From Pastor Jim: For Our Future

Imagine a sailboat on the ocean with sails unfurled but hanging limp because there is no breeze. All aboard are waiting for the wind to stir; hopeful that a zephyr will soon fill their sails. Like that sailboat, we wait with hope and watch in anticipation for the wind of the Holy Spirit to come. Thus we pray our Breakthrough Prayer: “O God, awesome and Holy. Fill us with your presence and power... fill us with your Spirit to discern your will.” Will God respond? When will God respond?

As we move closer to our Innovations Weekend (Sept. 14 - 16), followed by our Town Hall Discussions (Sept. 23, 25), and then our Called Church Conference (Oct. 16), we have been praying for God to “break through into our lives and our church;” and we have been praying since Pentecost, May 20. On September 2, I invite you to join me and members of our Church Leadership Team to “take the next step” by participating in **44 Days of Prayer and Fasting for our Future**. In Matthew 17:21, Jesus responded to the disciples discouragement and inability to heal with, “This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” Sometimes, prayer alone is not enough. God tests our resolve and desire in calling us to the “next level” in prayer, which is to combine it with a fast. When we combine fasting with prayer, these spiritual disciplines don’t just add up; their effectiveness multiplies. And guess what? “Effectiveness” refers to what happens in us! Our faith is strengthened. Our devotion deepens.

To be clear, fasting is not some magic formula or quid pro quo in our relationship with God. Rather, it is for us a physical exercise that builds spiritual strength. When I fast, I deny my craving for food (or social media, or television, or whatever...) in order to say to self and to God, “I crave you, God, more than I crave ______.” And, I discover that when I say no to food or whatever else I fast from, I am strengthened to say no to other forms of temptation.

Should you accept the challenge, here’s what it involves:

- Pray our LUMC Breakthrough Prayer every day from September 2 through October 16.
- Keep a record/journal of my praying and particularly what I sense God trying to tell me through impressions, scripture I read, conversations, events, dreams, readings, music, etc.
- Fast once a week (day – 24 hours, daylight hours, or... a meal; other specific period of time), being specific as to the duration of my fast. Begin each fast period with a prayer such as, “O God, I long for you more than ______. I confess my sin, and as your forgiven daughter/son I dedicate this time to you. Thank you for welcoming me into your presence!”

(Continued on page 11)
September Sermon Series: Trusting God Who Trusts Us

What does it take to be a person whom God trusts? Often we reverse this consideration and wonder about how people can trust God. In our Sunday scripture texts, we will encounter ancient stories about flawed (in some cases very flawed) individuals who nonetheless where entrusted by God to serve God’s purpose and to do extraordinary things. What were they like? Why did God trust them? What meaning might their stories possibly give to our lives and our stories today? Read the stories for yourself and join the conversation as God molds you and me into people whom God dares to trust!

8/26 Get Into God’s Word – How Can I Get the Most from God’s Word?
- Discover Principles for maximizing your reading of God’s Word. How can I understand what I’m reading? Isn’t the Bible wide open to individual interpretation? How can I apply what I’m reading to my life?
- Blessing of Backpacks and Sunday School Teacher Commissioning
- Serving on Sunday Workshop at 12 pm

9/2 SPY Sunday – See and hear about Summer Project Youth this year.
9/9 “Directions for Shipbuilding” – Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:18-17
- Sunday School and Adult Discipleship resume
- Preschool and Kindergarten Bible presentation
- Rise Against Hunger event after worship

- Guest Preacher: the Rev. Kirk Nave
- God calls us to leave the familiar and take a step of faith
- **NLI SUNDAY: One Worship Service, 10:00 am**
  As we prepare our hearts to hear the discernment of the NLI team, we gather in worship together, as one congregation. Our worship will reflect our various styles and rituals, with both the Chancel Choir and Raising Praise leading us in music.

9/23 “Detours in God’s Directions” – Genesis 39:1-23
- When life, family, health, ministry, career, or finances aren’t working out

9/30 “Live Through It” – Exodus 14
- God makes a way through, not out of, life’s difficulties.

10/7 “Be Holy” – Exodus 19:3-7 (20:1-17)
- World Communion Sunday. Join us for a special Instructed Service, as we are reminded of the “why” behind our rituals.
- God lays a foundation for our identity and our relationships, trusting us to live up to our calling: royal, priesthood, holy, nation, God’s treasure.
New Sunday Scheduling Tool: Planning Center Services

The Worship Team is moving to using an online planning and scheduling application called Planning Center Services. If you serve in any capacity on Sunday Mornings you will be added to the app and will receive an email inviting you to create a password and log in. On a desktop online or on the mobile app you can respond to scheduling requests, set block out dates, and indicate your preferred serving times and frequency.

If you have any questions or trouble navigating the app features, please contact Rebekah Daugherty (worship@leesburgumc.org). We are hoping this tool will centralize our organization and communication as we serve one another on Sundays.

Serving on Sunday: Follow Up

If you were unable to attend our workshop on Aug 26, but are still interested in serving, please contact Rev. Heather Wray (heather.wray@leesburgumc.org) or Rebekah Daugherty (worship@leesburgumc.org).

New This Program Year: The Narrative Lectionary

As we begin a new program year the staff has decided to begin using the Narrative Lectionary to guide our worship and learning.

The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May each year the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. Each week there is one primary text and one secondary text that may or may not be referenced in our worship. This Fall we begin with the story of Noah and continue with Old Testament passages until Christmas. Then our focus shifts to the New Testament until Pentecost.

The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture. They invite people to hear the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, Jesus, and Paul. Listening to the many different voices within Scripture enriches the life of faith. They help us to understand how God has been interacting with humanity throughout history as we are drawn into the story arch of the Biblical texts.
Held Together: A Message from the Worship Team

From him (that is Christ) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. -- Ephesians 4:16

Paul often uses the metaphor of the human body when describing the church. But usually he speaks of large parts like feet and hands, ears and eyes and heads. In this passage he talks about ligaments. Ligaments are relatively small and unseen parts of the body. We don’t think much about them. But they are vital to our bodies. Without them we would be a heap of bones and flesh without shape or structure. The ligaments hold it all together. We do notice when a ligament isn’t working correctly or when it is injured. Then we become hyper aware of it’s lacking and other parts of our body can even suffer as we try to compensate.

This demonstrates that every part is vitally important and have an impact on the body. Even the seemingly small and relatively unseen ones. This is where I find the encouragement in this verse. Your part is vital. Your part is a ligament that helps hold everything together so that the body can grow and build itself up in love.

I also find this verse inspiring. It inspires me to be the best ligament I can be. It inspires me to fill my role in a manner worthy of the calling to be part of the Body.

No part is a “small” part. All are vital. All are important. And without them we would not be the Body of Christ at all. Just a pile of flesh and bones on the floor.

Winchester District Lay Servant Training

(find the complete brochure and registration form at the Just Ask Desk)

Who: All who would like to be Lay Servants
     All Current Lay Servants, 
     All Current Lay Leaders
     Anyone who has an interest in the courses offered

When: Friday, September 21 ~ Registration: 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.; Classes: 7 - 9 pm
     AND Saturday, September 22~ Registration: 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.; 
      Classes: 8:30 am - 5 pm

Where: Duncan Memorial UMC, 210 E. Main Street, Berryville, VA

Fee: $20.00 (includes lunch)

Classes Offered:
     Discover Your Spiritual Gifts - Instructor: Rev. Tony Forstall
     Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition (Heritage) - 
       Instructor: Rev. Martha Reynolds
     Lay Servants Lead in Conflict Resolution - Instructor: Rev. Daniel Wray
Community Office Hours

Wednesdays from 9:00 am—12:30 pm

Stop by the Starbucks off of Edwards Ferry Road in Leesburg on Wednesdays from 9:00—12:30 for Rev. Heather’s Community Office Hours. She would love to pray with you, lend a listening ear, and share some coffee. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates or changes to the coffee hours: www.facebook.com/LeesburgUMC/

Our Teachers

As the new school year begins, please pray for our members who are teachers and school workers. The following people recently shared that they are teachers. If we missed you, please contact the church office.

- Chris Konkus (high school math, John Champe HS)
- Kathy Wise (teacher’s assistant, Sycolin Creek ES)
- Libby Henry (Stafford ES)
- Anna Goyne (Hillside ES)
- Caitlyn Goyne Tharp (Evergreen Mill ES)
- Celesta Miller- Great Beginnings Preschool

Virtual Book Club: Interrupted

On September 26th at 8:30 pm, join Rev. Heather for our first Virtual Book Club (registration required). We will be discussing Jen Hatmaker’s faith changing book Interrupted. You can join this meeting from the comfort of your own home since it will take place using video conferencing, which you can join via computer or phone. You don’t need video to join the group, but video is preferred and will give you a richer experience. Please read the book prior to the meeting.

Contact Rev. Heather with any questions. Register here: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/8c435a3f25a58c5f24ac87b605f06fa

Play & Learn: New Day and Time!

Parents and their little ones (infants through 5 years) are invited to be a part of the highly energetic Play and Learn Group. Any family is welcome to attend, so feel free to bring a friend. Starting on September 11th, we will meet Tuesdays from 9:00—10:30 in Asbury Hall. The group’s purpose is to create a space where both children and adults can encourage one another, learn, grow, and build friendships.

September Themes:
- Sept. 11—Pets
- Sept. 18—Balls and Tumble Mats
- Sept. 25—Paint Day

If you have any questions please email, Rev. Wray at heather.wray@leesburgumc.org
Get into God’s Word – and Let God’s Word Get into You!

Two opportunities: Bishop’s Bible Reading Challenge; Daily Narrative Lectionary readings (see Trail Guide beginning Sept 2)

Bishop Sharma Lewis’ Bible Reading Challenge

Readings for September 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 1—Ezekiel 18-19</th>
<th>September 13—Joel 1-3</th>
<th>September 23—Esther 1-5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2—Ezekiel 20-21</td>
<td>September 14—Daniel 1-3</td>
<td>September 24—Esther 6-10</td>
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<td>September 3—Ezekiel 22-23</td>
<td>September 15—Daniel 4-6</td>
<td>September 25—Ezra 7-10</td>
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<td>September 4—Ezekiel 24-27</td>
<td>September 16—Daniel 7-9</td>
<td>September 26—Nehemiah 1-5</td>
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<td>September 5—Ezekiel 28-31</td>
<td>September 17—Daniel 10-12</td>
<td>September 27—Nehemiah 6-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 6—Ezekiel 32-34</td>
<td>September 18—Ezra 1-3</td>
<td>September 28—Nehemiah 8-10</td>
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<td>September 7—Ezekiel 35-37</td>
<td>September 19—Ezra 4-6,</td>
<td>September 29—Nehemiah</td>
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<td>Psalm 137</td>
<td>11-13, Psalm 126</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 8—Ezekiel 38-39</td>
<td>September 20—Haggai 1-2</td>
<td>September 30—Malachi 1-4</td>
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<td>September 9—Ezekiel 40-41</td>
<td>September 21—Zechariah 1-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10—Ezekiel 42-43</td>
<td>September 22—Zechariah 8-14</td>
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<td>September 11—Ezekiel 44-45</td>
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<td>September 12—Ezekiel 46-48</td>
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Keeping Up with the Congregation

New Members

Please welcome Matt and Denise Lamb; Chris and Stephanie Konkus; and Audrey Fox, who joined LUMC on August 19th.

Condolences

... to Lydia Agustin and her family on the passing of her husband, Rolando, on July 21st.

September Birthdays

The September birthday list is available on the Just Ask desk.
**Occupations**

The body of Christ at LUMC is a diverse group! In the spirit of the upcoming Labor Day holiday, the following people recently shared their occupations:

- Borge Ulland - retired veterinary pathologist
- Ruth Jacoby - retired: GTE/Verizon for over 32 years
- Dwight Stonerook - architect
- Kelli Titus - Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, Legal Secretary
- Connie Snodgrass - retired: school librarian and elementary teacher
- Walter Halfmann - retired: current caregiver, former Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board
- Stephen De Angioletti - project manager at RT Logic
- Dennis Wise - Program Manager for Boeing Aerospace Operations, Inc
- Matt Broglio - music specialist at Bach to Rock in South Riding
- Stephanie Konkus - Pediatrician

The following list of occupations was shared in 2017 (we did not ask for names at that time):

- Aerospace Engineer
- Air Traffic Controller
- Airline Pilot
- Architect (retired)
- Attorney
- Banker
- Banking, Savings and Loan Customer Service Rep. (retired)
- Barber (retired)
- Billing Coordinator
- Business Owner (Brewery, Daycare, Interior Design)
- Card maker
- CIO, VP IT
- Communications and Community Outreach
- Compensation Manager
- Compliance Analyst
- Computer Engineer
- Computer Programmer
- Construction Manager
- Customized Apparel
- Cyber Security Analyst
- Cytotechnology (retired)
- Database Administrator
- Defense Consultant
- Deputy Clerk, Payroll
- Deputy Sheriff
- Director, Marketing Communications
- Economist
- Editor
- Election Officer
- Engineer
- Engineering Manager
- Environmental Engineer
- Executive Assistant
- Federal Government, Personal Security (retired)
- Financial Advisor
- Florist/Wedding set-up
- Government Contracts Management
- Government Employee (retired)
- GTE/Verizon
- Human Resources Director (retired)
- Infantryman/Emergency Manager
- Information Technology Manager
- Insurance and Risk Management
- Investor
- IT
- IT Project Manager
- Lawyer
- Lay Pastoral Care Coordinator
- Legal Secretary
- Logistics Plans and Operations
- Management Consultant
- Medical Technologist
- Mortgage Broker
- Office Manager
- Operations, Business Development and Construction
- Principal (retired)
- Program Manager
- Project Manager
- Proofreader
- Quilt Artist
- Radio Newscaster
- Real Estate Broker
- Registered Dental Hygienist
- Retail
- Retirement Coach
- Sales Manager
- School Bookkeeper/Secretary
- Skills Virginia State Director
- Social Work
- Software Developer
- Software Engineer
- Software Engineering Manager
- Student
- Surgeon (retired)
- Surgical/Anesthesia Assistant (oral surgery)
- Teacher
- Teacher (preschool, English, Music, Retired, Summer Camp)
- Telecommunications
- Tennis Attendant
- University Professor
- Utility Professional (retired)
- Veterinarian
- Veterinary Pathologist (retired)
- Veterinary Technician
- Volunteer
- Writer
Children’s Ministry This Fall

Visit [www.leesburgumc.org/kids](http://www.leesburgumc.org/kids) for more information

**August 26**  
Blessing of the Backpacks during 9:45 worship: bring kids to the Sanctuary with you, then they will be dismissed for activities and teacher meet & greet.

Parent Meeting, 11 am – 12 pm: we will discuss the new curriculum and how to use it at home, our ministry strategy, and how to make the most of your church experience. We will also cover the child protection policy and background checks, so if you choose to help later, you will have this part done. Please see Serving on Sundays for more information and other available sessions. (Kids’ activities will be planned through the whole Serving on Sundays event).

**September 9**  
Fall Kick-off/Regular Sunday School starts.  
Please register for Sunday School.  
(link = leesburgumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/147892)

Rise Against Hunger Event, 11 am – 1 pm (formerly Stop Hunger Now)  
Read more about it on page 14.

**Preschool & Kindergarten Bible Presentations**

**September 14**  
NLI New Member or Parents w/Young Children Focus Groups, Friday Night, 7 pm. Please come out - this is your chance for your voices to be heard.

**September 15**  
NLI Feedback Sessions, Saturday, 9:30 – 3:30

**September 16**  
One Worship Service, Sunday at 10 am (there WILL be Sunday School)  
Worship with all of LUMC and hear about proposed NLI innovations

**October 14**  
Recess Run at Bolen Park: we will host Worship in the Park; no Sunday school or worship at the LUMC building; so come even if you don’t run – the kids’ fun run is adorable! Read more on page 15.  
(link = potomac.enmotive.com/events/register/2018-great-beginnings-recess-run)

**December 9**  
Christmas Pageant: details and sign-up here. We have a simple pageant this year, with minimal rehearsals (script is included in the link).  
(link = www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949ae62ea75-christmas1)
Beginning Sept 9th: The Adventures of God and Humanity

Beginning soon, we will set out on a journey together (in worship, small groups, Sunday school, Confirmation, etc.) of understanding the Bible as the “grand drama of God’s mighty saving acts that progressively reveals his character culminating in the person and work of Jesus Christ.” *

Adult Small Groups: Sundays at 11 am and 6 pm

*http://www.patheos.com/blogs/rogereolson/2016/01/narrative-theology-explained/

Bible at 13,000 Feet: Schedule for 2018-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genesis &amp; Exodus</th>
<th>September 18 (7:30 pm), 19 (9:15 am), 26 (6 pm)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law, Judges, Kingdom</td>
<td>October 17 (9:15 am), 23 (6 pm), 24 (7:30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exile, Prophets &amp; Return</td>
<td>Nov. 28 (6pm); Dec. 4 (7:30 pm), 5 (9:15 am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesus, part 1 (Matthew 1-5)</td>
<td>January 22 (7:30 pm), 23 (9:15 am) 30 (6 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesus, part 2 (Matthew 6-14)</td>
<td>February 19 (7:30 pm), 20 (9:15 am), 27 (6 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesus, part 3 (Matthew 16-25)</td>
<td>March 19 (7:30 pm), 20 (9:15 am), 27 (6 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesus, part 4 (Matthew 21, 26-28)</td>
<td>April 9 (7:30 pm) , 10 (9:15 am), 24 (6 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selected Acts &amp; Romans</td>
<td>May 15 (9:15 am), 21 (7:30 pm), 29 (6 pm)</td>
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Blankets of Love

Over the summer, many youth, adults and families worked to assemble blankets and pillows to be sent to an organization that cares for children who come across the border and have nothing. The blankets are an expression of God’s love to those who are lonely and afraid. Thank you to all who contributed.

**We sent 30 blankets and 10 pillows!**

Mini SPY Report: Aug 3-5

We had another amazing weekend of Mini SPY in August as kids and youth learned and practiced “acting with justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God.”

We went to Loudoun Therapeutic Riding to groom horses, worked in the yards of two church members, served within by setting up for a reception and worked on the blanket project. We also spent time in worship and having fun being together.
**Youth Key Dates**

Visit [www.leesburgumc.org/ywc](http://www.leesburgumc.org/ywc) for more information and full calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>9:45 am—Gallery</td>
<td>11:00 am—Band Interest Meeting, Song</td>
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<td>Selections, etc. in AG</td>
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<td>12:00 noon—Lunch (you need to RSVP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>8:30, 9:45, &amp; 11 am</td>
<td>SPY Sunday (no Gallery)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 9</td>
<td>9:45 am—Regular Gallery Resumes</td>
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<td>10:30 am—Set-up for Rise Against Hunger</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11 am-1 pm—Rise Against Hunger</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6—7:30pm—Youth Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>7 pm—Youth Focus Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>9:30 am—Youth Focus Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>10 - 11:30 am—Regular Gallery</td>
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**For Our Future (continued)**

(Continued from page 1)

- Read scripture each day (Upper Room, Daily Bread, Trail Guide, Bible Challenge, etc.).
- Partner with at least one other person to journey with me these 44 days of Fasting and Praying for Our Future. Share with them what it is I am fasting from and when.

Please let me know if you choose to participate by sending an email to jim@leesburgumc.org or completing a 44 Days of Prayer and Fasting for Our Future covenant. Thank you!

“Our Future” is not limited to LUMC. You may be led by God to include in your praying your family, our community, our country, our United Methodist Church, and more. Trust that God not only hears, but God will also act and impart insight, wisdom, and whatever grace is needed to help (Hebrews 4:14-16)! When we look back at the end of these 44 Days, we will marvel at what God has done!

So sisters and brothers, let us pray and let us combine fasting with our praying that God may be glorified in our present and in our future!

May the wind of God’s Holy Spirit fill our sails and empower us to move where God would have us go!

Pastor Jim

Rev. Jim Wishmyer
Membership to Discipleship

Interested in becoming a member of Leesburg UMC? Join us for “Pizza with the Pastor” and sign up for our next “Base Camp,” a three-week small group for those interested in continuing their spiritual climb of life with other Christ-followers at LUMC.

Pizza with the Pastor & Staff

Are you new to LUMC or perhaps you have been attending for a while and wondering what to do to join? Join Pastor Jim for “Pizza with the Pastor & Staff” to learn more about LUMC and membership. Staff members also join us to share their stories and talk about our ministries. Kids welcome & childcare provided following the meal.

Our next Pizza with the Pastor & Staff will be on Sunday, September 30th, from 12:30—2:00 pm. Contact the church office to let us know if you are coming.

Base Camp

“Base Camp” is a three-week discipleship experience for those interested in continuing their spiritual climb of life. Besides getting to know others who are new to LUMC, we’ll have the opportunity to orient ourselves to LUMC’s mission, our rich heritage, our vibrant present, and promising future; discover opportunities for serving and connecting with others; and clarify and prayerfully consider the commitments needed for membership.

Please contact the church office or sign up at the “Just Ask” desk to participate and let us know if you need childcare. Our next Base Camp series will be on Sundays, October 7th, 14th, and 21st, at 3:00 pm in Wesley Hall. Led by Rev. Jim Wishmyer.

Women’s Bible Study: Ruth—Relationships in the Wilderness

Starting Thursday September 13th at 9:30 am Wesley Hall. Join us for a 5 week study on the book of Ruth led by Rev. Heather Wray. Explore how God offers us healing, hope, and love through relationships with others.

Childcare provided.
An Invitation to All Women from Leesburg UMW

We invite you to visit a United Methodist Women circle this month.

Leesburg United Methodist Women offers opportunities for women to grow spiritually, develop a deeper understanding of mission, and to have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of women, youth, and children. Our work is inspired by our purpose, and turning faith, hope, and love into action.

A UMW circle is a small group that gathers once a month in a member’s home, or at LUMC. Each circle is unique in its focus on prayer and spiritual growth, its approach to fellowship, and its support of special mission interests of the members.

If you are not a circle-member, consider visiting multiple circles before choosing. Meetings are open to all, just make sure to confirm the meeting location with the circle Chairman or a member. Any woman who supports the UMW Purpose may join. There is no monetary commitment required.

Leesburg UMW Circles:

Susanna Wesley Circle, meets at 7:00 PM on 2nd Mondays
   Chair: Nancy Wolford — ncw_683@comcast.net, (703) 777-8707

Kathryn Eye Circle, meets at 10:30 AM on 2nd Tuesdays
   Co-Chairs: Nancy Fixx — nff033147@aol.com, (703) 431-7561,
               Martha Robin — martharobin@verizon.net, (703) 779-2451

Sunshine Circle, meets at 7:00 PM on 3rd Mondays
   Co-Chairs: Connie Snodgrass — csnodgrass@icloud.com, (703) 771-9773
               Lynn Kolonich — bkolonich@verizon.net, (703) 771-0222

Hannah’s Sisters Circle, meets at 7:00 PM on 3rd Wednesdays
   Chair: Vicky Weaver — vickylweaver@gmail.com, (703) 779-8189

If you have questions, you are welcome to ask any LUMW Circle Chairman or LUMW officer; they are listed on the LUMW bulletin board across from the church office.

Betsy Creamer, Leesburg UMW President
betzcream@aol.com, (703) 777-4009

The Purpose of United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive, fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.
Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event: Sept. 9th

Kick-Off Sunday, Sept 9, 2018 at 10:45 in AG1

If you register online before the event, you will receive an email notification of when and where the meals are shipped. events.stophungernow.org/LUMC18

Here are a few notes to help you prepare for the event:

- Wear comfortable clothing and shoes.
- Rise Against Hunger strives to meet all food safety and quality guidelines. Please wear a baseball cap if you have one. If not, hairnets will be provided at the event.
- Please leave watches and loose, dangling jewelry at home. Plain bands such as wedding bands are OK.
- Please do not attend if you have had a fever or intestinal illness 24 hours before the event.

Backpack Buddies

Through LUMC’s Backpack Buddies ministry, we provide support to Catoctin Elementary school children who have been identified as needing additional food over the weekend. During the school year, each child receives a backpack filled with six meals each weekend. There are many ways to support this mission: with monetary donations, with food items for the backpacks, and with your time! Everyone is invited to come and be a part of this wonderful ministry.

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED: shelf stable milk, 100% juice boxes, instant oatmeal packets, ramen noodles, Chef Boyardee cups or cans, granola bars, mac n’ cheese single-serving cups, fruit cups, applesauce cups, peanut butter crackers, cereal (single-serving size).

Did you know?

LUMC Supports Loudoun Hunger Relief (LHR)

The First Sunday of each month is Food Insecurity Sunday. Please help us support Loudoun Hunger Relief by bringing food and other items to Wesley Hall. If you know you aren’t going to be here the first Sunday of the month, you can drop off your donations in Wesley Hall anytime the church is open.

Thank you for your generosity!

The LUMC Missions Team: For more information or if you have questions about Missions at Leesburg UMC, please contact Missions Chair Margrit Snyder at missions@leesburgumc.org.
Great Beginnings Preschool: Back-to-School Time!

Its Back-to-School time at GBP, such an exciting time of year! Our staff will return to their classrooms on Monday, August 27th to begin prepping and planning for the 2018-19 school year. We are blessed to welcome two new staff members to GBP this year: Mrs. Dugger and Ms. Vicki. You can meet them and the rest of our staff on our website: GreatBeginningsLeesburg.com (Look for the "Meet the Staff" tab on the left-hand side of our homepage.)

On September 5th, we have a GBP playdate at Douglass Community Center playground. This is such a great way for students and their families to meet our staff and each other. That evening, our GBP parents are invited to Parent Orientation. On September 6th and 7th, Pastor Jim and Rev. Heather will help us welcome our GBP students to LUMC with our own Blessing of the Backpacks ceremony. Say lots of extra prayers on September 10th, our first official day of school. Its going to be a FANTASTIC YEAR!

In September, we focus on building community in our classrooms/school and getting to know one another. We look at the letter A, apples, family, and pets as well. Our shape of the month is triangle and the color of the month is yellow.

In Music, we'll meet Tchaikovsky and use his Symphony No. 6 to introduce pitch and tempo.

In Chapel, we'll read the stories of creation and Noah's ark. Our Bible verse is from Genesis 1:3, "God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light". We will discuss how to SHINE bright with God's love and light.

Our 3rd Annual Recess Run 5k and Fun Run is Sunday, October 14th at Bolen Park. If you haven't experienced our GBP/LUMC Recess Run, you are missing out! Our Halloween-themed race is a fun morning of fellowship, faith, and fitness, all in support of our Great Beginnings Sunbeams. Fun runners (as well as 5k runners) are invited to wear their preschool/church-appropriate costumes to the race. We love seeing teams with coordinating costumes!

The 5k begins at 9 am and the fun run at 9:45 am. Worship in the Park immediately follows the Fun Run, around 10am. Singing songs and worshipping with our GBP and LUMC friends is such an amazing experience. Not a runner? We need volunteers to mark the course, pass out water, and cheer on our fun runners. We are also looking for race sponsors. Sponsors help offset the cost of the race, allowing us to raise more money for our preschool. Funds raised are used to maintain and update our facility and curricular materials. We are then able to keep our tuition rates low, making a quality preschool education accessible to all members of our community.

To register for the 5k or Fun Run, sign up to volunteer or for sponsorship information: look for the pumpkin logo on our website: GreatBeginningsLeesburg.com.

Hoping all our students, preschool to college, have a wonderful year. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Blessings,
Heather Gonzalez, Preschool Director
greatbeginningsleesburg@gmail.com
Volunteer Spotlight: Wayne Reynolds

Wayne Reynolds, a United Methodist Certified Lay Minister, didn’t expect to receive a call to serve at his church’s mission fair. He was expecting others to answer their call to serve, perhaps in the Stephen’s Ministry he led at Leesburg United Methodist Church. But Chaplain Virginia Moore from Inova Loudoun Hospital was there and once she started to get to know Wayne, she just had to ask him to become an on-call chaplain at Inova Loudoun. For Wayne, he knew when he heard her invitation, it was really a call from God. After some prayer, he answered yes and began extensive training with Virginia, to learn the art of emergency chaplaincy. That was eight years ago.

Currently, Wayne is one of ten On-Call Chaplains for the hospital. Each shift is for an entire week covering Monday through Friday evenings to early morning and the weekends. Wayne says, “I bring the pager everywhere I go and then I put it on the nightstand when I go to bed. If I get a call, that someone needs a chaplain, well, that is God calling—sending me. I go.”

As is often the case when we are called, we relate to the call (or tragedy) from our own experiences. Wayne prays as he drives to the hospital to respond to emergencies, but one time, he drew upon his own history of experience. He says, “I was not going to talk about my own loss or grief, but I knew where these people were headed, I could talk to them, pray with them because I had sympathy and compassion for them. I cared deeply. I knew was where I was supposed to be that night.”

Wayne appreciates when the other On-call Chaplains can come together, to socialize and to support each other. Those times are special for him because it lifts up the shared ministry of chaplaincy services in our hospital community.

God bless you, Wayne as God continues to call and you answer resoundingly, “Yes.” Thank you for carrying that pager and responding to emergencies late at night and early mornings.
**Way Forward Report Released**

*(The final report of the Commission on a Way Forward has been released in English, French, Portuguese and Swahili; all four official languages of the General Conference. The report will be presented to the 2019 Special Session of General Conference (February 23-26). Subject to final copy editing, the report will be printed in the Advance Daily Christian Advocate (ADCA) in November.)*

To the People of The United Methodist Church,

We offer the final report of the Commission on a Way Forward, translated in the four official languages of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church: English, French, Portuguese and Swahili. In the Nicene Creed, we are taught the marks of the church—one, holy, catholic and apostolic. We are catholic in that we care not only for the parts of the church, but more significantly for the whole. We have refrained from commenting about the plans contained in this report until the time when our sisters and brothers could read this in their own first language. With this distribution, we give thanks that this work can now begin, and we can have a conversation that represents our global and catholic nature—more fully who we are as The United Methodist Church.

Bishops Sandra Steiner Ball and David Yemba
Moderators, Commission on a Way Forward

Bishop Ken Carter
President, Council of Bishops

This document can be found here:  

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**LUMC Financial Update**

The table below shows our financial performance as of June 31, 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>% Difference</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong> (includes rentals)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>$ 73,265.75</td>
<td>$ 74,713.92</td>
<td>$ 1,448.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>YTD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>$ 68,676.75</td>
<td>$ 61,687.55</td>
<td>(6,989.20)</td>
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<td>YTD</td>
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<td><strong>Performance</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>$ 4,589.00</td>
<td>$ 13,026.37</td>
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<td>YTD</td>
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<td><strong>Mortgage Fund</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>$ 8,000.00</td>
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<td>$ 1,435.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>YTD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reserves</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>$ 235,090.00</td>
<td>$ 261,089.27</td>
<td>$ 26,099.27</td>
<td>11.06%</td>
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Next Level Innovations

Innovations Weekend: September 14, 15, & 16th

It’s September which means that it’s almost time for our Innovations Weekend! This weekend is the culmination of a year-long “Next Level Innovations” (NLI) process designed to help Leesburg UMC move to the next level as we grow from good to great. This process has included time for learning, reflecting, prayer, and congregational self-study this summer comprised of our Real Discipleship Survey, current and projected demographic data, historical data and information, and more. (By the way, you can still complete the Real Discipleship Survey - extended to September 3. We are just a few shy of our goal of 100!)

