



Lehman--Idetown United Methodist Church

1011 Mountain View Drive

(PO Box 12)

Lehman, PA 18627

Office: 570-675-1216

Office Email: Lehman.IdetownUMC@gmail.com

"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:10-12)

"We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong." (1 Corinthians 4:10)

No April Fool's joke, Jesus said these words recorded in the gospel of John on the night of the Last Supper before going to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Shortly after serving Judas Iscariot a piece of soaking bread and sending him on his way, Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment – to love one another. Love fills us with joy, joy we want to share with others. One way joy manifests itself is through laughter. Let us become known as the church that laughs and loves together. On the Sunday after Easter, we will help resurrect an old custom and observe Holy Humor Sunday. This article from JoyfulNoiseletter.com explains.

Churches resurrect an old Easter custom – from *The Joyful Noiseletter*

Many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity- "Holy Humor Sunday" celebrations of Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday after Easter.

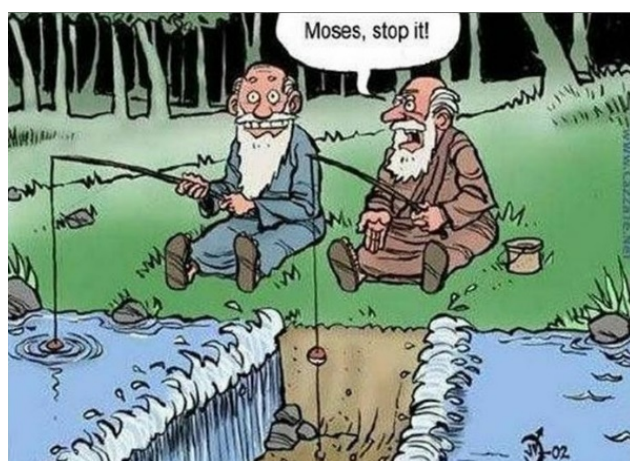
For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including "Bright Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "*Risus paschalis* - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it.

In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it "Holy Humor Sunday," with the theme: "Jesus is the LIFE of the party."

Many churches from different traditions responded enthusiastically. Holy Humor Sunday services are bringing back large crowds to churches on a Sunday when church attendance typically drops dramatically.

If you Google "Holy Humor Sunday" on the Internet, you'll be amazed at how widespread Holy Humor Sunday celebrations on the Sunday after Easter have become among churches of all traditions. It's clearly a movement of the Holy Spirit to shore up belief in the resurrection of Jesus."



So come prepared with family-friendly, church-appropriate jokes to share on April 11. Come prepared to laugh and to love!

God's Blessings,
Pastor Laura

PS. Try mulling over this quote from Lorin D. Whittaker, MD – "A prominent doctor discovered that cheerful people resist disease better than chronic grumblers. He concluded that the surly bird gets the germ."



We are re-open for in person worship. Masks are required, social distancing is being observed. Worship will continue via ZOOM as well (see email chain or Facebook for the call-in number or the link). Sermons are recorded (usually) and uploaded to LIUMC.net and our FB page.

We ask that you please stay home and join us via Zoom for worship, if you are not feeling well or if weather is a factor.

OFFERING

The total offering for the month of March (as of week ending 03/21) was **\$9,664.00**. Thank you all for continuing to give what you can in an economically difficult time. To continue the work God is doing through LIUMC, tithing can be sent to: LIUMC, PO Box 12, Lehman, PA, 18627.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

DATE CHANGE: Easter Event will now be on April 11, 2021. Check your emails for updates!

April 18th: We will **resume IN PERSON Children Sunday School!**
Sunday School will be from 10:30 - 11:00 am in the basement! – Masks Required

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Continues to meet at 10:45 am (following worship) in the sanctuary and via Zoom; it is the same link used for worship service. Join us!!

REMINDER: NO ADULT / CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL APRIL 4TH

WHO ARE WE?

Have you ever wondered who is on the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (S/PRC), or what it does? The S/PRC has primary responsibility to work with staff so that the mission of the church is realized. It functions as both leadership and management, kind of like a "Human Relations Department." Join us each Sunday morning as a member of the S/PRC shares a little about their responsibilities. Expect to see folks like Kim Shaver, Mandy Newman, Bob Van Gorder, Kelly Lyons, Sabrina Mutchler, and Jayne Hafele.

