

DECEMBER 2025

29 E Walnut St, Lancaster, PA * 717.394.7231 * EngageGdFirst.org

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

WITH FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

COMING EVENTS

GINGERBREAD HOUSE EVENT 05
DECEMBER 6, 12-2 PM

CHRISTMAS CANTATA 05
DECEMBER 7, 8:15 & 10:45 PM

CAROLING & COCOA 05
DECEMBER 15, 6 PM

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY 05
DECEMBER 22, 6-8 PM

**ALLEGRO CHRISTMAS
"A CITY IN SONG"** 08
DECEMBER 20, 3 & 7:30 PM

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTMAS 08
DECEMBER 23, 7 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 09
DECEMBER 24
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
4, 7, & 10 PM (4 & 7 PM LIVESTREAM)

Join us Sundays!

8:15 & 10:45 AM Traditional, 9:30 AM
Contemporary & Sunday School for all Ages

*Jr. church at 8:15 & 10:45 AM
for children ages 3-5th grade
Nursery provided at all services



AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

by Rev. Jason D. Ríos

Blessings friends,

As a new season approaches, we can look into our hearts and reflect on what God has done in and through our lives and be thankful. These weeks bring us a simple reminder that thankfulness is truly the kind of spirit we are to have, and this thankfulness will be more meaningful when we are both thankful to those around us, as well as to our God above.

It is my hope that in this beautiful season, you will have moments of deep connection, both personally in your own relationship with Jesus and with family and friends. Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas are wonderful times to connect. It's a time to give thanks for God's plentiful blessings and celebrate God's love for us as we give thanks and praise that Jesus came to this world.

"Gratitude goes beyond the 'mine' and the 'thine' and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past, I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy." - Henri Nouwen

We start this season with an attitude of gratitude. Recognizing all that God has done for us as a gift of love, we celebrate with a heart full of peace, hope, love, and joy.

Mary embodies this spirit when she sings in thanksgiving for her blessings despite dealing with all the fallout of her pregnancy with Jesus: a fiancé who isn't sure if he can trust her and stay with her, and a community judging her harshly as an unwed teenage mother in a time when that was considered unacceptable. All that is true, and yet she sings: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed." (Luke 1:46-48). Her spirit rejoices, and she boldly claims herself as blessed amid it all because she trusts that God is with her and doing something amazing.

Thanksgiving is a posture of the heart. It prompts us to look beyond our circumstances and recognize God's hand at work. Even during the darkest times, His light shines, guiding us with His faithfulness. We are reminded that the Lord is our portion, our sustainer, and the very source of our hope.

As you gather with your loved ones, I encourage you to pause and count the many ways the Lord has been your portion this year. Take time to share your testimonies of His goodness, reflect on His mercies that have sustained you, and give thanks for all God is making new.

Let us celebrate not only the birth of our Savior but also the gift of fellowship that He has given us. Let us express our gratitude to one another, build each other up in love, and remind each other of the eternal hope we share in Christ.



Here are a few practical tips for this beautiful season:

- 1) Take time to read the Christmas Story.
- 2) Take a moment to thank God for all He has done this past year. Just going around the room and saying one thing you are thankful for is always a boost of encouragement. If and when you do a gift exchange, before someone can open a gift, have them answer a question like, "What are you thankful for?" or "Name a thing Jesus has done in your life this year?" That makes the gift exchange a little livelier and fosters a sense of connection between us as we open gifts.
- 3) Sing Christmas carols.
- 4) Take a moment to pray for someone you know who is having a hard season.
- 5) Below are some additional conversation starters:
 - If you had to give away all your possessions for Christmas, which one would be the hardest to part with and why?
 - What has been a new relational highlight in 2025?
 - Who is someone you are significantly closer to than you were a year ago.
 - How did God use them to teach you more about Him, and what did you learn about yourself?
 - What is one characteristic of another family member you would like to grow in next year? (This could turn into an encouragement time.)
 - What was one favorite memory in 2025?
 - What were your highlights and lowlights of 2025?

I hope this is a wonderful season for you and your family!

