



# *The Window* into the heart of

*Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church*

Volume 10, Number 3, Fall 2024

## Fall Events Celebrating our Sanctuary's Centennial



### WEDDING RECOGNITION SUNDAY

**15  
SEPT**

Couples who have been married in our sanctuary will receive special recognition and have the opportunity to renew their vows, as a group, in the chancel area during the 10:45 service. In addition, any couples who wish to renew their vows on that Sunday will also be invited to do so, as a group, during the 10:45 service. We also plan to recognize those whose spouses have passed away. Following the service, we will have a reception in Asbury Center where we will enjoy refreshments that include wedding cake. There will be a display of wedding photos of those who bring their portraits to church that Sunday. Future announcements will be made with instructions for interested people to include their names and wedding information in the September 15 worship bulletin.

### SPECIAL MUSICAL PROGRAM

Beginning at 4:00 PM, in the sanctuary, a special musical program featuring our own musical groups as well as guest musicians will take place to commemorate the beautiful music that has been presented during the past 100 years. A reception will follow.

**12  
OCT**

**13  
OCT**

### MUSIC RECOGNITION SUNDAY

During the 10:45 service, special music will be presented in honor of the sanctuary's centennial.

### EVENSONG AND GRAND BANQUET

Starting at 4:00 PM, in the sanctuary, an Evensong service will take place. Immediately following Evensong, we will move to Asbury Center for a grand banquet that will feature a catered meal and a program celebrating our sanctuary's centennial.

**23  
NOV**

**24  
NOV**

### REDEDICATION OF THE SANCTUARY

The 10:45 worship service will feature elements of the Dedication Service that was held in November of 1924.

**WE HOPE YOU PLAN TO ATTEND ALL OF THESE SERVICES AND EVENTS AS WE BRING OUR YEAR LONG CELEBRATION TO A CLOSE.**

# Chosen By God

*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. (John 15:16a)*

One of the most persistent themes in Scripture is that God both chooses and uses people to accomplish acts of service and love in the world. It has often been said that there are three types of “calling” in the Bible. The first call is to the Christian faith, and this is the foundation of everything else. The second is our calling to a particular type of vocation or ministry. The third part of our calling includes the unique context into which each of us will be placed. We all must contend with these aspects of God’s Call, whether we are clergy or laity. In the words of our denominational Book of Discipline, “*The licensed or ordained ministry is recognized by The United Methodist Church as a called-out and set-apart ministry.*” From among the entire community of the faithful, God calls out and sets apart various person for specific roles of leadership within the church.

We celebrate the fact that there has historically been a very strong “culture of call” here at MLUMC. Thanks to the leadership of those who have gone before us, our people have heard and responded to the call of God to live as committed Christians, to serve as leaders in the church, and in particular cases to commit their lives to licensed and ordained ministry. Beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>, we will welcome one of our own, Mr. David Seitz, to the position of Assistant to the Pastor. David is a graduate of United Theological Seminary, and the Seitz Family is well-known in our midst. He will begin his new role as a lay assistant to the pastor, but he intends to complete our conference’s school for local pastors, after which he will be eligible to seek the appointment of our bishop for service as a licensed local pastor. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for more information about the addition of Mr. Seitz to our church staff. He will regularly assist me with preaching and worship leadership, with occasional pastoral care duties, as well as joining the teaching staff for our yearly confirmation training program. I know that you will join me in warmly welcoming him to his new role and responsibilities in the days ahead! May we all follow God’s call wherever it leads us!

Yours in Service,

*Pastor Tom Strandburg*

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Kate Naugle, *Office & Communications Coordinator*

## **THE GATHERING WELCOMES DAVID SEITZ**

I grew up in the South Hills (Whitehall) and went to Baldwin High School (1977 grad). I still go to my reunions as they are a blast!

I first went to Bethany College in WV but eventually transferred to the University of Virginia (graduated in 1983 with a BA in Psychology, minor in Special Education). My final semester was spent in Paris. Upon return I was looking for the same excitement I found in Paris and I found it in the theatre. I have performed in around 125 plays, playing 150 characters along the way. Eventually, I attended graduate acting school at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego and the University of Delaware. The theatre has shaped me in many ways but the primary way that it has impacted me is the idea that life can be led creatively and that creativity can be employed in everything we do, even in our worship.



