

THE FRIENDLY VOICE
FEBRUARY 2019



LANGHORNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

301 E. Maple Ave.,

Langhorne, PA 19047

(215) 757-4984

lumc-online.org



The Time for Prayer Is Always NOW...

February 1, 2019

Greetings as we begin this new year in Christ's mission for the world!

I have spent much time in prayer for all of you, the community, the state and nation, the United Methodist Church, the world, and God's Holy Church. As we make small changes and big changes in our lives at home, so do we make them in our local church, in our global UMC, and in the world. Some life changes are minor, others devastating.

Of those that are necessary, there are changes that affect thousands of people for decades to come. We, as the global and local United Methodist Church are facing a decision that will be made this month that will impact and change our denomination for quite some time. I am referring to the Way Forward deliberations and vote that are scheduled to take place February 23-26. If you have not been praying up to this point, *the time for prayer is NOW.*

To recap: As it stands now in our United Methodist Book of Discipline, United Methodist clergy may NOT perform same-sex/gender weddings at all. Such weddings, even if performed by pastors from other denominations, may NOT take place in any United Methodist Church or property. Also, United Methodist clergy who are members of the LGBTQ community may NOT be partnered in a same-sex/gender marriage or sexual relationship outside of marriage. All single clergy must maintain sexual abstinence.

I have made reference to this General Conference event and even devoted my September 2018 Pastor's Message in the Friendly Voice to the Way Forward February 2019 vote. In it, I asked that all of you pray about and TALK about it so that many voices and opinions were heard. Very few people have spoken to me about it and I do not know where the majority of this local church stands on the issues of how the UMC ministers to and with members of the LGBTQI community. Please see the end of this message for a brief survey. Please submit them to me, Rev. Pfahler, if you have not done so already. NO ONE will look at these besides myself.

I will also, again, attach the August 15, 2018 Update created by the Eastern PA Conference of the UMC to this message. It lays out a good bit of the Way Forward information in an outline. But the three plans to be voted on and what it means for the local church are not necessarily clear to the reader.

To simplify the three plans in the extreme:

- The Traditionalist Plan -- Should this plan pass, it will not change anything for the United Methodist Church or for our congregation as far as the discipline goes and the way we function. It would remain as is, minus the folks who firmly oppose the decision and will decide to leave the UMC. For some congregations, it can mean one or two people, or a large majority; and in some cases, entire congregations will leave the church. Other future policies may emerge later.
- The One Church Plan -- Should this plan pass, it will change a number of things in the discipline. In a nut shell, individual local churches will have the option (by charge conference vote) as to whether or not to hold same-sex/gender marriages in their churches. It will free up clergy to choose whether or not to perform same-sex/gender marriages as per their beliefs, either in their local church or outside at another church or facility, *pending the local church's vote* as mentioned above. It will also allow clergy who are members of the LGBTQ community to marry, living in a same-sex/gender marriage. But the "abstention from sex outside of marriage" policy would still hold for all single clergy members. There are people, clergy, and congregations in our conference who have vowed to leave the UMC should this pass.
- The Connectional Conference Plan -- This plan is a bit more complicated in structure. Should this plan pass, it will initiate "an extensive restructure of the United Methodist Church."¹ It is described as "a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services. This plan creates three values-based connectional conferences that have distinctive definitions of accountability, contextualization and justice."² "Shared doctrine and services" means that all would share our common doctrine, and UM services now in place for the UMC would continue to serve all three connectional conferences. In the USA, our five jurisdictions would be changed to three connectional conferences: the Traditional (like the Traditional Plan), Unity (like the One Church plan), and Progressive (all churches allow for LGBTQ weddings by their clergy and their churches; LGBTQ clergy may be married in a same-sex/gender marriage). If passed, each Annual Conference would then vote to align itself with one of the three new connectional conferences. If a local church disagrees with the alignment chosen, then, by charge conference majority vote, *"Local churches may choose to align with a connectional conference DIFFERENT from the one decided by their Annual Conference."*³

I would encourage you to look at the report on these three plans. All have Biblical and theological foundations, and other pieces of information that are included. While it IS lengthy (93 pages), it is not hard to navigate and will give you a better idea of what is to be voted on at the General Conference, February 23-26. I have a few hard copies you folks can borrow. You can also download it from its link on the conference website www.epaumc.org or go directly to http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/council-of-bishops/news_and_statements/documents/Way_Forward_Report_-_Final_-_ENGLISH.pdf

¹ Commission On A Way Forward's Report to the General Conference; available as a link on the Conference website <http://www.epaumc.org> or go directly to http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/council-of-bishops/news_and_statements/documents/Way_Forward_Report_-_Final_-_ENGLISH.pdf; p.32

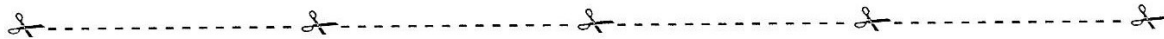
² Ibid; p.26

³ Ibid; p.32

Again, I ask you to be in prayer and in conversation about the vote and where you see the United Methodist Church worldwide, Langhorne United Methodist Church, and yourself in any of the three scenarios.

Please pray that all delegates to the General Conference heed the voice of God in all deliberations, in conversations, in their sleep, in worship, and in their own prayer time with God. Please pray for peace and comfort to all for whom the final vote is not what they have prayed and/or worked so hard for. Please pray for the entire United Methodist Church. Please pray for all of God's Holy Church. For as one part of the body suffers, the whole suffers; and one part rejoices, the whole rejoices.

In Christ's Peace and Grace,
Laurie
Rev. Laurie J. Pfahler, Your Pastor



Brief Survey on What You Are Thinking/Feeling About the "Way Forward" Vote and What It May Mean For You and Langhorne United Methodist Church.

Please fill this out as an individual speaking ONLY for yourself, not for your spouse or family members. Your name here is optional, but would be helpful to me as your pastor. No one else will see these but me - -Laurie

Name: _____ Age: 14-20 21-35 36-50 51-65 over 65

Have you read the Pastor's September or February messages on the Way Forward and/or looked at the links on the Eastern PA Conference website about the Way Forward? YES NO

Do you have questions about the voting and/or the impact it will have on us here at Langhorne UMC? YES NO
If YES, will you seek answers from me and/or further research through the conference website? YES NO

If you were voting at the General Conference with what you understand now, which plan would you vote for?
 Traditionalist One Church Connectional Conference

With no commitment suggested (you might change your mind later), what do you THINK you will do if the vote is

PLAN	MY DECISION	
<input type="checkbox"/> Traditionalist Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Stay with Langhorne UMC	<input type="checkbox"/> Leave Langhorne UMC
<input type="checkbox"/> One Church Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Stay with Langhorne UMC	<input type="checkbox"/> Leave Langhorne UMC

If the vote is for the Connectional Conference Plan, how would you hope the Annual Conference would align itself?
With Traditional Unity Progressive
If Langhorne UMC does not align itself as you think it should, will you stay with LUMC or leave UMC?

