

Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY 2021

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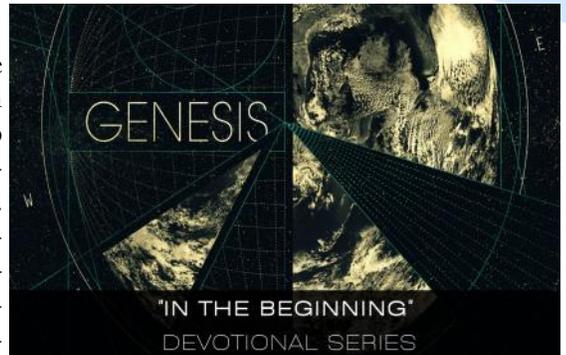
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IN THE BEGINNING...

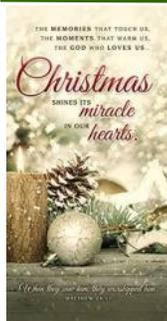
With a New Year comes a chance for clean slates, new starts, fresh beginnings. Join us in worship each week this January as we consider new Beginnings with God. Where do we look for such inspiration? How about In The Beginning. Yep! We're going to be focusing on themes from the beginning of the Bible, in the early chapters of Genesis. Message themes include:

- January 3-** see how **"God Brings Good Out of Chaos"**
- January 10-** we are a **"Covenant People"**
- January 17-** we will address the age-old question, **"Am I My Brother's Keeper?"**
- January 24-** like Noah, we will explore what it means to **"Live Into a Promise"**
- January 31-** and we will challenge ourselves when we **"Act Like Fools"**

We hope you will be a part of worship each Sunday in January. And with worship posted on line each week, there's no excuse for missing In The Beginning.



Christmas Miracle Offering



At the heart of our church is a strong desire to reach out to communities and organizations and show our love by providing food and shelter support where needed both locally and globally. Over the past 7 years the people of WLUMC have given over \$500,000 to Reach Reading, Help Haiti, and make a difference in the world.

While we didn't know the 2020 CMO total by the newsletter deadline, you can still make a donation to the 2020 C.M.O. Simply pick up a Christmas offering envelope at the Welcome Center, designate an on-line gift for CMO or write CMO on any plain envelope.

Thank you for your past gifts, and for your prayerful consideration this year.

PLEASE NOTE: All financial gifts received by Thursday, December 31, 2020 at midnight, or postmarked 12/31/2020, or EFT gifts date-stamped 12/31/2020, will appear on your 2020 giving statement, and *may* be used for 2020 tax purposes. Gifts received Friday or later, or received in the mail and postmarked 2021, will appear on the donor’s 2021 giving statement. Thank you for your generosity and support this past year. We look forward to another year of service



“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.” – Genesis 1:1-3 (NRSV).

Happy New Year to you and yours! “What’s so happy about it?” you may be saying to yourself. So far 2021 may feel like a continuation of 2020, or even a sequel (which are never as good as the original). We are living in a time of pandemic and coping with restrictions that have altered our way of life. We might also be saying to ourselves, “when will this chaos finally be over?”

We read in the opening lines of our Bible, from Genesis, about God forming the heavens and the earth out of nothing. There was a formless void and a darkness over the deep in which God molded the universe. The Hebrew understanding for “a formless void and a darkness over the deep” is chaos. Out of this chaos, out of this complete disorder and unpredictability, God created order. Out of the darkness, God brought forth light, and in due time, revealed to us the one, true Light.

With the holiday season behind us, it is easy for us to return to feeling like we’re stuck in this state of continual chaos. Let us not lose sight of the Light in which we just celebrated! Yes, it was a different kind of Christmas, but the truth remains... “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5, NRSV) That Scripture ends in a period, but I think it is worth emphasizing with an exclamation point: the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it!

This year may not be off to the start that we had hoped to find ourselves in, but let us hold firm in our faith that God is in control. Out of the darkness, God created order and gave us light. In a broken world of chaos and corruption and sin, God gave us Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. God did this in the beginning, has done it 2,000 years ago, and is doing it yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

We hope that you’ll join Pastor Jeff and I as we begin our new sermon and devotional series, “In the Beginning,” that will remind us of God’s timeless truths. It is our hope and prayer that we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we move ahead in these days and through this year, that we may hold steadfast to the light of Jesus Christ, knowing that the darkness will be overcome.