MISSION

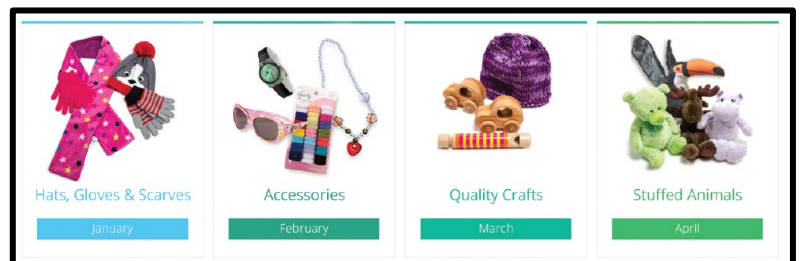
Camp Orchard Hill will not be hosting the homeless men of Mother Theresa's Haven for Easter. We will look forward to resuming this service opportunity during the Christmas season.

There are a few other options to serve the homeless in our community. One is on support Duncan's Refuge in the New Roots building on Water Street in Wilkes-Barre. They accept toiletries, new men's clothing, and meals (15 servings). If you are interested, please contact them directly at 570-763-4073.

Another is through Dan Shisson. He has rejoined Team Agape at Keystone Rescue Mission with a mobile homeless response initiative. Some of his duties include handing out food and toiletries as well as spreading a message of hope to those he encounters on the streets. Dan can be reached at 570-550-7093 for more information.

We are continually collecting items for Operation Christmas Child.

Some suggestions are



Food Bank Donations – 40 pounds to Noxen Food Bank for 2021

Help Wanted!!

Do you like to chat with others? Would you describe yourself as a good host or hostess? Are you comfortable with ZOOM and join us regularly for worship through a digital connection? Then you may be the person or persons God is calling to help with our tech ministry. We are looking for two dependable people who would be willing to serve as ZOOM hosts for worship services. Training will be provided. Please email Aimee or Pastor Laura if you feel God calling you!



March 21, 2021 – Joys: Sunshine and warm temperatures, first yard sale of the season, Chloe's first ballgame of the season.
Concerns: People at the border; Eric; Dea; Aimee and Cali; Dave and Ruth Jones; Carol; Bernie; Our church; Families of Margaret Berlew and John Romano.

March 14, 2021 – Joys: Rosalind is home from the hospital.
Concerns: Kenny Small, Michelle, Marty; Kelly; Tyler; Andy and Jen; Dave and Ruth; Matthew; Myanmar.

March 7, 2021 – Joys: To be able to worship through ZOOM; for prayers; Jan's neighbor was able to see grandbaby.
Concerns: Grace Lord; Margaret; Kelly; Kira; Mary; John; Troy; James; Judy Dawe; Jan's brother-in-law; Bill and Dottie Dawe; Coup and Uprising in Myanmar; Earthquake in New Zealand; Families of Dave Holdridge, Bierly's and Covi's.

Ongoing: Baby Kylee; Korri & Family; Tim Nulton; Travelers; Shut ins and those who are isolated; Peace and understanding; For protection of communities and people of color; An end to systemic racism; Families who've been economically affected; Peace in Turbulent times; + Unspokens

Circle of Prayer

March 28 - April 3
Pine Run UMC, Linden
Hope UMC, Port Trevorton
*Pleasant Valley UMC, Woodland
* Milton Margai Memorial UMC,
Goderich - Sierra Leone
Skinners Eddy UMC, Laceyville
Trinity UMC, New Kingstown
Otterbein UMC, Emigsville
Emory UMC, Hancock
Newburg UMC, Newburg
Wesley Chapel UMC, Fairfield
Monroeton UMC, Monroeton
Wesley Forest Camp & Retreat
Center, Weikert

April 4 - 10
Springvale St. Paul's UMC, Red Lion
Ohio UMC, Osceola Mills
First UMC, Houtzdale
Ulster UMC, Ulster
*Browns UMC, McAlisterville
*Albert Margai Memorial UMC,
Gbambatoke - Sierra Leone
Nicholson UMC, Nicholson
Emmanuel UMC, Clearfield
Roseglen UMC, Duncannon
Christ UMC, Northumberland
Dalton UMC, Dalton
Churches for the week of

April 11 - 17
Camptown UMC, Camptown
First UMC, Mount Union
Central UMC, Honesdale
Trinity UMC, Winfield
Faith UMC, Hallam
*Grace UMC, Lewistown
*Gendema UMC, Gendema - Sierra
Leone
Hopewell UMC, Newburg
Pine Wesley UMC, Millville
Rouzerville UMC, Rouzerville
Reedsville UMC, Reedsville
Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center,
Windsor, NY

