



The Window into the heart of

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

Volume 11, Number 1, Lent/Easter 2025

Lent & Holy Week Services

Ash Wednesday

March 5th

*7:00 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
w/ Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes
Sanctuary*

*7:00 p.m. Service of Evening Prayer
w/ Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes
Sanctuary*

Maundy Thursday

April 17th

*7:30 p.m. Service of Tenebrae
w/ special offering for Pastor's Discretionary Fund
Sanctuary*

Good Friday

April 18th

*3:00 p.m. Good Friday Service
Sanner Chapel
(followed by Fish Fry from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.)*

Easter Sunday

April 20th

*7:00 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Service
Wesley Patio (Rain Location - Wesley Hall)
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship in Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. The Gathering in Asbury Center
10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship in Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Spanish Service in Asbury Center*

This Edition

Page 1

Lent & Holy Week Service

Page 2

Pastor Tom's Page

Page 3

Spanish Ministry
Unity Lunch

Page 4

Terrific Tuesday
Lenten Fish Fries

Page 5

Eggstravaganza
United Women in Faith

Page 6

Sanner Commendation
Charity Updates Military

Page 7

Easter Memorials

Page 8

Missions & Outreach

Page 9

Volunteers Needed
Church Input Save the Date
Church Connections

Page 10

Cat's Meow
Calendar

Page 11

Church Financial Information

Page 12 & 13

Nyadire, Zimbabwe Update

Page 14 & 15

Easter Coloring Contest

Page 16

Information from the Western PA
Conference

Pastor Tom's Message

The Road Home

*“But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion;
he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.”
— Luke 15:20*

By definition, the word *prodigal* means “recklessly profuse in giving, extravagantly generous, like a spendthrift.” Although the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 makes clear the word’s less than admirable qualities, it is also clear that being a “prodigal” is not altogether a bad thing. It could be said that there are actually two prodigals in this parable of Jesus. The loving father in the story could very well be characterized as “recklessly profuse in giving.” Certainly his elder son would say so, as he watched his father lavish gifts upon his spendthrift brother – the best robe in the house, the signet ring, and worst of all the fatted calf! It seems that the father’s love has no bounds. He takes great joy in welcoming his son back home. He is a “prodigal provider” indeed! His recklessness in the giving of gifts to his son is exceeded only by the reckless joy that he experiences while doing it. Not only do prodigal people give generously, they take great delight in doing so.

According to this definition, it might be noticed that the most prodigal giver we have ever experienced is God. Yes, God, who provides us in the created world far more than we need. Most plants, for example, produce many more seeds than are necessary simply to reproduce the plant — enough that we have the surplus for food, and enough food that we can store some for future use. God didn’t have to provide each of us with two arms and two legs, with five fingers and toes, with two kidneys. Look at the homes we live in, the vehicles we travel around in, the incomes many families enjoy. Can you see God smiling and saying, “Yes, I know that it’s more than you need, but that’s the kind of giver I am — *prodigal*.”

And especially when it comes to the forgiveness of all our sins (*all* of them!) through the merits of Christ, and the eternity of heaven that God offers us because of Christ’s death on our behalf. God is certainly prodigal, “recklessly profuse in giving, extravagantly generous, like a spendthrift.” Thanks be to God! Our journey home to God certainly involves each one of us becoming prodigal people, too. During this season of Lent, rather than “giving up” some item or behavior as a sign of our devotion to Christ, let’s “give away” God’s love as recklessly and profusely as it has been offered to us. God’s extravagant provision is wasted upon us if we fail to share it with others. Consider God’s gracious provision for you – gifts that are material, spiritual, or familial. How might you extend such gifts to others in this season?

