



## Christmas Services at West Lawn UMC

We hope that you will join us in Praise and Celebration of our Savior's birth at one of the following Christmas Eve services this year. Whether you are local or traveling, in church or at home, have a wonderfully blessed Christmas!

### **"Longest Night" Candlelight Service**

On *December 20th at 7:00 pm*, we will offer a service of remembrance and hope for those who find rejoicing difficult this year led by Pastor Lisa. (*see page 3*).

### **First Christmas Candlelight Service**

On *December 23rd at 7:00 pm*, in the Community Center for those who cannot be with us on Christmas Eve, featuring the Worship Band and Pastor Chris preaching.

### **December 24 Christmas Eve Services**

**11:00 am**– *Toddler & Young Family Service* in the Sanctuary featuring stories, singing, and interactive participation, all in a child-friendly, informal setting.

**1:00 pm**–*Early Traditional Candlelight Service*, with scripture readings, carols, communion and candle lighting, and Pastor Chris bringing the Christmas message. [*live streamed*]

**3:00 pm**– *Traditional Candlelight Service* with carols, scripture, choir, brass and candle lighting, and Pastor Jeff bringing the message. [*live streamed*]

**5:00 pm**–*Praise Candlelight Service*, with scripture readings, singing and candle lighting, led by the Worship Band and Pastor Chris bringing the message. [*live streamed*]

**7:00 pm**– *Traditional Candlelight Service* featuring carols and the Christmas story from scripture, soloists and candle lighting, with Pastor Jeff preaching.

**9:00 pm**– *Traditional Candlelight Service* with carols, scripture, soloists and candle lighting, and Pastor Jeff bringing the message.

### **December 25 Christmas Morning Services**

*Christmas Dawn Service* will be held at 6:30 am on Christmas morning with Pastor Jeff bringing the message as we welcome another Christmas Day in the house of the Lord, with communion and candlelight.

*All Christmas Services will be held in the Sanctuary unless otherwise noted.*



*See Page 3 for "An Online Christmas Worship Experience"*

***“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”*** – John 1:14

You and I are about to be overwhelmed by bumper stickers and magnets, talking heads, and all sorts of media telling us to get back to the real meaning of Christmas. One of the problems with this message is we don’t all agree on what that meaning may be. I’ve heard suggestions like:

*\*love*

*\*peace on earth*

*\*getting along*

*\*gift-giving*

I also hear things like “the birth of Jesus,” which is good, but not quite what I was thinking. I believe Christmas is about God’s plan of salvation for you and me. Yes, it began with the birth of a baby to Mary and Joseph in a stable in Bethlehem, but that birth took place SO THAT... God’s Anointed One, the Messiah, could come into the world. Let’s be honest, Mark & John don’t even bother to include a birth narrative in their gospels. Christmas is about God’s plan for salvation – yours and mine!

This year, we are going to explore together **A Different Kind of Christmas**. If 2020 has taught us anything, it would have to include that everything is changing, and we have learned, to a degree, what is really important.

This Advent we will be looking at Mike Slaughter’s “A Different Kind of Christmas.” This book inspired me years ago, and was the source of our more recent Christmas tradition of receiving a Christmas Miracle Offering. We give it away because *Christmas is not our birthday - it’s Jesus’ birthday!*

Speaking of the Christmas Miracle Offering, in 2012 we began GIVING AWAY our entire Christmas Offering! Over the past 8 years we have collected and given away over half a million dollars! YOU have invested in feeding and sheltering projects in Berks County and around the world (primarily in Haiti & Tanzania). We have partnered with local sheltering and feeding ministries. We have sheltered, fed and helped educate children in Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes, in Haiti. We built more than a dozen homes in Pignon, Haiti. In short, we have tried to do the things that Jesus would do!

We call it our Christmas MIRACLE Offering because we know that we could not do any of this without God leading us, without the understanding that God will provide for us, and without God guiding us to partnering organizations and ministries.

Christmas 2020 certainly feels like it is going to be A Different Kind of Christmas. To help you prepare for Christmas, we invite you to ready your heart and make room in your life for Christ in a variety of ways.

- ✓ You can participate in worship for the 4 Sundays of Advent (Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 & 20), whether that be in person or on line. You can worship with us wherever you are, and at any time through our web site, the West Lawn UMC app, and on Facebook.
- ✓ You can participate in a small group study experience. Pastor Chris is lining up a variety of times and opportunities for members, friends, and virtual friends to join a small/study group exploring Slaughter’s book, [A Different Kind of Christmas](#).
- ✓ You can check in daily to view our daily devotional videos which, starting Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> will focus on the 4 themes of our Advent Study (Expect a Miracle, Giving Up on Perfect, Scandalous Love & Jesus’ Wish List).

However you engage with us this Advent, and whatever works best for you, we hope you will join us as we explore how to make Christmas all about Christ once again. For now, we wish you a fruitful and blessed Advent season, and look forward to sharing with you, in whatever ways we can, in the joy and peace of another, albeit different, kind of Christmas this year.

God bless you all!

*Pastor Jeff*

## *An Online Christmas Worship Experience*

We did not want this season to pass without reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas – God’s coming into the world making salvation available to all! We can all agree that this year will bring with it A Different Kind of Christmas. For some, this year may include attending Christmas Eve services while practicing physical distancing guidelines. For others, it may include figuring out how to celebrate Christmas from the safety of one’s home. Whatever the case may be for you, our church family here at West Lawn UMC wants to make sure you can worship God and experience the joy of Christmas, however your personal celebration may take shape.

