



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

Vol. 11 / Issue 07
JULY 2021 Newsletter
Pastor Laura Kyler
717-437-5697
lkyler@susumc.org
Website: LIUMC.net

Behind the Masks
July 1, 2021

“When morning came, it was Leah!” – Genesis 29:25

Jacob had worked for Laban for seven years with the promise that he could marry Laban’s youngest daughter, Rachel, at the end of those seven years. However, on the morning after the wedding, Jacob is beside himself to learn that it was Rachel’s older sister, Leah, whom he had actually wed. It had been Leah, behind the veil or mask, and not the woman he expected and loved.

As we begin to remove our masks, our facial coverings, after this long season of covering up and hibernating in attempts to slow the spread of COVID, we may be surprised at how our neighbors look. Maybe it has been so long since you saw your friend or neighbor without the lower half of their face being covered, that you forget what they look like without it! They may have grown a mustache since you last saw them without a mask. I have even read where teeth whitening has increased since restrictions are being lifted!

Some folks may remove their cloth (or paper) face coverings, but their masks will remain, unseen. They hide their pain, their loneliness, their fear behind an overbright smile that doesn’t reach their eyes. Their worries are masked behind an impassive expression. Their insecurities and pain may even be hidden behind a grouchy demeanor, or a mean streak.

The truth is – we don’t know what other folks are going through, what they are experiencing. We make judgments based on their outward expressions and appearances. Often, we are in such a rush that we don’t take the time to truly look at someone, observe their body language. We don’t look up from our smart phones and electronic devices and actually listen to what they are saying, never mind listening to what they aren’t telling us.

Stop and think for a minute, when you are having a bad day and someone smiles at you, you smile back, grateful for that little bit of cheer. When someone compliments you, that acknowledgement perks you up a little bit. When someone takes the time to ask what is bothering you and listens while you let the mask slip and pour out what you have kept bottled up inside, you feel better, relieved, valued.

Now that the masks are coming off, take some time to “see” one another. Take some time to listen to one another. Take some time to get to know the person behind the mask, you might be surprised at the treasure you find.

God’s Blessings,
Pastor Laura

PS. Since Bryan and I first began attending LIUMC, we have come to know many of you with your masks. Please bear with us if we don’t recognize you immediately without your mask!

PPS. To learn more about the love triangle between Jacob, Leah, and Rachel, read Genesis 29-30.

We are re-open for in person worship. **Effective 07/04/21 masks are now optional and personal preference.** 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 June was **\$9,419.00**. 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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We will be hosting **Vacation Bible School!!** July 6-10 from 6-8 pm. To Mars and Beyond!!!

REMINDER

There will not be a **newsletter** for August, we will resume in September



ROOF PROJECT

It has come to our attention that we are in need of a new roof on the church before the winter. We had ice jams last year which caused problems in the ceiling and walls of the upstairs bathrooms. We estimate the last roof was replaced in the early 90s, so we are certainly due. Before we can think of doing interior projects, we need to have a good roof on our church building. This is a major financial undertaking, especially on the heels of a pandemic year. We, as a council, are looking at possible fundraisers to offset the burden of our parishioners and our treasury. If you have any ideas or if you are able to make a donation, please contact Pastor Laura or Aimee. The cost will be a minimum of \$18,000, with a possibility of additional construction supplies and labor. Thanks for your prayers and support of this project.

---Linda Pineno, Facilities Chairman

July:

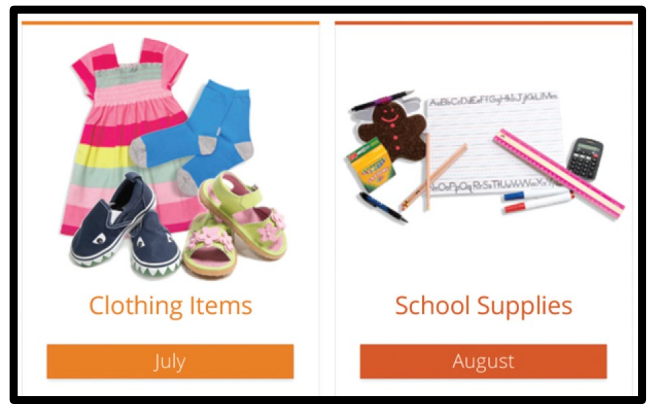
- 5- Colleen Reynolds
- 6- Kaylee Kovaly
- 8- Dan Scott
- 9- Karen Zubkoff
- 11- Brian Williams
- 15- Jayne Haefele
- 18- Lois and Willis Ide Anniversary
- 24- Riley Newman