Please alert our prayer team of new requests: Kendra Cosgrove (570) 675-2024

Upcoming Events

See Upcoming Emails / Website / Facebook for details
All subject to change

April 1, 2021	Maundy Thursday Stripped Down to the Bare Essentials Stripping of the Altar/Communion
April 2, 2021	Good Friday Church opened for prayer
April 4, 2021 EASTER SUNDAY Communion with both	Sunrise Service Life of Peter in 2 Parts Regular Service
April 11, 2021	Holy Humor Sunday

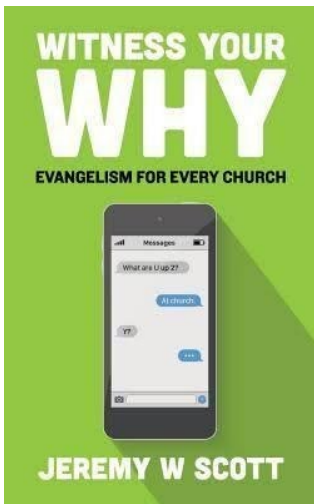
Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to be present on that "Good Friday" when Jesus was crucified? Join the Back Mountain Cluster of UMC as we bring to you eyewitness accounts of that life changing event. A YouTube link will be emailed and posted, Thursday, April 1.

Good Friday, the church will be open from noon-3pm for prayer.

Feel free to drop in for 5 minutes, 15 minutes, an hour; however long you feel called to pray.

The **Step by Step** concert will be on Monday, April 12th at 7:00 PM at the Shavertown UM church. It will be in-person as well as on the Shavertown UM church's YouTube channel.

Anyone can attend this informative webinar and LIUMC Leadership is encouraged to attend



GROW, EQUIP, CONNECT WEBINAR
WITNESS YOUR WHY-EVANGELISM FOR EVERY CHURCH-WITH JEREMY SCOTT
THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021
6:00-7:00PM

Witness Your Why-Evangelism for Every Church. Webinar sponsored by the offices of Equip, Grow and Connect.

Rev Jeremy W Scott is a former software engineer who now serves as the pastor of the United Methodist Church of Johnstown Colorado. Previously Scott worked as the Vital Congregations Developer of the Mountain Sky Conference and is the author of two books, Rotten Hobby and Witness Your Why. Scott has a passion and knack for helping small and medium sized churches rediscover why they do what they do. Through this rediscovery congregations find new healthy ways of being church in their communities. Growth is often a byproduct of this process, but the most important thing is the level of joy and commitment people have in their congregations.

Like all of us, Scott has been rethinking many things as we navigate the COVID-19 crisis. It has provided challenges and opportunities for us to lean into. Scott will share how his congregation, and others he works with, have taken the principles outlined in Witness Your Why and adapted them for our new post-pandemic world.

This webinar is provided at no cost and is sponsored by the offices of Grow, Equip and Connect of the Susquehanna Conference

(.1 CEU's will be given for attending this one-hour webinar)

Register on the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Bz3sQekzSbCXEvsDaWyuFg

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

2 - Joan Ide Griznar
4 - David and Janet Eddy Anniversary
6 - Teri Whitehead
7 - Ruth and Dave Jones Anniversary
9 - Jack Romanoski
10- Ruth Jones
11- Cheryl Summa
11 - Gary Miers
15 - John and Teri Whitehead Anniversary
17 - Kathy Boston
17 - Daymond Kovaly
27 - Thomas L. Williams
28 - Megan S. Guiney



IT'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIME AGAIN!



Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church is once again offering an opportunity to apply for the Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church Educational Scholarship. Following is an outline for applying:

- Letters will be handed out to eligible high school seniors and be on hand at the church.
- Eligible high school seniors are those who have previously joined Lehman-Idetown UMC.
- Completed resumes/applications will be sent to ***Lehman-Idetown UMC Scholarship Committee PO Box 12 Lehman PA 18627.***
- Applications due back by **May 1** each year. The committee will review the applications and decide on the scholarship recipients. All applicants should attend Graduate Sunday (**the first Sunday in June**), and the winner will be announced during that service.
- It will be reviewed annually whether or not to open that year's scholarship eligibility to college students who had applied in previous years.

The Scholarship Fund was established in 2010, after the long standing Nuss Education Fund ended. So far we have awarded scholarship money to 29 students, beginning in 1999.