**Join us Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.** for the online premiere of our **Christmas Worship Experience!** This video is meant to bring all of our favorite components to a new, traditional West Lawn UMC Christmas celebration, and will include scripture readings, traditional and contemporary music, a children’s time, Christmas message, and candle-lighting. You can view the premiere on our web site or app, our Facebook page and our YouTube channel (6 p.m., Dec. 20), and again on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m., and continuing throughout the Christmas season.

As you watch, we encourage you to participate from home by joining a Facebook watch party or by interacting with us on our app. Wherever you may be, we are excited to worship Jesus with you this Christmas!



**There will be no United Methodist Women’s meeting for December. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

### *Longest Night Service* *A Service of Light in the Midst of the Darkness*

For many of us, Christmas is a bittersweet time of year. It is a time for remembering both persons and events that have been a part of our lives in the past, but that are now changed or gone. This is the time of year with the longest nights, so at this time we offer a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Join us on Sunday December 20, at 7:00 in the sanctuary for a time of special music, stories, silent reflection, healing prayer, and communion.

### *Loss of a Spouse and Griefshare Support Groups*

There will be a Loss of a Spouse support group meeting on Sunday, January 24, 2021 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm in the HE-brews Café.

In addition, GriefShare, a support group for people experiencing grief and loss will begin again on Sunday afternoons at West lawn UMC at 1:00 PM beginning on January 31, 2021. Meetings will be held in the HE-brews Café.

GriefShare features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. Seminar sessions include “Is this Normal?” “The Challenges of Grief”, “Grief and Your Relationships”, “Why?”, and “Guilt and Anger”.



For more information or to register, contact the church office at 610 678-5611.



and can be scheduled by calling 484-525-0980.

The next Wilson Area Food Pantry distribution will be on December 18th from 2-4PM with pickup in the WLUMC Reiner Education Building parking lot. Food boxes will be prepared ahead of time and patrons will drive up, pop their trunk, and the box will be placed inside. Pre-registration is preferred

### *Welcoming Servants Needed*

In an effort to be helpful and friendly on a Sunday morning, we need additional servants in the area of ushering and greeting for our services.

If you are able, please contact [Carolann@westlawnumc.org](mailto:Carolann@westlawnumc.org). This is an area where you can serve on a Sunday and it can make a huge difference in the life of a visitor. You may want to consider-serving at one service and worshipping at another!!

There will be an additional Helping Harvest Food Bank Mobile Market at the Wernersville Train Station on the second Tuesday of the month from 1-3 PM.

## *Tis the Season!*

*by Carolann Schneiderhan*

During the holiday season, we become immersed in the “to do” lists, buying presents, preparing food and decorating our homes. This year the way we entertain may look a little different, but none the less, we want to make sure that our guests are received with open hearts and a welcoming spirit. Hospitality doesn’t have to be fancy and the gifts that we offer don’t have to be expensive. Hospitality is different than entertaining. Social entertainment focuses on the host and what the host offers, where as hospitality can be offered with a simple cup of coffee, a simple phone call or around a simple dinner table sharing a can of soup and warm conversation. It is being completely present and attentive to the needs of our friends or our guests. Some of my fondest childhood memories are with my family, around a kitchen table, cup of hot cocoa in hand, sharing the stories, kibitzing about the day with my mom, attentive and listening while giving advice.

In Romans 12:9-13, Paul instructs the early church in Rome to use their spiritual gifts to serve others and to genuinely love others. He states that **“love must be sincere. Honor one another above yourselves.** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and to be faithful in prayer.” Paul was defining hospitality, instructing the church to pray for one another, to help those in need, to be patient with one another and to be attentive in our conversations with one another. He was making a call to action for all of us to emulate.

When Mary and Joseph were visited by the shepherds, they were in the most humble environment, having nothing to offer those who came to that simple stable. They received their guests with open hearts and were astounded by the attention and love that they received at the birth of their son, Jesus.

**This year during the Advent and Christmas season, our church looks forward to telling this most important Christmas story as we welcome our congregation and visitors.** Many who hear this story will be gathering in person and some will be watching via Live Stream. Thank you to those who have served through these challenging days and help us to continue to minister to as many people in as many ways as we can. With each experience, our church still needs folks to serve in the areas of welcoming, ushering, live stream camera and AV crew. Let us open our doors and our hearts to those who come. The way they are welcomed may determine whether they come again. **You can make a difference in someone’s life. Help us to make their visit at West Lawn seamless, memorable and safe.** We will offer multiple special services this year in December and through Christmas week. We will continue to sit every other pew and continue social distancing. **At each service we need help to offer these worship opportunities.** We will have smaller welcoming teams at each service using outside door greeters who will hand out the bulletins. At each service we will also need parking lot greeters and a few ushers. **Please see the adjoining page and future bulletin inserts, and prayerfully consider joining our hospitality team this Christmas season.**

The United Methodist Communications in their Welcoming Overview states, “A welcoming & hospitable climate begins at the curb, continues into the heart of the congregation, and moves outside church walls into the community. Help us to welcome others into the faith so that they may know the love of Jesus!

