



The Messenger



The newsletter of
Leesburg United
Methodist Church

Volume 32, Issue 5

May 2019
(published 4/26/19)

A Message from Pastor Jim

The Easter Season (the “Great Fifty Days”) begins at sunset Easter Eve and continues to the Day of Pentecost. In sharp contrast to the penitential mood of Lent, the Easter Season proclaims the joy of the resurrection!

Thank you! to all who gave of their time, their talents, and their passion for Christ to help make our Lent and Holy Week worship memorable and meaningful – our Worship Team, Altar Guild, Chancel Choir, Raising Praise, Heavenly Ringers, greeters, ushers, Hospitality, Living Last Supper participants, Way of the Cross planners, and many more!

In addition to our corporate and more visible activities of worship, study, serving, and fellowship, many of us prayed for others in our church family during Lent. Thank you! In some cases, those praying did not even know the person they named each Sunday in prayer. There was one on my prayer list, a non-member who has connected to LUMC through friends and some of our signature ministries that I could not picture in my mind. As I served communion on Easter Sunday, this person and their entire family came to my station. I realized when this person said their name for me to repeat, that this was the one for whom I had been praying! I was blessed to see others, whom I did know and for whom I had been praying, also in worship on Sunday! Several expressed their gratitude, and their surprise when they received their card in the mail.

A couple of those who had been praying for others during Lent expressed to me their joy in doing so. (I invite you to share your story, your blessings, for having prayed for others or for

discovering that someone had been praying for you. Visit our LUMC Facebook page and go to the group “Praying for one Another – Lent, 2019 to share your comments.) While our devotional praying-for-others guide has ended, I remember those for whom I prayed and will continue to keep them close in my heart and my prayers.

This Easter Season invites us now to focus on the new life we have in Christ, as evidenced by his resurrection and his ascension into heaven. It points us, ultimately, toward the incredible gift of the Holy Spirit that first Easter, and again on the Day of Pentecost. The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 5 that, “God’s love has been poured out into your hearts through the Holy Spirit” (verse 5). This love, God’s love, is love that is meant to be shared! Thus we now shift our focus during this Season to discovering and demonstrating what it means to “love your neighbor as yourself” in practical, down-to-earth, everyday living kinds of ways. Our worship, and several of our disciple groups, will be focusing on this theme through Father’s Day (see page 2 for more)

The question that God has impressed on my heart and which I pray God impresses on your heart is this: “What and who might change because I, and the members of LUMC, take seriously the command of Jesus, “love your neighbor” and apply it in practical ways?”

I am expectantly praying that the Holy Spirit so fills our hearts with God’s love that we, and others, will see the ripple effect of God’s transforming love at work!

(Continued on page 19)

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Connect



Rev.
Jim Wishmyer,
Pastor

Worship Series: “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 – “What’s on Your Bucket List?”

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, (Native American Ministries Sunday)

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

May 12 – Mother’s Day—Special Sermon

May 19 – Art of Neighboring #3 – “Face the Fear”

Matthew 14:22-33, Heritage Sunday

We doubt – ourselves and also others. “Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid” when we look into the eyes of a stranger and see Christ.

Guest re-enactor—the Rev. Alvin Horton (see Bio on page 3)

May 26 – Art of Neighboring #4 – “Hearts Wide Open”

2 Corinthians 6:1-11; John 3:16-17

Motives matter when it comes to neighboring. Love must be genuine.

June 2 – Youth Sunday– Holy Communion

Graduate Recognition





The Rev. Alvin J. Horton

Our Guest Reenactor on Sunday May 19

The Rev. Alvin J. Horton is a recently retired pastor in the Virginia Conference. He served 15 years as Director of Communications for the conference and is former editor of the Virginia United Methodist Advocate. In 2002 he was named United Methodist Communicator of the Year. He also served as president of the United Methodist Association of Communicators and was elected to four jurisdictional conferences and three General Conferences. He began his pastoral ministry over 43 years ago, serving 25 of those years as pastor of local churches. He quickly found that presenting dramatic monologues as biblical characters offered an effective means of teaching children the stories of God's grace found in the Scriptures. Soon adults were asking *him* to do the same for them, and over the years he has performed in churches, at mission schools, on board ships, and in town squares of Canadian ports. He exchanged pulpits with a pastor in Belfast, Northern Ireland, traveled in the Middle East, and helped lead a Pauline study tour of the Mediterranean. He is married, has three sons and two granddaughters, and continues to be known for his inspirational writing and dramatic portrayals of biblical personalities.

Praying for One Another in Lent

92 packets of prayer cards, representing 460 LUMC folk and the potential of 92 other friends/family/neighbors, were taken for our Lenten prayer initiative. That's a lot of people prayed for! Thank you to everyone who participated.



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

MORE Frequently Asked Questions! (see April Messenger for the first 6 FAQs)

7. Will there be enough parking?

We have parking lots behind the church and across the street, plus street parking and the town garage (free on Sundays). We have had combined worship for other special occasions and have not experienced parking to be a problem.

8. What about handicap parking?

We know that some people, whether using an official handicap tag or just being unable to make a longer walk to the church, count on arriving early in order to get parking close to the church. We will be reserving parking closest to the building for handicap and mobility impaired use. Street parking along West Market Street will continue to be set off as handicap parking. In addition, the five parking spaces in front of Aldersgate will also be designated handicap parking on Sunday morning, effectively DOUBLING the number of spaces!

9. Why all summer? Wouldn't one month, or one Sunday a month, be enough?

A big part of this change is to give folks a chance to get to build relationships across all of our regular services, but that takes time! It also minimizes the potential confusion of the time change: we have just one schedule for all of summer.

As an added bonus, this plan grants a respite to our ushers/greeters/hospitality/musicians/counters/and others who help make worship happen, by reducing our needs to just one worship service each Sunday and therefore reducing the schedule frequency for any one person. This schedule all summer helps ensure our volunteers are refreshed and eager to return to our regular schedule on September 8th

10. What if 9:30 am just won't work for me?

Whether it's this summer or at other times of the year, there are, unfortunately, always faithful Christians who find themselves having to work instead of worship. As always, you can keep up with the sermon and worship resources by going to www.leesburgumc.org/sermons and clicking on the Sunday you missed. You can stream the sermon audio and download PDFs of the worship program and Weekly Info.

Joining a small group that meets at a different time is another option to stay connected. Follow us on Facebook. Check out the newsletter and Weekly Info for other fellowship and mission activities to keep you connected with your church family during the week. Call us when you have prayer needs. We will be here eagerly awaiting your return to worship on September 8th when our regular schedule resumes, because this is still your church.



**There is no telling
how the wind of the
Spirit may blow
through our midst,
where we may
unexpectedly see
Jesus, or how we
might find
unexpected spiritual
growth.**

Connect

Easter Sunday Egg Hunt!

Each year, we hold our annual egg hunt on Easter, following the 9:45 service at the Old Stone Church historic site. Why?

It started for the practical purpose that our playground just isn't big enough, but then the kids actually reasoned that it must be "because Jesus rose from the dead!" Therefore it's completely logical that new life would spring forth in an old cemetery.

Photographs courtesy of Tom Brennan



Easter Sunday: Thank you!

Thank you to all who helped make our Holy Week and Easter Services a meaningful time of encountering God, celebrating the resurrection, and fellowshiping with our church family. Thank you ushers, greeters, worship team planners, Adult Choir, Raising Praise, actors and actresses, Altar Guild, Communion Team and servers, Hospitality Team, Nursery Team, youth and adults who helped with the egg hunt, and the many people who contributed to a worshipful Easter. We are so blessed to work with such an incredible church. Thank you for serving with us.

Your Clergy and Staff

Photographs by Walter
Halfmann



Connect

Keeping Up with the Congregation

Condolences



... to Jim and Linda Rives, on the death of Jim's sister, Lurene Call, who passed away unexpectedly on March 22, 2019.

... to the family and friends of longtime former LUMC member Ann McCaffrey, who went to the Lord on Easter Sunday, April 21st.

New Members

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

May Birthdays

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



Remembering Ann McCaffrey

It is with love and appreciation for a life well-lived that we share the news of Ann McCaffrey's passing on Easter Sunday morning, April 21, at a Memory Care Facility in New Braunfels, Texas.

A woman of deep faith, Ann was a devoted member of LUMC for many years and was UMW Co-Chair twice, Circle Chair, Sunday School class member, served on the Love Committee, Hospitality Team, Senior Group, Lay Leadership, SPRC, and as a LUMC delegate to Conference. She was a long-time guide at Oatlands and a gifted photographer.

Among other things, Ann was known for her handwritten recipes which she gladly shared, her gift for making friends and for her beautiful, heartfelt impromptu

prayers. One of her favorite remarks was, "It's a good thing." And she always wished her friends "travel mercies" when they left for a trip. Such good memories of this precious friend.

Knowing of her illness these past few years, through our grief, we can nonetheless be happy that she is in our Heavenly Father's arms now.

Her husband Terry, daughter Kelly, and son Chris appreciate your prayers for their family. A memorial service is being held in New Braunfels, and we look forward to the family's return to Leesburg at a later date for a service for Ann at our church.

For those who wish to be in touch: Terry McCaffrey, 2615 Foresthaven Drive, New Braunfels, Texas 78132-3639

A Note from the Collises

We wish to thank each and all of you for making our 60th wedding anniversary so very special. We decided to have it at LUMC because the better part of those 60 years were spent at this church and all of our children's years growing up were spent at LUMC. We decided this was where we wanted to celebrate our anniversary and we are glad we did. You were all so welcoming and the food presentation was amazing.

Thank you so very much! Connie & Carl Collis and family



Connect

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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: May 21st will be our last session before we break for the Summer.



*Rev Heather Wray,
Director of
Connect Ministries*

Family Fun Events 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

Join us for a fun, fancy evening of dancing, snacks and photos.

Building and Bonding Night Out—Thursday, May 16 from 5:30-7:30 pm in Aldersgate

Enjoy Lego building, dancing, and snacks while you make memories.

Register here: leesburgumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/229507

Volunteer here: www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d4bafad28a20-spring

Grow

Confirmation

The Confirmation program at LUMC has evolved over the years. Many of us might remember attending a Confirmation Class that met weekly for about three months, and this was how we did things at LUMC until 2008. We found that we had a significant number of youth come out for Confirmation, then never participate in any part of the church's ministries again, so we shifted to a longer process that involved the youth participating in retreats and youth group for a year. This change worked well for a number of years until our community entered the post-Christian era.

For most of our lives, we lived in the era of Christendom, a time when society supported the notion of church attendance and participation. While this era had been coming to a close slowly over the past several decades, from the perspective of Confirmation and youth ministry, it ended (here in Leesburg) in the fall of 2015 (in other parts of the state it's still alive, and in other places it ended long ago).

For the first Confirmation Class gathering that fall, we had just 30% of those who had signed up in attendance. Before then, we averaged about 70% throughout the year, but we never had such a low turnout, particularly for the first event.

We asked questions and we listened: Was it a matter of priorities? Are people just not that interested? Is it too boring? Are people too overcommitted?

What we found was that there were some "yes" answers to the above questions, but by and large, our culture had simply taken a major shift. Travel sports and other extracurricular activities, for example, had moved from one or two competitions or tournaments a season to nearly every weekend. Families were exhausted.

We experimented for a few years and found that families really want their kids to have the full

experience of the retreats and youth group and class time, but they just cannot do it all in one year.

So we are changing our Confirmation process from a one year program to a three year program. Kids can begin in sixth grade and spend all of middle school exploring what it means to be a follower of Christ and to be a member of the United Methodist Church. This will also allow them to make a more informed decision at an older age.

This change means that we will not be Confirming any youth this year. It also means that we have adapted our Confirmation Retreat, one of the most special aspects of our program, into two separate retreats:

"In the Footsteps of Jesus Part 1" will be experienced by kids early in their journey and is intentionally designed to be an entry point into their life with Christ. They will experience the birth and baptism of Jesus and be invited to walk with Him through participation in the various ministries of LUMC.

"In the Footsteps of Jesus Part 2" will be completed just prior to being Confirmed and will be a culminating experience where they will walk with Jesus from the Transfiguration, through Palm Sunday and the Last

Supper, to the cross and experience the joy of Easter. Then, they will learn what it means to take their next steps as disciples who live as parts of the body of Christ.

This newsletter will be published around the time that our current group of fifth through seventh graders is gathering and traveling down to Westview on the James for "Part 1," led by Rev. Wishmyer and Angela Becek. Please be in prayer for their journey, both the physical and spiritual aspects, as they seek to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Participants: Jared Ruggles, Ben Kelly, Charlie Kelly, Nick Frescholtz, Ginger Snodgrass, Sawyer Gonzalez, Kirsten Ruggles, Shon Jerry, Daniel Murphy and Sam Walsh. Chaperones: Al & Susan Ruggles and Heather Gonzalez



Summer Reading Plan

Explore the period of the early church and their trials and triumphs

This summer, explore the period of the early church and their trials and triumphs through daily readings in the New Testament Letters and the Book of Acts. These readings will enrich your walk with Jesus as we continue through the narrative of Scripture.

As you read, imagine you are sitting in a church: a small church in the country or perhaps an old European cathedral. Imagine others (from any time period) sitting around you and hearing the words of Scripture. Allow the words to connect you in space and time to Christians around the world and throughout time.

“... Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” - Romans 12:2 (NLT)



Angela Becek,
Director of
Discipleship
Ministries

ABOUT THE READINGS: The Letters readings are inserted between the Acts readings at approximately the points when they were written. The “...Overview Video” links will take you to a video that gives some background and overview of each respective book. Some of the readings have dates noted—for Acts they are the dates when that part of the story is believed to have taken place; for the Epistles the dates are when they were believed to have been written.

Monday, April 29: [Luke 24:50-53](#)

[New Testament Overview Video](#)

youtube.com/watch?v=Q0BrP8bj0c

Tuesday, April 30: [Acts 1:1-11 \(circa 30 AD\)](#)

[Acts Part One Overview Video](#)

youtube.com/watch?v=CGbNw855ksw

Wednesday, May 1: [Acts 1:12-26](#)

Thursday, May 2: [Acts 2:1-43](#)

Friday, May 3: [Acts 3:1-10](#)

Saturday, May 4: [Acts 3:11-24](#)

Sunday, May 5: [Acts 4 \(circa 35 AD\)](#)

Monday, May 6: [Acts 5](#)

Tuesday, May 7: [Acts 6](#)

Wednesday, May 8: [Acts 7:1-8:1](#)

Thursday, May 9: [Acts 8:2-40](#)

Friday, May 10: [Acts 9 \(36 AD\)](#)

Saturday, May 11: [Acts 10](#)

Sunday, May 12: [Acts 11 \(43 AD\)](#)

Monday, May 13: [Acts 12 \(45 AD\)](#)

Tuesday, May 14: [Acts 13:1-3 \(47 AD\)](#)

[Acts Part Two Overview Video](#)

youtube.com/watch?v=Z-17KxpjL0Q

Wednesday, May 15: [Acts 13:4-14:38 \(48 AD\)](#)

Thursday, May 16: [Acts 15:1-35](#)

Friday, May 17: [Acts 15:36-16:15 \(51 AD\)](#)

Saturday, May 18: [Acts 16:16-40](#)

Sunday, May 19: [Acts 17 \(50/51 AD\)](#)

Monday, May 20: [1 Thess 1:1-10 \(51 AD\)](#)

[1 Thessalonians Overview Video](#)

youtube.com/watch?v=No7Nq6IX23c

Tuesday, May 21: [1 Thess 2:1-16](#)

Wednesday, May 22: [1 Thess 2:17-3:13](#)

Thursday, May 23: [1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:28](#)

Friday, May 24: [2 Thessalonians 1:1-2:12 \(52 AD\)](#)

[2 Thessalonians Overview Video](#)

youtube.com/watch?v=kbPBDKOn1cc

Saturday, May 25: [2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:18](#)

Sunday, May 26: [Acts 18 \(53-56 AD\)](#)

Monday, May 27: [Acts 19](#)

Tuesday, May 28: [Acts 20](#)

[1 Corinthian Overview Video](#)

youtube.com/watch?v=yiHf8kICCc4

Wednesday, May 29: [1 Corinthians 1:1-2:5 \(57 AD\)](#)

Thursday, May 30: [1 Corinthians 1- 2](#)

Friday, May 31: [1 Corinthians 3 - 4](#)

Sign-up to receive links each morning to the daily readings via [text](http://www.remind.com/join/7gde329) (www.remind.com/join/7gde329)
or [e-mail](https://leesburgumc.us17.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=30e4416970eef40632116ccbba&id=32380771f4) (<https://leesburgumc.us17.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=30e4416970eef40632116ccbba&id=32380771f4>).

Grow



VBS: (Vacation Bible School)

June 24—29, 2019

Registration is OPEN!

Volunteers Needed

Click Here
TO **REGISTER**
<https://leesburgumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/196704>

VBS Donation Items

Requested by June 16 - Place in Asbury Hall

**Please no individual sizes,
unless specifically requested.**

Quantities? A lot. We expect 220 kids, plus 100 volunteers, and should there be surplus, we will use for Sunday school snacks.