On behalf of our church leadership, I would like to express our gratitude to each of you for your prayers, encouragement, and unwavering commitment to the mission God has entrusted to us. You are deeply loved and appreciated. We pray you will continue to support the ministry of FUMC with your prayers, presence, service, offerings, and witness in the new year.

May you have a blessed holiday season and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

In faith,

Pastor Jason

Worship Series:

Impossible

Advent 2025

Prophets are painters. They paint pictures of a time to come when people will be at peace with one another, hope will be made real, and all will shout for joy! Even if that time seems far off, we know it has already begun in Jesus—love come down to transform our lives and the world.

This Advent season, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we rejoice in how He has made possible what once seemed impossible: **peace, hope, joy, and love.**

Schedule:

Sunday, November 30 – Peace Made Possible

Scripture: Isaiah 2:1–5

Jesus invites us into a change of mindset, to be agents of peace—offering a new possibility for how we relate to others, a way of peace.

Sunday, December 7 – The Music of Christmas

8:15 & 10:45 AM - Christmas Cantata, "The Winter Rose" by Joseph Martin

9:30 AM - Contemporary Christmas Worship

Sunday, December 14 – Joy Made Possible

Scripture: Isaiah 35:1–10

God's deliverance of Israel—and of us—is cause for joyful celebration, not just among people but throughout all creation!

Sunday, December 21 – Love Made Possible

Scripture: Matthew 1:18–25

God shows us unimaginable love by sending Jesus into the world. By choosing to be with us in Christ, God empowers us to love in ways we never thought possible.

Tuesday, December 23, 7 PM – Contemporary Christmas: The Impossible Made Possible

Scripture: Luke 2:1–20

Through the gift of Jesus, God makes the impossible—forgiveness and salvation—possible.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Wednesday, December 24 – 4 PM, 7 PM, and 10 PM

Come celebrate the light that shines in the darkness, and the miracle of God with us.

Sunday, December 28 – God Found in Impossible Places

Scripture: Matthew 2:13–23

God is at work even in the least expected places—reminding us that nothing is beyond His reach.



The Season for Giving

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR BENEFITS LANCASTER FOOD HUB

WHAT IS A REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR?

A Reverse Advent Calendar is an Advent Calendar characterized by giving instead of receiving presents. For each day up to Christmas, you donate food items to help others.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Pick up a box and Reverse Advent Calendar in church **November 23 and 30th**
- Each day in December put a new item in your box.
- Bring your box to church on **December 21 - January 4**. If you need help transporting your box to church, please call or email the church office, 717.394.7231, office@engagegodfirst.org.
- We will deliver your items to the Lancaster Food Hub, lancasterfoodhub.org.



METHODIST CHURCH OF LANCASTER
29 E WALNUT ST.
LANCASTER, PA 17602
717.394.7231 * ENGAGEGODFIRST.ORG



DECEMBER EVENTS



Gingerbread House Event



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH - (12-2PM)

REGISITER

DONATE

VOLUNTEER



What you need to know:

- Gingerbread house, candy, and icing provided.
- Join us for pizza lunch!
- Take a fun family photo at our photo booth.

Cost:

- \$5 per person. Includes one house & two slices of pizza
- Pizza only \$2.
- Please bring 2 bags of candy to share.

Payment collected day of event. Cash or check accepted.



Caroling & Cocoa — Sharing the Joy of Christmas in Our Community Sunday, December 14, 6 PM

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 14, at 6 PM**, and join us for one of the most joyful evenings of the season—**Caroling & Cocoa!** This beloved tradition takes us *outside our church walls* and into our community as we live out our vision of **Loving Lancaster and our world.**

We'll begin at the church before heading out to **Rose City Nursing Home and Rehab**, where we'll share the warmth of Christmas with residents who could use a little extra cheer. A simple carol can bring light and comfort to those who may be feeling alone this season—and what a beautiful way to show God's love in action.

From there, we'll continue to **local businesses**, lifting our voices in song and our hearts in gratitude as we spread hope, joy, and the message of Emmanuel—God with us—to our neighbors.