Your companion on the journey,

Pastor Tom

Spanish Ministry

Under the leadership of Luis Soto, our ministry to the Hispanic population in Pittsburgh continues to grow. In January 2025, Luis began a weekly service in Spanish in Asbury Center on Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. As we have seen across the country, attendance has fluctuated quite a bit, largely due to a general fear of racial profiling and immigration enforcement actions (regardless of one's legal status). However, Luis continues to provide pastoral care throughout the week, and a lively service with inspiring music and preaching every Sunday.



dinners by sponsoring one monthly meal in 2025. A \$200.00 donation will provide the food and other items needed, and if possible, your presence will help to show our new friends they are welcome in our church. These have been well attended so far, with a total of 50 participants at the February meal (sponsored by the Kerygma Sunday School class). Other financial donations should be sent to the church office with a note that it is for the Spanish Ministry, and of course, you may attend the service at any time. Please contact Kim Rhoton krhoton@mlumc.org for more

In addition, once a month Luis is providing a fellowship dinner after the Sunday service. Groups and individuals can help with these

information on sponsoring a monthly meal.

Unity Lunch March 16

MLUMC will host a Unity Lunch after the 10:45 am service on Sunday, March 16, 2025. Our focus will be the newly revised UMC Social Principles, which were adopted at the 2024 General Conference, and how those principles can guide our ministries as a church.

All are welcome, and we encourage you to RSVP with the church office calling 412-531-7131 or emailing churchsecretary@mlumc.org so we know how many people will be attending. Please contact Kim Rhoton with questions or if you would like to volunteer to help with the meal krhoton@mlumc.org.



The Window is published quarterly by

Mount Lebanon United Methodist Church

3319 W. Liberty Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

412-531-7131
www.mlumc.org

churchsecretary@mlumc.org

*Cheryl L Sorice,
Office & Communications
Coordinator*

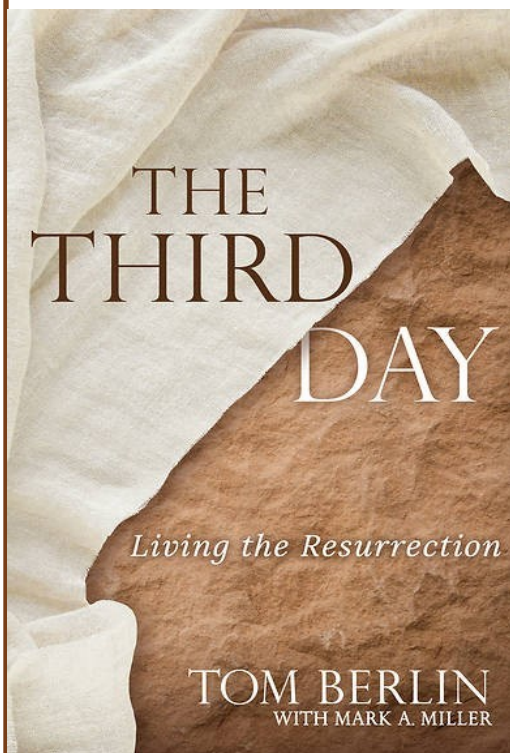
Lenten Study for Terrific Tuesday

March 11th - April 8th

6:00 p.m. Dinner
6:45 p.m. Study

In *The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*, Tom Berlin uses his gifts of storytelling and understanding the Scriptures to connect the reader to the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss.

Join Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. This study traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives.



FISH, FISH, & MORE FISH

Mark Your Calendars & Ready Your Taste Buds!

The Missions & Outreach Committee will once again be hosting Community Fish Fries during Lent. For the second year in a row, there will be three.



These Fish Fries will take place on:

Friday, March 7th (1st Friday of Lent)

Friday, March 28th (middle of Lent)

Friday, April 18th (Good Friday)

Eat-in as well as take-out will be offered. There will also be limited delivery to shut-ins and Food Pantry clients.

The tradition of Lenten Fish Fries at our Church started in 2016. Covid 19 limited us for several years to only having one Fish Fry (Good Friday), but we were back with 2 in 2023 and 3 (total of 2,100 meals served) in 2024.

- fried fish
- baked fish
- chicken nuggets
- French fries
- hush puppies
- macaroni 'n cheese
- buns
- fruit
- desserts
- cole slaw (for non-fish eaters)

The April 18th (Good Friday) Fish Fry, in addition to the preceding, will include a few additional items as well as Communion elements offered by Pastor Tom.

