



The Pastor's Palette

The Wallaby

The Wallaby is an interesting animal. When a Wallaby births its young, the newborn must crawl out from the womb on its own and into the pocket of its mother, where it will finish its final development phase and growth. The young Wallaby must take a first step, and then it is assisted into life.

Our ancestors did something similar at the parting of the Red Sea.

Scripture tells us that when Moses, at the Lord's bidding, led the people of God to the shores of the Red Sea, it was becoming nightfall, pitch dark. Suddenly, the cloud that was in front of them moved to the rear of them, and a light shone forth from the rear toward the edge of the sea, illuminating their way.

The Lord told Moses to have the people step forward into the sea, and the Lord would make a way. And so, they did. Lo and behold, as they took their first steps, the walls of the sea rose, and they proceeded on dry ground.

Our Exodus story tells us that when we step forward in faith, then the Lord will make a way. You first walk forward in trust and in faith, and then you find that God has provided a path for you to take.

Often in life, we want to be sure of the outcome before we venture forth into new territory or bound for new missions and places. We want to know our destination before we set out in our boat.

But God instead asks us first to step forward. When we do, we will be amazed at the places that God may lead us.

Following Jesus is a grand adventure. And all we need to do is follow the Light. The Lord will take care of the rest.

We don't need to worry about our destination, whether we will succeed or fail, how long it will take us, or how we will measure our results. We can leave the details up to Him. The more we are willing to follow, the more miracles we will be prepared to see and experience in our lives and in our world.

How has God blessed your life at times when you were willing to close your eyes and follow?

Are you willing today to let go of your expectations, your strategies, and your plans, and let the Holy Spirit make a new way?

Lord, make our journeys rich. Help our hearts to trust. Propel our feet to follow. Amen.

As we move from the miracle of Easter forward into spring, may we step out in faith and experience the wonder of God's miraculous presence in our lives and in our church.

Facing a life issue and having trouble moving forward? The pastor is always available to listen.

loribethwagner@gmail.com / 360 298 8327



At the Church Future Visioning Gathering, we issued three challenges. One for the next three months and the other for the remainder of 2024.

1) Please pick up some blue business cards (available in the narthex and the hall). Whenever you are out and about, whether a restaurant or public place, drop a few for others to pick up. This is the three month challenge.

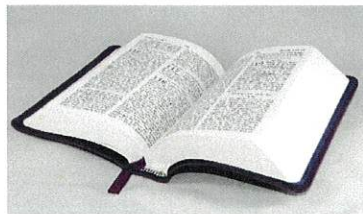
2) We know that 95% of people who visit churches do so by invitation only. Let's make it a personal habit for the remainder of 2024 to try to invite three people to church each month. If each person does this, you will be helping many people toward healing of their spirits, a place for them to feel they belong, a relationship with Jesus, and a different understanding of what faith can do in their lives. You will also be giving them an alternative view of what church can be like, as opposed to what they are hearing in culture. Let's all take that challenge!

3) We would like to read two important books post-Easter as an entire church, books that can help us grow and change as a congregation. Two things become important for churches who want to return to their true roots, deep faith and prayer and trust in the Holy Spirit's guidance more than their own agendas. We are asking every church member, and as many community members as you can find to do it with you, to read:

In APRIL: Dynamite Prayer by Picardo and Kibbey

In MAY: Generation Awakened: An Eyewitness Account of the Powerful Outpouring of God at Asbury by Sarah Baldwin

You can find these books on Amazon. The May book will be available for purchase sometime in April. If you are not able to order your own copy, please contact Christina in the office, and she will obtain a copy for you. Let's join together as a whole church body in praying for renewal for all people of our church and communities.