Comments are welcome on the back of this survey. Please place the completed survey in the box on my office door.

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions. Your answers will help me to better minister to this church when the vote is cast and announced. Once again, the time to pray is always NOW.

In Christ's Peace and Grace,
Laurie, your pastor

The Way Forward for The United Methodist Church Information (Background & Updates)

The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline, Paragraph 161g:

“The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.”

Ordained Ministry – Paragraph 304.3

“The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers or appointed to serve in the United Methodist Church.”

Marriage – Paragraph 161c

“We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman. We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.”

Unauthorized Conduct – Paragraph 341.6

“Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.”

Chargeable Offenses – Paragraph 2702.1 (a) (b)

“A clergy member...may be tried when charged with one or more of the following offenses (a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage, (b) practices declared by the United Methodist church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies...”

Since 1972...

These paragraphs have been debated and voted again and again. At every General Conference since these paragraphs have been challenged but in general they have stayed the same with the exception of some additions about “God’s grace is available for all” “we implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbians and gay members and friends.”

General Conference, Portland, Oregon, May 10-20, 2016

Authorized (by 23 votes) the Council of Bishops to create a Special Commission on A Way Forward”

- All legislation regarding homosexuality was suspended.
- A commission of 32 people was created to study the issue in depth and bring to the bishops a plan.
- The commission consisted of a wide variety of diversity: ethnically, gender, orientation, theological, lay and clergy.
- The 2012 Discipline would stay in place while the commission did its work.

Vision of the Commission

- To design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of the UM witness in as many places in the world as possible, that allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible and balances an approach to different theological understanding of human sexuality with a desire for as much unity as possible.

- ...This unity will not be grounded in our conceptions of human sexuality but in our affirmation of the Triune God who calls us to be a grace-filled and holy people in the Wesleyan tradition.”

Process

- Undergirded with an intentional and global prayer effort.
- Study of the scriptures.
- Presentations by theologians, historians, financial leaders, other denominations.
- Hearing from agencies, boards, churches.
- Much conversation and sharing of hearts and perspectives.

Meetings

- The Commission met 9 times in person.
- The Commission lived together with a “Covenant of Accountability” mandating respect, prayer, study, hospitality, and confidentiality.
- The Commission identified behaviors that needed to be avoided (harmful speech, interrupting others, blaming, distracting, politicizing).

The Commission presented three alternative “sketches” to the bishops in November 2017. They became “models” in early 2018 and have since been finalized as plans:

Traditional Plan

- Affirms the current Book of Discipline language about homosexuality, prohibiting ordination and same-gender marriages or unions of homosexual persons.
- Places a high value on accountability and enforcement.

One Church Plan

- Removes all of the restrictive language in the Book of Discipline about homosexuality, ordination and same-gender marriages/unions.
- Has a high value on contextualization.
- Protects the rights of those whose conscience will not allow them to perform same gender weddings or ordain LGBTQ persons.

Connectional Conference Plan

- Has one “core” that includes shared doctrine and services.
- Creates different “branches” that have clearly defined values.
- These values include: accountability, contextualization and justice.

What the models/plans have in common:

- Each represents values that are within the Council of Bishops and the UMC.
- Each includes a gracious way to exit from the denomination for those who feel called do so.
- Each includes Biblical theology and mission.

Council of Bishops

The Council of Bishops is not planning on schism and believes that unity is our best witness. Conferences are encouraged to study the book *Anatomy of Peace*, by the Arbinger Institute, and have conversations locally.

The values of our global church are reflected in all three plans. But the

majority of the Council of Bishops recommends the One Church Plan as the best way forward for The United Methodist Church.

- It allows for contextualization of language about human sexuality in support of our common mission.
- It allows for central conferences, especially those in Africa, to retain their traditional language and values.
- It best fulfills the vision of a global and multicultural Church in order to maximize our mission and achieve as much unity as possible.
- It keeps the constitution and the structure and agencies intact.
- It does not force anyone to act outside of their conscience.
- It received the overwhelming majority in the COB's support.
- It has the most space, clarity, grace, context and simplicity.
- It takes out the language from the Discipline about homosexuality and same-gender weddings. Instead, it allows churches and pastors to decide about hosting and conducting weddings; and it allows conferences and their boards of ordained ministry to decide about ordination and commissioning of LGBT clergy.

Special General Conference

- There will be 864 delegates – (½ lay and ½ clergy) from the entire denomination
- 42% of the voting delegates are from countries other than the US
- 30% of the delegates are from the continent of Africa
- The majority of the US delegates are from the southeast and south central jurisdictions.
- Eastern PA has 8 delegates, Pen-Del has 4 delegates.
- Local conversations are encouraged.

Timeline

- Bishop Peggy Johnson will update Way Forward developments, review the three study commission plans and invite questions and comments at four district town hall meetings in the fall. (2018 -- ALL took place - WJF)
- Sept. 22 – the NEJ delegations will meet for instructions and conversation.
- At its regular October meeting, the Judicial Council will review the 2019 Special GC documents and rule on the constitutionality of the three submitted plans.
- General Conference will be held in St. Louis, Mo., February 23-26, 2019. The result of its vote on the way forward goes into effect immediately.

What to do in the meantime:

- Be an unanxious presence, holding fast to “the peace that surpasses understanding.”
- Have conversations, prayer meetings, Bible study. (Resources are on conference websites.)
- Join our special prayer emphasis: Pray every day from 2:23 pm to 2:26 pm (and a.m. if you are up late). These are the dates of the General Conference in February.
- Engage in the Wesley Fast (from sundown on Thursday until 3 PM Friday)
- Have an attitude of “Convicted Humility”

Convicted Humility is an attitude which combines honesty about the differing convictions which divide us with humility about the ways in which each of our views may stand in need of correction. It also involves humble repentance for all the ways in which we have spoken and acted as those seeking to win a fight rather than those called to discern the shape for faithfulness together. In that

spirit, we wish to lift up our sacred core commitments which define the Wesleyan movement and ground our search for wisdom and holiness.