As is our practice, there will be no charge for the Fish Fries, although donations will be accepted. To paraphrase Pastor Tom, those able to donate will help ensure that those unable to do so can still eat.

These Fish Fries have proven to be extremely popular, not only for our Church members but also neighbors in our surrounding communities. They are a great way for us to provide hospitality and all to share food, fun, and fellowship.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. And, if you would like further information on these Fish Fries or wish to help in some manner with them, please contact Rob Spicher, Missions & Outreach Committee Chair, at 412-720-4589 or robert.spicher@pnc.com.

EGGstravaganza 2025

MLUMC's annual Easter EGGstravaganza will take place on Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to noon. This family friendly event is perfect for all ages, especially children preschool through elementary school age, and is open to everyone in the community at no charge. Please invite friends and neighbors to come! Children and their parents will move at their own pace between several stations including egg decorating, crafts, and games.

Please consider volunteering to help make this year's EGGstravaganza a success! We need adult and teen helpers with stations, set up helpers on Friday and Saturday, and a clean-up crew. Please contact Kim Rhoton krhoton@mlumc.org to help.

Can't be there the day of the event? You can still donate hard-boiled eggs for the egg decorating station. Please leave eggs in the church kitchen in the marked refrigerator on Friday, April 11. No other food or candy donations are needed since we will not be serving lunch.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Help the UWF assemble hygiene bags for food pantry clients



On **Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 10:00 am in Wesley Hall**, the UWF will assemble hygiene bags for our food pantry clients.

Please join us for this fun event – and bring a friend!

We also need donations of the following items, which will help us fill the hygiene bags:

- Soap bars (full Size)
- Shampoo
- Toothbrush (soft)
- Fluoride toothpaste
- Unisex deodorant
- Dental floss/picks
- Medicated lip balm
- Band aids
- Unscented panty liners
- Multipack tampons (light, medium, heavy)

Please put your donations in the collection bin located in the 1st floor education wing hallway outside Wesley kitchen -- or on the 2nd floor outside the office.

If you'd prefer to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to United Women in Faith with "hygiene items" on the memo line.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of this worthwhile cause!

Sanner Commendation



During our Sanctuary's Centenary year, Church Council approved the awarding of the Sanner Commendation to long time members who have given outstanding service to our church. The award is named for Dr. Nolan H. Sanner who was the pastor when our sanctuary was built. In 2003, Betty Lou Albright was the first recipient of the award.

During the 10:45 am services on November 24, 2024 Lavisia Ward was given this commendation. Lavisia has coordinated the Rummage Sale and has been a faithful member of the Homebuilders Class in addition to many other acts of service.

On December 1, 2024 during the 10:45 am service, Dawn Lonsinger was awarded the Sanner Commendation in recognition of teaching Sunday School for over 50 years as well as her continuing ministry of sending cards to church members on significant occasions in their lives. This is in addition to many acts of service Dawn has contributed to our church.

We offer sincere gratitude to these faithful women who serve God in their unique ways.



CHARITY UPDATES

Our Giving Tree Gave!



Thank you to everyone who gave funds or purchased goods to support Hello Neighbor 😊! This Pittsburgh-based non-profit welcomes and supports recently resettled refugee and immigrant families from over 59 countries.

With your gifts we made a positive difference in the lives of our newest neighbors.

As of Christmas Eve, MLUMC donated close to \$1,000.00 in goods and money gifts combined. Now that's a Christmas blessing 🎄!



Serving in the Army

Captain Shaun Hay

LTC Azizi Wesmiller

LTC Matthew Wesmiller

SPC Russell Dale

2nd LT Keith Cable

Serving in the Marines

Corporal Wyatt Hoover

LTC Zachary Allen Finch



2025 Easter Memorials

Purchase flowers in honor or memory of friends or loved ones! The flowers will be on display in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025., and may be picked up after the 10:45 am service or any time after Easter. Consider brightening someone's day—deliver you flowers to shut-in or ask the church to deliver on your behalf. You can also decided to forgo flowers and make a donation to our Food Pantry.