## *Advent Church-Wide Study*

This Advent we will be engaging in a church-wide Bible study that will coincide with the Sunday sermons and daily devotional videos. The study is called “A Different Kind of Christmas” and is based on Rev. Mike Slaughter’s book, “Christmas Is Not Your Birthday.” To get your copy of the book, stop by the church office. If you are a group leader and want to use the resources available, the Leader’s Guide is available in the church office and the videos for the weekly study are available on Amplify Media. If you are looking to join a group that is doing the study, here is a list of those groups that would love to welcome you:

- Sunday at 9:30 am, Room 110, leader: Terry Jenkins
- Sunday at 9:30 am, HE-Brews Café, leader: Cheryl Raffauf
- Monday at 6:30 pm, Men’s Bible study in Room 109, leader: Alex Massengale
- Monday at 7:00 pm, Music Room, leader: Richard Freeze
- Monday at 7:00 pm, Zoom, leader: Pastor Chris Hardy
- Wednesday at 9:30 am, Room 109, leader: Tina Krize
- Wednesday at 7:00 pm, HE-Brews Café, leader: Pastor Jeff





## Christmas Eve Servant Signup



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Welcome Center** (*arrive 30-40 minutes before services*)

Dec. 23: 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_

Dec. 24: 11 am \_\_\_\_\_ 1 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 5 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 pm. \_\_\_\_\_

**Help Facilities Staff** (*straightening of Sanctuary, vacuum, clean up trash, etc. after each service*)

Dec. 23: after 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ Dec. 24: after 11 am \_\_\_\_\_ after 1pm \_\_\_\_\_ after 3 pm. \_\_\_\_\_

after 5 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ after 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ after 9:00pm. \_\_\_\_\_

**Narthex Greeter** (*one needed per service*)

Dec. 24: 11 am \_\_\_\_\_ 1 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 5 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 pm. \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** (*answer church phone*) **December 24th only**

1-3 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 3-5 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 5-7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_

**Door Greeters** (*arrive 40 minutes before services, hand out bulletins and candles*)

Dec. 23: 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_

Dec. 24: 11 am \_\_\_\_\_ 1 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 5 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 pm. \_\_\_\_\_

**Parking Lot Greeters** (*arrive 50 minutes before services, greet worshipers and direct people to the sanctuary & nursery*)

Dec. 23: 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_

Dec. 24: 11 am \_\_\_\_\_ 1 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 5 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 pm. \_\_\_\_\_

**Ushers** (*arrive 30 minutes before services, collect offering, light aisle candles and worshipers' candles*)

Dec. 23: 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_

Dec. 24: 1 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 5 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 pm. \_\_\_\_\_

**Security Team**

Dec. 20: 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ Dec. 23: 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_

Dec. 24: 11 am \_\_\_\_\_ 1 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 5 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 7 pm. \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 pm. \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for offering to serve as we celebrate our Savior's birth. You will be contacted to confirm your offer. Please place this form in the offering plate or return it to the Church office.*

### WAYS TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT OUR CHURCH & MINISTRIES

#### EFT - Electronic Funds Transfer

- Go to the West Lawn website [www.westlawnumc.org](http://www.westlawnumc.org) and click on the GIVE tab or click on the EXPLORE / ONLINE GIVING tab. Follow the instructions.

#### WLUMC Smart Phone APP

- Go to your APP store and download the [West Lawn UMC App](#). Click on the GIVE button and follow the prompts to setup.

#### Bill Pay

- An easy process offered by most banks to establish recurring or one-time gifts to be sent by check directly from your bank, without sharing any banking information with the church or a 3rd-party provider.

**Mail in your contribution** to the church office. Be sure to designate your name and what the contribution is for. Send to:

West Lawn United Methodist Church, 15 Woodside Ave., West Lawn, PA 19609-1664

*Thank you for your continued financial support during these trying times and all year long!*

## *Merry Christmas from Safe Haven Lighthouse!*

In October we went on a field trip to Greystone Manor Alpacas in Sinking Spring. We had a great time! John & Helen Croft were wonderful hosts. They have a great place, including a pavilion area where we could have our snacks. John brought out one of the Alpacas so we could each have our picture taken with her. It was neat to be so close to one. The kids all enjoyed feeding carrot chips to the Alpacas.

They also have a huge yard, so we hid pumpkins with each of their names on it and they had to find them. John & Helen also gave each of the kids coloring books, crayons, and a treat for Halloween.

Their Alpaca store is open on the weekends in November and December, and we hope you will pay them a visit. It will be a great experience. A good place to go for holiday gift ideas.

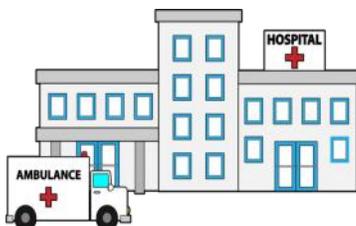
Most importantly, it was wonderful for us all to be together again. Seeing the kids and our leaders in person is so important and fun. Even in this trying year of 2020 we have added 4 more children to our group! We are still growing for God.

Enjoy this most Blessed Christmas season and looking forward to a wonderful New Year!

Peace, Lori Madara and Bonnie Rissmiller



### *Remember...*



Please let the office or pastors know if you or a loved one is hospitalized or placed in rehab. In this time of physical distancing and visit restrictions at our care facilities, our pastors would love to connect with you via phone or virtual methods to pray with you and offer support.

### **Turkeys Appreciated!**



If you would like to donate a turkey for a family in need for the holidays, please bring it to the office. All donations gratefully received!

You're invited to  
**Pork & Sauerkraut  
 Dinner Takeout!**

Friday, January 1, 2021  
 from 11 AM—2:00 PM  
 at the WLUMC  
 Community Center.



Pork & Sauerkraut  
 plus  
 "all the trimmings"  
 Adults—\$10  
 Children 12 &  
 under—\$5

Watch for sign up sheets to  
 help with this event in next  
 month's newsletter, our website,  
 and future bulletins.

## A Letter from the Bishop...

Dear Members and Friends of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference,

As the holy seasons approach and virus fatigue is at an all-time high, we are also experiencing a resurgence of COVID-19 infections in our state. I ask you, I beg you to heed the directives of the Pennsylvania Health Department and your city and county health officials.