Sisters and brothers, I hope that this message finds you and yours well. I pray that this year will ultimately be a happy one because of your faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. May God be with you until we meet again.

Pastor Chris





West Lawn **PRESCHOOL**
Nurturing Children in Our Community

**COMING
 FALL 2021**



In September 2021, West Lawn United Methodist Church will open a new preschool in its Reiner Education Building. Morning classes will be offered for children ages 2-5.

Registration for next school year opens January 15, 2021. Discounted charter student pricing available. Refer to our website for tuition, class days and times, and extended day options.

-  EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTRUCTION
-  HANDS-ON LEARNING
-  GROSS & FINE MOTOR ACTIVITIES
-  FREE PLAY & SOCIALIZATION
-  CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

**Registration
 OPEN ON
 JANUARY 15, 2021**

West Lawn United Methodist Church
 15 Woodside Ave., West Lawn, PA 19609
www.westlawnumc.org/preschool
 610-678-5611 • preschool@westlawnumc.org

When God Shows Up in Unexpected Ways

by Carolann Schneiderhan

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

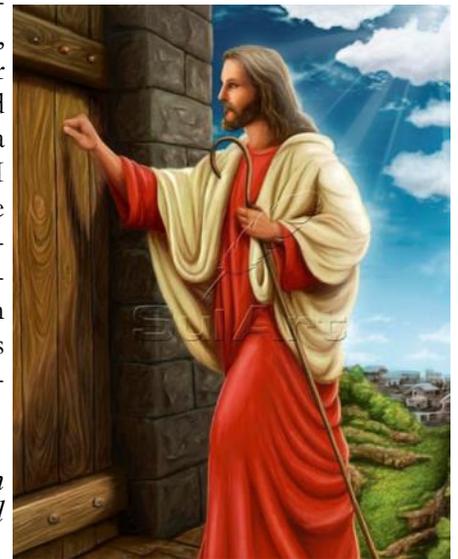
Several months ago on a Friday afternoon, I was looking forward to closing the office and getting out of work on time. (Yes, even folks that work at a church, look forward to the weekend and some time off.) As I was checking the doors and closing up the shop for the day, an older, rather dilapidated van pulled up in the breezeway and the woman in the driver's seat rolled down the window. With her was a friend who also appeared to have some physical challenges. I knew all of the signs and wrestled with the thought that this conversation was not going to be a quick one. I had a hunch that our church had helped her in the past and she probably needed assistance again, and this intuition was right.

As she began to speak through her window, she declared that she was told to come to West Lawn UMC because we would be able to help her. She went on to ask if we had clothing, specifically bras and bathing suit tops! Needless to say, I was grumpy before I even heard her request and believe me, my initial silent mental response was probably not my most Christian moment. (After all, who in the world comes to a church on a Friday afternoon to ask for bras and bathing suit tops!) Then I composed myself and remembered what we are taught repeatedly in the Bible and the message we hear often in church, that we need to show and demonstrate the love of Christ, not just when we feel like it and sometimes when it may be inconvenient for us. With much trepidation, I invited her into the building as well as the younger gentleman that she had with her. He walked with a crutch and his shoes were worn thin with holes. They both came into the lobby area of the Ed Building where I invited them to look through the clothing that was donated to the New Journey Clothing Closet. They were so joyful to be able to root through the clothing and find things that fit them, but did not find what they originally were looking for.

Checking my watch, seeing that the time was passing quickly, I noticed another woman coming down the hall carrying two bags, one in each hand. Strangely enough, she asked if we were still taking clothing donations. Then, it got miraculously weird. She proclaimed, I don't know if you would take these, but I have a bag of bathing suits and bras!!!! This, my friends, is an example of what I call a “God wink” - when God shows himself in unexpected ways.

Needless to say, I was shocked beyond belief that someone brought into our office the very thing that the woman needed. And, in case you are wondering, those items fit her!!! She was so ecstatic to receive what she needed and other items for her companion. But, the best part of the story is that when I looked into her friend's eyes, which were the most brilliant blue color, sparkling with a radiance that I have never seen, it was as if in that one brief moment in time I glanced into the very soul of God. Just like that, I was reminded that my attitude needed to be adjusted. It was also a reminder that God listens and answers prayers in ways that we may not understand, and that he shows up at the most unexpected times. It was a reminder that we need to always demonstrate love, even when it's difficult. And, in most cases, when we love others the way God loves us, the joy that we will receive is so much greater than what we would ever anticipate.

