



The Messenger



The newsletter of
Leesburg United
Methodist Church

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A Message from Pastor Jim

Every year of my pastoral ministry, I've had to adjust to the changing date of Easter. Every year. Mid-April, early April, late March. It has not always been easy because of my lingering pre-Christ stubbornness, but in recent years, I have come to appreciate this peculiar feature of the most important day on the Christian Calendar.

First, the changing date of Easter reminds me that the resurrected Christ comes to change me. All of me. He comes to change the world. A church member wrote me a lengthy letter several years ago arguing for the need to "rewrite the Bible so that it reflects our modern mindset and values". His appeal was not simply to bring an up-to-date hermeneutic to our reading and applying of scripture, he advocated a total rewrite. Change God's word to make it more appealing, less demanding. His words evoked a realization that I am – we are – tempted to "re-make God in our image". The small outpost of rebels in my soul still struggles to convince me that I don't need to change. Easter reminds me that I do. In fact I must. Change. I cannot control the resurrected Christ any more than I can control the moving date of the Resurrection. I am the one who must adjust and allow the resurrected Christ to change me.

Second, the changing date of Easter reminds me that I am on a journey with Christ. To journey means to be headed somewhere, with a destination in mind. That destination is clear – the kingdom of heaven. I dare not homestead somewhere short of the goal, no

matter how tempting. I dare not get so set in my ways that I stop growing, learning, or being open to wonder. To be on a journey with Christ is to always be moving spiritually – moving onward, upward, inward, outward, forward. The resurrected Christ is on the move. If I want his dust to cover me¹, I need to stay close and stay connected.

Third, a changing Easter reminds me that God uses others to change me – and uses me to change others. You, too. We are in the great company of Christ-followers all over the world – and all throughout time. This is not, and never can be, a solitary trek. We are built for relationships – for church. Authentic relationships change us; sometimes painfully. But with every splinter from the cross comes a ray of healing and hope through resurrection.

Our journey through Lent points to a destination: Easter. Resurrection. New life. Reconstruction, not remodeling. And as we've been discovering along the way, the resurrected Christ prepares a banquet table for you, me, anyone; wherever we are: in worship, "in the presence of my enemies", in joyful times, in the dark days of grief, in youth, in old age, in our birthing, and in our dying. God's table is set. There's a place for you. The invitation is given.

So, when is Easter next year? I don't know at the moment, but I do know when it is this year – Sunday, April 21. Wherever you are that day, I pray you experience the joy of resurrection! If you are in or near Leesburg, come worship

(Continued on page 17)

Inside this issue:

Connect: God's Invitation; GoodFriday	2
Connect: HolyWeek and Easter	3
Connect: Sundays in Summer	4
Connect: Sundays in Summer: FAQ	5
Connect: Art of Neighboring; Flowers	6
Connect: Praying; House Calls	7
Connect: Artists; Creative Arts; Forever Young	8
Connect: Movie; Comm. hours; Play & Learn; Keeping Up	9
Grow: Library; May Family Events	10
Grow: Adult Groups	11
Grow: Children	12
Grow: Youth Dates	13
Reach: REACH	14
Reach: LUMW	15
Reach: Backpack buddies; LHR	16
Reach: Missionaries	17
Reach: GB Preschool; Breakthrough prayer	18
Steward: General Conference; Consecration Sunday	19
VBS	Back cover

Connect

Worship Theme for Lent and Easter: "God's Invitation"

We continue our series on "God's Invitation." Through the Gospel of Matthew, we hear once again Jesus proclaiming God's invitation and welcome for all to enter the kingdom and to follow him. The sticking point is that he is heading to a cross, where the full meaning of God's invitation and grace will be revealed.



Rev.
Jim Wishmyer,
Pastor

April 7 **Matthew 25:31-46 – God's Invitation: What, Who, Do You See?**
Holy Communion

April 14 **Matthew 21:1-17 – Palm Sunday**

April 18 **Maundy Thursday – Living Last Supper, 7:30 pm**
Join us for this special presentation of the story of the Last Supper of Jesus and his Disciples. We will also celebrate Holy Communion together.

April 19: **Good Friday – The Way of the Cross, 6:00 pm**
Beginning at Leesburg Presbyterian Church, the walking procession will make seven stops in the downtown area, ending at LUMC.