God's Scriptural Blessing for April

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3

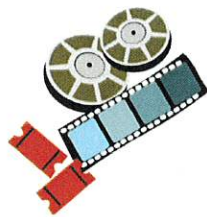


Monthly Missional Giving

This month's missional giving (green giving envelope) goes to Cokesbury Lunch and Learn Summer Program run by Marcus Hook UMC. This July to mid August morning program and free lunch is tailored to the 3 elementary schools with-in walking distance of the church. 25-40 children attend daily with a few walk-in 18 yo and younger for lunch. It is a free lunch funded by the Summer Food Service Program of PA Dept. of Education.

Outside funding is needed to cover stipends for one elementary school teacher and two helpers, books, art supplies, backpacks, and school supplies. Donations also fund special programs (2023 included a traveling zoo, PALS for Life, Marshall Steam Engine Museum, and Winterthur Museum). All these special programs provide enrichment for the students who are not able to take family day trips.

This is an excellent mission outreach program for summer education of God's children who are only a few miles from Lima. We can nourish the children of Marcus Hook in mind, body, and spirit through our heartfelt generosity.



MOVIE NIGHT!

Join us (open to the public as well!) on Sunday evening, April 14th at 7 PM in the Sanctuary for a showing of "Wesley". A well-acted drama (with a few comedic elements) about the life and development of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, the trouble he gets himself into in the American colonies, his turbulent relationships, and his search for a faith that goes beyond reason.

Join us again on Sunday May 26th at 7 PM for another movie night! The May Film for movie night will be "The Most Reluctant Convert," the story of C. S. Lewis.



Deep Prayer

Join us as we engage together as a congregation in a month of "deep prayer." Using the 28-day guide *Dynamite Prayer* we will embark together on a journey of following the Holy Spirit into a new and uplifting place. We will meet as a congregation at the end of the month on Sunday May 5th at 11 AM briefly to discuss how the book has impacted you. That Sunday morning will include a healing time within the services.



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, May 19th is PENTECOST SUNDAY! We will hold worship outdoors open to the entire community. The service will be a celebratory acknowledgment of the power of the Holy Spirit within our midst. Baptisms, anointings, and memberships/altar calls will be included within this deeply Spirit-filled service of music and movement. Please plan to attend and bring a picnic lunch for after the service! Invite one and all. You'll have an opportunity in early May as a congregation to help paper the town. Let's make sure everyone knows they are part of this Holy Spirit experience.

Pastor Lori is looking for an artistic member of the congregation to make red flag/banners for use on that day. Please see the pastor for more information.

BIBLE STUDY: MOTHERS OF THE MESSIAH

Thank you to all those who participated in our first Bible Study groups.

This new 6-week study will examine the stories of 6 women mentioned in the genealogy of Matthew. Why are they there? What do they have to tell us about Jesus' mission?

Join us in person or online Mondays at 2 pm or Tuesdays at 7 pm:

Monday/Tues April 8/9

Apr 15/ 16

Apr 22/ 23

Apr 29/30

May 6/7

May 13/14



Book Study

GENERATION AWAKENED! An Eyewitness Account of the Powerful Outpouring of the Spirit at Asbury by Sarah Baldwin. On Thursday evening, May 30th at 7 PM join us in a final book discussion of this powerful book. The book should be available for purchase on Amazon sometime in April.



SPIRITUAL YOGA

A spiritual Christian form of YOGA is available in fellowship hall every Saturday at 8 AM. The classes are FREE. Donations are welcome. Please bring a mat and wear comfortable clothing. No experience or sign up necessary. Come and tell your friends.



Thank you to everyone who helped make the Rise Against Hunger event a success and a special thank you to the 61 volunteers, children and adults, who participated in helping to pack 10,000 meals for those around the world in need.



Are you a young married or single adult? We need you for focus groups. We would particularly like to hear from representatives from outside of the church. Parents of nursery or bus stop kids, people you know from the surrounding community, members who are no longer attending. Please let Christina know you are willing to participate. You will hear from the pastor to set up times. The group will meet once. It's an informal time in which you'll answer focus questions about your ideas about faith, church, and life. Your answers will help Lima create better faith opportunities for young adults that resonate with their goals, faith, service ideas, and purpose. Thank you in advance for your needed participation.



