



Lehman--Idetown United Methodist Church
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DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022
Newsletter
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lkyler@susumc.org
Website: LIUMC.net

December 1, 2021/January 1, 2022

"In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted; heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed. Therefore Christians all be sure, wealth or rank possessing, ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing." – *Good King Wenceslas*, by John Mason Neale

As our holiday preparations take us ever closer to Christmas Day when we celebrate the birthday of the Son of God, we are traveling a path that has been established for generations. We hang ornaments on our trees and place treasured family heirlooms around our homes. Our cookies, fresh from the oven, follow great-grandma's recipe to the letter; but we still miss that secret ingredient that made them taste so good. As our eyes find their way to the figurine of the tiny Baby lying on a bed of hay while surrounded by a menagerie of farm animals, our thoughts, carried on the tune of a classic Christmas hymn, drift back to a time of wonder and miracles and promises fulfilled; often overlooking the struggles to keep the young Child alive and those he faced as a travelling teacher.

The Christmas carol, *Good King Wenceslas*, talks about struggles, but with a message of hope. On a bitter winter night, a wealthy king sees a poor man gathering small, tree branches to heat his humble home. Determined to help, the compassionate monarch and his young page set out to take food and logs to the man in need. After traipsing through the snowy night for a goodly distance, the page woefully declares he can't continue on. The good king, however, encourages his attendant to walk boldly in his own footsteps as they continue on their journey of love and compassion. The page boy does, drawing heat and strength, as he steps in the footprints of his king.

On our journey through the Christmas season and into the New Year, may we all walk in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior, the Child born in Bethlehem. As we do so, let us remember to help those around us – whether they are poor in possessions or poor in spirit, whether they hunger in their bellies or in their hearts. And when we begin to lose our heart and despair that we can't go on any longer, let us seek again the path that our Master, the Son of God, leads us in, a path where we, too, will find blessing. *"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."* *Matthew 5:7.*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Pastor Laura and Bryan

PS. Did you know that the carol, *Good King Wenceslas*, was based on actual monarch, known for his good deeds?

PPS. If you actually read this entire letter, please tell Bryan the codeword, "Twinkle Toes" when you see him! (But don't share with anyone else!)



CELEBRATIONS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

4- Camryn Snyder
11- Elliot and Bev Ide Anniversary 13- Kristi Lyons
13- Hope Felty
13- Sabrina Major
15- Thomas A. Williams
21- Lois Williams Ide
22- Joyce Scott
25- Brendan Newman
25 – Jesus, Our Savior
28- Kendra Cosgrove

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

3- Susie Snyder
5- Buddy Evans
6- Christina Finn
6- Michael Smith
11- Karen Fleming
12- Carter Kovaly
14- David Jones
15- Beverly Wandel
17- Avery Scott
19- Earl Boston
27- Sarah Snyder
27- Sarah Allen



CHALLENGE

SHARE A NATIVITY SCENE!

We would love to see your favorite Nativity scene or one that you may have seen while out and about!

Email Aimee at aimeeliumc@gmail.com your photo and beginning 12/1 she will upload it to Facebook!

Nativity Scene at LIUMC

CONNECTIONS

Our friends/family would love to hear from LIUMC Family, especially during the upcoming holidays. Feel free to mail them a note, a card or uplifting message.

H. Warren Rees
Rm. 312 B, Pavilion Rehab
1406 Medical Center Dr.
Lebanon, TN 37087

Diane Hendershott
Meadows Apts #121
220 Lake Street
Dallas, PA 18612

Alberta Steltz
River View Ridge Rm#222
300 Courtright Street
Wilkes Barre PA 18702

Janet Eddy
c/o Inlet Oaks Assisted Living and Memory
Care
12287 Highway 707
Room 106
Murrell's Inlet, SC 29576

Carol Nieczgoda
Mt. City Nursing Center
Rear 401-403 Hazel Twp Blvd
Hazel Twp, PA 18202-9604

Judy Dawe
Highland Manor
Room 222, B
750 Schoolery Avenue
Exeter, PA 18643

*** If you would like to send encouraging notes or cards to Alex, age 4, below is her address information. See Jean Lipski with any questions or concerns.*

Alex Savage
3640 Belgrade Street
Philadelphia, PA 19134

***Update on Matt VanGorder Jr.'s needs following the fire - At this time, gift cards for food and/or clothes, a bed and dresser for a little girl, and they have no car. Please reach out to Pastor Laura or Aimee if you are interested in helping this family.*

DUE DATES

- Reminder the **newsletter articles** are due to Aimee or Pastor Laura by the 4th Monday of each month (next due date is 1/24/22). We will not have a newsletter in January 2022.
- Bulletin **announcements** are due to Aimee or Pastor Laura by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday announcement is to be made, thank you!

EVENTS

Our church will be involved in **Angel Tree Prison Ministry** again this year. The children's gift requests will be available at the church on **11/21 and the gifts will be due back to the church on or before 12/5**. We will be providing gifts for about 20 children. If you are not able to attend church the gifts may be dropped off in the downstairs from 2:00-3:30 pm on the 12/5 and people who are delivering gifts may pick them up there. If you have any questions, please contact Kendra in November. Her phone number is 570-675-2024.

Advent Calendar. The Advent Calendar for food collection to support The Pastor's Food Pantry (aka The Noxen Food Bank) was a huge success last year and we will participate again this year. **How to participate??** *Grab a box at home, using the calendar at the end of this newsletter, place the corresponding food item into your box, then on 12/12 bring your completed box to church to be blessed and then delivered to the food bank for families to receive in time for the Christmas Season. **Boxes are due at the church kitchen on 12/12.***

As a project of Mission and Outreach, LIUMC will be serving the men of **Vision dinner at Camp Orchard Hill on Saturday, December 18th**. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for donations of food and supplies needed. The dinner will be similar to the fair workers dinner served in September, with the main items being wimpies and macaroni and cheese casseroles. Please consider offering your time and talents to this holiday mission. Reach out to Audrey Ide for more information.

****Watch your email and bulletin for a calendar of upcoming holiday events/services.****

FRAUD PREVENTION

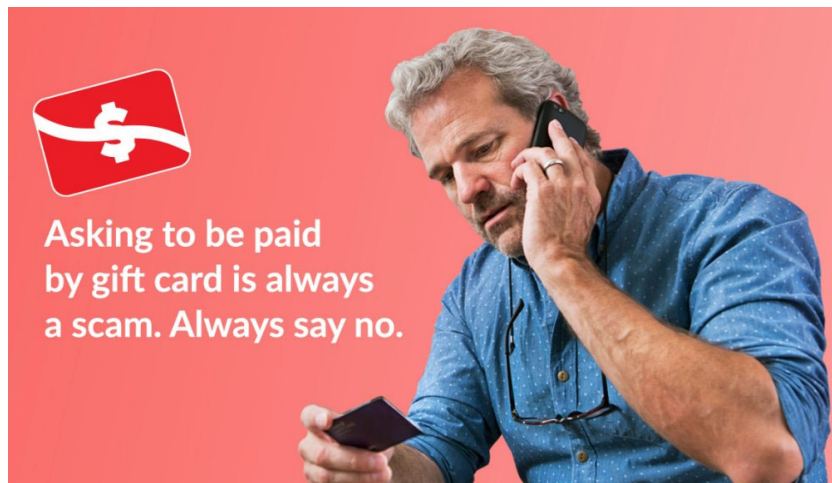
Payment by gift card? It's a scam!

Gift cards are popular and convenient and not just for gifts. Con artists have latched onto gift cards as a convenient form of payment in their scams. In a 2021 AARP survey, nearly 1 in 3 adults said they or someone they know had been asked at some point to purchase a gift card to pay a bill, fee or some other debt or obligation or to claim a prize.

Signs to watch for

1. You're directed to buy one or more gift cards — often referred to as “electronic vouchers” — as a quick means of making payment.
2. You're told to share the numbers on the back of the gift cards, by reading them off or sending a picture.
3. The request comes from someone you wouldn't expect to ask for money this way:

- A Social Security warning of a problem with your account
- A utility company warning of an imminent shutoff
- A lottery company promising a big prize — once you pay some fees upfront
- A grandchild needing bail or facing another financial emergency.



MEETINGS

- The **Why Team** will resume meeting in the New Year!
- **Ad Council** will meet on Tuesday, 12/7 at 6:30 pm.

MISSION & OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Grotto Pizza Parade of Trees. This year our church is benefiting the Pastor's Food Pantry (aka Noxen Food Bank) in Noxen. They support approximately 21 families, including children and seniors. In addition to food insecurity, we are hoping to also bless these families with some items they currently are in need of (see below). Please have items to the mission table in the back of the sanctuary by **Sunday, 12/12.**

- Cleaning Products / Toothpaste / Toothbrushes / Deodorant / Denture Cream
- Floss / Paper Products / Female Hygiene Products
- Coffee / Tea / Baking Items

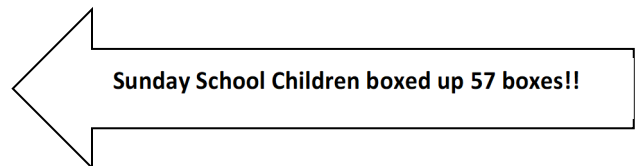
Voting has begun and will continue until December 31st!



Operation Christmas Child

Did You Know? Each box costs \$9.00 to ship.

Through donations we collected the \$513 total to ship these boxes. Thank You!!



OFFERING

The total offering for the month of November was **\$9,699.50**. Our operating expenses are approximately **\$9,848.35** each month. 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 or placed in Joash chest in the back of the sanctuary.

PRAYERS

11/28/21 – Joys: Michael's birthday is tomorrow; Caroline's, Pastor Laura's mom, birthday is today; Joash chest had \$4917; All Christmas shoeboxes had shipping paid; All the children here today; Elves on the shelves have come home; Audrey's neighbor cleaned her driveway.
Concerns: Bill; Bob and Linda; Lori; Travellers; Linda; Those in Wisconsin injured or killed during the Christmas parade last Sunday.

11/21/21 – God Moments: Parents interacting with their children; ladies praying before their meal in a restaurant. **Joys:** Lori is recovering. **Concern:** Jan's son-in-law; John's ex-mother-in-law passed; the Van Gorders; Travelers; Sharon/Sherry; Danielle; Ben; Bryan's aunt Eleanor passed; Eve and family of Sue.

11/14/21 – Joys: Jeanne's grandson arrived home safely; Jayne saw *Esther* at Sight and Sound; Bob VG is here; OCC shoeboxes. **Concerns:** Family of Ann Whitmore; Lori; Jan's son-in-law; Duane; Veterans and their families; Carrie; Marie; Alex; Linda; Matt Jr. and family following a fire.

Ongoing: **Alex Savage; Brooklyn; those battling depression; Juliette and other non-believers; Korri & Family; Tim Nulton; Travelers; Shut ins and those who are isolated; Peace and understanding; For Protection of Communities; An end to systemic racism; Families who've been economically affected; Peace in Turbulent times; + Unspokens.

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

REMINDER

Based on the recommendations and endorsements from Bishop Park the following are effective immediately at LIUMC:

- *Our worshipers, including the vaccinated, are **strongly encouraged to wear masks** at all of our worship services, meetings, and gatherings.*
- *In our times together, please continue to **practice social distancing**.*
- *Those who are **vulnerable**: please, for your health and safety, do not attend in-person worship at this time, please choose our Zoom option.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult and Children Sunday school continues on Sundays after worship service, 10:30-11:15 am.

The **adult class** began an Advent Study on 11/28, reading '**Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph, by Adam Hamilton** as a small group study.

Children's Sunday School

- December
 - 5th: Christmas program and Sundaes Sunday! Children participate in worship
 - 12th: Winter Session 2- Mary and Elizabeth
 - 19th: Winter Session 3- Jesus' Birth
 - 26th: No Sunday School
- January
 - 2nd: No Sunday School
 - 9th: Winter Session 4: Simeon and Anna
 - 16th: Valentines for Shut-ins, Winter Session 5: Jesus in the Temple
 - 23rd: Children participate in worship, Winter Session 6: Jesus' Baptism
 - 30th: Winter Session 7: Temptation in the Desert

UMC CLUSTER / COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Loyalville UMC, 602 Loyalville Rd., Harvey's Lake, will be hosting a Christmas dinner at 12 noon on Christmas Day, December 25. There is no charge, but reservations will be required this year. The church number is 570-477-3521; Pastor Carol's cell number is 570-430-3602.

The **Step by Step praise band** will perform a concert on December 13th at 7:00 PM at the Shavertown UMC. They will take a break for January and February and resume concerts on March 14th.

The **Trucksville United Methodist Church** will be hosting "A Service of the Longest Night" on Tuesday, December 21st, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Dickson Education Building. It is targeted for those who have experienced loss OR for those who may be struggling for whatever reason during this holiday season.

The service will include quiet music, scripture, prayer, and a time of reflecting on the light of God in the midst of our struggles. Dress is casual. For more information, contact the church office at (570) 696-3897.

No Room At The Inn

Forty Fort Presbyterian Church

A display of over 500 Nativity Sets from the private collection of Lynn Prociak

- Saturday, December 4 & 11, 4pm – 8pm
- Sunday, December 5 & 12, Noon – 4pm

Pastor Jim Pall of **Maple Grove UMC** helps host the Back Mountain Ecumenical Men's Breakfast weekly on Thursday mornings (unless it is a holiday like Thanksgiving, or either Lake Lehman or Dallas Schools delay or cancel due to snow). The breakfast begins promptly at 8 am on the second floor of KB Coffee House and ends at 9 am. Men choose one of three breakfasts and pay \$10 for the breakfast and \$1 for missions

Information that may be of interest from **Shavertown UMC**:

- Live Nativity at the Fairgrounds Fri & Sat. Dec. 3 & 4 from 6-8 PM.
- Carols by Candlelight Concert (sponsored by the SUMC Fine Arts Committee) Sun. Dec. 12 at 7:00 PM
- Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service for those going through difficulties and loss - Tues. Dec. 21 at 7:00 PM

An indoor adaptation of the beloved outdoor musical drama at **Harvest Church**. Six shows inside our new church facility!

- Friday, December 10th, 6pm & 8pm
- Saturday, December 11th, 6pm & 8pm
- Sunday, December 12th, 11am & 2pm

Admission is free, however tickets are *required* for entry due to limited seating in our sanctuary. Visit <https://www.harvestnepa.org/thegift>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The **Meadows Nursing Home** is looking for volunteers. The duties may include activities, transporting residents to activities, and one on one visits. Please prayerfully consider if their next volunteer could be you! Please contact Rachel at 570-575-8600 if interested.



**Churches for the week of
December 5 - 11**

New Albany UMC, New Albany
 Weyant UMC, Osterburg
 Gethsemane UMC, Morrisdale
 Scotland UMC, Scotland
 Lawver's UMC, Mc Clure
 Mount Zion UMC, Steelton
 Point Bethel UMC, Hughesville
 Sterling UMC, Sterling
 Concord UMC, Concord
 Mont Alto UMC, Mont Alto

**Churches for the week of
December 12 - 18**

Clintondale UMC, Mill Hall
 The Beacon: A UMC, Hughesville
 *Walnut Grove UMC, Newport
 *Rogers Memorial UMC, Bo - Sierra Leone
 Stone UMC, Berwick
 Trinity UMC, Woodward
 Hemlock Grove UMC, Greentown
 Llyswen UMC, Altoona
 Asbury UMC, York
 Maple Grove UMC, Hunlock Creek
 McAlisterville UMC, McAlisterville
 Greene Hills Camp & Retreat Center, Alexandria

**Churches for the week of
December 19 - 25**

Braman UMC, Equinunk
 Asbury UMC, Altoona
 Bethel Hill UMC, Sweet Valley
 Centennial UMC, Trout Run
 Community UMC, New Cumberland
 Calvary UMC, Fayetteville
 East Salem UMC, Thompsontown
 Jackson Center UMC, Millerton
 Mount Holly Springs UMC, Mount Holly Springs
 Mount Nebo UMC, Delta

**Churches for the week of
December 26 - January 1, 2022**

Maple Springs UMC, Linden
 *Bethany UMC, Marysville
 *Warner Memorial UMC, Mano - Sierra Leone
 Pine Mill UMC, Equinunk
 First UMC, Shickshinny
 Grace UMC, Mifflintown
 Congress Hill UMC, Frenchville
 Equinunk UMC, Equinunk
 Kitchens UMC, Millville
 Mapleton Trinity UMC, Mapleton Depot
 Christ UMC, Yoe
 Mount Asbury Camp & Retreat Center, Newville

CONNECT WITH US! Visit us at LIUMC.net or on our Facebook page (@Lehman.Idetown)

Miss a Sunday Service? Sermons will be uploaded weekly to our website & Facebook page.

Want to join us? Please come check us out at 9:30 on Sundays, in-person or via Zoom. Link to service can be found on our Facebook page.

What's Happening? Our calendar of events can be found on our website and Facebook page. Dates subject to change.

Stay Connected? Send us your email or mailing address and we will include you our 'happenings'.

You can reach us at Lehman.IdetownUMC@gmail.com or call us at 570-675-1216.