--Information provided by Bishop Peggy A. Johnson, Philadelphia Episcopal Area

Questions for Table-Talk Conversations

- What are the most important values and convictions in seeking a way forward?
- What resources help us to tell the narratives of unity in seeking a way forward?
- What are the core convictions of our faith as United Methodists?

Pray for our General Conference Delegates and for the Unity of the UMC

Eastern PA Conference Delegates to the 2019 Special General Conference
(including two alternates):

Clergy Delegates

Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm dtaylorstorm@epaumc.org
Rev. Jeff Raffauf jeff@westlawnumc.org,
Rev. Joseph Dipaolo dipaolo@engagegodfirst.org
Rev. Lydia Muñoz lydiaem0501@gmail.com
Rev. Robert Wilt 2robertwilt@gmail.com alternate

Lay Delegates

Mrs. Judy Ehninger judy.ehninger@gmail.com
Mrs. Clarita Krall claritakrall@juno.com
Miss. Krystl Johnson krystljohnson@ymail.com
Mrs. Jane Bonner jbonner101@verizon.net
Ms. Lenora Thompson lenorathompson@hotmail.com alternate

Additional Delegates for NEJ Conference if necessary

Rev. Tracy Bass tbass@epaumc.org,
Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien christopherkurien@gmail.com
Rev. Dr. Irving Cotto icotto@epaumc.org
Rev. Robin Hynicka robin@archstreetumc.org
Rev. Mindy McKonly Mmmckonly@gmail.com
Mr. Dave Koch dave.koch@comcast.net
Miss Anne Jacobs acjacob1@gmail.com
Ms. Wilhelmina Young thecatalyst212@yahoo.com

Suggested Prayers

Based on Philippians 1:9-11. Pray individually or adapt for collective prayer.

Magnificent God, in the name of Jesus, I ask that Your love grow more and more in my heart through the blessing and counsel of the Holy Spirit. May your Spirit strengthen me in the knowledge of You and of the things You have called me to do.

Help me to know the right things to do and how to do them with excellence, and to remain sincere, genuine, and real in all my encounters with others while remaining free from blame and the appearance of evil. May I overflow in the fruits of Your love, which

I have because of Jesus Christ. Please cause me and my actions to be a constant glory and praise to You under all circumstances and in all things. AMEN.

(Excerpted from: *Discover the Power in the Prayers of Paul* by David Bordon with Rick Killian; Harrison House Publishers, copyright 2005 Tulsa, OK)

Prayer for the Delegates:

Gracious God,

You have called us, O God, to do the work of your church as careful and efficient stewards. To this end, we bond together our congregations and govern them through the work of Conferences in which we consult and consider together pressing matters before the church.

Give wisdom and vision to those who serve us as our delegates to the Special General Conference. Let not the weariness of their duties distract them nor the emotion of the issues they face prejudice them in the decisions they must make. Enable them to seek first your kingdom and its righteousness. So instruct each delegate that they may wisely conduct the business before them.

Give all delegates a love for your whole church—a desire not only to serve you as we now can, but also a determination to bring unity so that the world may more readily receive the Gospel and find in our manner of living the way of peace. In Jesus' name, AMEN.

From *This Day: A Wesleyan Way of Prayer* by Laurence Hull Stookey

Prayers provided by the Rev. Jean Howe, Pastor of Grace UMC and Pastor of Adult Ministries at West Lawn UMC.

Updated: August 15, 2018

anthonne United Methodist Church

Feb 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 3:30am - Children 3:30am - Traditional 11am - Contemporar 3:30pm - Bell Choir 3:30pm - Youth	28 6pm - Shared Meal 7pm - Bucks Mt.	29 7pm - Bucks Mt.	30 7pm - Choir	31 7am - Men's Brk. 9am - Steeple Kids 7pm - Bagpipe 7pm - Praise Team	1 6:30pm - Brownie	2 8:30am - Men Min.
3 3:30am - Children 3:30am - Traditional 11am - Contemporar 3:30pm - "Gathering 3:30pm - Bell Choir 3:30pm - Youth	4 5pm - Brownies 7pm - Trustee's Mtg.	5 6:30pm - Dalsy GS 7pm - Bucks Mt.	6 7pm - Choir	7 7am - Men's Brk. 9am - Steeple Kids 7pm - Bagpipe 7pm - Praise Team	8	9
10 3:30am - Children 3:30am - Traditional 11am - Contemporar 3:30pm - Bell Choir 3:30pm - Emmaus 3:30pm - Youth	11 7pm - Finance Mtg. 7:30pm - GS	12 7pm - Bucks Mt. 7pm - UMW	13 6pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Sunday 7pm - Choir	14 7am - Men's Brk. 9am - Steeple Kids 7pm - Bagpipe 7pm - Praise Team	15 6:30pm - Brownie	16 7:30am - Men's 1pm - TLA
17 3:30am - Children 3:30am - Traditional 11am - Contemporar 3:30pm - Bell Choir 3:30pm - Youth	18 5pm - Brownies 7pm - Stewardship	19 6:30pm - Dalsy GS 7pm - Bucks Mt. 7pm - SPR Mtg.	20 7pm - Choir	21 7am - Men's Brk. 9am - Steeple Kids 7pm - Bagpipe 7pm - Praise Team	22 6pm - Pot Luck / Movie	23 8:30am - Men Min. 10am - Missions & 8pm - Pot Luck
24 3:30am - Children 3:30am - Traditional 11am - Contemporar 3:30pm - Bell Choir 3:30pm - Youth	25 6pm - Shared Meal 7pm - Bucks Mt.	26 7pm - Bucks Mt.	27 5:30pm - GS First 6pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Choir	28 7am - Men's Brk. 9am - Steeple Kids 7pm - Bagpipe 7pm - Praise Team	1 6:30pm - Brownie	2 8:30am - Men Min.