Look! I'm standing at the door and knocking. If any hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to be with them, and will have dinner with them, and they will have dinner with me. (Revelation 3:20, CEB)



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 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 or one of the pastors.



Even though the UMW unit will NOT meet in January, mission work supported by our gifts continues across the country and around the world.

Please remember these projects from the January Prayer Calendar this month.

- In Angola, Qessa Agriculture. Training in farming techniques
- InterServ, St. Joseph, MO. Faith-based social service agency in Northwest, MO
- Nicaragua, Accion Medica Cristiana. Child protection & advocacy for children & youth
- Tanzania, Our Father's House. Education & support for reunited children & families
- McCurdy Ministries Community Center, Espanola, New Mexico. Faith-based programs of education, teaching life skills
- Bethlehem Center, Spartanburg, SC. Provides day-care, teen programs & senior programs for all ages

God's work continues even during a global pandemic. Keep those sharing this message in your daily prayers.

Submitted by Anna Bickhart for the West Lawn UMW



The next Wilson Area Food Pantry distribution will be on January 15th 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 and can be scheduled by calling 484-525-0980.

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.



Women's Book Club

Women's Book Club will meet Wednesday, January 13, at 7:00PM (**Location TBA**) to discuss Sold on a Monday by Kristina McMorris. February's book is What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty. **New readers** always welcome! Come join the discussion! To be added to the email list or for information please contact Donna Barnhart at dmbhart2@gmail.com or 610-678-7873.

WAYS TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT OUR CHURCH & MINISTRIES

EFT - Electronic Funds Transfer

- Go to the West Lawn website 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!

JANUARY

*The beginning of
anything you want!*

Happy New Year from Safe Haven Lighthouse!

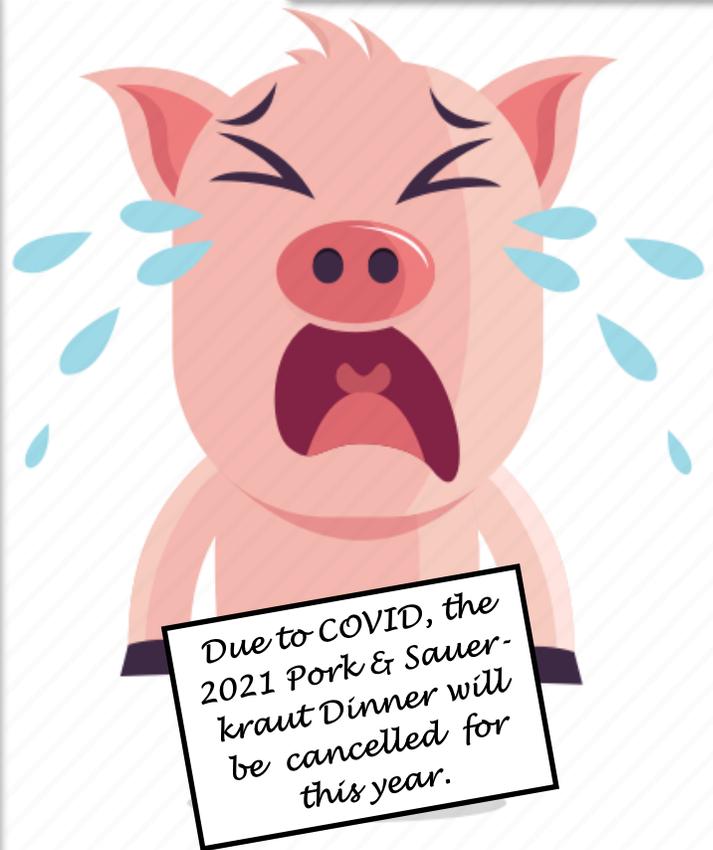
In November, we met with our children at Plum Creek Creamery. It is a great place that serves good food and hospitality. They have a large dining area, so we were able to distance and use this space to have our Bible lesson. Our theme was being thankful. The kids each wrote a letter to God, thanking Him for whatever came to their minds. We talked about all the things God has given to us, with the most important one being Jesus, our Savior.

While we were there, we got to catch up a little bit on the lives of the kids. They enjoy being together as a group. We, as the leaders, are privileged to walk with these kids in their spiritual journey as well as their everyday lives.