We must all wear masks indoors and outdoors, and continue vigilant hand-washing and social distancing. Travel should be restricted; and if you do leave the state, you should receive a negative test within 72 hours before your return, as should anyone else who enters the state. Or those who do not get tested should self-quarantine for 14 days. It has been reported that 50 percent of virus transmission comes from people who do not show any symptoms.

As Dr. Rachel Levine, the state's Commissioner of Health, said, "It depends on us." It is our personal responsibility to protect ourselves and one another from this deadly disease.

We are all praying for the day when we can receive COVID vaccines and see this pandemic become history. That day will come sooner if we stay united and committed in our efforts to stop the spread of this virus.

Thank you for your careful vigilance. I hold you in my prayers.

Sincerely,

*Bishop Peggy A. Johnson*

## WLUMC Blood Drive Results

The fall blood drive was held on Thursday, October 22nd in the Community Center. Miller-Keystone sets a goal for each event, and our goal for this drive was to obtain 38 units. We are pleased to announce that we obtained 43 units of life-saving blood during the drive. This blood will be distributed to hospitals in our tri-state area.

Thanks to all our donors, and to Margo Hill for the delicious oatmeal/raisin cookies! Our next drive will be held on Thursday, March 25, 2021.

-Barbara Wenger and Eileen Williams, Coordinators

## CROP Walk 2020

We are pleased to report that even as the CROP Walk to end hunger was forced to go virtual, the Reading/Berks CROP Walk still raised \$22,673 this past October! Of that total, almost 10% (\$2,134) came from the people of West Lawn UMC.

Thank you for helping us to support this worthy effort, where 25% of all funds raised are retained to address hunger right here in Berks County, through Helping Harvest. And thank you, Dan & Sue Allen, for helping to lead us in this good work.

# 2020 STATE OF THE CHURCH REPORT

WEST LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
by Jeff Raffauf, Lead Pastor, prepared in October, 2020

Traditionally, each year the senior pastor is asked to submit a “state of the church” report. I try each year to celebrate some highlights and raise awareness of some challenges. I then end with “the state of the church is good.” This year, perhaps the most honest thing we can say is, “the state of our church is change.”

A year ago we were filled with anxiety about pastoral changes and how the denomination would address differences of opinion about human sexuality. Clearly, and understandably, we had no idea what 2020 would bring.

In January we welcomed new additions to our worship staff, and created, for the first time, a director for young adult ministries. We also received the resignation of our organist.

In February we were preparing to receive our new associate pastor. Then we learned our minister to youth, and our communications director would be leaving.

In March we welcomed Rev. Chris Hardy and his family to our church family and pastoral staff. And then the world changed! We learned a new language with now common terms like “unprecedented,” “pivot,” and “virtual.”

On March 12<sup>th</sup> we announced we would suspend in-person worship, thinking it would be for two weeks. That turned out to be 3 ½ months! We introduced daily videos designed to encourage our folks, and many others, with words of encouragement, inspiration, and most of all, connection. We were delighted and amazed to see some weeks register several hundred views. These devotionals continue today, posted on our new app and redesigned web site each Monday through Saturday.

We give thanks to God that West Lawn had been live-streaming 2 worship services each Sunday for several years. We learned how to live stream better.

We learned that discipleship, while always relational, can be done on-line. Our children, youth, and even our Confirmation Class, became weekly users of what was for many new technology. We were introduced to Zoom!

We bought a new parsonage for the associate pastor, even as we continue to wrestle with the best ways to utilize the properties we have, including 100 Woodside Ave. We discovered the joys of simple face-to-face encounters, and introduced our congregation to “drive-through” experiences (palm distributions, Mothers’ Day and Fathers’ Day gift giveaways, Pastor Camacho’s farewell), prayer experiences, and children’s ministry events.

To keep our congregation and guests safe, and to model responsible stewardship in our community during a time of pandemic, we instituted COVID protocols for gatherings on our church campus. While it felt strange for most of us, it was, and remains, the responsible, Christian thing to do.

Through it all, we have learned to trust in Jesus. We have learned to trust in God. (Thank you, Andraé Crouch, for those words.) We have had to put our trust in God (1) for direction in guiding our ministries, (2) for decisions regarding staffing changes (welcome, Trisha Rabold, our new pastor to youth, who began her ministry here June 1<sup>st</sup>), and (3) for funding of the many and various ministries here at WLUMC.

Through it all, we have rediscovered our mission of *making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. Even as our methods have had to change and adapt, our mission remains the same.

Through it all, we have recommitted ourselves to our ministry of *inviting, embracing, and empowering all to be the family of God, in Christ*. Now, perhaps more than ever in most of our lifetimes, people need the Good News of Jesus Christ. People need that peace that passes all human understanding. People are looking for hope, direction and answers... and we have them! His name is Jesus.

## 2020 State of the Church Report (continued)

Through it all, we have been reminded of our need to get back to basics, embrace our Core Competencies around Worship, Missions, Intentional Community, and Discipleship, especially among our children and their families. Even now, we are developing goals to guide our ministries in the year ahead. We trust that those ministries will be one way we can let our light shine, so that others will see our good works, and give glory to God, in heaven!

Through it all, we've learned new ways to tell the old, old story. We have had to put our trust in Jesus. We have discovered the power of God's Holy Spirit to comfort us, guide us and sustain us. This year 2020 has certainly challenged all of us in many ways, yet through it all, I continue to believe that the state of the Church, our church, is good.

