

December 2024 LUMC Newsletter
Pastor's Column



Christmas is upon us. This photo is my family. It includes my mother, my nephew, my sister holding her daughter and our niece. My sister's name is Marxanne. We called her Marxie. She died suddenly of a heart attack in her home on November 8th. She was only 68 years old. My sister traveled here to be with me when I moved to Lima this summer. I miss her already.

I love this photo. It is warm and tells a story. My mother is reading from a big book of the Night before Christmas. My nephew is in superman pajamas. My nieces have matching pajamas with shoes alike. My sister is clinging to them. The tree is like a Charlie Brown tree decorated with love. There are presents galore. The little round table is decked with a red felt cloth.

The three children in this picture now have their own children. In fact, one has a daughter who has a daughter. So, it is a VERY old photo. I know you have old photos as well. I know you have Christmas memories that come to mind every year.

I like singing Jingle bells and Deck the Halls. Yet, not all of Christmas is joyful. The first Christmas as you know was no picnic as well. Imagine Mary, 9 months pregnant traveling to Bethlehem and having a baby in a manger. Tina Fey spoke of traveling home during the holidays like the Holy Family where there may or may not be a place for her to stay (who hasn't pulled out the blow up mattresses?) but she went home because it is a place where she counts. Remember Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted in a census. I love the quote, "To the world you might be one person, but to me you are the world." We count with family.

Christmas also includes the slaughter of the innocents. Even surrounding the joy of that first Christmas, babies were killed by Herod. I hope you will join us December 21st if you like me have had a loss and want to remember them during the holidays.

As my eyes travel back to this photo and others like it, I am reminded God so loved the world he gave us his son. Glory to God in the highest. Surround yourselves with the love of family and friends this holy season.

Pastor Jonette

DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

Our December mission of the month will support the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which is used to help local families in crisis. Sometimes people need a little extra to meet an emergency need. It might be an unexpected car repair, a medical bill, or a grocery gift card. My southern Granny would tell us that charity begins at home for family members, extended family, and our neighbors. The next tier is church and missions. Your donations to the December mission of the month will be used throughout the coming year to provide a cup of cold water in Jesus' name to people in our community. Thank you so much for your generous contributions!



CHRISTMAS OFFERING—UMCOR

Our Christmas offering will be given to UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR works with partners around the world to provide disaster relief, help refugees, improve food security, and work for long-term recovery and development. UMCOR brings help and hope to people in crisis. Thank you for your donations which are a witness to God's love, here in the USA and internationally.

The "LONGEST NIGHT" Service 7:00 PM - Saturday December 21, 2024

The holidays can be difficult for those who have suffered a loss or a hurt. Please join us in a service of comfort. This may be a way to recognize the depth of the season and help process those sorrowful feelings that we may hold within ourselves during the holidays.

By doing so, we may celebrate the holiday more fully knowing that we have acknowledged those who are no longer with us and /or the sadness we carry within us at this time of the year. All are welcome to attend who wish to support those experiencing a difficult time. Presented by the LUMC Stephen Ministry Team

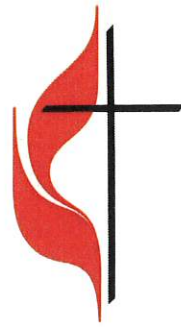




Christmas Eve Services

7:00pm – Family and Friends

9:00pm - Candlelight



Charge Conference

Charge Conference is being held here on December 14th at 10am.



Holiday Fun for the Family

Join us for holiday fun following the 10am worship service on Sunday December 22nd. We will have crafts, music and hot chocolate!



United
Women
in Faith

EPAC South District of United Women in Faith

The South District of United Women in Faith had 36 women at their Annual Celebration and Business meeting in our sanctuary on Nov. 9th. Rev. Shauna Ridge, pastor of Congregational Care at Hopewell UMC gave an inspired sermon, "Holy Hope and Holy Resilience". Chef Tony from West Chester served homemade chowder, winter salad, sandwiches and cookies. Fellowship with old and new friends flowed freely during the continental breakfast served by the Lima women and at lunch.

Frances Whittington, President of South District U W in F, sent her heartfelt thanks to Lima church and the outstanding hospitality given by the Lima U W in F. Her promise is that she will be back any time that we invite her. Pastor Shauna Ridge sent us her sermon, "Holy Hope and Holy Resilience", to be shared. Contact Linda Youngstrom with your email address to receive her sermon.

Volunteers in Service to Others

Fidget Quilters News

The December 4th meeting for Fidget Quilting will be at Nancy Ellis' house from 1 to 3 PM. We will be creating Fidget Quilts with a Christmas motif. Nancy is coping very well post surgery that repaired her fractured ankle. Her home physical therapist has started working on safe navigation of the stairs while she is sporting a cast. Please continue to pray for quick healing of her ankle. If you are not on Nancy's email reminder list, please contact her using 610-547-7501.

Knit and Crochet Fellowship News

Join us on December 14th from 1:30 to 3 PM in the Disciples' Den. Please bring or drop off at the church office all completed hat and scarf sets. We will be deciding how to divide up the 100+ hat and scarf sets among the 4 local missions. The bags of hats and scarves will be delivered the third week of December. You are invited to ride along with Linda as the deliveries are made. You will experience the gratitude and heart felt thanks from the people who will be distributing the hat and scarf sets to the individual children of God. This could be an opportunity to personally experience the scripture: "The generous will themselves be blessed." Proverbs 22:9 Call Linda Youngstrom (267-789-6386) with any questions or transportation needs.

Feeding the Homeless

Thank you for sharing your time and resources this year with this Outreach Ministry of Lima UMC. We will be providing a meal for 50 people at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County on December 22nd, 2024. For the December meal, we are planning turkey with all the fixings.

The December 1st Sunday bulletin will have an insert that lists the items needed to make a nourishing hot meal. Use this list to guide your selection of what you will buy and bring. Aluminum pans and recipes will be provided.

Please submit a receipt of costs incurred so that we can quantify costs. This will give us current grocery store prices to use when writing an Endowment grant for 2025. If you need reimbursement for what you have bought, please supply a receipt with your name attached.

Donna Thompson is the captain for December’s meal to Feeding the Homeless.

“A generous person will be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.” Proverbs 22:9



2024 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Beautiful poinsettia plants are used to decorate our chancel for the Christmas Eve services and/or to give to our home bounds who very much appreciate the lovely plants.



This is a great opportunity to purchase a plant or two for dedication in memory or honor of a loved one. The dedication will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Please complete the info below and mail your form with payment (mail orders must be received by 12/14) to Lima UMC, P. O. Box 158, Lima PA 19037. Checks should be payable to LUMC Flower Fund.

Each poinsettia plant (5 -7 blooms) is \$12.00 with foil and bow. **ORDER DEADLINE: Sat December 14th**

NUMBER OF EACH COLOR: **PAYMENT AMOUNT \$_____**

___Red ___White ___ Marble CASH___ CHECK ___ Envelope #_____

PRESENTED BY _____

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE BELOW OPTIONS:

_____ You may deliver my plant(s) to a shut-in. The Outreach Committee will deliver the plants. Thank you! _____ I will pick up my plant(s). *If you plan on attending one of the Christmas Eve services, please leave your plant on the altar until after the Christmas Eve service you plan to attend.*

Sunday, December 8th

4PM

The Wilmington Handbell Ensemble was founded in 2000, and is the only community based handbell ensemble in Wilmington.

Our purpose is to educate and introduce audiences to the beautiful and varied repertoire for handbells as well as promote excellence in musicianship



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