April 21 **Matthew 28:1-10 – Easter Sunday, Holy Communion**
6:30 am: SONRise at Ida Lee Gazebo
Parking: do not park on the shoulder of Ida Lee Drive. Park in any of the Ida Lee lots, or in the Event Parking field off of North King Street.
8:30, 9:45, and 11 am: Christ Is Risen! Worship at LUMC
*** Flowering the Cross: please bring fresh flowers to decorate our outdoor cross on Easter morning.**

See "Worship After Easter" on Page 6 the rest of April.

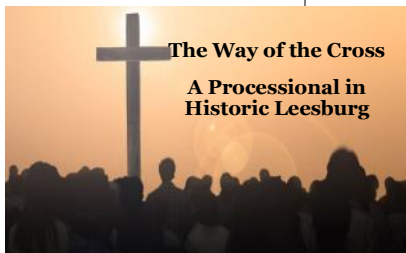
The Way of the Cross: Good Friday, April 19th

Walking Route to 7 Stations of the Cross, 6-7:30 PM

- Station 1 – Leesburg Presbyterian Church 207 West Market Street
- Station 2 – Old Stone Church Cemetery, Corner of Cornwall & Liberty Streets, NW
- Station 3 – St. James Episcopal Church, 14 Cornwall Street, NW
- Station 4 – Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 12 North Street, NE
- Station 5 – Leesburg Town Green, 25 West Market Street
- Station 6 – Leesburg United Methodist Church, 107 West Market Street

All are welcome to walk the entire route or join us at any Station. Parking is available at Leesburg Presbyterian Church.

Sponsored by: Leesburg Presbyterian Church, Leesburg United Methodist Church, Christ Episcopal Church, Lucketts, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, St. James Episcopal Church, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, More information: call 703-777-4163



Connect

Page 3

Holy Week:




MAUNDY THURSDAY | APRIL 18 | 7:30PM

Living Last Supper

Experience the Last Supper and celebrate Holy Communion

LEESBURG UMC | 107 W MARKET



GOOD FRIDAY | APRIL 19 | 6:00PM

Way of the Cross

Multi-church processional through downtown Leesburg

LEESBURG PRESBYTERIAN | 207 W MARKET

Easter Worship:



EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 21 | 6:30AM

SONrise Service

Celebrate the Resurrection at day break at Ida Lee Gazebo

WWW.LEESBURGUMC.ORG



EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 21

Easter Worship

Celebrate our Risen Lord in the LUMC sanctuary

Traditional: 8:30 am & 11 am | Contemporary: 9:45 am

Easter Fun:



EASTER SUNDAY

FLOWER THE CROSS

Bring fresh flowers to adorn the cross and turn it from a symbol of death to one of life.



EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 21 | 11 AM

Egg Hunt

At the Old Stone Church site after 9:45 am worship
Cornwall & Liberty Sts NW, 1 block north of LUMC

Connect

“Sundays in Summer,” One Worship Service Together, 9:30 am

“Sundays in Summer” is our Summer worship schedule that will consist of a single service at 9:30 am from June 16th through September 1st. This schedule was developed in light of our mission and vision as a church, and responding to the felt and real needs of our church family.

Its purpose: **To grow together through the experience of community in worship to be the Church.**

Reasons for the Change

- Many have expressed the desire to get to know others in our church family who worship at different times.
- Sunday morning is the one time when the majority of our church family come together for worship, serving, fellowship and spiritual growth.
- During the summer months, attendance dips and the diminished presence of others worshipers affects our experience of worship. Gathering all together creates a more energetic atmosphere of worship.
- Many miss being together for intergenerational worship, for at least part of the service.
- Many feel the need to build deeper relationship with others that go beyond mere acquaintance.

Key Considerations

Reaching new people: Inviting people to a new experience of Sunday mornings at LUMC where the presence of more people in worship together creates an energy and greater felt presence of God. In contrast to our typical Sunday worship, guests will see children, youth and adults all worshipping together.

Making disciples: We believe that discipleship is grounded in relationship. We will sharpen our focus on this aspect of our vision and being more intentional about getting to know one another. Clergy and Lay staff will have the potential to teach/lead during the discipleship time, and thus be in conversation with discussion groups. They will get to build relationships also!

Moving toward our Vision: It will focus us on being “One with Each Other”, with an emphasis on what it means to be the church, and on spiritual gifts. We will also join in community service two times (June 16th and Sept 1st)

Experiencing community in worship in ways that help us be the Church: Trust the staff and ministry teams to plan, as we always do, and that they will take all legitimate concerns into consideration. Any and all are welcome to be part of our ministry teams that are doing this planning!



