



# LEBANON

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

creating a place at the table for everyone

### *Through the Red Doors*

*What's happening inside, outside, and through Lebanon UMC*

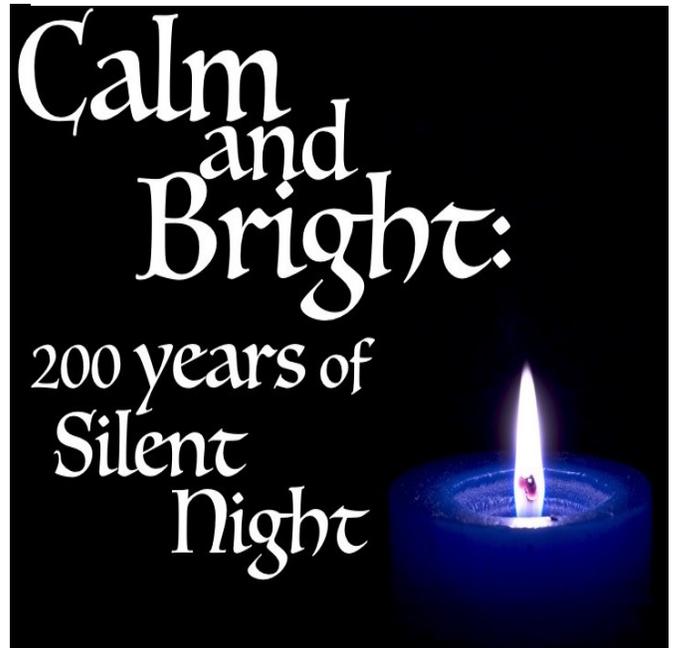
#### ***Advent Series: Calm and Bright***

The classic hymn “Silent Night” first made its debut 200 years ago on Christmas Eve, 1818, at the St. Nicholas chapel in Salzburg, Austria.

Nearly 100 years later, the beloved hymn was the center of a World War I ceasefire, Christmas Day 1914. The beautiful text has been translated from the original German into over 140 different languages, and is recognized and sung around the world. It is the defining “church moment” for many Christians—even those who come to church for the first time, or only once a year. Something mystical happens when we light candles and sing the hope of “calm and bright”—peace and light for the world.

This year, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beloved hymn, we need a “Silent Night” more than ever—a ceasefire from our conflicts, divisions, and stresses. Join us during Advent as we are inspired by the stories of this song and as we celebrate the renewal of love and light for our time and our communities.

When we sing (and dance) together on Christmas Eve, may we raise our voices to celebrate the birth of Christ with spirits of peace and love that transcend all barriers.



#### **~ Christmas Events ~**

**Advent Celebration:** Sunday, Dec. 9,  
after church

**Longest Night (Blue Christmas)**

**Service:** Fri., Dec. 21, 7 pm

**Christmas Pageant:** Sunday, Dec. 23,  
10:30 am

**Christmas Eve Family Service:** Monday,  
Dec. 24, 7 pm

**Christmas Eve Communion Service:**  
Monday, Dec. 24, 11 pm

## Join the United Methodist Women for Fellowship and Mission Work

The United Methodist Women (UMW) of LUMC welcome women of all ages to our meetings and activities. We enjoy a special fellowship, seek inspiration together, and work for local and worldwide missions that help women and children. Talk to Sharon Parker or Tina Ahern if you have questions about our group.

**Saturday, December 1, 9am-2pm:** Holiday Bazaar at LUMC. Plan to help Linda Kane on Thursday and Friday and Saturday.

**Wednesday, December 12, 12 noon:** Christmas Potluck Luncheon at Cally Lavigne's, 4 White Ave, West Lebanon. Bring a dish to share and a wrapped Yankee Swap gift.

**Saturday, January 12, 11 am:** Help Cally put on the SALT luncheon for our School Street Neighbors. Bring food and helping hands.

**Friday, February 22, 3:30 pm:** Help Dianne Allard Langley and others prepare LISTEN Dinner in White River Junction. Bring helping hands and stay for the meal to interact with LISTEN clients.

**Sunday, March 17, after worship:** Dip Dinner for Local Charities. Our fundraiser for local missions. Bring food and helping hands.



*Martha Silhanek was honored by Lebanon UMW on Nov. 18 with a Special Mission Recognition Pin for her dedication and contributions to our church.*

## Intergenerational Bible Study and Upcoming Advent Fellowship

Our October Intergenerational Bible study event was a wonderful evening of a shared meal and reflection together on Hope. We read about hope from Romans, engaged in a writing activity creating poems about Hope, and made a paper wreath together that is hanging in the fellowship hall. We shared ways we try to hold on to hope even in the midst of the violence and destruction we see in our world, and anchored ourselves in the hope of Christ. We look forward to continuing this evening program of a potluck and multi-age Bible study the last Wednesday of the month in the new year. We will meet from 5:30 to 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall on January 30th, February 27th, and March 27th. This time of being together outside of worship has been uplifting and connecting for the participants.

We have decided to have our December event as the Advent Fellowship program after church on Dec. 9th. We will have a potluck after church, decorate cookies, create a "living advent wreath" and have some fun with Christmas quizzes. We hope you will join us on Dec. 9th and consider the winter Bible study evenings as well.

—From the Christian Ed Committee

### **Twin State Homelessness Vigil, Dec. 21**

All are welcome to gather and share in solidarity and witness with the community of homeless people in the Upper Valley. On Friday, Dec. 21, 4:30 pm, we will gather at the Lyman Bridge (by Listen Community Center), starting on the Vermont side. There, we will read the names of the persons without housing who have died in the state of Vermont in the past year. We will cross the bridge into New Hampshire, and read the names of folks from New Hampshire. All are welcome to return to Listen for the community dinner after the vigil (and continue in the spirit of reflection at the Longest Night service at LUMC at 7 pm).