2025 Easter Flower Memorials Deadline Sunday, March 23, 2025

Make checks payable to MLUMC with memo line marked "Easter Flowers," or "Food Pantry."

Flower Selection (color cannot be guaranteed)

____ Daffodil @ \$10.00 = _____ # ____ Gerber Daisy @ \$13.00 = _____

____ Hyacinths (3 plants) @ \$10.00 = _____ # ____ Mums @ \$13.00 = _____

____ Tulips (3 plants) @ \$10.00 = _____ # ____ Lilies (1 stem) @ \$14.00 = _____

Total Flower Amount \$ _____ Given in (circle) "memory" or "honor" of: _____



Food Pantry Amount \$ _____ Given in (circle) "memory" or "honor" of: _____



I will pick up flowers



I will deliver to shut-in



Deliver to a shut-in

Donor Name: _____

Phone Number: _____



MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Continuing to Provide Hospitality, Fellowship, 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 & Outreach Committee. Said merger became effective on January 1, 2024. The “new” committee hit the ground running and closed 2024 strong.

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



During 2024, the work of these subcommittees included three Lenten Fish Fries, the first-ever volunteer appreciation dinner, daily/bi-monthly/monthly food distributions, a back-to-school backpack drive, a parking lot festival, two Rummage sales for missions, and a Community Thanksgiving Dinner. A similar line-up, along with several additional activities/events/initiatives, is planned for 2025.

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

If you would like more information about Missions & Outreach Committee, would like to join, and/or interested in becoming a “financial partner,” please contact Rob Spicher (Committee Chair) at either 412-720-4589 or robert.spicher@pnc.com. Thank you in advance for your financial support.

Financial Partners Needed & Appreciated!

Many of the events (such as large community meals) hosted by the Missions & 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 & Outreach Committee commences its 2025 activities, there is an opportunity to provide it with 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, the annual Back-to-School Backpack Drive, the Harvest Festival, and the Community Thanksgiving Dinner were among the Committee’s 2024 activities. Although one-time donations played an important part in covering the costs of them, funds provided by “financial partners” helped guarantee their success. Having “financial partners” in place will ensure that activities such as these continue to flourish in 2025.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can You Serve by Driving?

There will be 26 guests from Zwickau, Germany October 5-15, 2025. Currently the Zwickau committee is planning many missions, church, and cultural activities. Our hope is that many MLUMC members will be able to interact with our guests and meet them. One way beyond hosting is to drive our guests to and/or from some of these activities. This could be from church to downtown, church to the conference Barn, church to Ohioplye, etc. Our "driving chancellor" Dave Langenbacher is seeking drivers to match with small groups, whether it is a one-time drive or several drives. If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Dave Langenbacher for further information at d_langenbacher@yahoo.com or leave a message at 412-463-7773 or contact Lori Barr lbarr@mlumc.org.

CHURCH INPUT

As we begin a new year, we are looking for new Ideas and input into what you want from MLUMC. For example, what events would like at the church (singles events, dances, etc.), what outreach programs would like the church to get involved with in the church and outside of the church (supporting the homeless, charity fundraisers, etc.), etc. If you have any suggests or ideas please reach out to Cheryl L. Sorice at churchsecretary@mlumc.org or at 412-531-7131.

Save THE DATE

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, March 4th

6:00 pm Asbury Center

Sponsored by MLUMC Youth

Donation to benefit 2025 Youth Mission Trip

UWF Mother's Day Flower Basket Sale

Saturday, May 10th

10:00 am to 12:00 pm Church Parking Lot

Directory Photos

June 25-27th 2:00-8:30 pm

June 28th 10:00 am –4:00 pm

Stay tuned for more information about these events.