Acting in the theatre has taken me to a lot of places but primarily on the West Coast where I spent the vast majority of my adult life. But during this time, I was always working in the area of service too, I have worked for many years as a mental health counselor, which is what I do now at Invision Human Services, where I support individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental health challenges to live in their own homes.

The forests of the Northwest and the desert of Arizona have always been a refuge for me as I have always needed a recharge after performing and working in the area of mental health. It is there that God spoke to me. Nature has a way of removing from us all that is unnecessary. As my parents aged I felt the need to return to the area to assist them. My grandmother Ruth Genge decided to attend this church after visiting all the churches along Washington road and arrived here because she said it was the friendliest. She brought with her Pat Seitz, my mom, my sister Laurie along with her children, Brandon and Linnea and my Aunt Joyce (Gorman). Whenever I came back to visit I would attend MLUMC.

After much discernment and conversation with Bishop Bashore, I began my studies at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. I graduated in 2023. My final semester I took a preaching class. Going into the class, I told my Mennonite professor that I didn't see myself ever actually preaching. And God laughed.

## **BACK IN THE SANCTUARY SEPT. 8th!**

### **COFFEE CAFE RETURNS**

Beginning September 8th Coffee Cafe will return to Brookline Parlor Sunday mornings from 9:30 till 10:45. If you are on your way to Sunday School, have a few extra minutes before Service or are just looking for a good cup of coffee and some fellowship, stop in and join us. If you would like to help with Coffee Cafe and are not already on our volunteer list you can contact Vickie Danielson at 412-606-3972 for further information.

### **CROSS BEARERS AND ACOLYTES WANTED**

We will be moving back up to the Sanctuary on September 8th. This means the return of our Cross Bearers and Acolytes. If you are already on the list of volunteers for one of these missions we thank you for your dedication and commitment to enhancing our worship service. If you are not yet an Acolyte and are in the 4th grade or above, or would like to be a Cross Bearer, please contact Donna Chesleigh at [AL59@aol.com](mailto:AL59@aol.com) or 412-716-1820 so we can get you on the schedule. We are very flexible and can work with whatever availability you have. God bless you for your prayerful consideration.

## **Sunday School Begins Sunday, September 15 at 9:30**

The teachers are busy getting their rooms ready and planning lessons for children ages three years through 12th grade.

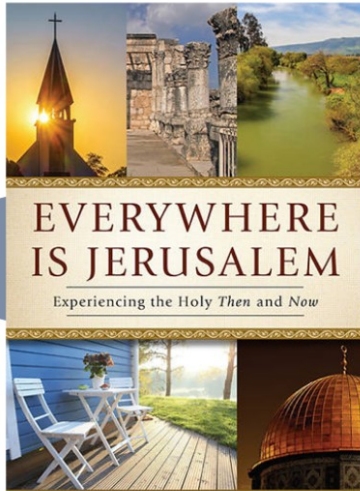
If your child was not enrolled last year, please contact Kim Rhoton to register. We are looking forward to seeing your children soon!

## Coming in October

Our popular Terrific Tuesday mid-week gatherings resume: Begins weekly, October 1st - December 10th (except for, Election Day November 5th, and Thanksgiving week November 26th)

### Each Week:

6:00 p.m. Dinner in Asbury Center  
6:30 p.m. Activities for Children & Youth  
6:45 p.m. Adult Discussion Series

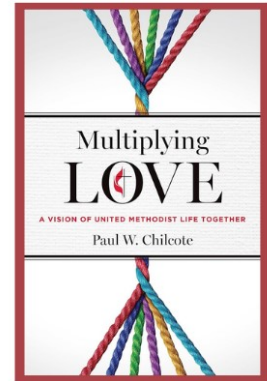


James C. Howell

Join us for our Fall Video Study & Discussion Series  
During Our Weekly Terrific Tuesday Gatherings:

Christianity isn't a batch of spiritual thoughts or metaphysical truths. It's a journey of real people with their feet on the ground in real places. In *Everywhere Is Jerusalem*, James Howell takes you on a spiritual pilgrimage to significant places in the ongoing story of the Christian faith. You'll go from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, from the Jordan River to Assisi, and from the Sea of Galilee to Montgomery, Alabama. Along the way, you'll discover the profound connections between biblical stories and the places they happened. You'll see how Christians throughout history have brought their faith to life worldwide, in their own cities and communities. And you'll find God calling you to bring your own faith to life right where you are, right now. Part travelogue, part Bible study, this study will take you on a spiritual journey to the places that are most important in our faith, and you'll discover that the most important place of all is the place where you are, right now.

## Fall Book Study: Multiplying Love by Paul W. Chilcote



You have probably heard by now that the 2024 General Conference decided to remove language in our Book of Discipline that would prohibit same-sex marriages performed by UMC pastors, and would allow for ordination of LGBTQ individuals. Responses from inside the denomination are as varied as you might expect, but many of us are probably thinking, "Now what?" I hope we can begin to answer that question this fall with a book study on *Multiplying Love* by Paul Chilcote. Chilcote is an ordained elder in the UMC and has extensive background in teaching seminary students. His book goes beyond the usual arguments for a more inclusive church, and instead challenges us to find ways to foster unity with all, including those who may be less than thrilled with the new changes. Please join Kim Rhoton and the DEI Committee in discussing *Multiplying Love* over zoom on Thursday, September 12, 19, and 26 at 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Please contact Kim Rhoton for the zoom link, for help in getting a copy of the book, or for general questions. [krhoton@mlumc.org](mailto:krhoton@mlumc.org)

## HARVEST FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 28

The Missions and Outreach Committee will be hosting a Harvest Festival on September 28th. There will be Food, Kona Ice, Crafts, Games and Fun for everyone. Look for details in an upcoming bulletin but in the meantime mark your calendar and plan to attend for a day of family fun.

# FALL RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

9:00A - 2:00P

On Saturday, November 2nd, we will once again have an opportunity to show that rummage can do good. That is the date of our Fall Rummage Sale, sponsored by the Missions and Outreach Committee. The sale will run from 9am to 2pm, with proceeds going to mission and outreach projects/organizations locally, nationally, and around the world.

MLUMC has for decades conducted rummage sales, generally in June and in November. This long-standing tradition has been supported by a changing stable of volunteers. As folks have moved on, others have stepped in to ensure that this vital outreach ministry remains vibrant. One thing that has remained constant, however, is the rummage! We all have lots of it, and it is always a sight to see some of the items that are donated. To see these donated items turned into proceeds for missions and outreach reinforces the adage of "one person's trash being another person's treasure!"

Our Spring Rummage Sale, held on June 1st, netted just over \$12,000. Many organizations will benefit from these proceeds. Let us hope we do just as well, if not better, on November 2nd!

If you have not previously volunteered or shopped at one of our rummage sales, November 2nd will be your chance! Mary Garber is once again coordinating the sale, and I will be once again assisting as needed. We will no doubt have plenty of items to sell and many shoppers eager to buy.

To ensure the sale's success, a full compliment of volunteers will be needed. If you would like to help, please reach out to either Mary ([mgarber1989@aol.com](mailto:mgarber1989@aol.com)) or myself ([robert.spicher@pnc.com](mailto:robert.spicher@pnc.com)) and we will add you to the list.

Thank you in advance for your support of the upcoming November 2nd Rummage Sale.

● Rob Spicher, Missions and Outreach Committee Chair ●

## Missions & Outreach Committee

*Continuing to Provide Hospitality,  
Ministry, and Service to Others*

In late 2023, Charge Conference approved the merger of the former Missions Committee and the former Community Events and Outreach Committee into a "new" committee – the Missions and Outreach Committee.

Said merger became effective on January 1, 2024. The "new" committee hit the ground running and has not stopped year-to-date. Expect such to continue!

The Committee, chaired by Rob Spicher, has four subcommittees;

1) Hosted Community Events  
(Donna Chesleigh – Coordinator)

2) Local Ministry Partnerships  
(Don Langston – Coordinator)

3) Community Outreach  
(Liz DiPietro – Coordinator)

4) Missions  
(Louanne Baily Coordinator).

So far in 2024, the work of these subcommittees has resulted in three Lenten fish fries and the first-ever volunteer appreciation dinner, daily/bi-monthly/monthly food distributions, a back-to-school backpack drive, and disbursement of over \$11,000 of

Rummage sale proceeds from November 2023 to recipient organizations locally, in neighboring states, and around the world.

The Committee meets bi-monthly (every other month). Meetings will be open to the congregation in person or via ZOOM.

If you would like more information about the Missions and Outreach Committee or would like to join it, please contact Rob Spicher at 412-720-4589 or [robert.spicher@pnc.com](mailto:robert.spicher@pnc.com).

## RUMMAGE SALE LUNCH

On Nov 2, members of the UWF will coordinate and serve the Saturday rummage sale workers' lunch. An important tradition, the lunch gives us an opportunity to show our appreciation for everyone's hard work and dedication to this semi-annual fundraiser. More importantly, the sale brings people into our church to witness our outreach and love for God's people.

If you'd like to donate food for the event, please email Sandy Waters at [bluepen1123@yahoo.com](mailto:bluepen1123@yahoo.com).

WHAT'S NEW  
WITH  
*Weekday  
Ministries*

BY: BETH BRACK

**Ecclesiastes 3:1: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."**

Some fun extra programs we offer... Soccer Shots and Tippi Toes come into Weekday Ministries to allow families to expose their children to soccer and dance. The families have the option to sign their child up for these programs!!!

Weekday Ministries had a busy, hot summer and is looking forward to a cooler fall!

A big change is coming as I am leaving as director. I have worked at Weekday Ministries in every area of the center for the last 28+ years. It was a big decision that I feel God has helped to lead me through and will continue to bless me with his guidance.

I am sure the center will continue to thrive and the perfect leader will emerge to help guide the teachers and children of Weekday Ministries!!

# STORKBITES

This free group for new moms with a baby under a year old got its start in 2003. Two OB nurses from Heritage Valley Sewickley decided that new moms needed an opportunity to gather and talk about all the ways their lives had changed after having a baby. Initially we met in Moon Township, then on Zoom during COVID, and now in person again at your church in the Welcome Center.

There are 6 meetings in a series; a new series is started every other month on the odd months. The schedule can be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/storkbitesmoms> or by contacting me at [storkbitespa@gmail.com](mailto:storkbitespa@gmail.com)

Here is what we discuss during the six meetings.

- How has your life, your relationships, your body, your sleep changed since this baby became a part of your family?
- Their delivery experience followed with a discussion of postpartum mood disorder
- How relationships change with your partner, with the grandparents, with friends, with co-workers, with neighbors after having this baby. A babywearing demonstration is offered in the second half of the meeting.
- Self-care with a therapist leading the second half of the meeting.
- Pediatric care followed by a presentation about Early Intervention.
- What's next: return to work, childcare arrangements, a plan to stay at home for now, and thinking about how to connect with other mothers.

The groups have been a good size since March, and this is the third group session. I am looking for a partner or partners to assist and to be able to fill in if I'm ill or out of town. I think that I'd like someone with experience as an OB nurse or as a therapist, but a wise and sensitive woman might be just right. You can join me in praying that someone will answer the call to this ministry. Feel free to contact me if you have questions.



**EDITH DAVIDSON**  
412-445-3123



# United Women In Faith

## YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION!

At the last UWF board meeting, we disbursed \$1100 to organizations that support women, children, and youth. The money comes from our ongoing fundraising efforts — which YOU so generously support, so thank YOU!

### The organizations included:

#### Mt. Lebo UM Church:

- Back-to-school backpack event - \$200
- Food Pantry - \$200 for feminine hygiene products
- Food Lift - \$100 for volunteer expenses

#### Nyadire Home of Hope Outreach

- School Sponsorship in memory of dear UWF member Brenda Vogel - \$100

#### UWF Mission Barn

- \$200 for cleaning buckets

#### Ruth M Smith Center

- \$300

Our goal with the money we raise is to put it into action on your behalf as quickly as possible.

## SOUP & SALAD SUPPER



Fun, great food, and fellowship: UWF invites you to a salad supper on Sept 10

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 10 AT  
6 PM IN WESLEY HALL,**

the United Women of Faith will gather for a salad supper to kick off the new service year. Please bring your favorite salad to share. We'll supply drinks and dessert.

After dinner, we'll hear a brief update from guest speaker Diane Miller about the Ruth M. Smith Center — one of the many local organizations we support that uplift women, children & youth.

ALL women are invited — and not just church members. Please bring a friend!

Save the date:

**Christmas cookie sale**

**Saturday, Dec 14**

**↔ 9 am to 2 pm. ↔**

The UWF will hold its annual Christmas cookie sale event on Saturday, Dec 14 from 9 am to 2 pm. Look for more details in upcoming issues of the church bulletin!

## Pop-Up Mum Sale

The UWF is holding its annual mum sale on  
**Saturday, Sept. 28 from 10 am to noon in the church parking lot.**

Mums (in various festive fall colors) are \$15 per pot.

Cash or check only made out to the United Women in Faith. Please note, we will not be able to make change at the event.

Come early for best selection. Last year, we sold out fast!

*As always, all proceeds benefit women, children and youth locally and globally.*



## ADULT MISSION TRIP TO MARION

For several years our youth have traveled to Marion Virginia for their annual mission trip. During that time several adults in our church have expressed interest in attending the mission trip. This year we are considering a 4 day adult mission trip in October to help support the work of Project Crossroads in Marion. On August 26th there was a meeting to discuss the potential work to be done as well as the dates available, cost (we would be self supported although we would be staying at the project house so accommodations would be taken care of), and whether there is enough interest to make this happen. If you were not able to join us but would like more information about this wonderful mission opportunity, please contact Donna Chesleigh at [AL59@aol.com](mailto:AL59@aol.com) or 412-716-1820. Look for information about our next meeting in an upcoming bulletin.

## "In Spirit and in Truth..."

by B.J. Collins, Contemporary Worship Leader

*Then David said, "From all the Levites, 24,000 will supervise the work at the Temple of the Lord. Another 6,000 will serve as officials and judges. Another 4,000 will work as gatekeepers, and 4,000 will praise the Lord with the musical instruments I have made."*

- 1 Chronicles 23:4-5

So, let me get this straight... King David planned to build the Temple of the Lord, and out of a "workforce" of 38,000 people, 65% were supervisors, 15% were upper management, 10% were bouncers, and 10% were musicians? No WONDER David never actually got the temple built! (His son, Solomon, got the job done though.) But in fairness to David, he was already way up there in years when he issued these orders. This was obviously a construction project of biblical proportions, and it makes me wonder if some of the ancestors of PENNDOT were advising the King on the best way to get this temple built! One can only surmise that David had a lot of other matters to attend to, and so the construction of the structural temple was left to the next generation. It's a tribute to his vision and leadership that those he left in charge completed the project after he was gone.

But David DID manage to complete some major RE-construction during his time on this earth. David saw to "RE-building" the temple of PRAISE. The restoration of praise and worship in the church was very important to David, and God used this unlikely king to introduce a revised form of worship, praise and thanksgiving, to God's people, beginning inside a little tent which he pitched around the Ark of the covenant, and later on in the temple that Solomon built.

This worship was new, and unlike the worship of the mosaic tabernacle, it involved many people being able to come into God's presence and worship Him openly. In the time of Moses, only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies, and that one man could only enter in once each year. David's tent foreshadowed how the sacrifice of Jesus Christ would enable each of us to enter into God's presence and worship openly there.

David's tent also opened the door for people like us – the gentiles. (Did tents have doors in those days?) The coming in of the gentiles in the book of Acts is the fulfillment of the restoration of the tabernacle of David, as described in the book of Amos. Thanks to the vision that God gave to David way back when, you and I are now allowed to worship God openly, in Spirit and in truth. ALL of us.

So why hold back? Why not let it all hang out and worship God for all we're worth, in Spirit and in truth, and with greater enthusiasm and passion than we have for anything else? Are we inwardly afraid that someone will see us and report us to the high priest, who might ridicule us for "not doing it right?"

Don't let that happen to you. God has given us the freedom to worship openly, and I get the feeling that He expects us to do just that. Worship Him in Spirit and in truth, and you're going to make Him smile.



# HEAR, HEAR FOR OUR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS!



A key tenet of Christianity is the service of others. Our church demonstrates this tenet in many ways, thanks to our committed and dedicated volunteers! We could not do all that we do without you!

In recognition of the magnificent work our volunteers do, the Missions and Outreach Committee hosted our first Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Saturday night, June 22nd. What a great night it was!

Approximately sixty guests (aka volunteers) attended and were treated to a scrumptious meal, information on various activities and events, and testimonials on the impact of volunteering. Those in attendance included volunteers who help with activities and events such as the Food Pantry, Food Lift, Fish Fries, Rummage Sales, and Thanksgiving Meal.

Many thanks to the Committee's Hosted Community Events Subcommittee for putting on such a wonderful event. Hopefully, it will be the first of many such dinners to honor our outstanding volunteers, without whom the afore-mentioned activities and events (as well as many others) would not be possible. The Committee has recently compiled a master volunteer list, showing not only volunteer names and contact information but also activities and events in which the respective volunteer has participated. Hopefully, you are on it!