Langhorne United Methodist Church

Mar 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24 9:30am - Children 9:30am - Traditional 11am - Contemporar 6:30pm - Bell Choir	25 6pm - Shared Meal 7pm - Bucks Mt.	26 7pm - Bucks Mt.	27 5:30pm - GS First 6pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Choir	28 7am - Men's Brk. 9am - Steeple Kids 7pm - Bagpipe 7pm - Praise Team	1 6:30pm - Brownie	2 8:30am - Men Min.
3 9:30am - Children 9:30am - Traditional 11am - Contemporar 6:30pm - "Gathering 6:30pm - Bell Choir	4 5pm - Brownies 7pm - Trustee's Mtg.	5 6:30pm - Daisy GS 7pm - Bucks Mt.	6 10am - Lenten Study 7pm - Choir	7 7am - Men's Brk. 9am - Steeple Kids 7pm - Bagpipe 7pm - Lenten Study 7pm - Praise Team	8	9
10 9:30am - Children 9:30am - Traditional 11am - Contemporar 1:30pm - Girl Scouts 5pm - Sunday Soup	11 7pm - Finance Mtg. 7:30pm - GS	12 7pm - Bucks Mt. 7pm - UMW	13 10am - Lenten Study 6pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Choir	14 7am - Men's Brk. 9am - Steeple Kids 7pm - Bagpipe 7pm - Lenten Study 7pm - Praise Team	15 6:30pm - Brownie	16 7:30am - Men's 1pm - TLA
17 9:30am - Children 9:30am - Traditional 11am - Contemporar 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Youth	18 5pm - Brownies 7pm - Ad Board Mtg.	19 6:30pm - Daisy GS 7pm - Bucks Mt. 7pm - SPR Mtg.	20 10am - Lenten Study 7pm - Choir	21 7am - Men's Brk. 9am - Steeple Kids 7pm - Bagpipe 7pm - Lenten Study 7pm - Praise Team	22 5pm - Steeple Kids	23 8:30am - Men Min. 10am - Missions &
24 9:30am - Children 9:30am - Traditional 11am - Contemporar 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Youth	25 6pm - Shared Meal 7pm - Bucks Mt.	26 7pm - Bucks Mt.	27 10am - Lenten Study 6pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Choir	28 7am - Men's Brk. 9am - Steeple Kids 7pm - Bagpipe 7pm - Lenten Study 7pm - Praise Team	29	30
31 9:30am - Combined 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Youth	1 5pm - Brownies 7pm - Trustee's Mtg.	2 6:30pm - Daisy GS 7pm - Bucks Mt.	3 10am - Lenten Study 7pm - Choir	4 7am - Men's Brk. 9am - Steeple Kids 7pm - Bagpipe 7pm - Lenten Study 7pm - Praise Team	5 6:30pm - Brownie	6 8:30am - Men Min.



FEBRUARY 2019 SANCTUARY SERVANTS

February 3

Worship Assistant 9:30.....Jerry Hill
Greeters 9:30.....Robyn & Jeff Rowlands
Ushers 9:30Paul & Jackie Hansen
Contemporary Assistants 11:00.....Daeche Family

February 10

Worship Assistant 9:30.....Erika Paton
Greeter 9:30.....Marybeth States
Ushers 9:30Stacy & Tami Lewis
Contemporary Assistants 11:00The Boyle Family

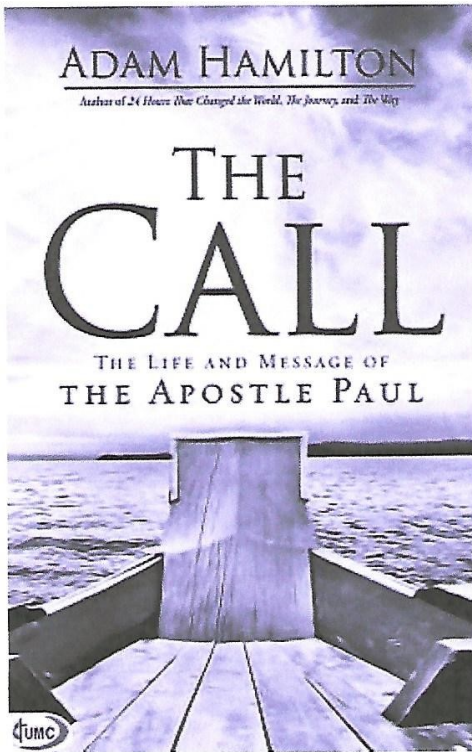
February 17

Worship Assistant 9:30.....Ron Cookson
Greeter 9:30.....June & Bill Gill
Ushers 9:30.....Sam & Joan Phillips
Contemporary Assistants 11:00.....The Tyler Family

February 24

Worship Assistant 9:30.....Jeannette Hesser
Greeters 9:30.....Joe & Diane Wachstetter
Ushers 9:30.....Smigiel Family
Contemporary Assistants 11:00Bev Eick & Carol Annucci

Lenten Study 2019



Join us
Wednesday mornings
March 6 – April 10 at 10a
OR
Thursday evenings
March 7 – April 11 at 7p

Journey with Paul “from the road to Damascus to the sun-drenched lands of modern-day Greece and Turkey to a Roman prison, go with Adam Hamilton as he follows the journeys of Paul in this six-week...study about Christianity’s greatest teacher and missionary. You’ll see exactly where some of the most dramatic events in the spread of Christianity took place, and through Hamilton’s insightful and colorful teaching style, you’ll quite likely gain a better understanding of Paul’s missionary travels than if you had covered the many miles in person.” (Product description – Cokesbury)

See the promotional video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WA2NYgdojI4>

Sign up on the clipboard
next to Rev. Pfahler’s office door!

Donations to cover the costs of the book accepted: \$7.00



Sunday School Teacher Hired:

We give a big WELCOME to Mrs. Lyn Wallace who has been hired as our permanent Sunday School teacher! She will be teaching all the lessons, and those who have been working in Sunday School will continue to support Lynn as helpers in the class.

Lyn says, "My teaching career began when I was a child myself - with VBS, then lead to Sunday School and Junior Church. After graduating from college, I was hired by Neshaminy School District where I remained for 35 years before I retired."

"I am looking forward to getting back to working with kids at LUMC. While we have a very small group in Sunday School at the present time, I hope to see our attendance grow as parents in the community learn that we have programs for children."

Sunday School Lessons for February 2019

Unit 3: Family Wisdom

"Love the Lord Your God with all your heart, all your being and all your strength.

