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MARCH 2022 Newsletter
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March 1, 2022

*"For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;
I shall not be shaken." (Psalm 62:5-6)*

Originally, this letter was going to be a pep talk to get everyone excited about our Lenten series, "Good Enough." That changed – unexpectedly – when Vladimir Putin ordered Russian troops into the sovereign nation of Ukraine. Since the first family, human beings haven't been satisfied with what they have, but want what someone else has. Cain wanted the respect and adoration that his brother Abel received and so he killed him. After all, without Abel there would be no one to compete against. (Read Genesis 4 for more on the story.) Many of the wars or battles in the mid-East have been fought over land or resources.

Here in the US, we haven't been immune to the greed or the "grass is greener over there" syndrome. If you think back to the days of our western expansion, small ranchers were forced out or gobbled up by larger ranches; water sources were diverted or dammed for the benefit of one ranch at the expense of the ranches and towns downstream. The ensuing battles made for good cowboy movies long after the time had passed.

Now here we are, thousands of years after the first premeditated murder, thousands of years after the first land grab, and we are living through it still. We still haven't learned our lesson! But today, even in the new face of an old threat, even when the world is just beginning to recover from a pandemic, even when **"there are great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues" (Luke 21:11)**, we have something to hold onto and to sustain us – something to ease our anxiety – we have hope.

Our hope isn't placed in things made of bricks or wood or art. Our hope isn't placed in steel or precious metals because we know that these treasures, these things are temporary and vulnerable for **"moth and rust to consume and (for) thieves (to) break in and steal."** (Matthew 6:19) Because we have read the end of the book and know how the story turns out, we place our hope in the Son of God who loved us enough to stretch out his arms upon a tree, a cross, so that we might enjoy a better life, a life everlasting in the kingdom that has no equal. That is good enough for me, is it you?

God's Blessings,
Pastor Laura

PS. Be on the lookout for our new, updated "Lent in a Bag" and keep reading below for some more information on our Good Enough sermon series!

LENTEN SEASON

Do you feel like you don't measure up?
That what you do, what you have, what you are, just isn't enough, isn't good enough?
Join us this Lent as we explore being "Good Enough."

We will learn:

- 3/6 - Lent 1 - Ordinary lives can be holy.
- 3/13 - Lent 2 - So much is out of our control.
- 3/20 - Lent 3 - Lots of things can be medicine.
- 3/27 - Lent 4 - We often believe we are the problem.
- 4/3 - Lent 5 - We are fragile.
- 4/10 - Palm Sunday - You are a group project.

If you can relate to any of these statements, then come along with us as we embrace the imperfections of life and faith, and find that we are indeed, "Good Enough".

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

The Trucksville United Methodist Church is looking for an individual willing to be a part of a church ministry team as a part-time assistant secretary. The secretary will maintain regular office hours at the church office and assist the pastor and laity of the church in living out our ministry. Some of the tasks are: preparing for weekly and special worship services and events, record-keeping, ordering supplies/materials, and engaging with visitors to the office. Clearances are a must for all employees. Number of hours of employment is 15 hours/week with a little flex in the hourly pay rate, depending upon experience. **Completed applications and resumes are due by March 9th.** A full job description and job application form is available by contacting Pastor Jay Jones (jjones@susumc.org) or by calling the church office at (570) 696-3897.

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

DISTRICT NEWS

General Conference postponed until 2024, see the last pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter for full details. Please be in prayer for the Church and continue, in this season of the Church, to do the work God has called us to do as His Church -- loving God, loving neighbors and introducing others to the hope and peace found only in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

DUE DATES

- Reminder the **newsletter articles** are due to Aimee or Pastor Laura by the 4th Monday of each month (next due date 03/28/22).
- Bulletin **announcements** are due to Aimee or Pastor Laura by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday announcement is to be made, thank you!

EVENTS

The UMW will be having a soup sale of their famous Vegetable Soup on Thursday, March 24 and pick up will be Friday, March 25. The cost will be \$8 per quart. We are planning on making 80 quarts. Orders and soup ingredient donations will be due on Sunday March 13. Sign-up sheets will be on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Or by calling Jayne Haeefe at 570-814-8263 by March 13.