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## Sunday School and Christmas Pageant

*From the Christian Ed Committee*

This year's Sunday school program has been going well and we are happy to with our switch to the Whirl Curriculum and our children have enjoyed the lessons (along with the short videos). We continue to have one Sunday a month as Creative Sunday and the artwork the children have made has been impressive. The youth class is using the same format as last year and that has been humming along.

In December we will take a break from normal programming and the children will be practicing for the Children's Pageant during Sunday mornings. Our Pageant this year will be during worship on December 23rd.

The adults have greatly enjoyed Lillian Daniel's book *Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To*, which has yielded interesting and fruitful discussions. This class meets before worship at 9:00 on Sundays, and will transition to an Advent study in December.

Our Christian Education Committee is having a great time planning events for our community. We would love to extend the invitation for others to join us. We meet on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 7:00 pm in the Church Parlor. Come check out our little committee! We'd love to have your input.

## UVIP organizes for Immigrants, Seniors Aging with Dignity, Economic Justice, and Housing

UVIP (United Valley Interfaith Project) is an ecumenical effort in the Upper Valley. LUMC is a founding and active member. Recently the group has:

- helped local immigrants (many are Dartmouth students) with basic needs and transportation
- collected signatures to present to Governor Sununu and legislature in favor of a raised minimum wage in NH of \$15 by 2024 and family leave benefits
- promoted enrollment in ACA Health Care by Dec. 15
- get out the vote (non-political)
- offered "Useful Tools for Aging with Dignity" classes throughout the Valley
- explored housing and shelter in Claremont with residents of that city

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### VIM Haiti Team

From March 23 to April 2, 2019, Bob Parker will be leading a VIM team from Melrose UMC, MA, to Les Cayes, Haiti. This VIM team will work at Durocher building the new church; their church was destroyed by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. There is room on this team for one more person. For more information, contact Bob at 863-7348 or [parker.nh@gmail.com](mailto:parker.nh@gmail.com).

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### Angie Leduc Praised as Micah Honoree

Angie was honored at the annual UVIP Micah Event on October 28 for her work as Community Partnership Coordinator in Community Health Improvement Department at DHMC. She supports the work of community coalitions (here in Lebanon it is known as PUSH) to advocate for physical and mental health and resilience against substance misuse. Our church nominated Angie because her life is an example of the prophet Micah's admonishment to "Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."



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## So Much to Celebrate!

At a recent Staff-Parish Relations Committee meeting, our team was asked to reflect on the highlights of our ministry at LUMC so far this year. We came up with a huge list!

Our SALT (Saturday Afternoon Lunch Together) Meal has continued and grown in 2018, and at the most recent meal there were more than 30 people from the congregation and community. We've come a long way since we had one guest from outside the congregation!

Vacation Bible Adventure continues to be a huge highlight of the year, in terms of working together and reaching out to the community in a fun way.

This year's End of Summer Celebration (which we hope might someday be a true block party) was a very successful new event, and featured live music, great food, activities, and a welcoming space for our neighbors.

We support United Methodist Missionary Chris Hena and her organization, Healthy Women, Healthy Liberia. This October, Chris came to our church, and we got to learn more about her work. The Spirit (and Chris) inspired us to set a new goal of funding one student to train and be able to serve alongside Chris (\$1500 per student).

Lebanon's new Community Housing project on Parkhurst Street got some love and support from LUMC. Our congregation packed welcome kits with household goods for all 18 apartments. Residents said they felt loved and welcomed, and some have started coming to the SALT meal because of this connection.

We offered intergenerational evening events, where people of all ages could explore faith together with a meal and interactive activities.

And of course we continue to host our Yard Sale, Christmas Bazaar, and a host of activities, as well as gathering for worship, study, prayer groups, and more. There is much to celebrate at Lebanon UMC, and there are so many ways to give thanks and share in the joy!

## The Real Saint Nick

Nicholas of Myra (c. 342) was a Greek bishop from Lycia, now modern-day Turkey. It is possible that he was one of the bishops attending the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325. Legend gives him a reputation for secret gift-giving, such as putting coins in the shoes of those who left them out for him, thus becoming the model for Santa Claus, whose English name comes from the Dutch *Sinterklaas*.

There are many traditions and myths surrounding Saint Nicholas, whose feast day is December 6th. However, his most famous exploit is about a poor man who had three daughters but could not afford a proper dowry for them. This meant that they would remain unmarried and probably, in absence of any other possible employment, would have to become prostitutes. Hearing of the poor man's plight, Nicholas decided to help him but being too modest to help the man in public (or to save the man the humiliation of accepting charity), he went to his house under the cover of night and threw three purses (one for each daughter) filled with gold coins through the window opening into the man's house. One version has him throwing one purse for three consecutive nights. Another has him throw the purses over a period of three years, each time the night before one of the daughters comes "of age." Invariably, the third time the father lies in wait, trying to discover the identity of their benefactor. In one version the father confronts the saint, only to have Saint Nicholas say it is not him he should thank, but God alone. In another version, Nicholas learns of the poor man's plan and drops the third bag down the chimney instead; a variant holds that the daughter had washed her stockings that evening and hung them over the embers to dry, and that the bag of gold fell into the stocking. It is easy to see how today's custom of Santa Claus came to be from these stories.

He is the patron saint of children, sailors, fishermen, merchants, broadcasters, the falsely accused, prostitutes, repentant thieves, pharmacists, archers, and pawnbrokers. Guess the legends translated throughout the Church!

—Sharon Ely Pearson