**2/3/19: Families Remember God
Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Communion**

**2/10/19: Family Traditions:
Daniel 1:1-21**

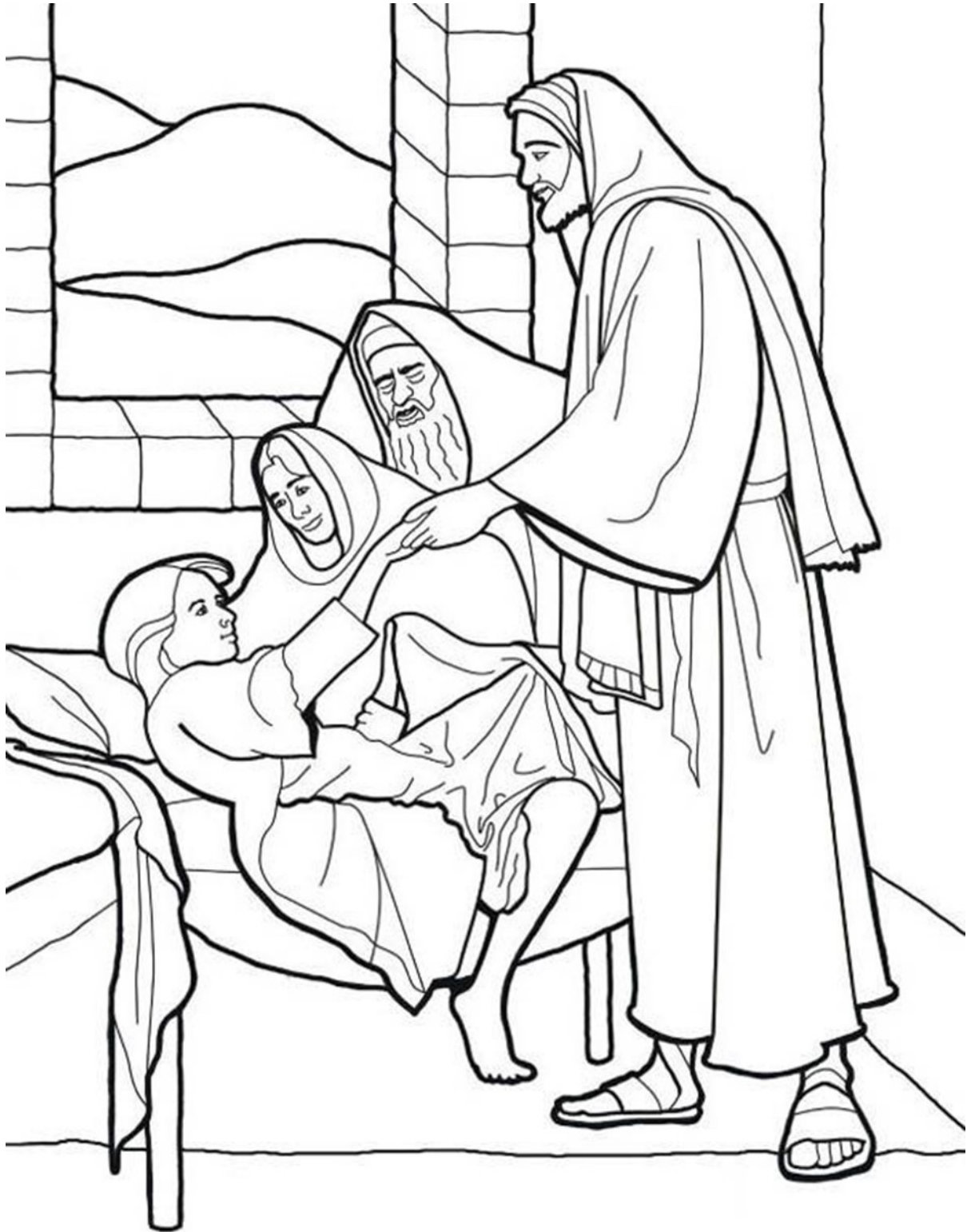
**2/17/19: A Family's Faith
Acts 16:1-5, 2 Timothy 1:5-7**

**2/24/19: Family Proverbs
Proverbs 10:1:17:17**

The children sang Christmas Songs on Sunday 12/23/19 during Worship. Then we had a birthday party for Jesus in Sunday School. See pictures below.



CHILD'S PAGE





Needed: Praise Band Leader

Langhorne UMC
301 E Maple Ave.
Langhorne PA 19047

An accomplished musician with praise band experience is needed to lead our praise band. The job will include but not necessarily be limited to:

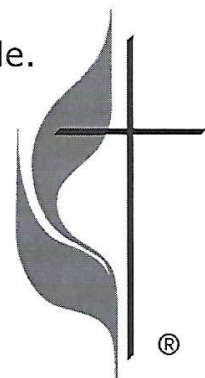
- conducting all rehearsals;
- picking music for each contemporary service that best relates to the assigned scriptures;
- playing a lead instrument (guitar or keyboard);
- leading the band and our small congregation in music/singing during services;
- being willing to step in as lead vocalist if necessary;
- assigning music and vocals, and arranging music if needed...etc.

This job is salaried, part-time. One service (11am) Sunday mornings with one weekly (evening) rehearsal (1.5 -2 hrs), plus whatever time is needed to plan music for the services. Late afternoon Christmas Eve service and occasional meetings with the pastor and staff relations are included in the job expectation.

We are looking to fill the position as soon as possible.

For more information and an application,
please call or email

Langhorne UMC at
Telephone: (215)757-4984
Email: church@langhornechurch.org





Sunday Soup Supper

Our annual Sunday Soup Supper will be held on Sunday, March 10th at 5 pm. All are welcome to attend.

We will provide a salad, bread and dessert, soups will come from the members of our congregation. Make a soup, bring it in and participate in the tasting!

If you are ready, willing and able to provide a pot of soup, please complete the following and get it back to me personally, or in my mailbox (Lyn Wallace). This will allow us to get ready with enough crock pots, labels, etc.

How do you bring in the soup? There are two ways of doing this. If you bring it in the morning, it can be in any container and does not need to be heated. We will make sure it is hot and ready and on the table before everyone arrives. (We have quite a few crock pots here that can be filled and heated.) If not, you can bring it already hot in a crock pot and take it directly to the serving table where a marked space will be available for you.

You do not have to bring soup in order to come and enjoy the evening. Bowls and taste cups will be available for you.

_____ (name) will bring a pot of soup to the Sunday Soup Supper

_____ I plan to bring it in the morning

_____ I plan to bring it directly to the dinner

“What We Do in Life Echoes in Eternity,” A Timeless Christian Truth

Although spoken by a fictional character (based on the real Roman General *Maximus Decimus Meridius*) in the movie *Gladiator*, these words summarize a sobering truth about life and the eternal implications and dimensions of our actions. This wisdom also embodies the Christian teaching that what we do in this life reflects whether we truly believe in and follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

When we meet the needs of those who suffer we actually minister to Jesus, who said:

“I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.” (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB)

As we respond, we recognize Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster.