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

FREE

If you would like a free TV, please check out the one in the back of the sancuary or reach out to Pastor Laura or Aimee for details.

MEETINGS

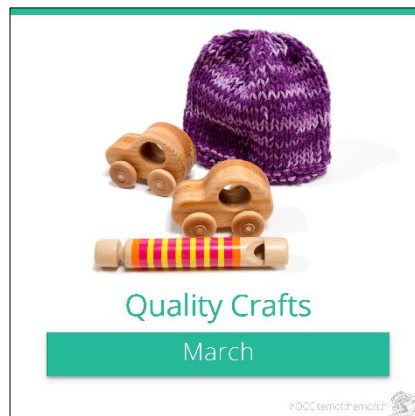
The Why Team will meet on Monday, 3/7 and 3/21 at 6:30 pm.
The UMW monthly meeting will be held on March 22 at 6:30 pm.

MISSION & OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Community Care Cabinet (CCC) located at Shavertown UMC

- On March 13th we will be taking a special monetary collection to send to the CCC for their bag program, where they make bags filled with non-food necessities for local families in need.

Operation Christmas Child



OFFERING

The total offering for the month of January was **\$9,915.00**. 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

02/27/22 - God Moments & Joys: Kinley had a birthday; UMW will be feeding the PSU Wilkes-Barre Men's Basketball team; Jayden has a basketball tournament; Randy has a new kidney. **Concerns:** Ukraine; Rob; Lora; the Hoopengardner family and others who are grieving.

02/20/22 - God Moments & Joys: LIUMC has been making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world for 166 years; Preston Dakota was born; Bob had some lovely conversations with our snowbirds; the PSU Wilkes-Barre Men's Basketball team; Susie and Jayden had a near miss; Lori is sounding like her old self; Cali and Brady who did a great job filling in for Bryan; Bryan is back. **Concerns:** Richard; Chris; Alberta; Travelers; Nancy; Jan's son-in-law's sister; the Ukraine; Mary and Michael; the Golden and Norris families.

02/13/22 - God Moments and Joys: Glad to have Pack 241 and Troop 241 and their families here today; Robin is grateful for all the prayers for her and her daughter; Janet is grateful for the cards, prayers and well wishes; the Scouts are grateful for the church and the opportunity to serve the community. **Concerns:** Travellers; Ukraine; Scouts and their leaders; Chantel; the Johns Family; Those searching to know Christ.

02/06/22 – God Moments & Joys: Someone uncharacteristically doing a good deed; Child proud of their new baby brother; Pastor Laura made it through service last week; Jeanne's son safely got her to church today; Beauty of God's creation following the snow/ice storm; Judy had a birthday; Stevie's surgery went well; Jayne's leg doesn't hurt as badly; Lori is improving; Family who help when it is needed. **Concerns:** Those mourning; Those battling or exposed to COVID; Bryan and Beldin and those without heat; Jan; Family of Arline Swinehart.

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.

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

SOUP & SCRIPTURE (MINUS THE SOUP)

Missing Soup and Scripture? Then join us for Scripture without Soup this Lenten Season - Services begin at 6:30pm and are informal:

3/13 - 2nd Sunday in Lent - LIUMC to host - Pastor Dave Walker to speak

3/20 - 3rd Sunday in Lent - Loyaltyville to host - Pastor Carol Folk to speak

3/27 - 4th Sunday in Lent - Orange UMC to host - Pastor Laura Kyler to speak

4/3 - 5th Sunday in Lent - Dallas to host - Pastor Carrie Granche to speak

Please note - each week we will visit a different UMC!

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.

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

- 3/13- Children will participate in worship and the donut party at end of Sunday school.
- 3/20- Bring a friend to Sunday School!!

UMC CLUSTER / COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

March 7 and 14: I AM Lent: I Lament (Two 1-hour Webinars) @ 8 pm EST

Beyond the anagram, we will look at Jesus' life with the "make me an instrument" prayer of St. Francis and contrast this with the Good Friday Grace play monologues from the creators of items used against Jesus such as the cross, crown, and nails. (You will be asked to make an instrument of your choice as part of this special hands-on learning experience.)

Sign up at <https://form.jotform.com/220315760241141>.