Thanks be to God for God's guiding, sustaining presence, in good days and in difficult days. Thanks be to God for ministries that are only heightened by pandemic, societal ills, and social unrest. Thanks be to God, who gives us Light, and Life, and Love, and Hope, yesterday, today and forever.

To God be the glory! Amen.

*Jeff Raffauf*

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey A. Raffauf, Lead Pastor  
West Lawn United Methodist Church

*"O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home!" -Isaac Watts, 1719*

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." – Hebrews 13:8*

**WLUMC Relay For Life**  
**Santa Kits**  
**Breakfast with Santa alternative**

Registration is now open!

Contact Jayme Raffauf  
Or email:  
[RelaySantaKits2020@gmail.com](mailto:RelaySantaKits2020@gmail.com)

\$5 per kit

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA IS BACK... WELL, SORT OF!**

The West Lawn UMC Relay For Life team is creating kits that can be purchased in place of our usual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for appropriate precautions.

The kits cost \$5 each and will include crafts, reindeer food, treats, crayons, and a note from the Jolly Old Elf himself! All of the money raised will go towards the Relay For Life of Western Berks.

You must pre-register for the kits by using the link below. We will set up pick-up times for early December to get your kits!

Link to register: <https://bit.ly/3oiwrTR>

Deadline to register is November 30th. Contact Jayme Raffauf with questions at [RelaySantaKits2020@gmail.com](mailto:RelaySantaKits2020@gmail.com).

## Angel Tree 2020: Possible Because of You!

While Santa and Mrs. Claus were not looking for the children in the Community Center this year, there will still be many happy children when Santa drops his gifts by their tree for Christmas morning.

In the last 25 years you have provided gifts for thousands of children in Berks County who have a parent who is incarcerated. Without your support, Christmas would have been just another day for these families. This year Pastor Terry's church, Christ UMC of Birdsboro and the Shillington Lions Club joined with us in providing gifts for 175 children from 65 families.



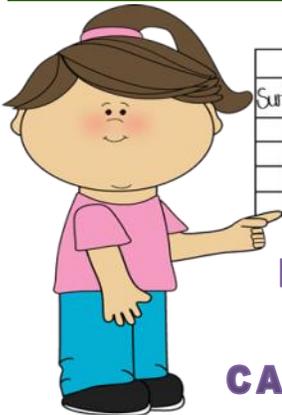
Watching families gathering at the tree to select their child is so special. Some have participated for every year including delivering the gifts to the families when the ministry started. And, there are the families who are joining us in the mission for the first time. The joy and excitement was contagious.

Let us keep the connection with these children beyond the wrapped presents. Pray for them and their families as they manage through this uncertain time. May they know the love of Christ through your thoughtful gift and prayers. Thank you for taking the time to care for the children and adopting them as a part of your family in this special way.

Thank you for all you have done to touch the hearts of these children and their families. They have truly experienced God's love through all you have given.

*Merry Christmas*

*~Bob and Alice Moyer and the Prison Ministry*



Month						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

**MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

## December Updates for Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School continues to meet in person each Sunday morning. We average 4-6 children in each age/grade classroom weekly, along with a 2-3 teacher team. In addition to our 9:30 AM classes, we also now offer Sunday School for all children during the 11:00 and 11:10 worship services.

Also, every Sunday evening Kelly and Laurie meet with West Lawn children on Zoom for fellowship and lesson time. Children, Age 3 through Grade 5, gather at 7:00 PM for our special virtual time together.

Kelly and Laurie continue to be at West Lawn on Wednesday evenings, between 6:30-8:00 PM, offering childcare services for any children whose parents are onsite engaged in a small group, Bible study, helping with the kitchen ministry, in choir, or otherwise.

West Lawn families with children 12 and under hopefully picked up their Advent-In-A-Box kits on November 22. If you have not, and would like one, please contact Kelly at 610-507-9141. Have a wonderful Christmas season!

## Women's Book Club



Women's Book Club will meet Wednesday, December 9, at 7:00PM, in room 109 of the Education Building to discuss Tending Roses by Lisa Wingate. **New readers** always welcome! Come join the discussion! January's book is Sold on a Monday by Kristina McMorris. To be added to the email list or for information please contact Donna Barnhart at [dmbhart2@gmail.com](mailto:dmbhart2@gmail.com) or 610-678-7873.

## *Attention Group Leaders!*



Is your small group or Bible study group looking for your next study but don't know where to find it? Good news! You can go to West Lawn Church's channel on Amplify Media and find relevant resources, including a section titled "Pastor Chris Recommends." Amplify Media is a division of Abingdon Press and all their material is filtered through our Methodist lens. You can download their app on your phone, tablet, computer, or Roku TV. To access hundreds of Bible studies, including our church-wide Advent study, "A Different Kind of Christmas," plus other material like round-table discussions, kid's Christian television shows, The Great Courses, and much more follow these steps:

Go to: <https://my.amplifymedia.com/westlawnumcwestlawnpa>

1. Click "click here to enter your code"
2. Enter our church's code: CGFWTZ
3. Create your personal account (*FREE, no credit card necessary, but it is necessary for you to create a personal account*)
4. Login and browse!

If you have any questions about Amplify Media or what resources are available or if you are looking for a suggestion for your group to study, please contact Pastor Chris.

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## *Ways to Stay Connected to your Church Family from Home!*

**FIND ON OUR WEBSITE: [www.westlawnumc.org](http://www.westlawnumc.org)**

**Replay Live Stream Worship Services** by following these instructions:

- On the home page click on the WORSHIP tab and select LIVESTREAMING. When the page opens scroll down and select the service you wish to view.
- It will open in small view. Double click to expand to full screen.