When our caroling is done, come back to the church for **cocoa, cookies, and conversation**, as we celebrate the connections we've made and the joy we've shared.

All ages are welcome—bring your friends, your family, and your Christmas spirit. Let's go love Lancaster together, one carol at a time!

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 7 | 6-8 PM

Come one, come all to the grand finale of our youth group adventures at First Church! Get ready to jingle and mingle at our merry Christmas bash, complete with steaming mugs of hot cocoa, scrumptious treats, and games galore to keep the holiday spirit soaring high!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA SUNDAY

December 7, 8:15 & 10:45 AM

"The Winter Rose" by Joseph Martin

This beautiful cantata combines traditional carols and newly composed anthems, presenting the birth and life of Christ from prophecy to passion. A great opportunity for our community to come together and experience this joyful and powerful story with orchestra, our Chancel Choir, all under the direction of Brian Norcross.



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

ADVENT STUDY: *A CHILD IS BORN BY AMY-JILL LEVINE*

Wesleyan Class | November 30-December 21

9:30 AM Room 214/215

In this four-week study, Dr. Levine helps us see Jesus' birth through ancient biblical birth stories—Isaac, Ishmael, Samson, and Samuel—revealing how they deepen our understanding of the Nativity. Join us for fresh insights, meaningful discussion, and the wonder of Advent. All are welcome!

DISCOVER THE STORIES IN OUR STAINED GLASS

Koinonia Class | December 14

9:30 AM, Sanctuary

Come explore the stories behind our sanctuary stained glass. Led by John Spear, this tour highlights the biblical symbols and historic windows installed after the 1947 fire. Designed to capture the morning light, these windows continue the centuries-old tradition of teaching Scripture through art. Discover the beauty, history, and faith reflected in every panel.

ADVENT STUDY: *FOR WHOM DID JESUS COME?*

Christian Journey Class | November 23, 30; December 7 and 14

9:30 AM, Room 232/234

"For Whom Did Jesus Come?" is a four-week Advent study in the Christian Journey class, taught by Rev. Jim Goudie. Together we will explore Jesus' own words about His mission—coming not for the righteous but for sinners (Matthew 9:13; Mark 2:17), seeking the lost with rejoicing (Luke 15), and shining as light into the world so that all might step out of darkness (John 12:46). As we enter the season of expectation and hope, we'll also consider what it means that the One sent to save now sends us into the world in His name.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY: GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

New Study on Revelation | Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00 PM

(Ages 18-39) Room L09/10

Our young adult studies have had an amazing season! We were blessed with a great trip to Ocean City, NJ, and just finished a powerful series where we shared our personal testimonies.

Now, we're diving into the ultimate testimony—the **Book of Revelation**! Together, we'll explore its mysterious language and imagery, bringing clarity and peace as we focus on the hope and promises of Jesus—the heart of this book.

Attendance has been steady, and we've welcomed several new faces—there's always room for more! If you're **18-39**, join us any **Tuesday from 7:30-9:00 PM** in room L09/10. We also enjoy monthly potlucks!

Want to stay connected? We use WhatsApp for group updates. Email **Christian Faux** at Youth@engagegodfirst.org to join.

YOUTH MINISTRY: A JOYFUL CELEBRATION



Our youth group had a fantastic year! This fall, we moved **Youth Sunday** to mid-season, and the youth poured their hearts into preparing. Their leadership in worship was inspiring, and it's always a joy to see how God works through them. Each year, I look forward to working with the youth to prepare the service and every year they impress me anew with how they lead worship!

Our monthly social events are continuing, including a **Christmas party on December 7th** and the youth group will be joining the annual **caroling event on the 14th**. Our monthly events will continue into the new year and weekly emails are sent out to everyone on my emailing list to keep them up to date. If you're not on that list and you would like to be informed of events your youth can be involved with please don't hesitate to email **Christian Faux** at: Youth@engagegodfirst.org!