LET'S GET E-CONNECTED

Are you looking for more ways to get connected with MLUMC? Look no further. Everything you are looking for is on our website, social media (Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube), and in our Weekly E-Connection Newsletter. If you are not already connected with us, you can check us out, follow us, and/or join us in any of the following ways:

MLUMC Website: www.mlumc.org

Facebook: [Mt Lebanon United Methodist](https://www.facebook.com/MtLebanonUnitedMethodist)

Instagram: [mlumc15216](https://www.instagram.com/mlumc15216)

YouTube: [Mt Lebanon United Methodist Church](https://www.youtube.com/MtLebanonUnitedMethodistChurch)

Weekly E-Connection Newsletter – this is emailed out every Friday: Please send your email address to churchsecretary@mlumc.org or call Cheryl L. Sorice at 412-531-7131



CAT'S MEOW for Sale



They're BACK! Cat's Meow block figurines are back just in time for Easter! They are **\$5.00 each**. There are **3 choices** to choose from; you can purchase 1, 2, or all 3!

Outside/Front of the church showing Sanner Chapel window/front doors
 Sanner Chapel window stained glass window
 Sanctuary altar with stained glass window and cross with Easter draping

If you are interested in purchasing your Cat's Meow, please contact Lori Barr lbarr@mlumc.org. Proceeds benefit the Mission Committee.

Weekly Events

Sundays:

Traditional Worship

8:30 am

Sanner Chapel

Sunday School

9:30 am

Homebuilders & Mixers – Wesley/107

Young Adults Plus – Room 104

Kerygma – 4th Floor Balcony

The Gathering

9:30 am

Asbury Center

Traditional Worship

10:45 am

Sanctuary

Youth Meetings

12:00 pm

4th Floor Classrooms

Spanish Worship

6:00pm

Asbury Center

Mondays:

Yoga, Meditation, and Scripture

5:30-6:30 pm

Wesley Hall

RSVP : Cheryl L. Sorice 412-531-7131 or churchsecretary@mlumc.org

Church Council

1st Monday of every month

6:00 pm

Tuesdays:

Storkbites

Every Tuesday starting March 4, 2025 and ending April 8, 2025

10:00 am—12 pm

Welcome Center

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/storkbitesmoms>

Information: Edith Davidson at 412-445-3123 or storkbitespa@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study

1:00 pm

Zoom

Information: Kim Rhoton rhoton@mlumc.org

Wednesdays:

Northside Lunch Prep

1st Wednesday of every month

8:30am

Asbury Kitchen

Thursdays:

Hearts & Hands

1st Thursday of every month

9:00 am

Epworth Center

Northside Lunch Program

1st Thursday of every month

11:30 am

Asbury Kitchen

Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm

Saturdays:

Food Distribution

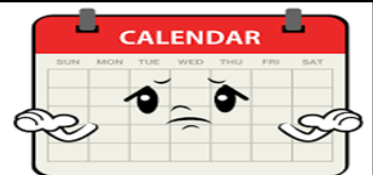
1st Saturday of every month

10:00 am

Food Pantry & Asbury Kitchen

Website Calendar

We are aware our online calendar on our website isn't displaying correctly. We apologize for any inconvenience and are working to resolve issue. Thank 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 actual financial results.

The 2024 budget projected a deficit of over \$100,000.00, assuming payment in full of the Connectional Contribution (aka Apportionment). Fortunately, revenues from unbudgeted sources plus expense management resulted in a positive year-end bottom line. Let’s hope we can say the same at the end of 2025!

The Finance Committee would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to all whose pledges, non-pledged gifts, and other financial contributions ensured that our staff was paid, our buildings were maintained, and our ministries continued to flourish during 2024. 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.

Church Budget	2023 Actuals	% Of Expenses	2024 Budget	% Of Expenses	2024 Actuals	% Of Expenses
Revenue:	\$769,428 *	96.1%	\$746,560	87.8%	\$814,416	103.2%
Expenses:						
Personnel	\$397,223	49.6%	\$411,305	48.3%	\$394,214	50.0%
Programs & Facilities	166,363	20.8%	192,041	22.6%	167,926	21.3%
Utilities & Taxes	96,467	12.1%	101,800	12.0%	101,233	12.8%
Insurance	62,771	7.8%	65,929	7.8%	64,893	8.2%
Connectional Contribution to WPA UM Conference*	66,238	8.3%	68,287	8.0%	49,923	6.3%
Loan Payments	11,251	1.4%	11,251	1.3%	11,251	1.4%
Total Expenses	\$800,313	100.0%	\$850,613	100%	\$789,440	100%
Total Net Income (Loss)	(\$30,885)		(\$104,053)		\$24,976	

* Payments in 2024 approximated 72% of the requested amount.