August:

- 2- Stefanie Lanning
- 4- Jason Lyons
- 7- Bill and Lyndsay Cupp Anniversary
- 7- Janice Russell
- 7- James Ide
- 9- Zachary Zubkoff
- 11- Jim Rogers
- 11- Bob and Linda VanGorder Anniversary
- 13- Mandy Newman
- 22- Catlin Finn
- 24- Dillon Ide
- 26- Lindsay Williams
- 27- Madeline Newman
- 27- Wayne Felty



We are continually collecting items for Operation Christmas Child.



Ongoing: Ann Whitmore; Brooklyn; those battling depression; Alex; 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

Circle of Prayer

<p>For the weeks of June 27 - July 3 and July 4 - 10</p> <p>Please pray for All Congregations and Pastors going through a time of transition</p>	<p>Churches for the week of July 11 - 17</p> <p>Mapleton Grace UMC, Mapleton Depot Smith Hill UMC, Honesdale Dillsburg Community Church, Dillsburg St. Paul's UMC, Berwick Walnut Street UMC, Burnham Evan Falls UMC, Monroe Township UMC of Wellsboro, Wellsboro *Bethel UMC, Marysville <i>*Warner Memorial UMC, Mona - Sierra Leone</i> Rock UMC, West Decatur Grace UMC, New Freedom <i>Camp Penn Camp & Retreat Center, Waynesboro</i></p>	<p>Churches for the week of August 1 - 7</p> <p>Clear Ridge UMC, Hustontown Yorkshire UMC, York Emmanuel UMC, Rebersburg Mt Pleasant UMC, Sunbury *Park UMC, Coudersport <i>* Campbell Town UMC, Campbell Town - Sierra Leone</i> Bradley Memorial UMC, Dickson City Youngs UMC, Shermans Dale Swissdale UMC, Lock Haven Mt Union UMC, Mount Union Leona UMC, Burlington <i>Wesley Forest Camp & Retreat Center, Weikert</i></p>	<p>Churches for the week of August 8 - 14</p> <p>Wayne UMC, McVeytown Calvary UMC, Wiconisco Stevens Chapel UMC, Clearville Prompton Community UMC, Prompton *Witmers UMC, Port Trevorton <i>*Old Wharf UMC, Wellington - Sierra Leone</i> Pleasureville UMC, York Hickorytown UMC, Carlisle Union Corners UMC, Towanda Courtdale UMC, Courtdale Mt Calvary UMC, Biglerville <i>Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center, Windsor, NY</i></p>
<p>Churches for the week of July 18 - 24</p> <p>Clarence UMC, Clarence *Lake Street UMC, Woodland <i>* Milton Margai Memorial UMC, Goderich - Sierra Leone</i> Beach Haven UMC, Beach Haven Cleversburg UMC, Shippensburg Trinity UMC, New Freedom Austin UMC, Austin O'Shanter UMC, O'Shanter Bennett-Derr UMC, Wilkes Barre Mt Airy UMC, Wellsville Ralston UMC, Ralston <i>Greene Hills Camp & Retreat Center, Alexandria</i></p>	<p>Churches for the week of July 25 - 31</p> <p>Fairmount Springs UMC, Benton Grace UMC, Mechanicsburg Chestnut Grove UMC, Dillsburg East Lemon UMC, Factoryville *West Side UMC, Clearfield <i>* Roruks UMC, Roruks - Sierra Leone</i> St Pauls Emmanuel UMC, Danville First UMC, Lewistown The Journey, Harrisburg Oriole UMC, Oriole Russell Hill UMC, Tunkhannock <i>Mount Asbury Camp & Retreat Center, Newville</i></p>	<p>Churches for the week of August 15 - 21</p> <p>White Mills UMC, White Mills Columbia Crossroads UMC, Columbia Crossroads Hope UMC, Alexandria *Plains UMC, Plains <i>* Lungi UMC, Lungi - Sierra Leone</i> First UMC, Mansfield Sanborn UMC, Houtzdale First UMC, Montgomery York Springs UMC, York Springs Pine Creek UMC, Spring Glen Coalmont UMC, Saxton <i>Camp Penn Camp & Retreat Center, Waynesboro</i></p>	<p>Churches for the week of August 22 - 28</p> <p>Wyalusing UMC, Wyalusing Bald Eagle Valley Community UMC, Bellefonte Grace UMC, Wellsville Singers Gap UMC, Mount Union Trinity UMC, Bloomsburg Salem UMC, Liverpool Greater Buffalo Run Valley UMC, Bellefonte Mt Zion UMC, Glen Rock Standing Stone UMC, Wysox Montdale UMC, Scott Township <i>Greene Hills Camp & Retreat Center, Alexandria</i></p>