We also always **need more volunteers** – additional adults to help supervise and lead on Sunday nights and mornings for the weekly youth group and Sunday school. As for prayer needs the youth all go through difficult things at their age and I would encourage you all to pray for them. And to pray for your youth pastor, for encouragement and endurance as we dive into the busy season together!



SNOW FLAKES AND ICICLES

BY: CLYDE MCMILLAN-GAMBER

Everything on Earth has been created by God, including the appealing, fluffy snow flakes and translucent icicles, which add beauty to winter landscapes in Lancaster County, and elsewhere.

Snow flakes form when water vapor in clouds condenses and freezes on dust particles. More and more vapor forms ice crystals on each particle, causing snow flakes. Two God-created miracles of the innumerable snow flakes are every one is six-sided and no two have ever been alike-ever.

Falling snow muffles sound, blocks views and illuminates landscapes at night almost as bright as day, with the help of outdoor lights.

Fallen snow piles beautifully on trees and the ground, enhancing the colors of woods, fields and suburbs. Snow is most lovely under sunsets and moonlight, when deer and rabbits are silhouetted handsomely on fallen snow.

Melting snow dribbles from limbs and buildings. But during the daily cold of dusk and night, dribbling slows to a stop, causing growing icicles that sparkle like diamonds in sunlight.

Snow flakes and icicles are created by God. And we have the God-given gift of enjoying His beautiful creations.

Allegro Christmas Concert: A City in Song

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 (3 & 7 PM)



Join us for an exciting annual Christmas Concert with the Allegro Orchestra and 80 voice Choir under the direction of Brian Norcross! The concert will feature Christmas favorites and an enjoyable and uplifting performance. **Tickets** are available at www.allegrolancaster.org.

Use the promotion code **FUMC** for a \$5 discount on all purchased tickets. Children 5 to 18 are free with a paying adult. 10% of the proceeds will be **donated to the Anchor Breakfast Program**.

Celebrate Christmas Early with Us! **A CONTEMPORARY CHRISTMAS**

DECEMBER 23, 7 PM
CASUAL ATMOSPHERE, LIVE BAND, CAROLS
FOLLOWED BY COCOA & COOKIES

Looking for a meaningful way to worship before the holiday rush? Join us for a **Contemporary Christmas Service on Tuesday, December 23 at 7 PM** in the Celebration Center.

This relaxed, joy-filled service is perfect for those traveling on Christmas Eve or who prefer a casual setting. Enjoy **live music, favorite carols, an inspiring message, candlelight**, and a warm time of fellowship with **cocoa and cookies** after the service.

Come as you are and experience the true meaning of Christmas in a fresh and uplifting way. Invite friends, family, and neighbors—we'd love to celebrate with you!



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND LIGHTS
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 24, 2025 | 4, 7 & 10 PM

4:00 PM SERVICE

CHANCEL & CHAPEL CHOIRS
ORCHESTRA
SPECIAL GUEST:
JOHN DARRENKAMP
(LIVE STREAMED)

7:00 PM SERVICE

CAROL & CHERUB CHOIRS
ORCHESTRA
SPECIAL GUEST:
JOHN DARRENKAMP
(LIVE STREAMED)

10:00 PM SERVICE

CHANCEL & CHAPEL CHOIRS
ORCHESTRA
SPECIAL GUEST:
JOHN DARRENKAMP

Celebrate the wonder of Christmas with an unforgettable evening of music, light, movement, and storytelling. This heartfelt event brings to life the beauty and mystery of Christ's birth, featuring our choirs, orchestra, guest soloist, and stunning visuals reminiscent of our epic Easter Eve worship concert. Under the direction of Brian Norcross, with visuals and scenery by Brian Lehman, this third annual celebration weaves powerful narration, candlelight, and sacred artistry into a worship experience that warms the heart and lifts the spirit.

This year's service invites the congregation into a rich and worshipful journey through the Christmas story. Beginning with the gentle candle-lit procession of Mary and Joseph and continuing through the choir's entrance, the sanctuary comes alive with growing light and expectant hope. Children and dancers help create moments of wonder—flowing movement during Gabriel's Obo, angelic fabrics, and tender solos that echo the awe of that holy night. Meditations throughout the service offer space for reflection, while soft imagery of our church family serving others reminds us that the Incarnation continues through acts of love and compassion. As choirs and children join in "*Angels Making Their Rounds*," the story comes alive not only through music but through the shared life of our community.