Individual Chocolate Pudding cups
Oreos (regular)
Gummi Worms
Cheddar Goldfish
Skittles
Individual Applesauce cups
Veggie Straws
Hershey Kisses
Pretzels (regular)
Cheez-itz
Mini marshmallows (not colored)
String cheese
Ritz crackers

Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Angela Becek to sign-up for anything below (angela@leesburgumc.org or 703-473-7487):

Before VBS—Behind the Scenes:

Friday, June 21 (anytime) 10 am—3 pm: Prep & Stage

Sunday, June 23 9:15 am—9:45 am: Pre-check tables
(greet people and help them find their nametags)

Sunday, June 23 10:45 am—2 pm: Decorate: sanctuary,
Wesley, AG, Asbury, hallways (lunch will be provided)

During VBS—Irregular Jobs:

Monday Morning, June 24 8:30 am—9:30 am:
Work check-in tables; Direct people to Sanctuary

Friday, June 28 12:30 pm—2 pm:
Clean-up, Tear Down & Get Church ready for Sunday

During VBS—8:45 am to 12:15 pm, Monday-Friday

Crew leaders: bring a small group of kids from station to station

Technology in Sanctuary: run sound and video

Assist with Stations: Snacks, Crafts, Games, Bible, Science

Children's Ministry

Visit www.leesburgumc.org/kids
for more information



Athens VBS Sunday School: May 5 - June 2

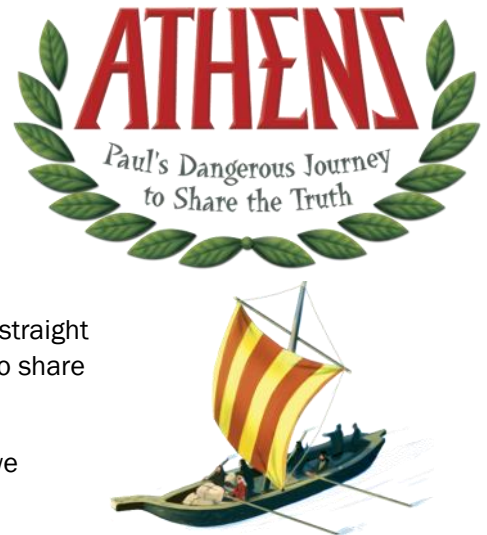
[Register Here](http://leesburgumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/226648)

**Please register even if you can only come once—
it will make checking in your child go more smoothly!**

Imagine leaving a life of privilege and power to face angry mobs, painful imprisonment, and chain-breaking earthquakes—all to spread the life-changing truth of God's love. Learn the jaw-dropping story of the Apostle Paul...straight from Paul himself! In an ancient "anything goes" culture, Paul will inspire kids to share the truth of God's immeasurable love today!

All the fun of VBS during Sunday school! Dramas, Crafts, Games and more as we explore Paul's second missionary journey.

Set sail for adventure!



Youth Key Dates

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

May 5	9:45 Gallery 3 pm—5 pm Planning Meeting 6 pm—7:30 Tie Dye Party
May 12	No Youth Activities
May 19	9:45 Gallery 6 pm—7:30 pm Youth Sunday Rehearsal
May 26	No Youth Activities



Movie Fellowship: Thank you!

Thank you to all those who came out and enjoyed a delicious meal and the documentary "Won't You Be My Neighbor", about the life of Fred Rogers of "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood". The youth appreciated the help with helping them reach their fundraising goal for their summer mission program REACH.

Reach

REACH Roanoke (a.k.a. U-SPY): July 6– 12

How can you support REACH?

PRAY for those who will be going. We will once again be looking for prayer partners who will pray for a specific person and provide a goody bag. Bags will be available beginning June 2; please return them by June 30, filled with small snacks and a note.

PROVIDE SNACK ITEMS by June 30 (no nuts/trace nuts):

- Granola bars
- crackers/chips
- fruit snacks
- gum
- cookies

COME WITH US! We would love to have 3 more adults join the trip. You will have lots of fun, get to know more people at LUMC, and experience a life changing serving opportunity.



<https://leesburgumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/196622>



Registration fee for youth is \$375
(\$100 deposit due on registration)
Fee for chaperones is \$125
Fee for junior chaperones is \$175

Send some love and let our mission team know they are supported—pick-up a goody bag on June 2, fill it and return by June 30.



