

COGS Weekly News!

December 20, 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
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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



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 is recorded and on our web page www.umcogs.org
Sunday, December 20

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

Because of Bethlehem —

A Christmas Drive-Through Experience

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" (to the left of this article) with your phone OR <https://bit.ly/3nQtWxK> Also you will need that ticket when you sign up—1 ticket per car load.

Rejoicing, Praising God: **Caroling**

O Come Let Us Adore Him: **Live Nativity**

Pondering these things in my heart: **Devotions**

In Him was life, the life was the light of all:

Candle Lighting

**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.

Forge Student Ministry Update

Live Nativity Set-up: Today 2:00 – 3:30 PM

As we get ready for the exciting week ahead at our Because of Bethlehem Drive-through experience, we could use your help to prepare our Live Nativity Station! Today at 2 PM, we will meet at the church, outside and masked, to create the full Live Nativity effect. We will be handling straw, practicing staging, and making this space special for all who will experience it! After we finish with set-up, we will hang out with some hot chocolate and games to wrap up 2020 together!



At-Home Sunday School

This week's lesson: On the first Christmas, God gave everything

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:

