th - 12th graders. Youth will have opportunities to serve and make a tangible difference in the community (Roanoke) while growing in their personal discipleship and developing and deepening friendships.

We will leave around 1 pm on Saturday, July 11 and return around 3:30 pm on Friday, July 17. The cost is \$350 per youth (\$150 for adults) and includes rooming, programming, materials, and food. Participants will be lodged at First Christian Church in Roanoke; bring your own cots and bedding (a full list will be provided)



### 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.**



## 2019 Giving Statements

2019 year-end giving statements were emailed the last week of January. For the small number of people without email on file, we mailed paper statements at the same time.

If you haven't received your emailed statement, please check your junk mail folder or spam filter for a message from [noreply@leesburgumc.e360chms.com](mailto:noreply@leesburgumc.e360chms.com) before contacting the church office. Your giving statement will be a PDF attachment to the email.

If you still don't find your statement, just [email linda@leesburgumc.org](mailto:linda@leesburgumc.org) and we will get your statement re-sent within 1-2 business days. Don't wait until the last minute to check for your giving statement!



## Inclement Weather Policy

As winter weather approaches, just a reminder that LUMC will be open for worship on Sundays, regardless of the weather, except in very extreme conditions such as a hurricane, 100-year flood, blinding blizzard conditions, etc..

Always use good judgment and err on the side of safety when inclement weather hits the area. Check the church's website when in doubt.



## 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 next Newsletter will be published near the beginning of April. To ensure your item gets in, please submit by 9 am on Monday, March 23. Thank you!



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

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

### We Now Have an App!

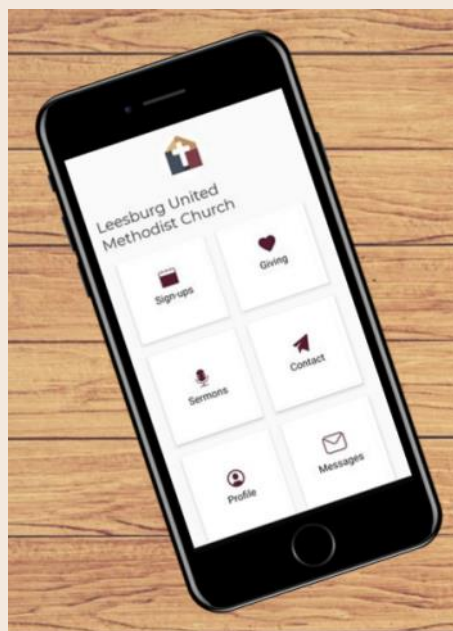
Our new app (available for Android and Apple devices) will help you find event sign-ups, listen to recent sermons, make it easy to give using credit card or direct debit from your bank account, and contact us for general questions or prayer requests.

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

### Text to Give

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

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



Apple:



Android:

