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FEBRUARY 2022 Newsletter
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February 1, 2022

“To expect the unexpected shows a thoroughly modern intellect.” Oscar Wilde

Caught you off guard, didn't it?! You were expecting a quote from scripture, but found a quote from a playwright instead. Life does that to us sometimes, throws a curveball when we were expecting a fastball right across homeplate. Maybe you were out walking the dog when you slip on the ice and break an arm. Maybe you were approaching your middle years, looking forward to the Empty Nest, when there is a surprise pregnancy or your eldest child says, “Mom, Dad, I lost my job. Can I move back home with you?” Maybe you are looking forward to retirement, and suddenly discover your pension plan has gone bankrupt. Maybe you are fishing and a man walks by and says, “Follow me.” (Matthew 4:18-22). Maybe you are tending your father's sheep when a prophet comes by and anoints your head with oil, thereby declaring you will be a king. (1 Samuel 16:1-13). Maybe you are admiring the mountain in all its majestic beauty when a nearby bush suddenly bursts into flame. (Exodus 3).

The Bible is filled with stories of people living their day-to-day lives when God catches them off guard and asks something unexpected of them. Even though God turns their lives upside down for the moment, God does not leave them without resources - to Moses who stutters, God promotes Aaron as a voice of eloquence; to David, a shepherd boy who would be king, God provides Samuel and Nathan to guide him with wise counsel; to the disciples on the lakeshore, God infuses them with the Holy Spirit and all manner of spiritual gifts; and to each of you who are reading this, God equips you with the gifts and skills needed to serve God in the church you call home, in the community where you live and work, and in your daily life.

In the midst of a world where change occurs at a dizzying speed and the unexpected seems a way of life, remember that you are not alone and you are not without resources. As you follow in the way of the disciples, in the way of Jesus, remember that God through the Holy Spirit will provide you what you need; remember “who goes before you, who stands behind. The God of angel armies is always by your side.” (Taken from “Whom Shall I Fear” by Chris Tomlin). Remember too, as you expect the unexpected that our God who equips us and loves us, is constant – “*the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob*” (Exodus 3:16) is the same Lord God, “*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*” (Revelation 1:8)

God's Blessings,
Pastor Laura

PS. Unexpectedly, I was led to this year's Lenten theme, Good Enough. Visit www.katebowler.com and click on the “Books” tab to learn more about being “Good Enough” in a world that pushes an everchanging, and thus unattainable, vision of perfection.

CELEBRATIONS

MARCH BIRTHDAYS	7-Janet Eddy	9- Sonny Smith
10- Elliot Ide	14 -Izzy Duffy	29- Jean Lipski
31-Allen Guiney	31- Bob VanGorder	31-Shirley Smith

CHRISTIAN CAMPERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP:

Christian Campership Scholarships: UMW in conjunction with LIUMC offers Christian Campership Scholarships, any interest please reach out to Laura Layaou directly, text 570-561-6744 or email at lholdredge@hotmail.com



DUE DATES

- Reminder the **newsletter articles** are due to Aimee or Pastor Laura by the 4th Monday of each month (next due date 02/28/22).
- Bulletin **announcements** are due to Aimee or Pastor Laura by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday announcement is to be made, thank you!

EVENTS

UMW Fundraiser: Bob VanGorder's famous Peanut Brittle!! Limited to 50 orders, orders are due by February 7th, pick up on February 10th. 8 oz bag for \$7.00. Great for Valentines Day!! Contact Jayne Haefele to order. Cell: 570-814-8263 or jshaefe41@gmail.com



WRGN President Day Skate: February 21st from 6:30pm – 9:30 pm at Skateaway, Blackman Street in Wilkes-Barre. Tickets are \$5.00 each. Reach out to Laura Layaou for more information. Text: 570-561-6744 or lholdredge@hotmail.com.

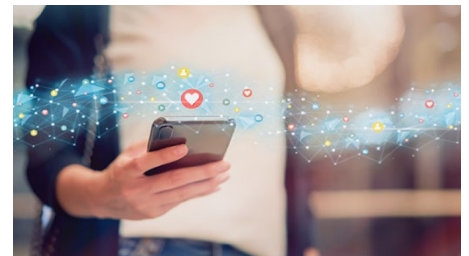
****Watch your email and bulletin for a calendar of upcoming holiday events/services. ****

FRAUD PREVENTION

January 27, 2022 – FEderal Trade Commission finds huge surge in sonsumer reports about losing money to scams initiated through Social Media. Visit [FTC.gov](https://www.ftc.gov) for more information.

About one fourth of all fraud losses reported to the FTC stem from scams that consumers said originated on social media

- Consumers in 2021 reported losing about \$770 million to fraud initiated on social media—about one fourth of all reported fraud losses for the year and an 18-fold increase from 2017, according to the Federal Trade Commission's [latest Consumer Protection Data Spotlight](#).
- Of those who reported losing money to fraud in 2021, more than 95,000 indicated that they were first contacted on social media—more than twice the 2020 number. Investment scams topped the list of total reported dollar losses, followed by romance scams. The largest number of reports came from people who lost money to online shopping scams. Most of the reports about online shopping scams involved someone who ordered a product they saw marketed on social media that never arrived. Consumers who listed the social media platform where the undelivered products were marketed most often named Facebook or Instagram.
- To learn more about how to spot, avoid, and report scams—and how to recover money if you have paid a scammer—visit [ftc.gov/scams](https://www.ftc.gov/scams). If you spot a scam, report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov).



Angel Tree Program Update, Kendra Cosgrove

The Angel Tree Program was a tremendous success, again this year, due to the great outpouring of love from our church family. We provided gifts for 28 children of imprisoned parents which is the most children we have served since the program began in 2015.

A huge thank you to all you participated in the program providing gifts and/or delivering presents. Everyone provided abundant and lovely gifts for the children. It is always an overwhelming response and the families are extremely grateful. It amazes me each year to see the kindness and generosity of our church!

Below is a list of the number of children we have blessed since 2015:

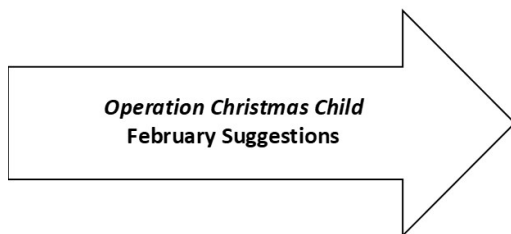
- 2015-15 children
- 2016-19 children
- 2017-15 children
- 2018-18 children
- 2019-22 children
- 2020-27 children
- 2021-28 children

As you can see from the list, the local children in need have increased quite a bit in the past 3 years. In the beginning of the program there were not as many local children and gifts were mailed throughout the state but now the gifts are delivered mostly within a 30-to-50-minute area, including the Back Mountain, Kingston, Plymouth, West Wyoming and Mountaintop this year. We have served quite a few of the families for several years but we continue to get new families each year and children leave the program once their imprisoned parent returns home.

In conclusion, we have shared the love of Jesus at Christmas with 144 children over the past seven years!
Thank you so much for your ongoing support!

Graniteville House of Recovery

For February, we are collecting fuzzy socks and yummy chocolates, please have items at the church by 2/12. They will be delivered for Valentine's Day.



Accessories

Pastors Food Pantry

The Grotto Pizza Parade of Trees, Colleen Reynolds

Thank you to all who participated in making the LIUMC tree a success, with all the votes \$1,205.00 was raised for The Pastors Food Pantry!

February items that are needed:

Stews, canned	Chilis, canned	Spam
Oatmeal, instant	Coffee / Tea / Hot Chocolate, instant	Red Beets
Carrots	Mixed Vegetables	Ramen Noodles

Due to an abundance, please hold on corn and green bean donations for now.

Additionally, the Pantry is in need of bread, eggs, milk & butter. If you are interested in donating these items, please reach out to Colleen or Aimee prior to dropping off at church.

OFFERING

The total offering for the month of December was **\$13,346.40**. 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

01/23/22 - Joys: Lee had her snow shoveled and plowed; Sunday School students are participating in worship; COVID numbers are going down; Darwin has a new granddaughter; George has a new position; Randy received some hopeful news about a transplant. **Concerns:** George K., Susan, Anna Mae and those who are battling COVID and their loved ones; Jayne; the Family and friends of Diane Hendershot; Lori; Bridget; Unspoken; Travelers; Those who have fallen and are now recovering from their falls and/or surgeries - Barb, Elmer, Janet.

01/16/22 – God Moments and Joys: Couple on a bench at the mall; Sunshine; Bev's birthday; Annie and Patrick have a new cousin, Emme; Anna Mae is home; Sabrina made the Dean's List. **Concerns:** The homeless; Those who need heat and food; Pastors' Food Pantry; Hostage situation at a synagogue in Texas; Tony; Travelers; Linda; Nancy; Those who work outside; Lori; Eric; Janet; Unspoken.