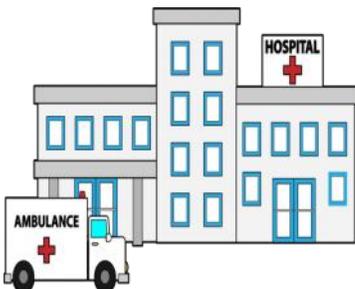
As leaders, it was great to be together again. Even though it's not every week, being together once a month is still so important for us.

Our prayer is that we will be able to be together every Wednesday in the new year. Your prayers for us are appreciated as well!

In Christ's Service, 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.

Communion Help

We are looking for additional servants who may be interested in serving on the Communion Preparation teams for our 9:30 and 11:10 services. Please contact the church office if you would be willing to join the team that serves in a rotational schedule throughout the year.

Loss of a Spouse Support Group

Grieving the loss of a spouse or know someone who is? Life has changed and the daily emotion can seem hard to bear.

FIND HELP at:

Loss of a Spouse Seminar

Sunday, January 24, 2021 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM
in HE-brews Cafe

Please RSVP to the church office at 610-678-5611.

21 Conference Students Awarded UMC Scholarships

Twenty-one scholarships were awarded to Eastern PA Conference students in 2020 by the UMC General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM). The board's Office of Loans and Scholarships reports that over 2,100 students received \$5.6 million in total financial assistance for 2020.

Many of those scholarships are funded in part by church-wide Special Sunday offerings, including those received on Native American Sunday, World Communion Sunday and UM Student Day. Other sources include gifts, annuities and endowments GBHEM has invested and administered for decades.

Students who are members of The United Methodist Church may apply for Fall 2021 GBHEM scholarships online from **Dec. 15 to March 24, 2021** at <https://www.gbhem.org/loans-scholarships/scholarships>.

Student loans are also available at interest rates as low as 3.75% (lower than federal educational loan rates) with a creditworthy cosigner. UM student loans helps can help fill the gap in funding for a student and their parents. The UM Student Spring Loan application is open Dec.10 through May at www.gbhem.org/loanapplication.

Blood Donations Needed

The Keystone Miller Blood Bank is currently asking for people to consider giving blood. Due to COVID-19, there have been a shortage of blood drive events, causing the blood supply in our area to become dangerously low. If you are willing, please consider donating by registering on the Miller-Keystone website. All blood donations are by appointment only.

When you give a pint, you give more than just blood— you give the gift of life, you give someone hope for a second chance, and you give back to the community. Blood transfusions save more than 4 million Americans each year.

Griefshare to Begin in January



"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."
-Matthew 5:4 (NRSV)

Grief can be overwhelming. Loss and potential loss can be so frightening and painful that it feels like the world is simply caving in; sometimes it seems that there is no end to the pain. In times of grief, prayers become a lifeline that upholds and guides us when we do not know the way. Minute by minute and hour by hour, God sustains us.

If you have suffered a recent loss or continue to struggle with the loss of a loved one, The Griefshare Ministry Team can help and would be honored to walk alongside you through this time in your life. This group of trained servants will minister to you through weekly meetings, offering a listening ear as well as proven suggestions to aid you in your grieving process. Weekly meetings 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.

If you would like more information or to register, please contact the church at 610-678-5611.

GOD

*didn't promise days without
Pain, laughter without
Sorrow, nor sun without
Rain, but he did promise
Strength for the day,
Comfort for the tears,
and Light for the way.*

COVID UPDATES

To stay up to date on all COVID-19 related changes, please check the homepage of our website or the announcement section of the app for weekly updates. Our goal is to continue to offer safe, in-person worship as we assess weekly the guidance by the governor and local officials for businesses and schools.

Thank you for your understanding and your continued commitment to our ministries throughout these challenging times.



FIREHOUSE YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group in December

When Covid cases started to rise around Thanksgiving, we pivoted our Sunday morning and evening programs. Students have been engaged on Zoom to help them focus on their spiritual lives, and then we have been meeting at various outdoor areas throughout December. The students enjoyed some local favorites like Gring's Mill's light display and strolling through Koziar's Christmas Village. But the biggest excitement this month was the trip to Refreshing Mountain Retreat in Denver PA. They have zipline and outdoor adventure course which travels through a Christmas light display. What a great way for us to safely meet outdoors in small groups, and to learn about the light of Christ in a new way.