*If you are not currently volunteering for any of the activities and events put on by the Missions and Outreach Committee but would like to help, please contact either Donna Chesleigh, Subcommittee Coordinator, at [al59@aol.com](mailto:al59@aol.com) (phone 412-716-1820) or Rob Spicher, Committee Chair, at [robert.spicher@pnc.com](mailto:robert.spicher@pnc.com) (phone 412-720-4589). And if you do volunteer but were not able to attend the June 22nd dinner, look for an invitation to "Round 2" in the hopefully not-too-distant future.*

## **Pastor Tom Recognized for His Reappointment and Ten Years of Faithful Service**



Sunday, July 14, during the 10:45 service, Pastor Tom's appointment to our church for an eleventh year was recognized during the liturgy that was written for such an occasion. Pictured is part of the liturgy when members laid their hands upon him during the prayer.

Immediately after the service a program was presented honoring his ten year ministry. Nine congregational leaders used letters spelling "PASTOR TOM" to recognize many of his outstanding accomplishments during his ten years with us. For instance, the P was used to compliment him on his excellent preaching skills. At the end of the program, he was presented a gift from the congregation which is a beautiful original painting of our church. It was painted by Linda Barnicott, a prominent Pittsburgh artist, who was present to share how she created the beautiful work of art. Finally, a reception was enjoyed by all those in attendance.

Congratulations, Pastor Tom, for successfully leading our congregation for the past ten years! We have a bright future with you as our pastor.



# SHINE BRIGHT: Vacation Bible School 2024

*Kim Rhoton, Christian Ed. Director*

Thanks to more than 70 children, 25 adult and teen volunteers, and plenty of prayers, we had a very successful VBS this summer! Our theme of SHINE BRIGHT was anchored by Psalm 119: Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. The children learned that God's Word can help them navigate through difficult situations and make good decisions, even when things seem dark or scary.

Some notable activities for the week include making music with Mr. Mitchell, touching real camel fur, a visit with a beekeeper, identifying plants, panning for rocks and minerals, and of course, lots of crafts and games. However, the highlight of the week for most of the kids was a field trip on school buses to visit Bird Park on Friday. We spent the morning exploring trails, observing the trees and animals (including a deer fawn and her mother), discovering living things in the creek water, and dissecting owl pellets.

The prayers and support of the congregation were absolutely vital to our success, and I would like to thank everyone who participated in some way. In particular, thank you to Cori DeLuca and Laura Ward, who met with me throughout the year to write and develop this curriculum. Their hard work and enthusiasm for the VBS program helps us all to SHINE BRIGHT!



## ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE "DELIVERS THE GOODS"

*Rob Spicher, Missions & Outreach Committee Chair*

In mid-August, the Missions and Outreach Committee supplied 350 backpacks filled with supplies to children and grandchildren of Food Pantry clients and members of the St. Paul AME (Beltzhoover), Beulah Baptist (Beltzhoover), and Warren United Methodist (Hill District) churches (all churches of color with whom we have established relationships). This marked the fifth consecutive year of providing these needed items to our less fortunate neighbors in faith. These backpacks had many differing designs and were of many differing sizes. They were also filled with supplies, including glue sticks, markers, and colored pencils. THEY WERE A BIG HIT! What school age child would not want a nice new backpack to start a new school year!

An added feature to this year's Backpack Drive was the August 4th Faith for Today program, as attendees were able to assemble the backpacks and supplies while hearing testimonials from the recipients. Adding a "hands-on" element was a big hit for all who were there to help, as it helped to personalize the preparation of these much-desired items while ensuring that "many hands made light work."



Special thanks to the Missions and Outreach Committee's "Outreach" Subcommittee (coordinated by Liz DiPietro) for putting the Backpack Drive itself as well as the Faith for Today program together. It is not too late for members of the congregation to help with this year's Backpack Drive, as donations to help reimburse the costs of the backpacks and supplies are always appreciated. If you wish to make a monetary contribution towards the costs of these backpacks and supplies, please make a paper (check) or electronic (on-line) donation to the Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church, memo (or designation) line "Backpacks" or "Missions and Outreach."

Please contact Rob Spicher, Missions and Outreach Committee Chair, at [robert.spicher@pnc.com](mailto:robert.spicher@pnc.com) or 412-720-4589 should you have questions on the Backpack Drive or any of the Committee's other activities. He would love to hear from you!

# CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

*By Rob Spicher, Finance Committee Chair*

Since 2018, every edition of The Window has included financial information on our Church – this edition is no different. Summarized below are the Church’s 2023 actual, 2024 budgeted, and 2024 six month financial results.

The 2024 budget projects a deficit of over \$100,000, assuming payment in full of the Connectional Contribution (aka Apportionment). A projected deficit of this amount is consistent with deficits that have been projected in recent years. Fortunately, revenues from unbudgeted sources plus expense management have resulted in actual deficits being far less than those budgeted. Let us hope we can say the same at the end of 2024!

Results through the first 6 months of 2024 continue to track well vis-à-vis the full year budget. The revenue number has been bolstered by pledgers who have paid their 2024 pledges in full. Expenses (if annualized) are also in line with the budget, notwithstanding payment of one-time expenses such as worker’s compensation. As we move through the summer months and into the fall, please be mindful of the need to remain current with your financial contributions.

The Finance Committee would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to all whose pledges, non-pledged gifts, and other financial contributions ensure that our staff is paid, our buildings are maintained, and our ministries continue to flourish. Please keep that financial support coming!

Any questions regarding the actual and budget information shown below should be directed to Rob Spicher (Finance Committee Chair). He can be reached by calling the Church office (412-531-7131) or by e-mailing him at [robert.spicher@pnc.com](mailto:robert.spicher@pnc.com).

Church Budget	2023 Actuals	% Of Expenses	2024 Budget	% Of Expenses	6 months Actuals	% Of Expenses
<b>Revenue:</b>	\$769,428*	96.1%	\$746,560	87.8%	\$467,479	115.0%
<b>Expenses:</b>						
Personnel	\$397,223	49.6%	\$411,305	48.3%	\$192,991	47.5%
Programs & Facilities	166,363	20.8%	192,041	22.6%	90,804	22.3%
Utilities & Taxes	96,467	12.1%	101,800	12.0%	69,441	17.1%
Insurance	62,771	7.8%	65,929	7.8%	33,357	8.2%
Connectional Contribution to WPA UM Conference*	66,238	8.3%	68,287	8.0%	14,400	3.5%
Loan Payments	11,251	1.4%	11,251	1.3%	5,625	1.4%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$800,313</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$850,613</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$406,618</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$30,885)</b>		<b>(\$104,053)</b>		<b>\$60,861</b>	

\* \$68,238 requested in 2023 and paid in full

Net losses are covered by cash on hand, special gifts, and reserves.

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE – FINANCIAL PARTNERS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!

Many of the events (such as large community meals) hosted by the Missions and Outreach Committee are self-sustaining, with free will donations from attendees covering event costs. Relative to activities organized by the Committee, however, such is not always the case. Fortunately, members of our congregation have become regular financial supporters of these activities, sparing the general church budget from taking a financial “hit” to cover them.

As the Missions and Outreach Committee continues its 2024 activities, there is an opportunity to provide similar financial support. By becoming a “financial partner” of this Committee, you will not only help to underwrite the cost of these activities but also be given the opportunity to assist with them. The Lenten Fish Fries, the first-ever Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, and the annual Back-to-School Backpack Drive are among the Committee’s activities year to date. Upcoming activities include a Harvest Festival on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Although one-time donations play an important part in covering the costs of these activities, funds provided by “financial partners” help guarantee their success. Having “financial partners” in place will ensure that activities such as these continue to flourish.

If you are interested in becoming a “financial partner” of the Missions and Outreach Committee, please contact Rob Spicher (Committee Chair) at either 412-720-4589 or [robert.spicher@pnc.com](mailto:robert.spicher@pnc.com). Thank you in advance for your financial support.

## Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

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Pittsburgh, PA 15216

412-531-7131 | Fax (412)-531-7155 | [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org)

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### *Blooming with Appreciation*

Thanks to the church members and Boy Scout Troop 23 for preparing, weeding, planting and watering the flower beds around the church. It has looked great all summer and shows the community that the church is alive and welcoming.

Thanks again,  
Tom Michael

## *Many Thanks*

*Thank you all for the wonderful celebration which was held in July to mark the occasion of my tenth anniversary of service as your pastor. Your words of affirmation were much appreciated, as was the wonderful gift of the framed drawing of our church which was created by noted local artist Linda Barnicott. It has already become one of our prized possessions, just as you have long been our cherished family of faith!*

*Pastor Tom &  
Kathy Strandburg*