Sundays in Summer – Morning Schedule

8:00am	Church open
8:30am	Music rehearsals; sanctuary prep; etc.
9:00am	Possible small group/Adult Sunday School meeting Hospitality Team prepares; coffee available for early comers
9:15am	Sanctuary clear and available for prayer
9:30am	Worship Service begins Children will be dismissed before the sermon
10:30am	Worship ends; Fellowship/coffee hour in Wesley Hall
10:45am	Discussion/Disciple Groups start Fellowship continues in Wesley for those not in a group, clean up when people disperse naturally
12:00pm	Groups should be finished; Church closed

Sundays In Summer: FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is “Sundays In Summer”?

It is a plan to bring those who worship in our four worship services together in one worship service each of the Sundays In Summer, from 9:30 to 10:30 AM. This will be followed by a time of fellowship and then small groups/Sunday school for children, youth, and adults.

2. Why are we doing this?

The purpose behind Sundays in Summer is to help the members of LUMC to “Grow together through the experience of community in worship to be ‘The Church’ together.” We believe that by bringing our entire church family together for worship, this will make it easier to create opportunities to grow and strengthen relationships with one another.

3. When does this start and end?

Sundays in Summer will begin June 16th and continue through September 1st. Our regular Sunday morning schedule will resume on September 8th.

4. What style of worship will be used?

Yes! That is to say, we will have a variety of music. Some weeks we will have all traditional worship, other weeks will be all contemporary worship. Some Sundays we will have a blend of both or perhaps something new. But all of our worship will be carefully and prayerfully planned to help us experience the presence of God as we sing, pray, speak, listen, and share together.

5. Will children and youth be with adults in worship?

Everyone will begin in worship together. During the sermon time, those children who would like to, may be given the option to leave adult worship for a children’s activity. Our youth may also have a youth option as well. This is still being worked out. Nursery-aged children can always be dropped off in the nursery before worship, or at any time during worship.

6. How will this affect Sunday school & Disciple Groups?

Adult Sunday school classes and disciple groups can choose to meet either before or after worship, as the group decides. We will also have a couple of summertime “Grow and Go” options lead by our clergy who are looking forward to participating in this way on Sunday mornings.



Stay tuned for more FAQs to come:

- Will there be enough handicap parking?
- Will I be able to find a place to park since we’re all coming at the same time?
- What if my work schedule means I’ll now miss Sunday worship?
- Can we try this just for a month? Or can we just do this the first Sunday in July, August, and September?
- What happens if either I cannot come at 9:30, or I choose not to come because it is too much of a change?

Connect

Worship after Easter: "The Art of Neighboring"

When Jesus was asked to sum up the Torah (The Law) into one command, he said to love God with everything we have and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We have turned this foundational concept of loving our neighbors into a nice saying. But what did Jesus mean when he said, "and you shall love your neighbor as yourself"? Where did he get this idea from, anyway? We must also ask, "Can we take Jesus' command literally?" And, what might happen in our community, our schools, our places of work, our families, and our church, if all of us did?

When Jesus was asked to limit the concept of neighbor, he instead expanded it to include even a despised enemy of the Jews ("a Samaritan" - Luke 10:25-37). Our mission, should we choose to accept it, is to step out of our comfort zones, expand our understanding of "who is my neighbor?", learn more fully what Jesus' command means for us today, and put it into practice. Those who do will undergo change; and you will be an active partner with Christ in helping to change the world. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." This was not a suggestion.

April 28 – Art of Neighboring #1 – "He Arose! Wonderful! So What's Next?"

Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 17:22-34

The call to neighboring is really quite simple. Taking this seriously will change your life and transform our community.

May 5 – Art of Neighboring #2 – "Confessions of an ADD Christian"

Mark 5:21-43, Holy Communion

In order to take God's call seriously, we must create space in our lives to build relationships with those who live near us.

(series continues through May and June)

Easter Flowers

The Altar Guild is planning flowers to adorn the church for the Easter Season. If you wish to make a contribution to this project in honor or in memory of a loved one, each will be listed in the church bulletin on Easter Sunday. Use the form below and deposit in the Altar Guild mail box no later than Sunday, April 14th. Checks should be payable to "LUMC".

All information will appear in the bulletin as you word it on this form.

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Your Name: _____ Telephone: _____



Praying for One Another - Lent, 2019

There is still time to join in prayer for the remainder of Lent!

This year during Lent, will you commit with me to pray daily for at least five other members of our church family - including children, youth, and non-members who are active? Through scripture readings, daily reflections, and prayer promptings, you will find yourself growing in your praying, AND as a disciple in specific ways: in **compassion**; **respect** for others; **thoughtfulness** or mindfulness; **mutuality**; **personal awareness**; **self-discipline**; **determination**; and **patience**. These are “**Eight Walks**” through which Christ works to change us.

HERE'S HOW

Choose a pack of envelopes and cards with the names of 5 (or more) individuals who are part of our church family*. Pick up a daily prayer guide, Praying for One Another. Pray daily for those named on the cards; use the blank card for a friend or neighbor you would like to invite to church for Easter.

During Holy Week, the final week of Lent, write a short note on the cards provided to each person for whom you've been praying, and mail it to them.

My prayer – and the goal of this spiritual discipline – is **to have everyone in our church family praying daily, and everyone in our church family prayed for daily.**

(cards and prayer guides are available in the sanctuary and at the Just Ask Desk. You may join this spiritual discipline at any point during Lent.)*

House Calls and Holy Communion—On-Going

Each week during Lent, a member of our pastoral staff or our Director of Discipleship will be available to visit with you in your home. Our desire is simply this: to connect with the families/individual members of our church family in “your space”; to pray together; and to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion with you.

Rev. Wishmyer, Rev. Wray, Wayne Reynolds (Certified Lay Minister), and Angela Becsek (Director of Discipleship Ministries), have blocked off time for three “home visits” each, each week, in addition to regular responsibilities, as part of our spiritual discipline for Lent.

Each visit will be 45-55 minutes in length, and can include just you, or also extended family members you would like to invite, or another family/couple/individual you would like to include. The format will be simple: Introductions as needed, brief devotional, listening and sharing family concerns, prayer, Holy Communion, blessing of the home.

We are preparing a schedule that will show available time slots throughout the Lenten season, and you are invited to sign up for one based on the time that best suits you and your family. The days and times available will vary some week to week.



Connect

Calling All Artists!



During our series after Easter, "The Art of Neighboring," the worship team would like to add depth to our worship by incorporating art created by LUMC members into our theme. If you have created or would be interested in creating a work of art inspired by the theme of "Neighboring" that we could display during our worship, please contact Rebekah at worship@leesburgumc.org.

Creative Arts Group

If you are a creator of art, join our new Creative Arts Group. Connecting to our creative selves in an evermore chaotic world, the LUMC Creative Arts Group is a hub of free form inspiring discussion. For info contact Christy Tallamy: christylanderstallamy@gmail.com

Next Gathering:

April 28th , 2:00-3:00 pm
At the home of Christy Tallamy: 1712
Tomworth Ct, NE Leesburg



"Forever Young" Senior's Ministry—Coming Soon

From our Next Level Innovations report (section 4, item 4d):

"Develop a new senior's program. Its focus should be in fellowship as well as missions and discipleship. It became clear to us there is untapped potential in the seniors of this community to not only enjoy each other's company, but to work in mission and discipleship areas that can connect the generations."

In response to this NLI initiative, we assembled a team led by Wayne Reynolds that has begun planning for this ministry. They have named this new ministry "Forever Young," reflecting the reality that not only seniors but adults of all ages have experienced: that of feeling younger on the inside!

**Forever Young is coming soon—
watch for it!**



Connect

Page 9

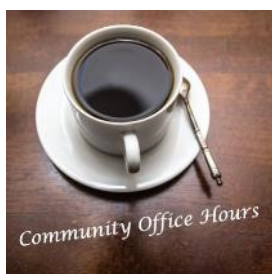
Movie Fellowship— April 7th, 12:30 pm

Come one, come all to a movie fellowship event!

Join us after church on Sunday, April 7th at 12:30 in Aldergate to watch “Won’t You Be My Neighbor”, a documentary about the life of Fred Rogers of “Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood”. We will be serving soups and salad and collecting donations to support the youth summer mission trip, REACH.



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/

Play & Learn



Parents and their little ones (infants through 5 years) are invited to be a part of the highly energetic Play and Learn Group. Any family is welcome to attend, so feel free to bring a friend.