United
Women
in Faith

Tanzanian Missionary Lunch and Their Update

Lunch for visiting Tanzanian missionaries held Feb. 29th. Twenty six people attended soup and sandwich lunch. Mutwale and Kabaka presented slides and shared their experiences of growing the UMC in Tanzania.

Through their steadfast service to God over the past 32 years, Tanzania now is recognized as a Conference of the UMC. Currently, the Tanzania Conference has the UMC Bishop of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Conference. Mutwale represents the Congo Conference Bishop at all UMC meetings held in Tanzania. He acts as the District Superintendent for all the churches in Tanzania and continues to plant UMC's. Kabaka is working with orphans, refugees and immigrants in the name and love of Christ.

We were discouraged from taking up a love offering because the foreign missionaries do not have accounts with American banks. The Lima UWF will be taking up an offering and sending it through UM Global Missions. Everyone will have an opportunity to give.

Ingathering of New Baby Clothes

April 1st through Sunday April 21st is your opportunity to donate new items with tags on to the "Baby Shower" being held for Mother's Home Shelter in Darby. This project is sponsored by the South District of the EPAC of the United Women in Faith.

Mother's Home Shelter has requested towels and washcloths, toiletries, infant and layette items sizes 0-6 months, underwear for mothers, and feminine hygiene items. This itemized list of needed items will be available during the first 3 Sundays in April.

If you find new baby items with tags on them that are not listed, please bring them too. Clarification point is if you find other clothes items with tags on, please bring them to the Rummage Sale May 2nd and we will send them to local mission organizations.

By donating new clothes for infants and mothers, we are fulfilling St. Paul's direction to the new church at Corinth as written in 2 Corinthians 8:14-15 "But you should divide your gifts with them. Right now you have plenty and can help them; then at some other time they can share with you when you need it."

Volunteers in Service to Others

Knit and Crochet Fellowship News

Hope to see you in person on April 13th at 1:30 to 3 PM in the Disciples' Den. Come for show and tell about the items that you have created, to get inspired, to select from our solo hats and scarves who need their partner created, and / or pick up yarn. Call Linda Youngstrom (267-789-6386) with any questions.

Fidget Quilt News

Next meeting will be at Nancy Ellis' house on April 3rd from 1 to 3 PM. Six women met last month to create two Spring fidget quilt tops. Nancy sewed them together and added lace trim. One Fidget Quilt has already been adopted and taken home for a 102 year old mother. Enjoy the preview pictures in the Lima Beans or walk down to the alter communion rail to view and touch them. Each one is designed by a creative group of women. Come join us the first Wednesday of the month. If you contact Nancy (610-547-7501), she adds you to her list for a "save the date" email.



Calling all high school and college students interested in technological innovation!

We are looking for new members of our tech team to begin working with new cutting edge camera, sound, and visual systems starting in the spring. If you are interested in technology and would have fun learning about the newest audio/visual and recording technology, while doing a great service for our church, we would love to talk with you! Contact the pastor or Sandy Fagley at admin@limachurchpa.com.



12 Step Spiritual Sustenance: Meditation

12 Step Spiritual Sustenance: Meditation class will begin again on Monday April 8th for 6 weeks from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The class is for beginners to meditate and those who want to travel alongside those who are new to meditation. Centering prayer and mindfulness meditation will be taught.



Save the Dates for some exciting concerts coming up at Lima Church in 2024-2025!

Sun., June 23, 2024 at 3pm Nick Burbo and Friends - *Broadway and Beyond*

Sun., Dec. 8, 2024 at 4pm Wilmington Handbell Ensemble - *A Little Bit of Christmas*

Sun., Feb. 2, 2025 Principally Harps - *For the Love of Harps*

Sun., March 9, 2025 at 3pm Connoley & Murphy & Company - *"A Little Bit of Irish"*