**View Bulletins** by clicking on the BULLETIN button at the side of the LIVESTREAMING page or by clicking on the WORSHIP tab and selecting BULLETINS and then click on the date you would like to view.

**Submit a Prayer Request Online** by following these instructions:

- Click on the WORSHIP tab
- Select PRAYER REQUEST
- Select your choice of Public or Private, fill in the form and click on SUBMIT.

*(Public Prayer Requests will be added to our Prayer Page and shared with our church family. Private Prayer Requests are sent directly to the Pastoral staff.)*

**Watch Daily Devotionals from our Pastors** by scrolling down on the home page to the Devotional circle and click on the words Browse our Devotions or click on the MEDIA tab and select DAILY DEVOTIONALS.

- Opens to that day's devotional message.
- Click on the YouTube link to see archived devotional messages.

**Weekly Sunday School lessons** based on the Sunday Livestream children's message. Go to <https://www.westlawnumc.org/sunday-school>.

### **OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT:**

- **Subscribe to our YouTube channel** to see our daily devotionals and worship services. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjk6YiptFESz\\_e26U1EA4jw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjk6YiptFESz_e26U1EA4jw)
- **WLUMC App**—Go to the Apple App Store or Google Play and search "West Lawn UMC" to download our new app. Be sure to click "allow" for push notifications so that you don't miss any important announcements. Check out the promotional video on the homepage of our website for more information.

# WEST LAWN WINDOW WALK Thanksgiving Style!

Between now and December 13, take a walk around our church buildings and check each "Thank you" item off as you find it on your window walk! Along the way, be sure to thank God for all of our blessings!

Thank you God for...  
*Jesus*

Thank you God for...  
*Hobbies*

Thank you God for...  
*Birthdays*

Thank you God for...  
*Pets*

Thank you God for...  
*Sun, Moon & Stars*

Thank you God for...  
*Babies*

Thank you God for...  
*Rainbows*

Thank you God for...  
*Laughter*

Thank you God for...  
*Weather*

Thank you God for...  
*Toys*

Thank you God for...  
*Hugs & Kisses*

Thank you God for...  
*Holidays*

Thank you God for...  
*Vacations*

Thank you God for...  
*Transportation*

Thank you God for...  
*Homes*

Thank you God for...  
*Sports*

Thank you God for...  
*First Responders*

Thank you God for...  
*Food*

Thank you God for...  
*Art*

Thank you God for...  
*School*

Thank you God for...  
*Gardens*

Thank you God for...  
*Family*

Thank you God for...  
*Doctors & Nurses*

Thank you God for...  
*The World*

Thank you God for...  
*Friends*

Thank you God for...  
*Seasons*

Thank you God for...  
*Parks*



# FIREHOUSE YOUTH MINISTRY

## YOUTH AUCTION UPDATE

### December 1– 6th

*We have been trying to pivot so many different aspects of ministry, and the Auction is just another piece that cannot safely look the same as it did in the past.*

*This year the Youth auction will be completely virtual on Facebook.*

*Congregation members will be able to view the items on Dec. 1&2nd, and then on Dec. 3rd at noon bidding will open. People can bid on the items of their choosing by commenting below the individual picture of that item. Bidding will close at 8pm on Sunday December 6th. Winners will then be informed via Facebook.*

*Videos will be presented throughout the bidding window showcasing some aspects of our youth ministry.*

*Contact Trisha Rabold with questions.*

**For info, contact:  
Youth Director  
Trisha Rabold  
610.678.5611 (O)  
484.432.7808 (C)  
trisha@westlawnumc.org**

Whether it's sitting together in our weekly small groups, standing in the rain to help trick or treating kids, or raking leaves around the neighborhood, our youth do it with joy. This pandemic has been anything but easy on 6-12th graders, but I am continually reminded of the hearts and minds of these students. Virtual School and all the changes this year have been difficult to navigate, but week after week they come together (with masks of course) to continue growing in their faith and friendships with one another. They don't just want to go through the motions, they truly do want to be the hands and feet of Jesus. They want to connect with others and learn about how Jesus can change their lives.

In the coming weeks we will celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas as a Youth Group. In lieu of a traditional Youth Group Christmas party, we will be organizing some "Christmas in a box" items to share with local organizations that serve families. We are hoping to spread the love of Christ by helping them to celebrate Jesus' birthday, rather than celebrate in a way that feels like our birthday. Won't you join us, and find new ways to celebrate Emmanuel, (God with us), by helping others encounter Him this Christmas?