We meet on Tuesdays, 9:15— 10:30 am in Asbury Hall. The group’s purpose is to create a space where both children and adults can encourage one another, learn, grow, and build friendships, .

If you have any questions please email, Rev. Wray at heather.wray@leesburgumc.org

NOTE: There will be no Play and Learn on April 2nd or April 16th.

Keeping Up with the Congregation

Condolences

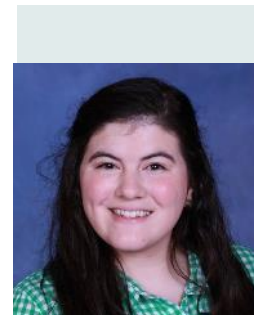
... to Betsy Creamer and her family on the passing of her sister, Helen Ann Cook, on Friday, March 22nd. Please pray for Betsy and her family as they mourn this loss.

New Members

We’ve had no new members in the last month. Watch the Weekly Info for information on upcoming membership class opportunities.

April Birthdays

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



*Rev Heather Wray,
Director of
Connect Ministries*

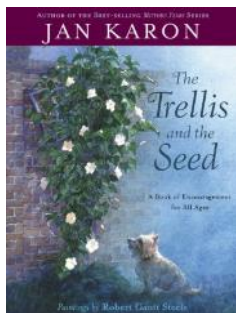


Grow

From the Library

The Trellis and the Seed and Bathed in Prayer

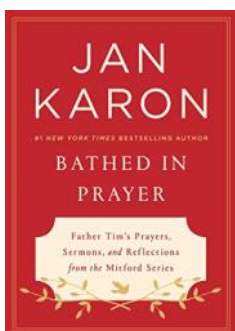
In spite of our recent mercurial weather, where one enjoyed the 70's, perhaps followed by temperatures low enough to produce snow and ice, our thoughts are now turning to the earth...to planting. Linda Robey, a Master Gardener, has found a book in our library that opens the gardening door --The Trellis and the Seed, A Book of Encouragement for All Ages. Author, Jan Karon, writes about the beauty that can be found in everyday miracles. It is also a parable "about the rewards that come from being a little bit different from everyone else."



Linda writes..... "In the library on the shelf with the Jan Karon books is a book by her called The Trellis and the Seed. This is a great book for anyone that gardens and particularly if they garden with children. The story walks one through the process of a small seed becoming a large flowering vine. This particular seed is for a moonflower vine.

I have grown moonflowers for a number of years. The buds (which look like unicorn horns) unfurl in the late afternoon and become beautiful white flowers. Several days after 9-11, I watched as a special bud slowly unwrapped to become a lovely white flower. I felt as though God was telling me we would somehow heal from this terrible disaster.

This is a perfect book to use when introducing children to the magic of a seed becoming a flower. I think you will enjoy the beautiful illustrations." (Note: The moonflower photos are from the Robey's garden.)



Bathed In Prayer, Father Tim's Prayers, Sermons, and Reflections from the Mitford Series. Author: Jan Karon. The LUMC library presently has nineteen of Karon's books. Her latest is quietly revealing as she writes about her personal faith journey during which time she learned to bathe her work in prayer. She suggests that we bathe our work and our enemies in prayer. For twenty-one years I have been reading about the fictitious Father Tim Kavanagh, the sixty- something Episcopal rector who eventually retired from The Lord's Chapel in a small village in the mountains of North Carolina. This petite red book gathers some of the favorite Mitford moments in Karon's books, offering the reader Christmas sermons, marriage ceremonies, humble prayers, funerals and just plain life events. It's soul-soothing and a spirit-lifter.

Amber King, Library Team

Save the Date: Family Fun Events Coming in May

LUMC's Families Gather Groups and Great Beginnings Preschool will host two fun family events at LUMC this spring for young kids and their parents:

Ties and Tiaras Dance—Sunday, May 19 from 5-7 pm in Asbury Hall
Building and Bonding Night Out—Thursday, May 16 from 5:30-7:30 pm
in Aldersgate

Details to come!

Grow



Angela Becek,
Director of
Discipleship
Ministries

Adult Small Groups

Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week (Sundays at 6 pm in Wesley Hall)

Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward.

Finding I Am (Thursdays at 9:30 am in Wesley Hall)

What is the deep cry of your heart? The ache in your soul that keeps you up at night? The prayer you keep repeating? Jesus not only cares about this deep, spiritual wrestling, but He also wants to step in and see you through it.



