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MAY 2021 Newsletter
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“Why”

“Why is the sky blue? Why is the grass green? Why does a cow go moo? Why...”

Why is the favorite question of most toddlers who are able to speak. As small children, we are hungry to learn and understand. As teens, we question who we are, our identity, “Why do I need to take advanced math that I will never use in the real world? Why am I here?” As we grow older, our questions reflect our search for answers and understanding, “Why do people hate each other based on the color of skin? Why did Grandpa/Grandma have to get Alzheimer’s? Why is there cancer? Why didn’t Noah squish those mosquitos?!” Job, a righteous and godly man in the eyes of both people and God, demanded answers from God when his children were killed, much of his wealth either destroyed or looted, and when he lost his own health. He asked God, *“Why have you made me your target? Why have I become a burden to you? Why do you not pardon my transgression and take away my iniquity?”* Job 7:20b-21 Why, a question that resounds through human history and across cultures. Whereas some answers come easily; many “why’s” have no answer in this life.

Just as we seek to understand who we are and establish our identity, our “why,” so do institutions and organizations. Netflix, the online streaming service, knows their “why” is to “connect people with stories” and in doing so, they meet a “core human need.” The Susquehanna Conference’s own Mission Central, knows and understands their why, “connecting God’s resources with human need.” In 2020, they distributed almost \$11million worth of God’s resources to more than 3million people.

Knowing your why isn’t just for individuals and large organizations. It is important that each local church also know and understand their why. Why does the church exist? Is it to feed the hungry? Sure, but so do fire companies and the Red Cross. Are we to clothe the naked, heal the sick? Sure, but so do the Rotary, the Lion’s Club, Kiwanis, and many other civic-minded groups. So, what makes the church different? What is our why? We are here to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. We are here to *“love God with all our heart, soul, strength, mind,”* and to *“love our neighbor as we love ourself.”* (Mark 12:29-32) Simple enough.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Laura

PS. Be on the lookout this summer for the Turquoise Table – coming to a front yard near here! For more information, look up Turquoise Table or the Front Yard Movement on the web.



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 April was **\$9,481.00**. 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

Our last day of Sunday School for 2021 will be May 16th!

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 as we study the book of Job.

REMINDER: NO ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL MAY 16TH OR 23RD

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." They are folks like Kim Shaver, Mandy Newman, Bob Van Gorder, Kelly Lyons, Sabrina Mutchler, and Jayne Hafele.

ZOOM USHER NEEDED

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!

UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS

Pastor Laura will be on vacation May 14-22. If there is an emergency, please contact *Pastor Carol Folk*, 570-430-3602.

We are selling **Pasties** this month! Prep day is 5/26 and Baking day is 5/27. Pick up 5/27 at the front door of the church, \$7 each, please have exact change or check written out to LIUMC. Limited quantity will be sold ---- place your order by contacting Bob and Linda VanGorder at 570-477-5219.

Our Daily Bread for June/July/August have arrived; they are in the bin outside the church.

"Witness Your Why" team will meet on **Thursday, 5/13 at 6:30 pm** in person at the church.

A meeting to discuss **Vacation Bible School** will be held at 11:00 am today, after Sunday School.

UMW will meet on Tuesday, 5/25 at 7:00 pm in person at the church. No food or drinks will be served. Any women in the church are invited.

May Birthdays: 9- Gail Ide; 25- Linda VanGorder; 27- Austin Shultz



MISSION & OUTREACH

According to NPR: "Nearly 1 in 4 households have experienced food insecurity this year. Even before the pandemic hit, some 13.7 million households or 10.5% of all US households, experienced food insecurity at some point during 2019, according to data from the US Department of Agriculture. That works out to more than 35 million Americans who were either unable to acquire enough food to meet their needs, or uncertain of where their next meal might come from, last year."

For many years, led by Bob and Linda VanGorder, LIUMC has supported both the Back Mountain and Noxen Food Pantries. In addition, during the early stages of the pandemic we also offered a bin with food and toiletries outside of the church. Recently the Sunday School children collected 136 boxes of cereal. Someone had the foresight to send shelf stable milk. How thoughtful. Someone else saved their Weis online order bags. This was helpful to those taking items from the food pantry. While we celebrate the ways we have served in the past, will you take time to consider how we might help those who are food insecure in the future? Here are some things to consider:

- How can we give within the "first offering" concept? That is, sacrificial giving, offering the best quality food that we are able.
- How do we help those who don't have ways to cook food? If they cannot maintain utilities? If a stove or microwave breaks?
- How can we help someone who may not have the other ingredients needed for food preparation? For example, receiving boxed macaroni and cheese but not having milk or butter to prepare it?
- Can we donate items that meet the needs of special populations such as school aged children in the summer months, those with dental issues, people choosing between hygiene items and food?
- Outside of food banks, are there groups or communities that we can serve through prepared meals?
- Can we send spices, seasonings, or condiments that will aid in food preparation?
- Instead of food, would a cash donation to a pantry for fresh items be helpful? Can openers? Expandable grocery carts? Reusable and cooler type grocery bags?

For the next few months, we will be collecting items that are easy to prepare or are ready to eat. They can be put in the collection box in the church kitchen.

