

COGS Weekly News!

December 13, 2020



United Methodist
**Church of the
Good Shepherd**
"connecting to broken and hurting people"

1500 Quentin Road, Lebanon, PA 17042
Phone: 717-272-7741

Rev. Alan Smith, Sr. Pastor
asmith@umcogs.org (717-273-9685)
church email: asnell@umcogs.org
web: www.umcogs.org

Worship Times

Saturday 6:00 p.m.—Parking Lot worship
Sunday 8:30 a.m.—Parking Lot worship
Sunday 9:45 am—contemporary On Our Web
Sunday 11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary On our Web

Because of Bethlehem



SCAN ME

*one sign up per car is needed
*get your ticket at registration
*bring your "reverse Advent" food for LCCM
*be ready for a whole new experience!

Merry Christmas

We are so excited around COGS planning for our Christmas services. Have you seen our stable being built? And the pavilion being transformed? **Wow!**

Christmas week starting Monday, December 21 through Thursday, December 24 jump into your car and experience this once in a life time experience.

Sign up is needed. (use the "SCAN ME" with your phone OR <https://bit.ly/3nQtWxK> Also you will need that ticket when you sign up—1 ticket per car load.

First stop...Caroling. A choir of voices will sing carols so you can join in. (a booklet with words will be given to you).

Second stop...Live nativity. Families will portray the scene in our barn along with some animals. Possibly sheep, cows...! Here you may get out to deliver your "reverse advent calendar" collection for LCCM. A story and a song will be offered especially for the kiddos.

Third stop...Devotions with Pastor Al.

Fourth stop...candle lighting. Here we get out of our cars, masks and social distancing, as we light candles and sing. So that all of us can participate, it's planned to have battery powered candles for those who do not wish to get out of their car.

We hope you find this to be an exciting alternative this year as we celebrate the birth of our Lord by social-distancing.



Wednesday Morning Prayer & Sacrament from 7:00-7:30AM.

Pastor Al Smith will lead the morning scripture readings at 7AM and serve communion to those present. You may join us in the sanctuary for this short service. Pre packaged communion kits are used. Please wear face coverings.

**Christmas Gift Collection for
Pastor Al and Pastor Lisa**

If you wish to contribute to this gift
please send to the church c/o SPRC
UMC Good Shepherd, 1500 Quentin Rd.
Lebanon 17042
Please indicate in the memo—gift for pastors.



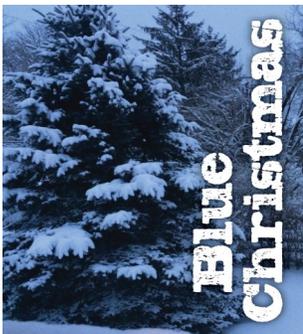
Men interested in joining CR
please contact Jason at
jjillhoolley@gmail.com
And women contact
Andrea at
agillhoolley717@gmail.com

Faith and Resiliency in Strange Times

2021. The turning of the calendar this year may seem more significant this year than in years past. We may be placing a lot of hope in 2021, for it to be different, and better, than 2020. As we look ahead, we are hopefully looking to God, and to His Word, for comfort and for guidance.

Our Equipping Team has decided that instead of offering our January “Equipping Series”, with a focus on spiritual gifts and service, this year we want to offer something that meets our church family right where we are, in the midst of a pandemic. We are offering a four-part series, to be held on Tuesday evenings throughout the month of January, that will focus on connecting us with God and with one another.

Each session will be facilitated by different members of our team, with the facilitators sharing scripture that has helped them walk through these challenging times. The series, to be held virtually, will be titled “*Faith and Resiliency in Strange Times*” and will be held on Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26, from 7-8:00 PM. You can join in for one or for all of the sessions - they are “stand alone” topics. There will be no preparation needed - just show up! It will all be on Zoom. Please email Pastor Lisa at lflory@umcogs.org to sign up, and you will be sent the Zoom link the day of the session.



Good Shepherd offers a **Blue Christmas** (or Longest Night) service each year for those who do not feel up to the normal festive Christmas Eve services because of their life situation or challenges, perhaps challenged by grief or depression, or other circumstances.

The service gives people the opportunity to bring their wounds, pains, sorrows, etc. to the one who came to be with us through all the joys and triumphs, challenges and difficulties.

Our service this year will be recorded and on our web page www.umcogs.org
Sunday, December 20 stay tuned.

Celebrating Our Cultures at Christmas

Sunday, December 13 at 3PM

A Conference-Wide Christmas Celebration
A Virtual Experience on Zoom

Register: <https://na.eventscloud.com/cultures-2020>

Sponsored by the Eastern PA Conference Commission on
Religion & Race
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
The United Methodist Church



Anyone interested in joining the House Team or learning more about it, contact Yvonne Roberts email address: ilove2design@comcast.net

Christmas Stockings for Cornwall Manor's Healthcare residents.

A list of instructions is inside each stocking—please only items listed.

Return to greeters at the drive-in services or bring them into the church boxes will be available for returned stockings.

Deadline: December 20th. There are still several left to pick up!



UMW News...

Join us on Monday, January 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom for an MLK Day program which will give us the opportunity to explore some of the many differences that exist between human beings and how they might cause us the view and interact with one another.

A panel of individuals from different age groups and racial/ethnic/cultural backgrounds will thoughtfully guide us through an interactive conversation about these relevant concepts, supporting us as we grow our own awareness of who God made each of us to be.

Everyone is invited to take part in this opportunity which is being sponsored by COGS United Methodist Women. Please email Jen at jenliedtk@comcast.net to register.

Forge Student Ministry Update

Zoom Youth Group Tonight

Tonight at Youth Group, we will hang out for an hour on Zoom! We will be playing games and helping students get set up for deeper faith development and friendship by taking time to set up the Bible App and to access our Forge Discord Community.

Meeting ID: 529-258-6443

Password: FORGE33!



At-Home Sunday School

This week's lesson: On the first Christmas, the shepherds gave their stories

Today, we begin our Advent Series, *Merry Christmas to Me!* Another Christmas is almost here, along with the annual onslaught of Christmas music, movies, lights, shopping lists, ads, and inflatable lawn ornaments. We all know the Christmas season is supposed to be about generosity, family, and celebrating the gift of Jesus . . . but to be honest — how much of your Christmas holiday is actually spent thinking about yourself and what you want? Since we're all familiar with this selfishness struggle, this 4-week series will take us back to the very first Christmas — a day that was only possible because of the selflessness, generosity, and sacrifice of God and God's people. On the first Christmas, Mary and Joseph gave up their comfort, the shepherds gave their stories, the wise men gave their worship, and God gave everything. So this Christmas, what will you give in response?

Access this week's Sunday School Lesson:



Because of Bethlehem Volunteer Roles

By this time, you've probably heard about our upcoming "Because of Bethlehem" Drive-through Christmas experience! It is so important to center our worship on Christ this Christmas season, so we invite you to sign up for that event here: <https://bit.ly/3nQtWxK>. Also, this is an awesome opportunity for students to use their gifts in service by helping out for one night of Christmas week! Sign up to help here: <https://bit.ly/2VwhkA3>.