How We Respond To A Crisis TODAY Resonates With People Impacted Into ETERNITY

This year we are celebrating our Missional Connections a little differently than we have in the past. We are inviting our Faith Promise supported missionaries to come join us for Sunday Worship and a meal. There will be one service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 31st. That Sunday is also UMCOR Sunday, one of the special Sundays on which we receive an offering.



**Special Sunday Offering will be
received on March 31st**

**When You Give You Equip Christ's Body to Serve
in His Name**

That's because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (**formerly One Great Hour of Sharing**) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded

When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded

When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded

And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday, **(formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)**. In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.

Not "they."

We.

Just as "we" connect with the greater church in bringing much needed physical assistance to those impacted by crisis or chronic need, so to God Himself, through our Faith Promises, ministers to people facing a crisis of eternity!

Faith Promise Missions Giving Cards will also be received on March 31st



This year we challenge those who have never given to Faith Promise Missions to trust God, take a step of faith, and start giving. Faith Promise Giving is not about increasing offerings or reaching missions' goals. It does accomplish those things, but it is actually about Obedience to Christ.

Faith promise giving encourages us to give beyond what we think we can give in order to increase world missions. Faith promise gifts differ from regular offerings in that a faith promise requires the giver to commit to giving what he or she does not currently have—a promise requiring faith that God will provide.

The faith promise approach to giving is often credited to A.B. Simpson, a 19th-century Canadian preacher and the founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Simpson based the model on 2 Corinthians 10:15-16:

“Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in someone else’s territory.”

Here are several components of Faith Promise Giving to keep in mind:

- Church members are to prayerfully consider the amount to promise.
- The giving is to be in addition to a person’s normal offering (or tithe).
- The promise is a faith commitment, often a one-year promise. For example, a church member will commit to give a certain amount weekly to the church’s missions program. Oftentimes, the church will support missionaries based on the commitments they receive from the church members.
- Faith is to be placed in God, not the giver’s own power. The church members are encouraged to commit to give as much money as possible while trusting God to meet their needs. The whole process is to be carried out in faith, trusting God to supply.



7:00-8:30 a.m.

THURSDAY Mornings at the

Great American Diner

Rte. 1 Langhorne

**We meet every Thursday – same time –
same place!**



1st and 4th Saturday of each month

MEN'S MINISTRY (LBE)

CHURCH LOUNGE

8:30 - 10:00 am



**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
& BIBLE STUDY**

3rd Saturday of each month

Held at: **PANERA BREAD**

LANGHORNE SQUARE

Stewardship Notes

A special thanks to the children in Sunday School and the Wesleyan Choir and especially Kerry Fenton who organized the singing of "Let there be Peace on Earth" for Stewardship Sunday 1/13/19 to help launch our service as well as Stewardship Sunday.

Thank you to all who attended worship and the luncheon following. And a special thanks to the Stewardship team who prepared and served the meal.

Words to Live by for February: JOY

5 TRUTHS ABOUT JOY FOUND IN THE BIBLE

Bible Joy Truth #1: Authentic joy and true happiness is found in God's presence.

I love that joy is the very essence of God's character!

1 Chronicles 16:27 says that "strength and joy fill his dwelling." Psalm 16:11 reminds us that joy and "eternal pleasures" are found in God's presence.

I love David's personal testimony of authentic joy that he's discovered as result of his time with God (Psalm 28:7 and Psalm 34:8).

By spending time with God in prayer and daily Bible lessons, we can enter into God's wonderful joy-filled presence and allow His truths about joy fill our hearts.

Bible Joy Truth #2: Lasting joy is possible in every season when we follow God's truths.

God calls us to follow Him and to trust in His wisdom (as we read in Proverbs 3:5-6) even if it isn't easy or it doesn't make sense.

But there's one other blessing that we see when we read Bible verses about joy: God promises real joy (not just happiness) when we decide to listen to Him and live by biblical principles!

Consider these verses about joy in the Bible:

Psalm 1:1-3 promises that if we "delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night," then we will be filled with joy and we will be prosperous because we will bear fruit in every life season.

I love how Psalm 19:8 reminds us that God's good commandments (what I like to think of as His "boundaries" for my life) bring joy to a person's heart because they give incredible wisdom.

Choosing joy during challenging life circumstances is never easy, especially when we are tempted to ignore God's wisdom and to follow our own ways.

We may think that these solutions will make the pain stop and bring the joy and contentment we're looking for. But Psalm 119:1-3 promises that "joyful are people of integrity who follow the instructions of the Lord."

In fact, when we choose to allow the Holy Spirit to reign in our hearts, we see joy as one of fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22).

I'm so grateful that we can learn about real joy in the Bible, and that I don't have to try to discover how to find joy on my own! How about you?!

Bible Joy Truth #3: Trusting God with our future brings undeniable joy and peace.

It seems strange to find joy by trusting in someone else, but I've seen over and over in my own life that my deepest joy comes when I learn to just be still before God and trust that He is figuring everything out for my good.

One thing I've learned about joy in the Bible is that God doesn't promise that joy has to make logical sense for the circumstance. He just promises that He will provide it when we trust him (Proverbs 16:20, Psalm 28:7).

Here's a Bible verse about joy that beautifully illustrates this incredible truth: "You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy" (Psalm 30:11).

And then there's this scripture on joy that always tugs at my heart and gives me great hope:

"Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy" (Psalm 126:5).

Friend, we don't have to fully understand joy to be able to embrace it during life's toughest seasons.

That is one biblical truth about joy that I regularly cling to!

'We don't have to fully understand joy to embrace it during life's toughest seasons.

Bible Joy Truth #4: Joy is an invaluable gift of God that radiates to others.

There are so many Bible verses about joy that share that God simply wants to give us the gift of joy when we choose to trust in Him:

"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

Scriptures on joy like 2 Corinthians 6:10 remind us that we can have a broken heart but still have joy and give spiritual riches to others. I love that, don't you?

And I love how the psalmist describes God's gift of joy as more precious than the most valuable physical gifts. Psalm 4:7 implies a celebratory aspect to biblical joy akin to a farmer's great pleasure when gathering an abundant harvest.