PHISHING EMAILS

Once again, it looks like someone is trying to trick and phish people into thinking that Bishop Park is sending an email asking them to send him gift cards, cash, or some other form of payment. These emails are being sent from a created Gmail (or other) account that may look like it's from the Bishop, or even another pastor, but it is not from their conference @susumc.org account. Please inform all your pastors, and make your church members aware to mark these fraudulent emails as spam and ignore them. We are aware that they are still coming in, but unfortunately there is nothing we can do except to tell people to mark these emails as spam and not reply back.

If you have any questions or concerns about a potential email/text/phone call, please do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Laura or Aimee for confirmation of legitimacy.

Honor our Bishop by Building the Beloved Community

Approximately a year ago we were in lock-down, but still thinking we were going to have General and Jurisdictional Conferences as were originally planned. We knew that our Bishop, Bishop Park, was going to retire as of September 1, 2020 and that we would find out who would be taking his place at the Jurisdictional Conference slated in July 2020. However, as the pandemic unfolded, we realized that many of our plans were not going to work out as we thought. Bishop Park was asked to continue on as our Episcopal leader in the interim and graciously agreed. It was recently announced by the Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops that Bishop Park will be moving into voluntary retirement on September 1, 2021 and that Bishops Moore-Koikoi and Steiner Ball will be the presiding Bishops of the Susquehanna Conference, West Virginia Conference, and the Western Pennsylvania Conference.

Now we have the task of trying to say goodbye to a leader that has not only led us for two quadrennia, but also then continued a full year beyond, when he planned to retire, based on the needs of the church. As the Episcopal Leadership Transition team met, they asked themselves "What should our Conference get a retiring Bishop who has done so much for our Conference and has gone above and beyond during these trying times?" As we all know, our Bishop has a heart for other people and a gift that would ultimately end up helping others is what the committee discerned would be best.

As a retirement gift for Bishop Park, all churches and people of the Susquehanna Conference are invited to make a donation in his name to the Building the Beloved Community Fund (BBCF). This fund was created out of the passion and commitment that Bishop Park has for an inclusive church. The Bishop's belief and energy is clearly evident as he has helped our Annual Conference continue to break down the walls of division caused by racism. Our Conference Mission is to grow spiritual transformational leaders, equip vital congregations and create new places for new people, and connect with each other and the world so that alive in Christ together, **the Susquehanna Conference will embody the beloved community of disciple making congregations.** One hundred percent of the money donated to the BBCF will be used to help us as a conference live into our mission to be the beloved community.

Fifty percent of the donations to the fund will be overseen by the Commission on the Beloved Community. The commission will disperse much of the money in the form of grants to churches and church entities that propose a specific project toward eradicating racism and enhancing and celebrating diversity. The commission will also use some of the money to fund initiatives on behalf of the



conference as a whole. The other fifty percent of the money collected will be overseen by the Cabinet to fund programs like diversity training, supporting cross-cultural appointments, and promoting diversity.

We know that you and your congregation have a heart for mission and ministry and a commitment to becoming the beloved community God calls us to be.

You can donate to the BBCF on-line on our conference website at susumc.org/endoracism or by mailing a check to Susquehanna Conference, Attn: Finance Office, 303 Mulberry Dr., Mechanicsburg, PA 17050. Please make the check out to the Susquehanna Conference and write "BBCF-9300" in the memo line. Churches can send in money and list it on their remittance report (BBCF-9300). We will announce the gift to Bishop Park at Annual Conference in June and let him know the gifts that have been received up to that point. We can think of no better gift to our Bishop than to promote a fund developed to help us live into those goals; ensuring that our work can and will continue as we strive to shove the love of God to all God's children.