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

YOUTH AUCTION UPDATE

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! We have been overly blessed by everyone's support for our first virtual Youth Auction. It was great to continue the tradition and hold our 5th Annual Youth Auction, albeit a little different this year.

We still had lots of donations, volunteers and sponsors this year. We were able to auction off more than 60 items and thanks to Facebook it was a little easier to run the auction in a digital format. And as I write this, the students are looking forward to helping one of the Auction winners dig themselves out of this big pre-Christmas storm.

Some of the donations are still trickling in, but currently the Youth Auction has raised \$4800 for youth scholarships.

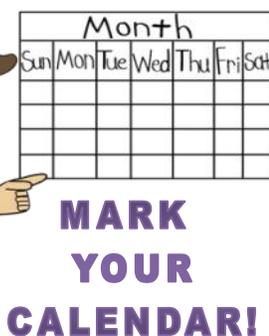


Firehouse Youth Winter 2021 Dates

Check Facebook and Email for upcoming Calendar dates and changes b/c of Covid restrictions

- 1/3 Outdoor Hike, Sunday Afternoon. No evening Youth Group
- 1/10 @ 9:30am -6&7th SS & Confirmation
6-8pm -Youth Group in Community Center
- 1/17 @ 9:30am -6&7th SS & Confirmation
6-8pm -Youth Group in Community Center
- 1/24 @ 9:30am -6&7th SS & Confirmation
6-8pm -Youth Group in Community Center
- 1/31 @ 9:30am -6&7th SS & Confirmation
6-8pm -Youth Group in Community Center

January 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 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.

As we begin this new year, we are hopeful for more in-person activities, discipleship and fellowship with West Lawn families. Stay tuned for these opportunities.

Happy New Year!

Ways to Stay Connected to your Church Family from Home!

FIND ON OUR WEBSITE: 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
- **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.

Thank You...

To our church family,

As we say goodbye to 2020 and look forward to another year of ministry here at West Lawn, we want to express our deep appreciation for all the cards, emails, words of encouragement, and expressions of support extended to us at Christmas and throughout this past year. Your love, support, and encouragement mean so much to us, and for your partnership in this ministry, we thank you!

- the pastors (Jeff, Chris, Terry & Lisa) & families

Thank you to all of our volunteers who help us throughout the year in assembling bulletins, newsletters and other assorted mailings. We typically have a volunteer party in your honor in December, however, due to COVID, we will have to postpone this event until it is safe to hold it.

In the meantime, please know that we truly appreciate your willingness to help, and wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. -The West Lawn UMC Staff

Dear Family of God,

During my recovery, one of my encouragers included this phrase, "Our trials in this life draw us ever closer to the heart of God." I am a witness to this! God reveals Himself to me daily in providing the peace, strength and healing I need.

Thank you for allowing God to use you, to bless me through prayer, cards, and words of encouragement. I am here today due to God's will and the prayers of His people. I thank God for the medical knowledge He has given to man to keep us going! I am a living miracle! Your sister in Christ, Anne Miller Murray

West Lawn UMC Congregation,

Thanks so much for the beautiful funeral flowers for mom [Mildred Krutis]. She had many fond memories of the people and her time spent there over the years. Your thoughtfulness has meant a lot to us.

-Joe & Linda Krutis

Dear West Lawn Women's Retreat Ladies!

I wanted to send a note of thanks for the beautiful glass hanging décor with the theme verse. It will be hanging in our shore home!

I appreciate so much the opportunity to link arms and bring such an important message in these times to all those behind the scenes as well as that day on Zoom. The love donation was overwhelming!

Looking forward to next year!

Deb

To Staff Members of West Lawn UMC,

Thank you very much for all the accommodations provided to Spring Seniors for their monthly meetings. This year, due to COVID-19, we were unable to continue meeting. We do appreciate everything done for us!

Sincerely, William Aukamp, President

Carolann & West Lawn Church Family,

On behalf of Cub Scout Pack 423, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for the use of your Community Center on Friday, November 20th. Our Scouts and families appreciate the opportunity to have gathered under these trying times.
In peace, Darrel

Dear Kelly & West Lawn UMC,

Thank you again for your generosity to the Bridges family who lost everything in a house fire. I met the aunt on Saturday night and she was extremely grateful and said how much they all appreciated this!