One of the greatest truths about joy in the Bible? Biblical joy is a gift that we don't have to summon ourselves.

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 describes God's followers as broken clay jars who have God's radiant, joy-filled light shining through them. This Bible verse about joy clearly states that God uses life's problems as proof that our Christian joy through trials is a gift from God (not something we've discovered on our own).

I also love the simple-yet-profund biblical truth about joy expressed in 2 Corinthians 6:10: "Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything."

Which brings us to our next awesome truth about joy...

Bible Joy Truth #5: Joy transforms our difficult circumstances into times of blessing.

Of course, it seems contradictory that joy would come during hard times! But that's one of the best promises about joy in the Bible.

1 Peter 1:6-8 reminds us to choose joy, even during the most difficult trials.

In fact, James 1:2-4 describes life's troubles are "an opportunity for great joy" because times of trial bring incredible endurance to our faith.

Bible verses about joy like 2 Corinthians 8:1-3 share that God's great joy (even during difficult circumstances) results in "rich generosity."

And one of my favorite Bible verses on joy is how life trials can bring great blessing because we know that God will use them as part of our future testimony (2 Corinthians 1:3-7).

Article taken from [VibrantChristianLiving.com/joy-in-the-bible/](https://vibrantchristianliving.com/joy-in-the-bible/)

Please visit the website to get additional information, and perhaps consider interest in the Bible Study referenced on the site.

<https://vibrantchristianliving.com/joy-in-the-bible/>





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2nd Tuesday every month - 7:00 P.M. – Fellowship Hall

Please join us Tuesday Feb 12th, 7pm, for our United Methodist Women's meeting. As a group, we will prepare new fleece prayer shawls for our persons of concern. Our program will include devotions for a "Call to Prayer and Self Denial" with minimal snacks. All women are invited and please bring a friend!



Thanks to Ron & Louise Cookson for organizing and managing the LUMC Living Nativity. It was another successful year for the church and the community.

Thank you also to all who participated both outdoors and indoors to make it a success!

THANKS TO ALL!



January 27, 2019 we welcomed

Jamison Harry Blackmon into God's Holy Church.

Jamison is the son of Jonathan Blackmon and Jenna Lynn Smith Blackmon.

Our Church Finances

Finance Committee, Chuck Boyle, Chairperson

Deep appreciation goes out to the entire congregation for making 2018 a financial success. As of the end of December our church's financial status is stable, in fact a bit better than stable. Our total income is above expectations, our expenses are below expectations, and we have recorded a net gain year-to-date. We do have a wonderful church family.

Outlined for you below are the significant areas of our financial reporting that are coming in differently than what was budgeted for in 2018.

On the revenue side our total revenues equaled \$322,200, which is \$4,800 more than our budget. The major differences between our budget and actual revenue are noted below:

1. General offerings came in \$2,800 less than the budget.
2. One-time donations equaled \$8,000 and were not budgeted.
3. Christmas offerings are \$1,400 less than our budget. There is a chance that this deficit could improve as there is a possibility that some holiday offerings could have come in late and recorded in January of 2019.
4. Thanksgiving offerings came in \$300 more than budget.
5. Facility usage income is \$900 more than the budget. The use of our church by others is rather hard to predict and does fluctuate year to year.
6. Steeple Kids expense sharing income is \$2,900 less than budget.
7. Donations for the purchase of offering envelopes are \$200 more than budgeted.
8. Donations for flowers came in \$300 above the budget.
9. Wedding income is \$800 above the budget.
10. Our Wednesday night dinners are \$2,400 below the budget. Lyn Wallace, the founder and leader of this outreach program had personal medical matters to deal with and, as such, there were fewer dinners. Also, due to a decline in participation the income has fallen off. We thank Lyn and her team for their hard work.
11. Giving to our fellowship and refreshment fund is \$300 below budget. Please remember to support this program.
12. Investment returns from the McKay Fund are \$3,600 more than budget. The investment returns were under budgeted.

On the expense side for the year we reported total expense of \$298,600, which is \$18,900 under our budget. The continued controlling of our expenses resulted in a positive bottom line this year. The hard work of our staff, committees, and congregation make this possible. The major differences between our budget and actual expenses are noted below:

1. Flower expense was \$1,100 more than the budget.
2. Youth transportation was \$500 less than the budget.
3. Sunday school expense is \$800 more than budget. Based on our decision to focus on making LUMC a wonderful home for young families, this overage is totally acceptable.
4. Choir Director's compensation was \$8,800 less than the budget because this position has been combined with the organist position.
5. Contemporary Worship Leader's compensation was \$1,100 under budget due to this position being vacant for the last few months of the year.
6. Health Insurance is \$1,100 under the budget. This is due to the budget being over estimated as actual cost projections were not available when the 2018 budget was created.
7. Church Secretary compensation was \$3,800 less than the budget. This position was reduced from two part-time professionals to one with extended hours for that person. The office also is now closed on Fridays.
8. Sexton compensation was \$1,400 less than the budget. This expense will fluctuate over time based on the hours worked.
9. Our Pastor's CPE allowance was \$400 more than the budget.
10. Social security tax expense was \$800 less than the budget because of a reduction in total staff compensation expenses.
11. Substitute Pastor expense is under budget by \$300.
12. Nursery worker compensation was \$600 more than the budget. This is a new expense that was not included in the 2018 budget. The cost of this position is fully funded by the savings account set up to support LUMC's young family focus.
13. Organ and piano maintenance are \$300 more than budget.
14. Property-liability insurance is \$300 under budget.
15. Utility expenses were \$1,200 less than the budget.
16. Telephone was \$1,000 more than budget. Our Trustees are currently looking into how we can lower this expenditure.
17. Internet expense is \$400 less than budget.
18. Office equipment expense is \$300 under budget.
19. Copier lease is \$300 less than budget.

20. Postage expense is \$400 under budget.
21. Office supplies were \$2,100 less than the budget.
22. Paper supplies were \$300 less than budget.

This leaves us with a year-to-date net operating gain of \$23,600. Financial stability is challenging to accomplish and maintain. Together, in 2018, we achieved success.

As of the end of December 2018, we have \$80,700 in the L.U.M.C. general fund. This provides the financial cushion that we need and possibly some excess operating capital for special needs. The finance committee will be providing guidance to the Administrative Board in March 2019 as to the amount of any excess operating funds.

The Reserve Giving Fund continues to grow nicely thanks to our congregation. As of the end of December 2018 the balance in this fund is \$21,100.