INTENTIONAL DISTRICT PRAYER GATHERINGS - CLERGY AND LAITY

You are invited to join me (Judy) by ZOOM every **Wednesday morning at 8:00 AM** for 20 minutes of intentional prayer with a different focus each week.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89403847197?pwd=VIR5ZzkvWkhtYlhtSytYS1QveFIEUT09>

Meeting ID: 894 0384 7197

Passcode: 752118

SWB DISTRICT LENTEN STUDY - CLERGY AND LAITY

Thursdays: March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7, and 21 (no study April 14), 6:30 to 7:30 PM

PDF Participant guides will be provided by the District.

To register: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/SWBLentenStudy>

Faithful Lent: Connecting the Practices of Lent and Anti-racism from GCORR.

The purpose of this study is to make explicit connections between the traditions of Lent and the work of anti-racism without forcing either one to be what they are not.

This study has been created with the faith-filled assumption that when we take seriously our Lenten traditions and what is necessary for the work of anti-racism, we find the two complement each other, not compete. Thus, what results is anti-racism work which emerges faithfully from engaging in authentic and tradition-based Lenten practices. Much of this study is organized along with worship-based categories such as scripture reading, scripture reflection, and prayer.

Week 1: Repentance

Week 2: Release/Give Up

Week 3: Take On/Develop

Week 4: Choosing a Side

Week 5: Give Alms

Week 6: Right Relationships

2022 Summer Camp Staff Openings

The Susquehanna Conference Camp & Retreat Ministry is now hiring for the 2022 Summer Camp Season! We're looking for Lifeguards, Kitchen Assistants, and Program Staff. You can find a list of all of the openings on our website: <https://susumcamps.org/> Interested applicants should complete an Application (found on the website) and send it to apply@susumc.org.



Churches for the week of February 27 - March 5

Lamar UMC, Lamar
Winterstown UMC, Felton
Hope Eternal UMC, Newport
Pleasant Mount UMC, Pleasant Mount
Ulysses UMC, Ulysses
Zion Stone UMC, Halifax
Mount Nittany UMC, State College
Grazierville UMC, Tyrone
Freeburg UMC, Freeburg
Niles Valley UMC, Wellsboro

Churches for the week of March 6 - 12

*Fishing Creek Salem UMC, Etters
**J. Hal Smith UMC, Jaiama - Sierra Leone*
Salem Community Church, Hamlin
Neidig Memorial UMC, Oberlin
Duboistown UMC, South Williamsport
Stewart Memorial UMC, Old Forge
Simpson Temple United Parish, Altoona
Otterbein UMC, Fayetteville
Spring Valley UMC, West Decatur
Shamokin Dam UMC, Shamokin Dam
Wolfsburg UMC, Bedford
Mount Asbury Camp & Retreat Center, Newville

Churches for the week of March 13 - 19

West Burlington UMC, West Burlington
Big Spring UMC, Newville
Waverly UMC, Waverly
Wesley UMC, Tyrone
Granville UMC, Granville
Middlesex UMC, Carlisle
Liberty Corners UMC, Liberty Corners
Hicks Memorial UMC, Duncansville
Lewisberry UMC, Lewisberry
Ridge Street UMC, Bloomsburg

Churches for the week of March 20 - 26

LaAnna UMC, Cresco
Spring Run UMC, Spring Run
Valley UMC, Muncy Valley
Hetlerville UMC, Nescopeck
St. Mary's UMC, Newville
Upper Strasburg UMC, Upper Strasburg
Snow Shoe UMC, Snow Shoe
Gouldsboro UMC, Gouldsboro
*Beavertown UMC, Beavertown
**Albert Margai Memorial UMC, Gbambatoke - Sierra Leone*
Mt. Pisgah Trinity UMC, York
Wesley Forest Camp & Retreat Center, Weikert

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2022

General Conference further postponed to 2024

Nashville, Tenn.: As the pandemic continues and the wait time for visas stretches to over two years in some countries, the Commission on the General Conference announced today that the 2020 General Conference cannot be held in 2022 due to COVID-related and governmental policies/constraints.