<https://leesburgumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/215040>

Following the Narrative Lectionary Reading Plan (11 am in AG or Blue Room)

There are two groups that are following the reading plan which accompanies the sermons series as it follows God's Story of redemption in Scripture. Through Easter, these groups will be focused on the Gospel According to Matthew. The group in the AG is facilitated by Carl Snyder and Steve Chapin. The Blue Room group is facilitated by Sue Bourke and Sharon Reith. Materials are free; registration helps leaders know to expect you and prepare materials.



<https://leesburgumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/188650>

Adult Sunday School (9:45 am in the AG)

This group is facilitated by Kim Kadesch and will be studying the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.



<https://leesburgumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/188680>

Parlor Group (9:45 am in the Parlor)

This group is facilitated by David Graves and Bryan Talbot and is managed by Donna Varn. They are continuing with the Ray Vander Laan and supplemental materials. Materials are free, registration helps leaders know to expect you and prepare materials.



<https://leesburgumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/188693>

Grow

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us



Children's Ministry

Visit www.leesburgumc.org/kids
for more information

Sunday School: What We're Doing and How You Can Help

Since the Fall, our kids have been following the same Scripture readings as adult worship, youth worship, and some of our small groups.

We have invested in our children's Sunday school opening time and space by working to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for our kids and their families. We currently have sets designed to help them imagine they are walking in the time of Jesus as they explore the Gospel of Matthew.

As kids arrive on Sunday mornings, we seek to engage them and to promote building relationships with activities such as obstacle courses and group games.

We also have incorporated Backpack Buddies into the Sunday school routine, so that kids are participating in this mission project every month as part of their discipleship experience.

We are often in need of a second pair of hands and eyes, particularly with our K-1st and our 2nd-3rd grade classrooms. Join our team and be part of building up the next generation!

Please contact Angela Becek to get involved!

angela@leesburgumc.org



Youth Key Dates

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

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| April 7 | 9:45 Gallery
6 pm—7:30 Youth Group |
| April 14 | 9:45 Gallery |
| April 21 | Easter! Join worship in the Sanctuary |
| April 28 | 9:45 Gallery |



Love Thy Neighbor

During Lent, our youth focus on more opportunities to practicing loving their neighbors with activities like the 30 Hour Famine and TOP.

During the 30 Hour Famine (March 15-16), our youth spent 24 hours at church gaining new understanding of the hardships that extreme poverty cause millions.

Through Teens Opposing Poverty (TOP) our youth prepare meals and go into DC (March 10th) to distribute bags of food and socks while consciously choosing to acknowledging the humanity of those they serve .



Reach

REACH Roanoke (a.k.a. U-SPY)

July 6– 12

This year, our youth will be participating in REACH Roanoke instead of SPY for their summer mission trip. Our youth who visited REACH in December dubbed it “U-SPY” for Urban SPY. REACH works much more closely with local agencies to connect with the people who most need help in the community. Students will have the opportunity to work on homes, as they did with SPY, but also to work in the homeless shelter, the local food pantry, and the animal shelter. They would also be given the opportunity, if they chose, to run a VBS for the neighborhood kids.

A couple of things that make REACH very different from SPY are:

- It is year-round. They have groups come on weekends that continue the work all year.
- They have a year-round staff which adds continuity and maintains relationships in the community.
- It is in a different building and a different city.
- It is more urban; groups will not have long drives to their work sites.
- They buy abandoned homes, fix them up, work with the bank and community organizations to make sure deserving families are able to purchase the homes.
- Evening programming takes place out in the community

**Please support our Youth and their Mission Trip by:
purchasing subs
on Super Bowl Sunday,
and coming to the
Pancake Supper on March 5.**



Leesburg United Methodist Women

The Leesburg UMW celebrated the United Methodist Women's 150th birthday with an international brunch on Saturday, March 23rd in Asbury Hall. In addition to wonderful food from around the world prepared by members of our UMW unit, we enjoyed a UMW trivia game and US/International bingo game complete with prizes! We held a raffle to raise funds for the UMW Legacy Fund and gave away a prayer shawl made by one of our members as a door prize.



Approximately 100 women and men came together on Saturday to celebrate the remarkable contributions that this wonderful organization makes to the women and children in need around the world. In addition to members of our church, we had guests from eight other UMW units in the Winchester District, including our District President. We also had guests from some of our local partner organizations who came and briefly spoke on the contributions LUMW has made to their groups.