The evening culminates with the passing of the light and the beloved carols of Christmas. Gathered around the manger, the choir forms a radiant frame of worship as Mary and Joseph present the Christ child. Candlelight fills the sanctuary for "*Silent Night*" and rises into the joyful celebration of "*Joy to the World*," followed by the triumphant "*Festival First Nowell*." With music from our choirs, orchestra, and soloist John Darrenkamp, this Christmas Eve promises to be a moving and unforgettable celebration of Emmanuel—God with us.



John Darrenkamp, a member of First UMC, has performed with the NYC Opera for nine years and the Metropolitan Opera for 22 years. His musical career has taken him around the world.

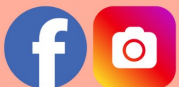
MISSIONS



Soul Story: Meet Sam:

This Soul Story features Sam, whose journey shows how dignity, care, and compassion can quietly change a life. “You get used to it,” someone told Sam the first time he hesitated in the rain, his foot hovering above a puddle wide enough to swallow his reflection. At the time, it sounded like survival advice. Years later, he realized it was something heavier—the lie that despair was permanent. But God was already moving. Through meals, showers, and the steady presence of Anchor’s team, Sam’s storm began to lift. The boy once silenced now speaks with confidence. The man who carried nothing now clocks in for third shift, and the neighbor who thought he was forgotten has discovered a different truth about what you really “get used to.” (Read the full story at AnchorLancaster.org/blog)

Follow
Us on
Social
Media



Anchor Lancaster

During this season of giving, we are so grateful for the way you’ve extended Christ’s love through your support of Anchor Lancaster. Because of your generosity, this ministry continues to grow—and we have some wonderful updates to share!

1 Gala Highlight:

We’re deeply grateful to everyone who made this year’s Anchor Lancaster Gala such a meaningful success; the guests who filled the room, the prayer partners who covered the night in faith, the sponsors and donors who gave generously, and the volunteers, staff, and community partners who continue to stand with us. As Anchor’s only annual fundraiser, the Gala sustains our entire ministry. From daily breakfasts and showers to the Day Center that offers safety, dignity, and hope to our neighbors. Thank you for helping Anchor remain a place where love shows up, faithfully, freely, and for all.

2 Volunteer Spotlight: Rachel’s Story:

Rachel’s story reminds us that love often looks like simply showing up. When asked about a moment she’ll never forget, Rachel shared attending a guest’s funeral. A small, tender service held in the same sanctuary where that guest had often received breakfast. Volunteers gathered to honor her life, a reminder that what happens at Anchor isn’t charity but community. **Rachel began serving last summer after feeling called by Matthew 22:37–39:** Love your neighbor as yourself. Since then, she’s discovered a network of compassion stretching across Lancaster — churches, shelters, and people who keep showing up. “It’s not glamorous,” she says. “But it’s faithful.” (Read her full story at AnchorLancaster.org/blog)

3 Day Center Permanency:

Anchor Lancaster is moving toward a permanent **Day Center** at the King Street site! This next step means working with Lancaster City and zoning officials—trusting, as Proverbs 16:9 reminds us, that while we plan our way, the Lord establishes our steps. We’re deeply grateful to **First UMC** for the hospitality that helped the Day Center begin and flourish, and to Tenfold for the garage space that carried us this far. As winter approaches, our greatest need is a **heating system and related upgrades—about \$200,000 beyond our annual budget—to make the space safe and sustainable.** If you feel led to give, donations can be made online ([HERE](#)) or mailed to Anchor Lancaster (memo: “Day Center Project”). Most importantly, please join us in **praying for wisdom, unity, and clear direction as we move forward in faith.**

4 Stay Connected

Every day, God moves through the hands and hearts of volunteers, guests, and our community. Stay connected!

- **Subscribe** for weekly updates and quarterly newsletters: Sign up to Stay in Touch
- **Follow us** on social media for prayer needs, impact stories, and behind-the-scenes moments
- Prefer print? Email Kelly at kelly@anchorlancaster.org to join our mailing list

See how love shows up daily—and every act of service points back to Him.

Discovery Corner Academy

Ashley Richter, Director

Discovery Corner Academy had a wonderful fall season! Our days were filled with exciting activities, learning, and lots of fun. As we head into the winter months, we're looking forward to celebrating the Christmas season together.

This year, our students will take part in a beautiful Nativity performance during our Christmas program, followed by milk and cookies with our families—a sweet way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!

Looking ahead, we're also preparing for our Open House on January 27, where we'll welcome new families for the 2026–2027 school year.

In Bible time, we've been learning all about Jesus. So far, our stories have included Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, and now the Birth of Jesus—a class favorite!

Our children are growing, learning, and thriving each day, and we feel so incredibly blessed to be part of their journey here at DCA.



A few of the choir kids explore the new **"Seek and Find"** poster in the Children's space in Room 209

Children's Choir: A Joyful Noise

Jan Betty

The children's choirs are off to a great start this year with superb singers full of energy. We have used boom wackers, shakers and loads of instruments. We can't wait to break out the handchimes! Plus, there are plenty of books to sign out from the library!

There's still time for your child or grandchild to join a fun group of children, singing God's praises and making new friends. If you'd like to be a member of one of these special groups, please email Jan Betty: jan@mycyberlink.net

Bring a friend and sing for Jesus!

Taizé Services

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF REFLECTION, MEDITATION, DEVOTION AND SINGING.

Taizé worship is an ecumenical evening prayer service modeled after an interdenominational service developed in the French community of Taizé. These sacred services were held for ten years at FUMC and are now being offered again as an opportunity for worshipers to embrace simplicity in a chaotic world. Held in our candlelit sanctuary, this worship incorporates meditative readings from Scripture, prayers of praise, times of silence and contemporary Scripture-based chants.

Be with us the fourth Saturday of every month at 6pm to experience contemplative worship integrated with music, prayer, and silence.

Digital & Streaming Ministry

Digital ministries and streaming has experienced a special boon in recent months as my efforts to streamline our weekly efforts has resulted in our volunteers job being much, much easier. I saw all this, not JUST to sing my own praises, but because it means that if you feel the calling to volunteer with the stream team your job will be easier now than ever! If you would like to volunteer you can do so by emailing Christian Faux at Youth@engagegodfirst.org.

Missions Team Update

This autumn has been an incredible time for Missions—filled with opportunities to share Christ's love through your generosity! Together as a congregation, we've made a real difference:

- **500 holiday cards** completed for the Conference's annual card drive for Philadelphia prisons
- **\$4,000 donated** to DCA's scholarship fund
- **\$2,000 contributed** to LUMINA's food box program
- **\$2,910 raised** for Tenfold's sub-zero sleeping bag drive—plus **2 sleeping bags donated**, providing warmth and safety for **50 people** who must sleep outside. *AMEN!*

Thank you, First Church, for being the hands and feet of Jesus this season! The team is grateful for everyone's giving hearts & prayers.



Have a Green Christmas! Reduce - Re-use - Recycle

- **Repurpose** Christmas cards as gift tags.
- **Reuse** wrapping paper and tissue paper as much as possible, since they cannot be recycled.
- **Use Natural materials** like pinecones, live greens, and other natural materials when decorating and twine cording when wrapping gifts.
- **Choose LED lights** on Christmas trees, landscaping, or wreaths to use less energy than incandescent bulbs and to last longer. (*Christmas lights cannot be recycled*)
- **Recycle** live Christmas trees and greenery at Lancaster County Park or township compost parks. (*See list of compost parks at <https://lcswwa.org>*)
- **Donate** unwanted decorations or gifts to charities or thrift stores.
- Continue recycling **THE BIG FOUR** with your trash hauler:
 - Plastic Bottles with necks
 - Metal Food and Beverage Cans
 - Glass Bottles and Jars
 - Clean Corrugated Cardboard
- **Save your used batteries** and bring them to church for the January Battery Recycling Drive!