**LUMC
Youth Missionaries
in action!**



Leesburg United Methodist Women

Women In Friendship Annual Dinner

Each spring the United Methodist Women join together to celebrate Christian service and fellowship at the UMW Women in Friendship Dinner. This year we are celebrating with a potluck salad dinner in **Asbury Hall on Friday evening, May 10, at 6:30 p.m.**

We are excited to welcome Renyatta Banks, Executive Director of the Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth, Virginia, as our speaker for the evening.

Please bring a salad to share and join us for a special evening of fun and feasting!

Contributions in the form of Amazon gift cards will be our gift to the Wesley Community Center, a national mission of the UMW.

Help the UMW Make Kits for Conference!

Each year LUMC donates "Kits for Conference" to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, (UMCOR) and delivers them to the Virginia UMC Annual Conference. Our pastor and lay leaders fill their cars with different types of kits and drive them to the conference. These kits will be distributed to those in need following a disaster, such as a flood, tornado, earthquake, or fire. Last year, the Leesburg United Methodist Women made 274 kits. This year we invite the congregation to help with the kits by collecting the needed supplies, and **assembling the kits with us on Sunday, June 2nd, in Asbury Hall, starting at 10:45am.** Save the date!

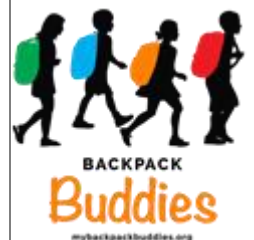
During the month of May, donation trees will be set up on the Hospitality tables in Wesley Hall. Please take a paper ornament from the tree, purchase the items listed, and bring the supplies back to Wesley Hall by May 31st.

Have fun shopping for supplies, and join us on June 2nd, to make kits for those in need!
If you have questions, contact Betsy Creamer, betzcream@aol.com, 703-615-1218.



Backpack Buddies: Thank You!

We have come to the end of the year! Our last packing session was on April 28th. Thank you for your unwavering support of this ministry. This year we were able to provide food for 74 students for 33 weeks. That's a total of 2,442 bags of food! Each bag contained two breakfasts, two lunches, two snacks and two dinners. The students' faces light up every Friday when they come into their classroom and find their bag at their desk. THANK YOU!



Reach

NLI Signature Mission

We are conducting a survey to help us understand where our congregation is already engaged in our community and with whom you are in ministry. Please take a moment and fill out the survey using the link below. You will find the survey online and as a paper insert in the Weekly Info and the Just Ask Desk. Please place in the offering plate or in the basket at the Just Ask Desk.

http://www.leesburgumc.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=434447

Missionaries: Thank You for Your Support

If you intended to support our missionaries, but it slipped your mind, there is still time. Just make sure to designate your support to either Lenten Offering or Easter Offering. Look back here in June for an update on total amount of support we have received. Click here for more information about our ministry: <http://leesburgumc.org/missionaries>



Delbert and Sandy Groves



Dan and Kaylynn Mills



Mike and Heather Webb



LUMC Supports Loudoun Hunger Relief (LHR)

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 .

In March, LUMC donated 153 pounds of food. Thank you for your support!

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.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Join us for our breakfast on Saturday, May 18, 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM.

For 2019, UMM is selecting speakers who work in the community in government, education, and the non-profit sector. Working with our NLI Mission Engagement priority, we are seeking to learn more about the needs in our community from those who work with children, youth, and families on pressing concerns. In particular, our one consistent question for our speakers is: "What keeps you awake at night?" in terms of the concerns you are called upon to address.

For May, our guest will be Dr. Charles Barrett. Rev. Wishmyer had the privilege to meet him at a community event at Mt. Zion UMC in March that addressed concerns about, and positive steps toward, racial healing and reconciliation.

Here is a short bio of Dr. Barrett:

"Anchored by an unwavering commitment to equity and justice, Charles Barrett is lead school psychologist with Loudoun County Public Schools and an adjunct lecturer in the Graduate School of Education at Howard University. Actively involved in the training and development of future psychologists, he serves as assistant director, internship supervisor, and chair of the Committee on Diversity for LCPS' APA-Accredited Doctoral Internship in Health Service Psychology. His current leadership positions within the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) include being a member of the Publications Committee, co-coordinator of the Bilingual Interest Group, co-chair of the African American Subcommittee, chair of the Social Justice Committee, and the Virginia Delegate to the NASP Leadership Assembly." (www.charlesbarrett.org/about)



Spring Session ESL

This spring in our ESL classes we had 12 students who were so dedicated and eager to learn English. Our students came from six different countries, some only living in the United States for just a few months. It is so rewarding to meet and help these students find a better life here in Leesburg. There are many ways you can be involved, and we always welcome visitors to our classes. Classes will begin again in September. Please contact Melissa Carlat (macarlat@aol.com) for more information.