It was a truly fabulous event. Thank you to all of our members who helped in set-up, event participation, and clean-up. And thank you to all who accepted the invitation and came to celebrate with us!

Women who would like to be involved in UMW as it embarks on the next 150 years are always welcome! We have two ways to get involved in UMW coming up soon:

Sunday, April 7th: LUMW sale of Freeset bags. These purses and totes are made by women in India as an income generating tool to help them gain freedom from oppression, poverty and exploitation.

Friday, May 10th: LUMW's annual Women in Friendship Dinner.



Reach



Packing Dates

**Apr 7
May 5**

Backpack Buddies

Through the LUMC Backpack Buddies program, we provide support to local school children who have been identified as needing additional food over the weekend. During the school year, each child receives a backpack filled with six meals for the weekend. LUMC packs bags of food during the school year on the first Sunday of each month in Asbury Hall after the 9:45 worship service. Our next packing is January 6th

How You Can Help

- 1) Donate money. Write "Backpack Buddies" on your check memo or offering envelope.
- 2) Donate food items. Please place the listed items in the designated bins in Wesley Hall.
- 3) Donate your time. Help fill the backpacks. It only takes an hour, it's lots of fun, and it's a wonderful way to help serve children in our community. All ages can help, including kids.

Your participation is always greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Barbara Luna at 703-606-1256 after 6:30 pm or email blunalsbrg@aol.com.

Food Items for Backpack Buddies
individual cups of ravioli, beefaroni, or spaghetti; granola bars; cereal (single-serve boxes); instant oatmeal; fruit cups; single-serve applesauce cups, shelf-stable milk (white or chocolate); juice boxes; macaroni and cheese cups; cheese crackers



LUMC Supports Loudoun Hunger Relief (LHR)

The First Sunday of each month is Food Insecurity Sunday. Please help us support Loudoun Hunger Relief by bringing food and other items to Wesley Hall. If you know you aren't going to be here the first Sunday of the month, you can drop off your donations in Wesley Hall anytime the church is open .

Thank you for your generosity!

Shopping List:

Cereal
100% juic
Canned tuna
Canned chicken
Peanut Butter
Canned fruit
Canned peas

Canned green beans
Canned corn
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Feminine hygiene products
Diapers

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.

Special Offering for Lent and Easter

This year as in years past, our Lent and Easter Special Offering will go to support the three missionaries working around the world that we have selected to support. Following is snippet about each; check out the March newsletter for more information.

Delbert and Sandy Groves

The Groves are a United Methodist missionary couple with the General Board of Global Ministries based in Kitwe, Zambia and serving 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. Additional information is available online at www.NewLifeZambia.com.



Dan and Kaylynn Mills

From Dan and Kaylynn: "We work with the Pacific Islands Regional Team based in Auckland, New Zealand. Our specific job is to give direction & focus to our Papua New Guinea ministry (as acting National Directors) — encouraging, advising, training, and mentoring the staff (and key volunteers). We do this through visits and weekly phone calls from New Zealand."

Dan and Kaylynn also happen to be the uncle and aunt of Sean Daugherty (a member of LUMC). For more information you can visit <https://www.gcx.org/mills/>



Mike and Heather Webb

Mike and Heather serve as regional coordinators in Africa, working with missionaries and national leaders and assisting with ministry, vision, and strategy for specific countries in the region. They are residing in Tanzania.

Heather also happens to be the sister of Chuck Boyer, a member of LUMC. Read more information about their ministry and adventures here: <https://www.chogglobal.org/team/mhwebb/>

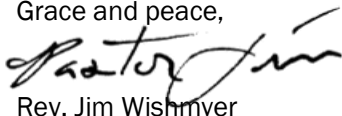


Message from Pastor Jim (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

with us at 107 West Market Street. There's a place at the table for you!

Grace and peace,


Rev. Jim Wishmyer

(1 – from Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus, Lois Tverberg)

Reach

Great Beginnings Preschool

GBP had a Seuss-tastically Dino-rrific March! We started the month with a school-wide reading event, gathering all the students in the hallway for a special story time. We channeled our inner Dr. Seuss with wacky socks and crazy hair. It was a true celebration of reading!