Jeremiah 29:11 tells us, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

March was Problem Gambling Awareness Month – With job losses and prices increasing as a result of the pandemic, natural disasters and the election, people are feeling helpless and hopeless about making ends meet. It's no wonder calls to our offices at Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services have increased; not only regarding substance use, but gambling issues as well. We wanted to send you some information to place in newsletters, on websites and on social media pages for congregation members or their loved ones who may be dealing with a gambling issue. This is especially relevant since we have a casino in our county and with the pandemic, new online gambling sites have popped up. And it is also hard to imagine our children are even in on the "game." Their seemingly "innocent" video games often encourage them to bet on items in order to score more points – this is the very essence of gambling! Thus our children are being taught to gamble by huge gaming corporations out from under adult supervision.

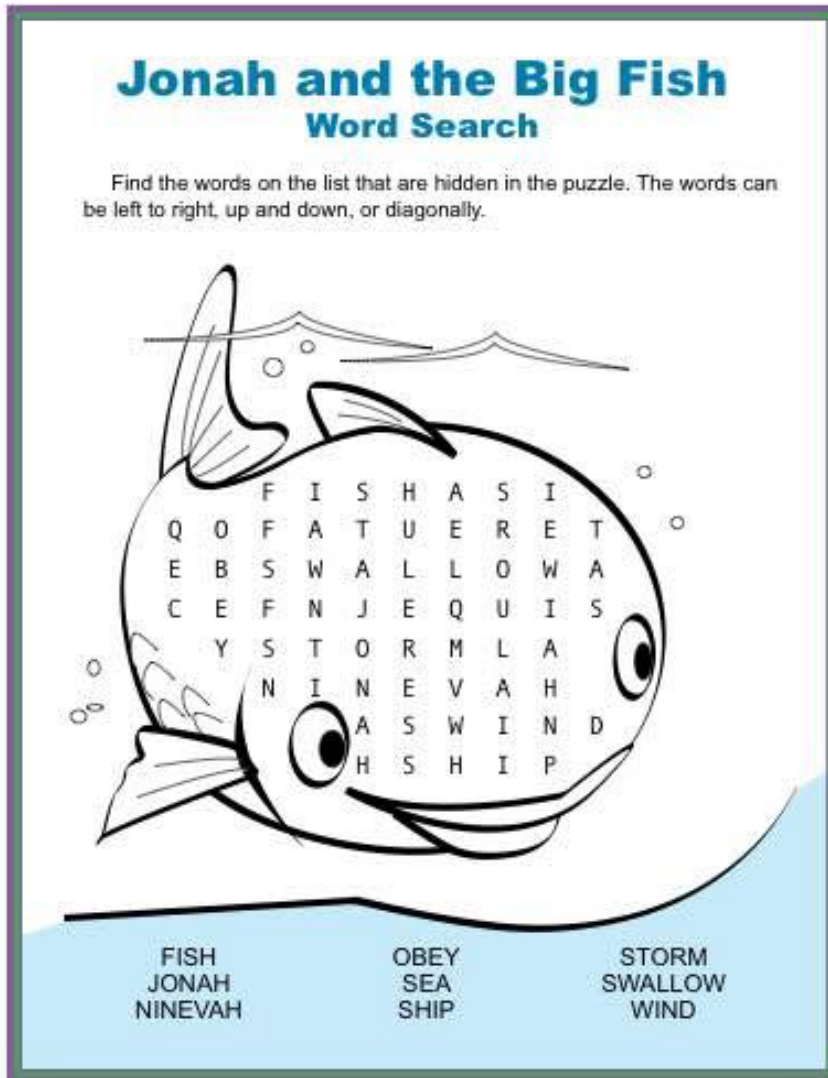
From the Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania
<https://www.pacouncil.com/>



HELP IS AVAILABLE. RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE.

The Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania, Inc., maintains a 24-hour helpline, aimed at assisting people whose lives are impacted by gambling related problems. Whether it be the individual themselves, or friends and family members, we strive to connect callers with additional resources located near them. The helpline provides assistance in the way of crisis management, referrals to treatment providers and counseling agencies in PA, and information about Gamblers Anonymous and Gam-Anon meetings located throughout the Commonwealth.

The helpline offers 24/7/365, live assistance to callers. Calls are free and entirely confidential.
Chat and text options are also available.



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or on our
Facebook page
([@Lehman.Idetown](https://www.facebook.com/Lehman.Idetown))