Background: NLI is a process, not a program, to help us discern the way God is calling us to move forward. Your participation is crucial. This process would not be possible without your continued prayers, presence, listening, and sharing during our Innovations weekend.

On September 14, 15, & 16 we will be led by the Weekend Innovations Team (WIT), a group of Pastors and Leaders in the VA Conference of the United Methodist Church, including our new District Superintendent, the Rev. Steve Summers. The WIT has been preparing for this weekend by praying alongside of us, reading and studying the results of our Self-Study, and compiling those results into a report they will share with us.

What to expect:

Friday (9:00 AM - 9:00 PM - AG 1 & 2)

9:00-5:30  The WIT arrives and tours our facilities. They then conduct interviews with the pastor and several key leaders, including some of our staff.

7:00-8:30  The WIT will conduct two focus groups: one with youth (there will be a second opportunity on Saturday morning for youth); and one with our young adults/families and newer members together.

Saturday (9:00 AM - 9:00 PM - Asbury Hall)

9:00-9:30 Refreshments

9:30-3:30 Innovations Discussion: listen, lunch, & learn session provides the WIT the opportunity to 1) report to us the results of our Self-Study (including reports from “mystery worshipers” and “The Life-Cycle of a Church”); 2) pray with us; 3) hear from us our dreams, challenges, concerns, and hopes. Lunch and refreshments included.

3:30-9:00 The WIT compiles their report that reflects what they have learned and heard from us throughout the two days. They will prepare recommended innovations that reflect all that we have shared.

(Continued on page 19)
Sunday (6:00 AM to 11:30 - one worship service for all in Sanctuary)

6:30-9:00 WIT delivers their report and copies are made for all who will attend worship.

9:00-10:00 Prayer for our worship time; refreshments.

10:00-11:30 One worship service: guest preacher is the Rev. Kirk Nave (WIT; pastor of Braddock Street UMC); Innovations report (WIT members).

All LUMC members and attenders are urged to devote your time to participate in this Innovations weekend. We believe this will be a "watershed experience" for Leesburg United Methodist Church as we collectively discern God’s dream for our church’s future! The Lord said through Jeremiah the prophet, “I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “plans for good not for ill, to give you hope and a future!” (Jeremiah 29:11). We are trusting God to deliver - and God is trusting us to show up!

Questions? Feel free to speak with Pastor Jim or one of our NLI Team:
Jim Person, Leslie Payne, Steve Chapin, Laura Andrews, Greg Crouse, Polly Downey; or one of our ministry staff: Angela Becek, Wayne Reynolds, Heather Wray.

Other Important Dates*:

Sunday September 23rd 12:00 pm Town Hall to review recommended Innovations from the Innovations Weekend.

Tuesday September 25th 7:00 pm Town Hall to review recommended Innovations from the Innovations Weekend (for those who could not attend Sunday).

Tuesday October 16th at 7:00 pm Church Conference Vote to decide on the recommended Innovations (only members present may vote).

*Child Care will be provided at every event

Our Breakthrough Prayer:
O God, awesome and holy! Break through into our lives and our church with your presence and power. May it be, O God! Fill us with your Holy Spirit to discern your will. May it be, O God! Strengthen us to live with courageous faith. Break through our lives and our church with new opportunities, new life, and new power to do far more than we could ever imagine. May it be, O God! In Jesus’ name. Amen.
The October Newsletter is scheduled to be published on Friday, September 28th. All items are due to the office by 9 am on Monday the 24th of September. Thank you!

**Next Level Innovations: Save the Dates**

**September 14–16** – NLI Discernment Weekend. See page 18-19 for details of activities and schedules.

**September 16** – One worship service on Sunday morning with the Rev. Kirk Nave preaching and the NLI Leadership Team presenting our recommended innovations from our Saturday discernment.

**September 23** – Town Hall #1 and lunch in Asbury Hall following our 11:00 worship.

**September 25** – Town Hall #2 at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, in Asbury Hall.

**October 16** – Called Church Conference, 7:00 PM, for the sole purpose of voting to approve or reject the recommended innovations.