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



Nyadire, Zimbabwe UPDATES



Girl Empowerment Pad Program: 2024 review, and planting seeds for the future

Thanks to donations from the United Women in Faith (UWF) community, a 13- year-old program in Nyadire, Zimbabwe continues to help more girls sew their own reusable sanitary supplies to avoid missing school during their monthly cycles.

In 2024, the Girl Empowerment Pad (GEP) Program of The Nyadire Connection (TNC) celebrated successful distribution of two major purchases of waterproof fabric; underwear; and cotton and sewing supplies to seven primary schools for use in teaching students to produce their own sanitary pads.

The GEP Program also provided supplies to the Waiting Mother's clinic, along with educational materials. These rural clinics serve communities well beyond Nyadire, so health information reaches individuals in a larger geographic footprint when new Moms return to their villages.

Pictured is the local team sporting blue bags GEP sent to Zimbabwe with the Volunteers in Mission (VIM). They were well received because even basic supplies are scarce in a country where, as in others, women are always hauling necessities.

The GEP team on both sides of the Atlantic has embraced its long-term goal of reducing dependence on funding from the US by establishing an income stream in Zimbabwe via sales of fresh produce. Thus, was born the "Girl Empowerment Garden," the next phase of GEP's evolution.

The pilot garden at Nyamhara launched with soil testing and treatment with agricultural lime. Unfortunately, drought has made farming without irrigation untenable, necessitating extra fundraising for irrigation systems.

As GEP partners continue to seek reliable water sources and sustainability, we ask for your continued support of the program.

To make a donation, write a check to TNC with "GEP Program" in the memo line, and mail to: Bonnie Lawson; c/o Christ United Methodist Church (the depository); 44 Highland Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102 USA

With Completion of Chindenga Clinic in Zimbabwe, The Nyadire Connection (TNC) Achieves “Moon Shot”

PITTSBURGH and ZIMBABWE, Feb. 11, 2025 – The Nyadire Connection (TNC), a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit, has completed a decade-long project to rebuild six rural medical clinics in Zimbabwe. TNC representatives plan to attend a dedication ceremony on Feb. 22 at the Chindenga Clinic to celebrate the occasion.

“We called it a ‘moon shot’ because when this project began, we had no idea if we could raise \$2 million to make it happen,” said TNC Chairman Ralph Duckworth of New Sewickley Twp., who plans to attend the ceremony. “Today, we can say ‘Mission Accomplished!’ thanks to the commitment, passion and support of our network churches* and many individual donors.”

TNC (www.nyadire.org) was founded in 2006, when 18 Pittsburgh residents visited the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe. Since then, TNC has sponsored several mission trips annually, built strong relationships at the mission, and provided administrative support and funding for its orphanage, hospital and farm.



“The medical clinics were in various states of disrepair,” said Drew Harvey of Mt. Lebanon, TNC’s first chairman. “They lacked electricity, running water and adequate space. The needs were so great, but we had a vision and a dream to rebuild all of them.”

The vision came into focus in 2013, when TNC toured each clinic, met with church and government health officials, and listened to stories from people in the local communities. They discovered the clinics were the first line of defense for thousands of villagers with diseases such as malaria, cholera and HIV; and that expectant mothers walked to the clinics from as far as 10 miles away to deliver. In the past 10 years, villagers handmade hundreds of thousands of bricks used in the projects, and local construction workers rebuilt the clinics on time and on budget.