01/09/22 – Joys: For working technology that allows us to "gather" in bad weather; Sabrina's mom and dad are recovering from COVID. **Concerns:** Michael and all who are battling COVID; the Frontline and Healthcare workers who are battling COVID; For all those who are working or have to be out in the bad weather; Those facing major life decisions; Arthur and Anna Mae; Bob; Unspoken; Bryan's Uncle Maurice and those who have lost loved ones.

01/02/22 – Joys: Brooklyn is 4, and now cancer free; Alex Savage was able to ride the bike she got for Christmas, following brain surgery; the choir gathering, and Linda's leadership; the breaking forth of a new year. **Concerns:** The wildfires in Colorado; those who have lost loved ones in 2021; Arthur and Anna Mae Major as they recover from COVID-19; new decisions to be made; Colleen's friend, Lori, who is facing a battle; Janet Eddy, who has Covid.

Ongoing: Alex Savage; Brooklyn; those battling depression; Juliette and other non-believers; Korri & Family; Travelers; Tim Nulton; 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.

Janet Eddy fell and broke her hip, she had surgery and is at the hospital recovering: Her address is: Tideland's Waccamaw Community Hospital, 4070 US 17S Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

The following is effective immediately at LIUMC:
Masks are **mandatory** at all of our worship services, meetings, and gatherings.
In our times together, please continue to **practice social distancing**.
Those who are **vulnerable or sick** please, for your health and safety,
do not attend in-person worship at this time, please choose our Zoom option.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ASSESSMENT

Check out your spiritual gifts at: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/en>.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Adult Sunday School:

- We will begin reading 'Adam Hamilton's Confronting The Controversies: Biblical Perspectives On Tough Issues. Reach out to Aimee or Pastor Laura if you would like a copy of the book.

Children's Sunday School

- The children wrote and mailed 16 valentines to shut ins and other church family members.
- Starting February 6th, we will do a canned food drive. It will run the full month of February. Boxes will be in the basement and back of sanctuary beginning that day.
- The children participated in worship on 1/23 and did a wonderful job!

UMC CLUSTER / COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



Weekly Grief Support Group

When: Thursdays, 6:30 PM TO 8:00 PM
February 24th through May 19th

Where: Shavertown UMC, 163 N. Pioneer Avenue,
Shavertown PA

Fee: \$25 for workbook (scholarships available)

Contact: 570-675-3616
for more information



Churches for the week of January 30 - February 5

Town Hill UMC, Shickshinny
Throop UMC, Throop
Starview UMC, Mount Wolf
Doylesburg UMC, Doylesburg
Keeneyville UMC, Middlebury Center
*St. John's UMC, Grantville
**Kwellu UMC, Kwellu - Sierra Leone*
Pine Grove UMC, Mifflintown
Salona UMC, Mill Hall
First UMC, Hanover
Warfordsburg UMC, Warfordsburg

Churches for the week of February 6 - 12

West Fairview UMC, Enola
Woolrich Community UMC, Woolrich
Shiloh UMC, Woodland
United Church of Nelson, Nelson
Moosic UMC, Moosic
*Bakers UMC, McClure
**Albert Margai Memorial UMC, Gbambatoke - Sierra Leone*
Greenmount UMC, Glen Rock
Center Moreland UMC, Center Moreland
North Orwell Union Church, North Orwell
Liberty UMC, Lock Haven
Camp Penn Camp & Retreat Center, Waynesboro

Churches for the week of February 13 - 19

Calvary UMC, Bellwood
Brick UMC, Duryea
*Trinity UMC, Jersey Shore
**Boajibu UMC, Boajibu - Sierra Leone*
Carlisle UMC, Carlisle
First UMC, Mercersburg
Faith UMC, Selinsgrove
Amberson UMC, Spring Run
Faxon-Kenmar UMC, Williamsport
Farrandsville UMC, Farrandsville
Saginaw Community UMC, Mount Wolf

Churches for the week of February 20 - 26

*Maple Lake UMC, Spring Brook Township
**St. Matthews UMC, Magburaka - Sierra Leone*
Mount Carmel UMC, Three Springs
Park Forest Village UMC, State College
Lime Ridge UMC, Bloomsburg
Canton Ecumenical UMC, Canton
East Ararat UMC, East Ararat
McKendree UMC, Airville
Dellville UMC, Duncannon
Trans Run UMC, Bedford
Trinity UMC, New Columbia
Greene Hills Camp & Retreat Center, Alexandria

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

Miss a Sunday Service? Sermons will be uploaded 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.