Commission members received a report based on conversations with multiple officials of the U. S. Department of State outlining the massive backlog of visa applications in some areas. This backlog has led to wait times up to 800+ days for scheduling an initial interview. In addition, commission members described an increasingly complex interview process in some areas requiring two or three interviews, which also creates a roadblock that would preclude participation by many delegates outside the United States of America.

Commission chairperson Kim Simpson said the decision to postpone once again was an exceedingly difficult one, with many factors to consider -- including visas and passports, the health and safety of delegates, volunteers and other attendees, vaccination rates, and the need for provisions for quarantine or medical care should any delegates contract COVID-19.

"We engaged in a fair, thorough, integrity-filled discussion of the alternatives," said Simpson. "The visa issue is a reality that is simply outside our control as we seek to achieve a reasonable threshold of delegate presence and participation. Ultimately our decision reflects the hope that 2024 will afford greater opportunity for global travel and a higher degree of protection for the health and safety of delegates and attendees."

The Book of Discipline 2016 requires the Commission to take necessary measures to assure full participation of all General Conference delegates. Consistent with that guidance, the Commission determined that the physical attendance of as many delegates as possible at the General Conference is critically necessary.

A significant advantage of further postponing the 2020 General Conference to 2024 is that the Commission has already secured a venue for what would have been the regularly scheduled quadrennial event. An announcement about the location will be forthcoming as soon as the required logistical planning is complete.

According to Sara Hotchkiss, Business Manager of the General Conference, moving the legislative gathering to 2023 was an option that was discussed, but was not found to be feasible due to a number of reasons, including but not necessarily limited to the logistical challenges of planning, the remaining backlog of visa applications and interviews, and the proximity to the 2024 General Conference.

A technology study team appointed by the Commission [reported](#) in February 2021 that it wasn't feasible to create a virtual alternative of the General Conference that would safeguard the integrity of the voting and credentialing process, meet legal requirements, and support the complexity of the legislative committees required by ¶1507.11 including but not limited to interpretation in multiple languages, and meaningful participation across multiple time zones. While many churches and organizations have adapted technology for events that are based heavily on presenter/observer situations, that is not the type of gathering that embodies a General Conference. Full participation of delegates in Christian conferencing as a means of grace was not seen as possible under these circumstances.

Secretary of the General Conference, Gary Graves, said the further postponement raises a number of additional questions not specifically addressed in *The Book of Discipline 2016*. "As the postponed 2020 General Conference now enters the typical cycle of preparation for a General Conference that would have been held in 2024, we will need to look to the Judicial Council for clarity regarding which preparations and processes are based on the postponed 2020 General Conference and which would need to be enacted should this be seen as a new 2024 General Conference."

The Judicial Council recently [ruled](#) that, "the deadlines for petitions submission in ¶ 507 are based on the date of the postponed General Conference and reset with each postponement."

The Commission will meet again on March 28 to continue the work of preparing for the postponed 2020 General Conference and looking ahead for possible solutions that may help avoid delays in future meetings should unforeseen circumstances occur or persist.

Simpson expressed appreciation to all of those in the Dakotas-Minnesota Area who were involved in planning for hosting and providing volunteers for the Minneapolis event. “We want to recognize the efforts of everyone who has worked so hard over several years to provide a welcoming experience. We are grateful to James Haun for his leadership as Local Host Committee Chair and his service on the Commission on the General Conference,” said Simpson.

Hotchkiss added, “We appreciate the patience and understanding of the Local Host Committee as we have gone back to the drawing board on multiple occasions. They have been more than gracious.”

According to Graves, “It is always a monumental task to host the General Conference, but to prepare several times and still not be able to put those plans into action seems even more difficult. We look forward to ways that we will honor the efforts of the Dakotas-Minnesota Local Host Committee when we finally meet together.”

“The Commission appreciates that many people are disappointed about the circumstances of the 2020 General Conference and shares in the disappointment that it has not been able to be held,” said Simpson. “COVID-19 has tested the collective patience, understanding, compassion, resolve, and even faith of the world. Commission members remain hopeful and pray that the world’s circumstances improve to help make the next General Conference not only possible, but a reminder of the witness of The United Methodist Church as a global representation of the body of Christ.”

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About General Conference

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. The assembly typically meets at the beginning of each quadrennium to consider revisions to church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs for the next four years.



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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