Evidently there were 3 families living there—each with little ones—so there was a total of 12 people. The one mom gave birth the next day! All are in a hotel right now until things get sorted out with insurance and they find a new place. The 2 little ones who go to Owatin Creek were with their mom that day so they weren't home when the fire broke out. Thank you again!

Pastor Wendy Orzolek
NorthStar United Methodist Church

Dear Church,

Thank you so much for all of the birthday cards that were sent to me for my birthday in December. I truly appreciate it!
Blessings,
Arlene Doerman

Our Newest Member (joined 12/13/20)

LEEANN ORTOLANI

Leeann came to West Lawn after moving to the area from Delaware. Leeann works as a Perfusionist for Specialty Care. If you don't know what that is, we suggest you ask her! She looks forward to participating in our music ministries and the United Methodist Women here at WLUMC. In her spare time she enjoys working on photo, audio, & video editing projects.

CASSANDRA HILLEGASS

Cassandra decided to move down the street from Advent Lutheran to West Lawn UMC. She feels God helped reunite her with an old friend who encouraged her to return to the church. Cassandra works as an Assistant Professor at a local college. She has two beautiful daughters and an angel grandson in heaven. Cassandra is hoping to become more involved at WLUMC, but her work schedule is a bit unpredictable at this time. In her free time she enjoys reading.

TONI & MIKE STEPHENS

Toni & Mike came to WLUMC by being invitation by Jen Botwin to the Trunk or Treat event. They had a wonderful time. They also attended the baptisms of the Botwin children and really enjoyed the services. Their household also consists of two cats, Daisy & Duke. Toni works as a Sr. Director of the Sales & Analytics for a lawn & garden manufacturing company and Michael is a Sales Engineer. This couple is on the go with many interests including antiques, decorating, outdoor activities, cooking & grilling; Mike even does competitive BBQing, and spending time with family & friends. They look forward to becoming more involved in activities at the church and are particularly interested in mission trips.

JOAN FICK

Joan and her husband were in the process of searching for a new church home when she attended a funeral that Pastor Jeff was officiating. She was so impressed with his care and concern for the family, she promptly told her husband she found their new church! Sadly, Joan's husband has since passed away. However, she has two adult children Abby & Jeremy plus three teenage grandsons Owen, Alec & Colin to keep her busy. She also enjoys cooking, antiques, reading and gardening. One of her favorite things to do is surprise friends, neighbors and family with food and goodies. Joan enjoys participating the food ministries and Vacation Bible School here at WLUMC.