Our teachers were so inventive with their lessons on dinosaurs, incorporating early literacy and math, as well as shape, number, and color recognition. Our "Dino-Mite" Scholastic Book Fair was a wonderful success! We earned nearly \$2,000 in Scholastic Dollars. Profits will be used to purchase books and supplies for our new Little Free Library. Thank you for supporting GBP through our Book Fair each Spring.

We're SPRING-ing into April with exciting lessons on bugs, birds, flowers/plants, Earth Day, and recycling. Our color and shape of the month are blue and oval.

Planning any Spring cleaning over Easter break? GBP is hosting a Used Book Sale, May 7-10 in Asbury Hall. We are looking for donations of children's books ranging from infant to Elementary school level reading. Please bring donations in a labeled box/bin/bag to the GBP office in the Preschool Hallway from April 20 through May 8. Contact Heather Gonzalez for more information at greatbeginningsleesburg@gmail.com.

GBP and LUMC are teaming up for our 2nd Annual Father-Daughter Dance on Sunday, May 19, 2019. Keep an eye out for more information!

Thank you for your prayerful support. We are so blessed to be part of the LUMC family and ministry!

Have a Happy and Blessed Easter!
Warmly,
Heather Gonzalez, Preschool Director
greatbeginningsleesburg@gmail.com



Our NEW 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 General Conference - What's Next?

It has been over a month since our United Methodist Bishops and U. M. Church leaders from around the world met for the 2019 special “called” General Conference. By most estimations, the ultimate objective of the conference: “...to explore options to strengthen church unity” remains unfulfilled. Because of constitutional questions regarding the legislation that was passed, we will have to wait until the Judicial Council review at the end of April (23-25). Some, or all, of the legislation, may not be approved. In addition, we will have our next regular General Conference in May, 2020 – barely 13 months from now – in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In the meantime, many will be watching what happens as Annual Conferences meet late Spring and early Summer to elect delegates to the 2020 General Conference, and act on recommendations and petitions to be forward to the General Conference.



We, and United Methodists around the world, prayed for General Conference. We prayed for many things but ultimately for God’s will to be accomplished for the United Methodist Church. Our ongoing challenge, sisters and brothers, regardless of how we felt about the result is to look for the signs that God’s will is being accomplished. We are reminded with every election that God’s will is not limited to or by the final vote tally.

Our Bishop Sharma Lewis urged us to focus on the many ways in which God continues to be at work in and through the United Methodist Church. Many are seeing God at work through a greater awareness of LGBTQ+ inclusion in our churches – and how far we have to go. Many are seeing God at work inspiring them to work for change. Many are seeing God at work testing the genuineness of our love for one another within the Church. Many are seeing God at work reminding us that every “issue” we discuss and debate has a human face; a personal story. Many are seeing God at work in a renewed determination to be more welcoming of all. And, many are seeing God as work as we make room for honest, open, humble, and caring dialogue – we are not alone. There is certainly so much more for “those who have eyes to see”.

For our part at LUMC, a Task Force approved by our Church Leadership Team is developing a plan to advise the CLT on how our church can move forward together to extend God’s welcome to all. We’ve had two task force meetings that have focused on hearing each other’s stories. We’ve had one larger group gathering that provided a safe space for deeper listening and honest sharing with our own stories. We meet next this coming Tuesday, April 2, and we’ll be looking at ways to bring our church together in conversation – and begin conversations within our larger community in order to build bridges of understanding and welcome. Stay tuned.

Members: Kathy Blaine, Bobbi Cunningham, Heather Klein, Rina Mowery, Justin Murray, Tom Payne, Jim Person, and Rev. Jim Wishmyer.

Your Giving: What Happened to Consecration Sunday?

Consecration Sunday—the day we focus on our giving and stewardship with financial pledging for the year ahead—has been happening in February for the last several years.

This year our Finance and Stewardship team has decided to move Consecration Sunday back to the traditional Fall time period, to make pledge information more useful to the Church Leadership Team in preparing our 2020 budget.

In the meantime, we thank you for your on-going financial support of our efforts to *make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

**Watch for our stewardship focus this Fall,
with Consecration Sunday on October 27th.**

**Leesburg United Methodist
Church**

107 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

703-777-2056
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The April Newsletter is scheduled to be published on Friday, March 29th. All items are due to the office by 9 am on Monday, March 25th. Thank you!

VBS: (Vacation Bible School)

June 24—29, 2019

Registration is now OPEN!



<https://leesburgumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/196704>