Reach

Great Beginnings Preschool

We are looking forward to a May-velous last month of school! Our themes include Mother's Day, rhyming, opposites, does it sink or float?, bodies of water, and summer fun. Our color, shape, and numbers of the month are: purple, hexagon, and 10, 19 and 20. Our 4s will be prepping for Kindergarten with a concentration on sight words.

May's Bible Verse is from Matthew 28:20, "I will be with you always".

We are looking forward to LUMC/GBP's Spring Fling Events: our Ties and Tiaras Father-Daughter Dance and our LEGO-Themed Building and Bonding Night out for mothers and sons. Mother-Son Building Night is May 16th and the Father-Daughter Dance is May 19th. Please see the Great Beginnings website for more information: greatbeginningsleesburg.com.

On May 22nd at 6:30 pm, our Busy Bees and Owls will graduate from Great Beginnings. Please join the GBP staff in praying for these children as they head to kindergarten to share God's love and all they've learned at GBP.

GBP Summer Camp will run the week after Memorial Day. After meeting for music and chapel each morning, the campers will visit math, early literacy, science and art stations based on the book of the day. Such a fun way to kick off summer!

Thank you for your continuing to keep our Preschool, staff and families in your prayers. We are blessed to be part of LUMC's ministry. Special thank you to all who helped with the LUMC cleaning day. The grounds and facility look amazing! What an exciting time!

Blessings,
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.



Our Way Forward Together Task Force

The United Methodist Church Judicial Council will meet, April 23-25. This supreme court of nine members (United Methodist clergy and laity from around the world) will determine the constitutionality of several petitions passed at our special General Conference in February. They will not be enacting any additional legislation or making changes. The outcomes include: 1) all (that is before them) is deemed unconstitutional, therefore there are no changes to our United Methodist Book of Discipline; or 2) some or all of the petitions are deemed constitutional, resulting in parts of the Traditional Plan being added to our Book of Discipline.



LUMC's Our Way Forward Together task force encourages all to be praying for our Judicial Council and their decision-making. Following the meeting of the Council, we will be having a second **"Dessert and Discussion" on Sunday, May 5, at 6:00 PM**, to hear the results, spend time in conversation together, and share Holy Communion. The task force is preparing discussion topics to guide our conversations and help us better understand and appreciate one another as sisters and brothers in Christ, serving Christ in the midst of differing opinions. The aim of "Discussion" is not to convert or to convince, but to converse and connect.

Christ calls us to model a radically counter-cultural way of being in community that gives priority to listening, respecting, seeking to understand, searching for common ground, and above all love for neighbor that is "patient... kind... does not envy... does not boast... is not proud... does not dishonor others... is not self-seeking... is not easily angered... keeps no record of wrongs... does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth... always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres... and, never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a).

We are planning for a third "Dessert and Discussion" the evening of June 30.

In addition, Bishop Peter Weaver, our interim bishop, invites clergy and laity to join him for worship and conversation, at multiple locations and times, from May 10 through June 2. The closest locations and times for us will be May 10, 7:00 PM, Fairfax UMC, and May 11, 9:00 AM, Riverton UMC (Front Royal).

For further information, contact the church office, visit the Just Ask Desk.

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

Message from Pastor Jim (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

"To God who is able to immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us..." (Ephesians 3:20)

Neighbor to neighbor, grace and peace!

Rev. Jim Wishmyer

Prayers: We grieve with the people of Sri Lanka, and those from other countries, who lost loved ones in the horrific terrorist attack on churches and hotels, Easter Sunday. We pray for those recovering from their wounds, and those still fighting for life. We pray for the churches and for our sisters and brothers in Christ to "overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

**Leesburg United Methodist
Church**

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Leesburg, VA 20176

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www.leesburgumc.org



The June Newsletter is scheduled to be published on Friday, May 24th. All items are due to the office by 9 am on Monday, May 20th. Thank you!

VBS: (Vacation Bible School)

June 24—29, 2019

Registration is now OPEN!



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



Donations and Volunteers Needed: See [Page 12](#)