In Loving Memory

Baptisms

Kim Ressler
on 12/13/2020



Judith Wollenhaupt
7/11/1938—
11/23/2020



Jule C. Martin
—11/30/2020



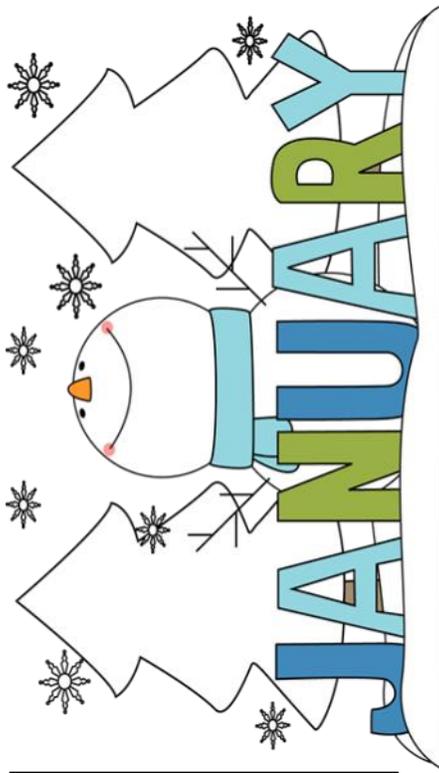
Dr. Sandra Jones
9/21/1941—
12/1/2020



Susan Perfetto
7/05/1952—
12/9/2020



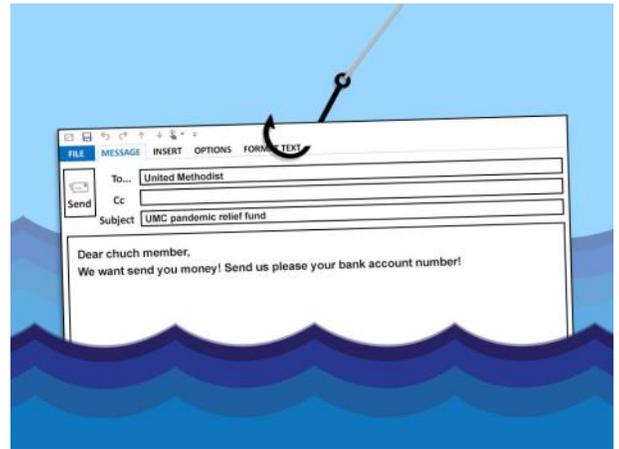
James Shaw
12/8/1928—
12/11/2020



Don't be a Phishing Victim

by Jim Patterson

(from *EPC New Spirit Digest*, December, 2020)



Members and leadership of The United Methodist Church are increasingly the targets of “phishing” emails designed to pass along viruses and steal personal information for use in identity theft.

Scammers use a variety of tricks to con people out of their passwords, bank account or Social Security numbers to illegally access their personal accounts. Thousands of phishing emails are sent every day and many are successful, according to the Federal Trade Commission. In 2019, the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center received 467,361 complaints and recorded more than \$3.5 billion in losses to individuals and businesses.

One email making the rounds is a classic pyramid scheme, asking United Methodists to contribute an amount of money and promising that much more money will be sent back to them in return. No United Methodist church agency would ever offer such a program.

“Giving is part of the joy of the holidays,” said Bishop Elaine Stanovsky of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area, “But we should all make sure to review any online giving request carefully, even if it looks like it is coming from a trusted person or organization. I hate the thought that trusting people might be cheated by someone asking for money in my name without my knowledge.” Anyone who receives a financial request from a bishop should verify it before sending a gift by contacting the office of that bishop or the Council of Bishops, said the Rev. Maidstone Mulenga, director of communications for the Council of Bishops.

“We are truly living in strange times when people would use names of bishops to scam someone out of their money,” Mulenga said. “If you get an email purporting to be from a bishop asking for financial help, please double check that the email is from that bishop.” Publicly listing contact information has been a method for pastors and others to make themselves assessable. Unfortunately, it also allows scammers to get hold of the same information.

“Recently after email fraud in New Jersey, we reviewed some of our current practices and are taking steps to address securing email addresses of individuals (in the conference),” said Bishop John Schol of the Greater New Jersey Conference. “We are also communicating that information in our conference journal may not be used to gather email and mail addresses for bulk use by an individual or organization.”

United Methodist Communications has been working on eliminating public lists of emails from various places, in particular the popular Find-A-Church data bank, Mai said. “This is a first step, but there is still more to do to minimize sophisticated and targeted harvesting attacks on data.”

Visit umnews.org to read the article in its entirety.

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

OUR PASTORS:

Jeff Raffauf
Chris Hardy
Terry Cooney
Lisa Hoopes

Sunday Worship

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





January Birthdays



JANUARY 1

Stephen Awurumibe
John Richard Bertolet
Nola Bramlett
Avery Haas
Makaila Lainez
Garrett Miner
Kyle Reaser
Frank Weber
Ethan Williams

JANUARY 2

Nathaniel Dutt
Camryn Waltz

JANUARY 3

Thomas Aungst
Lexi Barby
Spencer Berger
Logan Dutt
J. Charles Gardner
June Hill *
Jackson Mueller
Shane O'Connor
Dana Thorne

JANUARY 4

Lucas Devine
Corinne Dutt
Madison Hughes
Christopher Rhoads
Derek Romich

JANUARY 5

Ava Chung
Ryan Gusley
Robert McCarthy
Sheila Morris
Stephanie Wert

JANUARY 6

Kylie Angstadt
Jeff Bittner
Joshua Dierolf
Gabriel Meck
Colin Melnyk
Abby Ohlinger
Leah Ruth
Shane Turner
Theodore Yost

JANUARY 7

Chuck Barby
Ty Bassetti
Dylan Brunick
Savannah Bruno
Craig Dodge
Marjorie Luigard *
Anne Louise Reinert
Kim Ressler
Evan Whitney
Eileen Williams
Gregory Zelinske

Melissa Zillhardt

JANUARY 8

Sherri Alvarez
Charlotte Chung
Aubrey Columbus
Julia Hall
Norah Ibrahim
Susan Lensie
Judy Marsden
Lois Rutt
Lukas Taft
Lukas Taft
Morgan Waters
Isabelle Wonderland
Linda Wylezik