Will you pray for us as individuals and as a church for how we can best serve?
Will you pray for all of those who are food insecure?

Kristi Lyons, Mission & Outreach

Food Bank Donations:
71 pounds to
Noxen Food Bank
for 2021



We are continually collecting items for Operation Christmas Child.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Luzerne County Fair is looking for volunteers to help keep the fair sanitary and to guide fair goers on the proper way through the fair this year because of Covid. If anyone is interested or has a child that would be interested (perfect for extracurricular activities on those college applications!), please email indoorvendor@luzernecountyfair.com. The fair is September 8-12th.

Do you have a child interested in attending a Christian Camp this Summer????

LIUMC United Methodist Women and the Church would love to help with funding. Please contact Jayne Hafele at jshaefe41@gmail.com for more details.



DID YOU KNOW??

We support The Graniteville House of Recovery in Sweet Valley with a goodie bag each month!!

January – gloves filled with chap sticks

February – cookies in tins and Valentine treat bags

March – movie night (Popcorn/DVDs)

April – Easter Bags

May – Head Massagers

We would love to hear any suggestions for the upcoming months!

THE GRANITEVILLE HOUSE OF RECOVERY
SUBSTANCE ABUSE REHABILITATION FACILITY

570-417-5419

5452 MAIN RD
SWEET VALLEY, PA
18656-2482

THE GRANITEVILLE HOUSE OF RECOVERY

MISSION: We view substance use as a disorder of the whole person, reflecting problems in conduct, attitudes, moods, values, and emotional management. To reduce the rate of recidivism and to effect a global change in lifestyle, including attitudes and values; we provide a community of support, programs, and the needed foundation to promote a healthier lifestyle without the use of substances.

<http://www.thegrantvillehouseofrecovery.com/>



May 9, 2021 – Joys: Errant Chinese rocket landed in Indian Ocean and did not harm anyone; Jayden threw his first strike out; Bryan and Pastor Laura were able to see some church children play ball; Korri is well enough to return to work; the church has 5 children going to summer camp; Shirley's son and daughter-in-law are here; it's Mother's Day. Concerns: Dave Jones; Dick Ide; Families of Mary, and the little boy who died of COVID.

May 2, 2021 - Joys: Lois and Willis are here; Judy's granddaughter graduated college; John Whitehead completed Local Pastor Licensing School; Answered prayer. Concerns: Jean Lipski; Dick Ide; Travelers; Sabrina; Marissa; Jason; Fire victims; Those with health issues, particularly kidney-related; Families of: Jane, Ed, Jensen's, Holdredge's.

Ongoing: Juliette and other non-believers; Baby Kylee; 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

Circle of Prayer

May 2 - 8 - Mill Hall UMC, Mill Hall; *First UMC, Hershey; *Moyiba UMC, Kissy Brook - Sierra Leone; Firwood UMC, Wilkes Barre; New Era UMC, Wyalusing; Oakdale UMC, Hunlock Creek; Zion UMC, Red Lion; Mardorf UMC, Altoona; Lakeville UMC, Lakeville; St. John's UMC, Hegins; Knoxville Yoked Church, Knoxville

May 9 – 15 - St. Paul UMC, Manchester; Christ's UMC, Julian; Highspire UMC, Highspire; Dunmore UMC, Dunmore; Siloam UMC, Harrisonville; Vira UMC, Lewistown; First UMC, Nanticoke; *Aldersgate UMC, York; *Kayima UMC, Kayima - Sierra Leone; Tunkhannock UMC, Tunkhannock; Beech Valley UMC, Trout Run; Greene Hills Camp & Retreat Center, Alexandria

May 16 – 22 - *Baughman Memorial UMC, New Cumberland; *Bishop Humper Peacock Farm UMC, Freetown - Sierra Leone; Martha UMC, Port Matilda; Salem UMC, Delta; Dudley UMC, Dudley; Huntersville UMC, Muncy; Woodvale UMC, Wood; Mehoopany UMC, Mehoopany; Centenary UMC, Steelton; Ebenezer UMC, Roaring Branch; Christ UMC, Mountain Top

May 23 – 29 - Hawley UMC, Hawley; St. John's UMC, Grover; 12th Street UMC, Huntingdon; Otterbein UMC, Thompsontown; Shopes UMC, Hummelstown; Wrightsville Hope UMC, Wrightsville; Lincoln Chapel UMC, Laurelton; Watts Memorial UMC, Belleville; Six Mile Run UMC, Defiance; *First UMC, Marion; *Makump Bana UMC, Makump Bana - Sierra Leone; Mount Asbury Camp & Retreat Center, Newville

May 30 - June 5 - *Linglestown Life UMC, Harrisburg; *Gaston UMC, Yengema - Sierra Leone; Bethlehem UMC, Dallastown; Noxen UMC, Noxen; Farragut UMC, Montoursville; Summer Hill UMC, Berwick; St. James UMC, Coburn; Bedford Forge UMC, Hopewell; First UMC, New Milford; Otterbein UMC, Carlisle; Bethany UMC, Berwick

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

Coloring page for ALL ages!! Feel free to print, color and bring to the church to be displayed on the bulletin board.