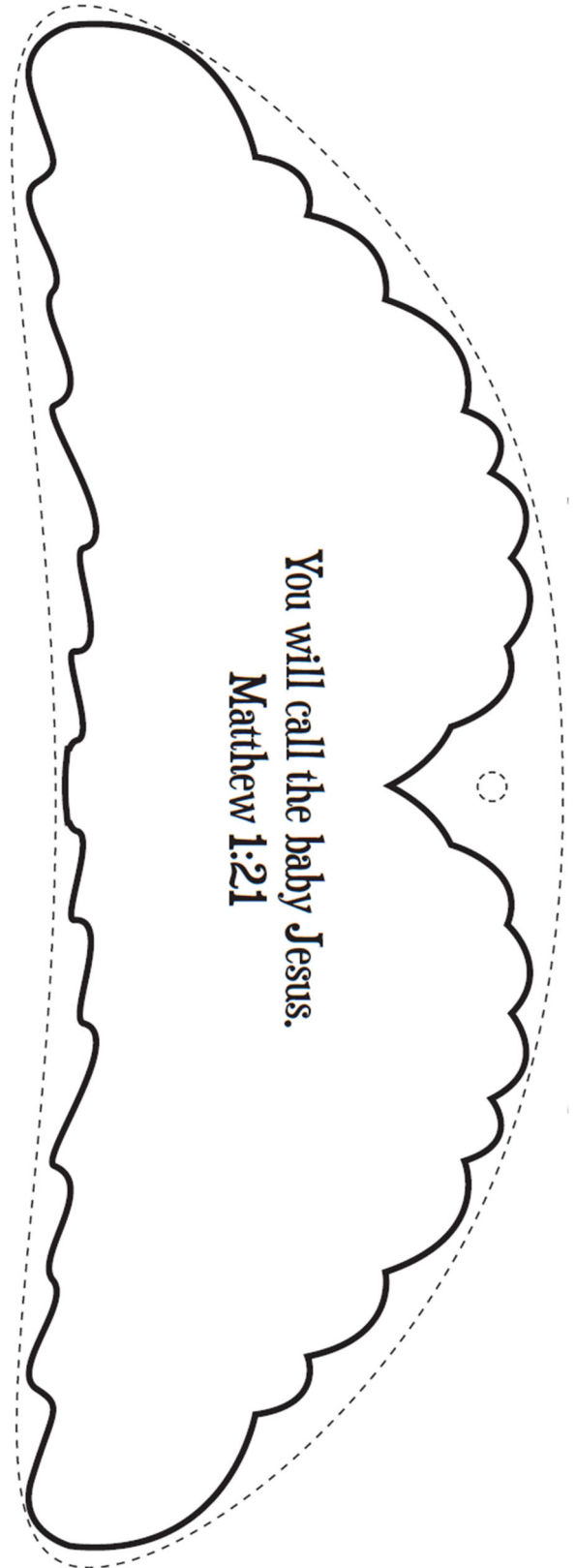
If you would like to chat or visit with Pastor Laura, please reach out to her at lk Tyler@susumc.org or send her a text/call at 717-437-5697!



Mary will be the mother
of Jesus. Luke 1:31

Craft Time: "Angel's Wing Ornament"

Instructions: color the angel and cut out, color and cut out the wings and glue to the back of the angel, punch a hole in the top and tie a ribbon for hanging.



You will call the baby Jesus.
Matthew 1:21



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Box will be distributed to the Pastor's Pantry
 (aka Noxen Food Bank).

How to participate??

Grab a box at home, using the calendar below, place the corresponding food item into your box, then on 12/12 bring your completed box to church to be blessed and then delivered to the food bank for families to receive in time for the Christmas Season.

Any questions reach out to Aimee or Pastor Laura

Date	Item
11/18	box of cereal
11/19	peanut butter
11/20	stuffing mix
11/21	boxed potatoes
11/22	macaroni and cheese
11/23	canned fruit
11/24	canned tomatoes
11/25	canned tuna
11/26	dessert mix
11/27	jar of applesauce
11/28	canned sweet potatoes
11/29	cranberry sauce
11/30	canned beans
12/1	box of crackers
12/2	package of rice
12/3	package of oatmeal
12/4	package of pasta
12/5	spaghetti sauce
12/6	chicken noodle soup
12/7	tomato soup
12/8	jar of jam or jelly
12/9	can mixed vegetables
12/10	can carrots
12/11	jar of gravy
12/12	Bring box to church for blessing!