JANUARY 9

Robin Bailey
Owen Gallagher
William Gosch
Carrie Hoag
Jim Pachuillo
Samuel Yoder

JANUARY 10

Wayne Rhoads
Sean Robitzer
Steve Wagner
Clara Weber
Cindi Williams

JANUARY 11

Will Bramlett
Zachery Carles
Suzie Frank
James Malia
Kamilne Moser
Liz Zeiner

JANUARY 12

Mark Cooper
Amanda Frankhouser
Ethan Houghtby
Sarah Larkin
Beth Medaglia
Connor Steudel
Nancy Surgeoner
Michelle Troxelle
Trinity Wheeler
Ellen Zelinske

JANUARY 13

Erin Albanese
Ellen Branch *
Wynne Cloud V
Lee Conner
Jeffrey Raffauf
Sarajeon Reinert
Rachel Sechrist
Michael Vitalo

JANUARY 14

Connie Aldridge

Robert Dudash
John Epler
Gianna Marshall
Devan Miner
Mike Moore

JANUARY 15

Travis Berger
Brennan Bressler
Amanda Hemmerich
Martha Maher
Kelly Thorne

JANUARY 16

Dennis Folk
Colleen Keim
Kinsey Palm
Karl Prutzer
Dan Wade
Melissa Wamaitha
Mark Waters

JANUARY 17

Amy Frear
Gloria Kintzer
Hannah Krall
Tracey Pajski
Ella Reppert
Christine Shuey
Saunja Vicari
Dennis Zimmerman

JANUARY 18

Gary Auman
Joseph Ferrara
Parker Kline
Rian Long
Beverly Reedy
Dani Romberger

JANUARY 19

Stacey Babula
Jody Lebo
Declan McGuire
Kaitlyn Rohal
Deborah Strohmayr
Conor Surgeoner
Linda Weikel

JANUARY 20

J. Patrick Boylan
Brian Ohlinger
Jeremey Piccone
Sherry Ricketts
Marsha Sarfert
Grace Trogus
Brad Williams

JANUARY 21

Rebecca Christman
Rebecca Correll
Owen Farrell
Ryder Johnson

Jason Miller
Kerry Shaak
Angela Smith
Lori Wade
Arlene Yost

JANUARY 22

Patricia Barrick
Angeline DeMoss
Dexter Henninger
Natalie Mays
Carter Weaver

JANUARY 23

Sheryl Althouse
Elissa Arzuaga
Doris Banks
Stephanie Bunting
Linda Laumeister
Linda Linsey
Glenn Melos
Deborah Schilling
Jonathon Speece

JANUARY 24

Kenneth Dearstyne
Jayne Rhoads
David Stoltz
Patricia Wenrich

JANUARY 25

Richard Becker
Logan Beidelman
Victoria Bryan
Anna Delewski
Rozalynn Duncan
Anderson Forrest
Mark Hostetter
Tina Krize
Mildred Lavelle
Jordan Rivera

JANUARY 26

Kayla Busack
Judy Geschwindt
Rachel O'Donnell
Lana Rodgers
James Salyards
Daniel Thompson

JANUARY 27

Katelynn Grabey
Payton Mays
Brayden Meadows
David Schwenk

JANUARY 28

Ken Adams
George Bauer
Ronald Kauffman
Angelica Lena
Abigail Madara
Brian Schwenk

Meghan Wendt

JANUARY 29

Juan Arzuaga
Donald Carpenter
Riley Feltenberger
Luis Huertas
Randall Madara
Kirstin Michael
Jane Moyer
John Rubendall *

JANUARY 30

Alexandra Mikes
Frank Piscitello
Scott Stiefel
Kevin Surgeoner
Gracyn Weber

JANUARY 31

Lisa Bagdon
Christine Corcoran
Luke Dundore
David Englehart
Jordyn Gavin
Ingeborg Janiszewski
Javier Romero
Zachary Warren

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



***June Hill**

1801 Cambridge Ave
Apt. A3
Wyomissing, PA 19610

***John Rubendall**

1241 Park Rd.
Reading, PA 19605

***Ellen Branch**

Berkshire Center,
Rm 232B
5501 Perkiomen Ave.
Reading, PA 19606

***Marjorie Luigard**

1 Reading Drive
Apt 346
Wernersville, PA 19565