Hannah Mafunda, health coordinator of the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area Health Board, previously documented many improvements in health care, including:

- With adequate staff housing, medical personnel at the clinics has more than doubled
- With more space for delivery rooms, at-home births have been reduced by half
- Clinics have adequate space to test and treat patients with malaria, and to ensure privacy and confidentiality for each patient
- More shelters for expectant mothers has led to improved birth outcomes
- Additional housing for staff has enabled the clinics to accept more student nurses, expanding opportunities for education and jobs

*TNC’s network churches are: Christ Church, Bethel Park; St. Paul’s, Allison Park; Dutilh, Cranberry Twp.; Mt. Lebanon, Pittsburgh; Baldwin Community, Pittsburgh; Liberty, Washington; First Bethel, Bethel Park.

TNC contact: Tim Wesley, 412-996-8798, or timwesley61@zoominternet.net

CHILDRENS EASTER COLORING

CONTEST

We are very excited to have our
First Annual Easter Coloring Contest.

Good luck to all those participating!

Coloring Contest Guidelines:

- * The coloring sheets are available in this Window, the church office, at Sunday services, the Fish Fries (including the 1st and 2nd Fish Fries), and EGGstravaganza, and at events between now and Palm Sunday. The coloring sheets will also go to the Food Pantry and Weekday Ministries families.
- * The coloring sheets are to be returned to the church office by Palm Sunday (Sunday, April 13, 2025). You can also return your coloring sheet to the Coloring Contest Collection Basket in the Narthex.
- * Please put on the back of the coloring sheeting:
 - * Your Name
 - * Your Parents/Guardians Name
 - * Your Age (Children under age 18 are eligible to enter)
 - * Your Contact Information (phone and/or email)
- * The Coloring Sheet Entries will be displayed at the Good Friday Fish Fry where attendees can vote for their favorites.
- * The 3 coloring sheets with the most votes will be named 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.
- * Winners will be announced on Easter Sunday (Sunday, April 20, 2025) at the 10:45 am service and the winners will be awarded a small Easter Basket with a gift card.



Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

3319 West Liberty Avenue


Pittsburgh, PA 15216

412-531-7131 | Fax (412)-531-7155 | www.mlumc.org

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INFORMATION FROM THE WESTERN PA CONFERENCE




SACRAMENTS AND SPIRITUAL PRACTICES: MEANS OF GRACE
A RETREAT OF COMMUNION, BAPTISM, AND PRACTICE MARCH 21-23, 2025

Instructor: Rev. Josh Demi | **Facilitator:** Carlen Blackstone
Join us for a one-of-a-kind 2-night retreat at Jumonville Camp and Retreat Center, designed to deepen our understanding of the Sacraments of Communion and Baptism within United Methodist theology. Learn the importance of coming to the table of the Lord seeking to have your spiritual needs met. Throughout the weekend we will worship in different settings while exploring these sacred practices alongside other spiritual disciplines, creating a rich and meaningful experience for all. The sacraments of Communion and Baptism along with other spiritual practices are what John Wesley called "means of grace", ways to more fully experience the grace of God in our individual and corporate life as followers of Christ. Leave with the understanding of the benefits the sacraments can provide you including forgiveness, nourishment, healing, transformation, and eternal life. Renew your appreciation for the divine grace made available through these sacraments. *This retreat counts as an advanced course for Lay Servant Ministries.*

Retreat Details:
The retreat will be held at the Inn at Jumonville, 887 Jumonville Rd, Hopwood, PA. Check-in will be on Friday, March 21, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, and the retreat will conclude with lunch on Sunday, March 23. The cost includes five meals in Jumonville's dining hall and two nights of lodging in comfortable, hotel-style rooms, each with 2 full-size beds and a private bath. Rooms can be reserved for 1, 2, 3, or 4 occupants. Rates vary based on occupancy, please coordinate with your roommate(s) before registering. Registration closes on March 1, 2025. Books will be provided to participants in advance to provide time to read the material. **Scholarships are available, please contact the Pittsburgh District office, before registering, for details. 724-461-7178**
pittsburgh.office@wpaumc.org

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