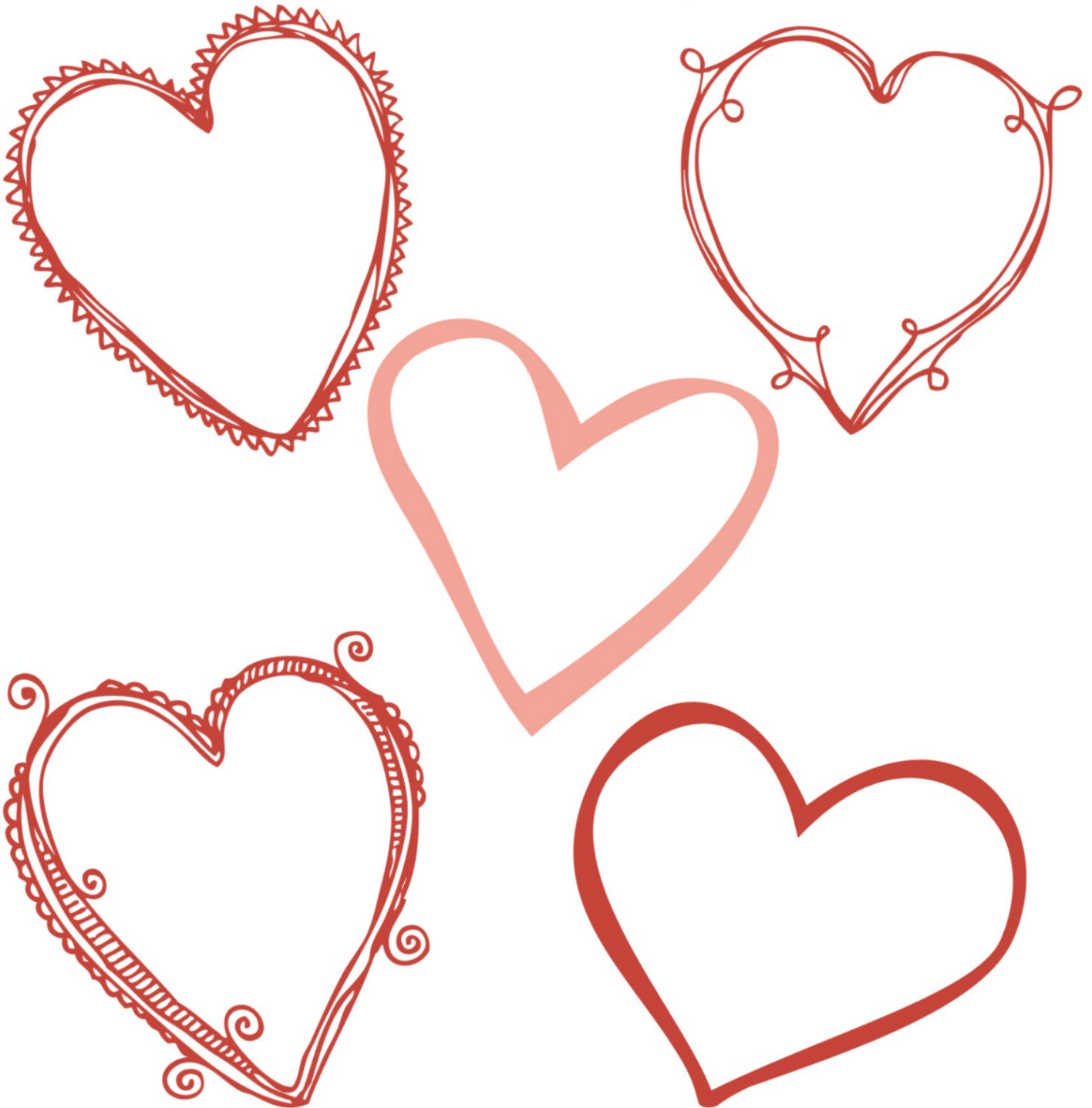
Stay Connected? Send us your email or mailing address and we will include you our 'happenings'.

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 lklyler@susumc.org or send her a text/call at 717-437-5697!

Print, color, cut out and give to your Valentine.

My Jesus I Love Thee *Conversation Hearts*





Lehman Idetown United Methodist Church

Pastor—Laura Kyler

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre District

Superintendent--Rev. Judy Walker

Susquehanna Conference

Bishop --Sandra Steiner Ball (West Virginia Conference)

Bishop--Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (Western PA Conference)

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