The Young Family Focus Fund has a current balance of \$9,400.

Faith promise offerings have improved over this last year. We came very close to breaking-even for the year and showed a loss of \$200. This is very positive news as we recorded a loss of \$3,100 in 2016 and \$2,100 in 2017. Special thanks go out to all that have made this possible.

A new grocery/gift card inventory control program has been put in place thanks to the input and hard work of Bill Wallace, Jackie Hansen, and Amy Hansen. The purchasing of these cards by our church family brings needed funds to our church. On average the church retains 5% of the card value at no additional cost to the card purchasers. For the year, this program brought \$2,800 of additional income into the church. Please continue to support this program.

The finance committee completed the LUMC 2019 budget. The new budget will be reviewed by the Administrative Board in early 2019 and with their approval, put in place.

Special thanks go out to our Pastor, Church Treasurer, the Finance Committee, and the Congregation!

If any member of the church would like to receive a copy of the church's 2018 financial budget and/or detailed 2018 financial reports please place a note in the finance committee mail box outside of the secretary's office.

Living Hopeful

Family Support Group

A gathering of family members affected by their loved ones substance use. No matter if our loved ones are in active addiction, engaged in treatment, or in recovery, all are welcome.

We provide a safe place for family members to come together and offer suggestions, strength, and hope!



WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM-8:00PM

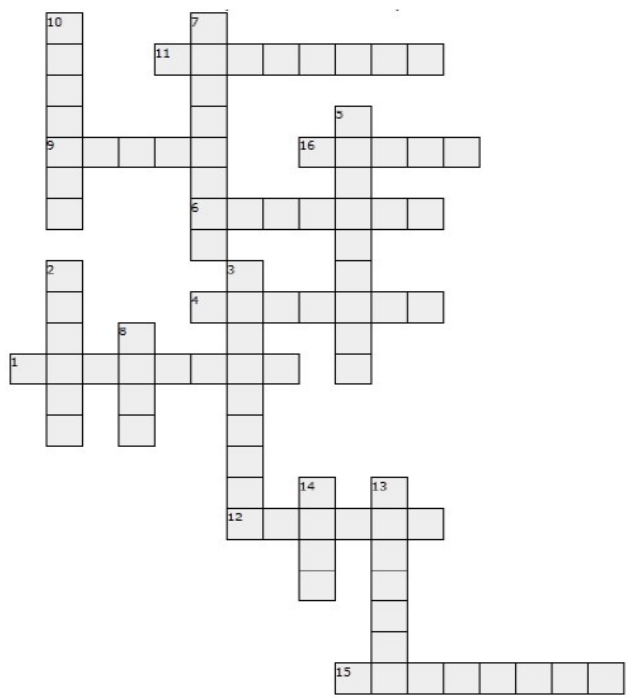
**Southern Bucks Recovery Community Center
1286 Veterans Highway Suite D6 Bristol, PA 19007**

Facebook: Living Hopeful





Luke 19



Across:

- 1. What Zaccheus climbed.
- 4. He beheld _____ and wept over it.
- 6. A den of _____.
- 9. Today I must stay at your _____.
- 11. Name of the chief tax collector.
- 12. If these would be silent the _____ would cry out.
- 15. He who had ten servants.
- 16. He taught in the temple _____.

Down:

- 2. My house is a house of _____.
- 3. They told Jesus to rebuke his disciples.
- 5. This day _____ has come to this house.
- 7. What the disciples threw on the colt.
- 8. Portion Zaccheus gave to the poor.
- 10. He also is a son of _____.
- 13. Jesus passed through it.
- 14. You will find a _____ tied up.



WORD SEARCH

Genesis 4-5

- ADAM
- JEHOVAH
- KILLED
- CURSED
- FUGITIVE
- EDEN
- SETH
- EVE
- OFFERING
- BROTHERS
- VAGABOND
- LAND OF NOD
- ENOCH
- NOAH

G B K O J S Y A L C
 S R I F E E V D A U
 N O L F H T A A N R
 O T L E O H G M D S
 A H E R V E A N O E
 H E D I A N B E F D
 M R N N H O O D N N
 K S M G D C N E O T
 J P B I I H D N D B
 F U G I T I V E V E

LET'S REMEMBER OUR SENIORS BY SENDING THEM BIRTHDAY CARDS!



February 3

Peter Jordan, 35 Bellwood Drive, Langhorne, PA 19053

February 7

Lynne Gardener, 481 Hulmeville Road, Langhorne, PA 19047

February 13

Kathy DiGregorio, 378 Shady Brook Dr., Langhorne, PA 19047

February 14

Richard Davis, 335 Berkshire Rd., Fairless Hills, PA 19030

Carol Habel, 24 N. Marmic Dr. Holland, PA 18966

February 16

Linda Rutledge, 15 Deep Dale West, Levittown, PA 19056

February 17

Robert Fryer, 401 Station Ave., Langhorne PA 19047

February 20

George Jenca, 48 InBrook Road, Levittown, PA 19057

February 22

Bob Downs, 64 Digi Farm Lane, Bensalem, PA 19020

February 23

Barb Tomlinson, 561 Clarissa Lane, Penndel, PA 19047

February 26

Rita Cresswell, 2570 Village Rd., Langhorne, PA 19047

Eugene Edwards, 112 National Ave., Langhorne, PA 19047

Langhorne United Methodist Church

301 East Maple Ave., Langhorne PA , (215) 757-4984

lumc-online.org

Rev. Laurie J. Pfahler



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP!

Sunday Worship Hours:

9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School

10 -11:00 a.m. - Adult Sunday School *

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. - Adult Sunday School *

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

*2 Adult Sunday School Classes being held
pick which time is best for you.

Rev. Laurie J. Pfahler, laurie@langhornechurch.org

Bill Bryan, Director of Congregational Care, bill@langhornechurch.org

Dave Tyler, Lay Leader, deetee0810@gmail.com

Donna Goodwin, Church Secretary, church@langhornechurch.org

Kerry Fenton, Organist, Kerry@langhornechurch.org

Amy Hansen, Treasurer, amy@langhornechurch.org

Hugh Green, Youth Director, Hugh@langhornechurch.org

Barbara Jordan, Choir Accompanist, acompanist@aol.com

Kim Stockberger, Bell Choir Director, Gs5th@comcast.net

Kurt Tommuscheit, Sexton

Amy Rodda, Steeple Kids Director, steeplekids@comcast.net