## Firehouse Youth Fall Dates

11/29 @ 9:30am –6&7th SS & Confirmation  
No Youth Group

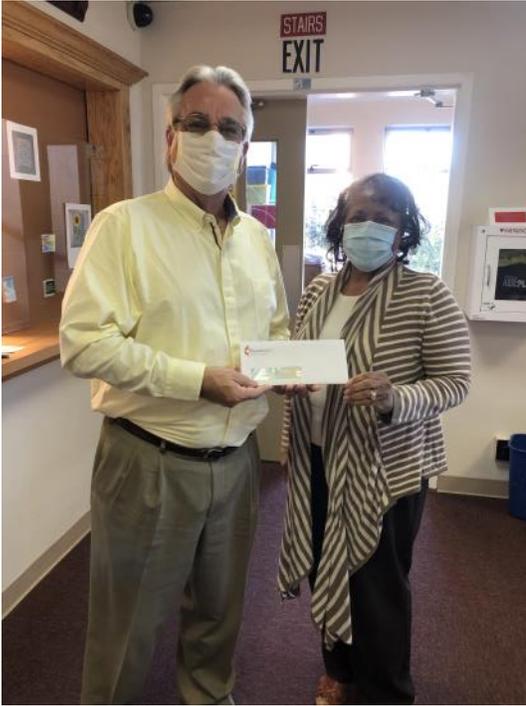
12/1-6th Youth Auction on Facebook

12/6 @ 9:30am -6&7th SS & Confirmation  
6-8pm -Youth Group in Community Center

12/13 @ 9:30am -6&7th SS & Confirmation  
6-8pm -Youth Group in Community Center

12/20 @ 9:30am -6&7th SS & Confirmation  
6-8pm -Youth Group in Community Center

11/27 @ 9:30am -6&7th SS



Twice a year the Eastern PA Conference of The United Methodist Church awards DeWeese grants to churches, typically for start-up funds for a new ministry or project. We are pleased to share that West Lawn UMC received a \$2,000 grant for technology enhancements to our outreach and ministry. The grant funds will go toward our adding live-stream capabilities to our Community Center. These funds, along with a generous gift from a friend of our church, and a second gift from a member family, will allow us to begin live-streaming our Community Worship services (and other events held in the Community Center) as early as December of this year. (Pictured is our District Superintendent, the Rev. Evelyn Kent Clark, presenting the check to Pastor Jeff Raffauf.)

## *Don't Forget to Use Amazon Smile When Doing Your Online Christmas Shopping!*

AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice.

All you need to do is start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Once signed into [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you will be prompted to pick a charity. Simply choose West Lawn UMC from the list provided as your charity. Once you do that, a percentage of your purchase price on many, but not all, items will be donated to the church.

The donation will be made at no extra cost to you. AmazonSmile offers all of the same items, prices, and benefits of its sister website.

You must remember to go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) each time you shop for all of this to work. So, consider bookmarking the site.

Thank you for supporting your church!



*People lined up for West Lawn UMC's Flu Shot Clinic (left), one of two clinics offered along with West Lawn Wednesday Grab & Go Take-Out meals (right).*

## *Flowers on the Altar*

Just a reminder that you can place flowers on the altar in honor or memorial of loved ones.

To do so, please call Acacia Flower Shop at 610-376-8767 or email [acaciaflowershop@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaflowershop@gmail.com) to place your order. Orders must be received by Tuesday to be ready for the upcoming Sunday.

## *Baptisms/New Members*

If you are interested in scheduling a baptism or joining the church, please contact the Church Office at [office@westlawnumc.org](mailto:office@westlawnumc.org) or one of the pastors.

# Thank You...

Dear Pastor Jeff & Congregation,  
Our Middle School cannot thank you enough for your support of the Power Pack Program. Since its inception, your congregation has helped supply food for our students over long weekends. Our school system is happy to partner with you and pick up the needs of students outside of the school day. We appreciate your kind generosity.

Blessings to all of you!

Sincerely,

Colleen Davenport & GMMS Staff

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you so much for providing the use of the Community Center for our father, Fredrick Soule's funeral luncheon. Everything was done beautifully and it was nice to come to a private space to share together. The food was terrific and we really appreciated the ladies who volunteered to bake and provide the food service to our family and friends. Everyone in attendance commented how nice it was. Thank you again.

Blessings,

Debra, Diane, Donna (the Soule Sisters)

Dear Ms. Hoopes & West Lawn UMC,

My husband and I wish to thank you and the West Lawn United Methodist Church for honoring my father, Leroy J. Hartman, at your All Saints Day Services on Sunday, November 1, 2020.

WLUMC has always been an important part of my parents' lives. Again, thank you.

Judith and David Feick

To the Lovely People of West Lawn United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for the delicious treats you sent to me! Both my roommates and I greatly appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness. I've been studying and working hard towards my goals here at Ringling College. I sincerely hope the community is staying safe and smart amid COVID. I hope everyone has a happy fall and a safe celebration of Halloween and autumn seasonal holidays.

Much love! Kath Loose

## In Loving Memory



**Mildred E. Krutis**

April 26, 1921 – November 1, 2020

## Baptisms



**Liam David Lewis**

Baptized 10/25/2020

Son of

Stephanie & Adam Lewis



**Everly Cora Gilbert**

Baptized 10/25/2020

Daughter of

Caitlin & Nicholas Gilbert



15 Woodside Avenue  
West Lawn, PA 19609  
www.westlawnumc.org  
Phone: 610-678-5611

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**OUR PASTORS:**

Jeff Raffauf  
Chris Hardy  
Terry Cooney  
Lisa Hoopes

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**Sunday Worship**

8:00 am Traditional Worship  
9:30 am Praise Worship  
11:00 am Traditional Worship  
11:10 am Community Worship

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# December Birthdays



## DECEMBER 1

Elliott Crawford  
Sarel Fuchs  
Jeffrey Hill  
Kimberly Hunter  
Cathy James  
Riley Kohl  
Holly Mays  
Robert Metzgar  
Dawn Soisson  
Brittany Wagner  
David Wert  
Jeanie West

## DECEMBER 2

DeAnne Bechtel  
Mary Davis  
Arlene Doerrman  
Deann Housten  
Michael Moyer  
Randy Stine  
Olivia Weaver

## DECEMBER 3

Peter Cobaugh  
Sharon High  
Eva Levering  
Kayla McMullen  
Trudy Miner  
Nancy Rehr  
Patricia Unger  
Kelly Zerbe

## DECEMBER 4

Cole Aughinbaugh  
Allison Hoofnagle  
Ellen Lantz  
Robin Pruitt

## DECEMBER 5

Amy Blessing  
June Bomberger  
Aiden Hoffman  
Chelsea Lamison  
Benjamin Reber  
Lorrissa Reis  
Adam Williams

## DECEMBER 6

John Daniels  
Kay Eastman  
Brandon Fessenden  
Carol Gardner  
Madison Klee  
Mckenzie Klee  
Russell Long  
Lisa Mochan  
Gary Noecker  
Zachary Remlinger  
Mary Roush  
Trevor Veidt

## DECEMBER 7

Bryan Behrenshausen  
Elyson Gaughan  
Robert Romberger  
Brian Van Winkle

## DECEMBER 8

Robert Greer  
Ellen Herring  
Tabitha Hoppman  
Marjorie Johnson  
Antoinette Long  
Christopher Michael  
Thomas Ott  
Anthony Pappas  
Justin Rhoads  
Scott Salyards  
Marian Shannon  
James Shaw

## DECEMBER 9

Yahzay Al-Samir  
William Blessing  
Linda Dutt  
Isaiah Fabien  
Charles Fisher  
Joshua Hertzog  
Jami Jamison  
Michael Koyste  
Randy Miller  
Constance Vaughan  
Dylan Waltz  
Brady West  
Dennis Wrentzel  
Thomas Yost

## DECEMBER 10

Jeffrey Brudereck  
Loretta Carter  
John Coakley  
Megan Fick  
Madison Grider  
T. Klinger

## DECEMBER 11

Robert Jones  
Andrea Lindsay  
Matthew Miller  
David Rhodes

## DECEMBER 12

Morgan Gadebusch  
Haley Griffith  
Carol Harris  
Donna King  
Cynthia Minnich

## DECEMBER 13

Cathy Cescon  
McKenzie Gensemer  
Daniel Hemmerich  
Rory Kopp  
Marilyn Long

Adriana Marrero  
Terrie Schucker  
Lacey Soler

## DECEMBER 14

Corbett Babb  
Kandy Derr  
Abigail Ingram  
Richard Noecker  
Corina Piller  
Gabriel Spohn  
Raymond Stubblebine\*  
Eric Sweitzer  
Rebecca Williams

## DECEMBER 15

Hanna Bodden  
David Daniels  
Meredith Quillman  
Peter Vicari  
Brandon Zabinski

## DECEMBER 16

Patricia Bailey \*  
Jackson Becker  
John Bittler  
Evan Haas  
Mason Ibrahim  
Steven Marsden  
Scott Szoke  
Lorre Witmer

## DECEMBER 17

Elizabeth Bittner  
Ruth Eyer  
Gerry Maurer  
Rosalie Negron  
Julia Neider  
Cary Shaner  
Drew Vandersall  
Lauren Weikel

## DECEMBER 18

Sandra Chimenko-Goss  
Dylan Kershner  
Mikaela Krall  
Gabriella Loper  
Ansley Mays  
Joseph Mays  
William Morgan  
Scott Snyder

## DECEMBER 19

Dorthea Bona  
Matthew Brown  
Janine Busack  
Ian Dixon  
Terry Herbein  
Preston Hoopes  
Margaret Houser  
Paul Hricik  
Colleen Irwin  
Miriam Kachel

Avarie King  
William Mays  
Cindy Mezico  
Donna Phillips

## DECEMBER 20

Conrad Buck  
Rylea Fick  
Amy Fick  
Peggy Fleck  
Maximilian  
Gadebusch  
Karen Guers  
David Hinkle  
Michael Kauffman  
Ryan Langlois  
Karen McElhattan  
Jodi McVaugh  
Doris Miller  
Timothy Minnich  
Bradford Putt

## DECEMBER 21

Jeffrey Blankenbiller  
Aaron Dixon  
Micah Mengarelli  
Arthur Quinter  
Donna Rollman  
Sharon Rutherford

## DECEMBER 22

Steven Endy  
Matthew Filer  
John Gaenzle  
Dennis Mauser  
John Miller  
Kristina Sanford  
Lucan Schmidt  
Baylie Wicks

## DECEMBER 23

Charles Hamer  
Holly Metzgar  
Robert Moorhatch

## DECEMBER 24

Aaron Grill  
Donna Kershner  
Vivian Reitz  
Bonnie Rissmiller  
David VanCampen  
William Wildman

## DECEMBER 25

Robert Fleck  
Donna Harrington  
Andrew Lindsay  
Chris Mays  
Emmett Russell

## DECEMBER 26

Owen Dixon  
Randy Wealand

## DECEMBER 27

Belle Calkins  
Kathryn Herbein  
Katie O'Leary

## DECEMBER 28

Michael Brightbill  
Chloe Kirlin  
Julie Kramer  
Rebecca Weida  
E. Yetter  
Leslie Zalenski

## DECEMBER 29

Jessica Adam  
Steve Garber  
Jessica Hulse  
Tyler Pajski  
Sherry Thompson  
Nathaniel  
VanCampen  
Catherine Waters

## DECEMBER 30

Owen Aughinbaugh  
Edward Geschwindt  
Charlotte Ladany  
Shannon Lutz  
Madeline Marous  
Joseph McGarrigle  
Mary Morris  
Serenity Myers

## DECEMBER 31

Trey Hayick  
Mason Kershner  
Judith Santoro  
Abigail Stephens

If we have inadvertently forgotten your birthday, please contact the office.



**\*Pat Bailey**  
Berks Heim Rm. B3 #329  
1011 Berks Rd.  
Leesport, PA 19533

**\*Ray Stubblebine**  
1151 S Main St  
Wake Forest NC 27587