Warmest Christmas wishes from the FUMC Green Team!

LUMINA
"The Light Shines in the Darkness..."
John 1:9

Meals for Children Needed Sign Up Now to Reserve a Date!

LUMINA Kids Night Program is growing! We meet every Monday night that school is in session. New Creation UMC kindly hosts 20 children with their families for a fun evening of LEGOs, Nok-hockey, Magnetic tiles, Paint, Clay, Beads, and Crafts, along with a lesson in Christian discipleship. We focus on ways to live together in peace and friendship, and we grow in character traits such as gratitude and mercy.



We are looking for local church mission groups for January through March.
correen.lumina@gmail.com

"How can you not love them, once you get to know them? And you get to play and have fun together!" - Adult Volunteer
Sarah Hamblin, Millersville Community UMC



Mondays 7:00 PM
10 W. Farnum St.
Lancaster

One important part of our program is sharing a meal together. We are learning good manners and practicing thankfulness to God and neighbor. We are asking for local congregations in Lancaster County to consider making us one of your local missions by providing our children with a meal for three Mondays of one month. Meals should be already prepared and brought to New Creation UMC sometime between 6:30 and 7:00 PM. Please contact Correen today about coordinating dates.

Tools for the Trade



LUMINA, as part of the Manifest Urban Alliance of United Methodists in Lancaster City, is pleased to be able to sponsor the senior students in the Building Trades Program of the McCaskey High School.

Side photos: This Fall, six current senior students have begun an internship with Rev. Chris Eden and the trustees of Otterbein UMC, recreating spaces within the church and building a protective shelter outside for the men and women who arrive early and wait for entry into the emergency shelter in Otterbein's lower level. We thank the families who have earmarked their donations to LUMINA for this very special show of support for our newest skilled workers.

Bottom Photo: Presenting the tools to new students in September.



**LUMINA is
participating
in the
ExtraGive
Nov 21**

EXTRA GIVE™

Food Distributions: Over 94,000 lbs So far in 2025



Thank you to our supporters and our volunteers at Ross Street UMC and Covenant UMC in Lancaster City!

Over **\$27,000** since January have gone into our food distribution ministry. Please consider donating to LUMINA, so that we may continue this ministry and even add a third distribution site in 2026! **Checks made out to LUMINA may be sent to our office at 20 E. Clay St. Lancaster PA 17602**

Constitutional Amendments Ratified

The United Methodist Council of Bishops has just announced the results of the voting by all our annual conferences to approve changes to our denominational constitution. These changes or amendments were approved at the General Conference in 2024 but required a two-thirds majority of all voting members of the Annual Conference worldwide, as they met at last year's Annual Conferences.

The Amendments were to do the following:

1. Regionalization

Under the restructuring, the U.S. and the central conferences — eight church regions in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines — each become regional conferences with the same authority to adapt the Book of Discipline, the denomination's policy book, for more missional effectiveness. Annual conference voters supported regionalization by a vote of 34,148 to 3,124 — a 91.6% majority.

2. Inclusiveness of the Church

An amendment to add the words “gender” and “ability” to Paragraph 4, Article 4 of The UMC Constitution to categories that cannot be used to exclude membership in The United Methodist Church. Annual conference voters supported the amendment by 33,895 to 2,920—a 92% majority.

3. Racial Justice

An amendment to strengthen Article V of The UMC Constitution by explicitly recognizing the church's role in combating racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy. Voters around the globe supported that amendment 33,875-2,989, a 91.9% majority.

4. Educational Requirements for Clergy

The General Conference voted to amend Section VI, Article IV of The United Methodist Church Constitution, which establishes the educational requirements for clergy members of annual or provisional conferences who are eligible to vote for clergy delegates to the General Conference. The amendment vote was 33,953-2,792, a 92.4% majority.

A New Vision for the UMC



Shaped by a profound Wesleyan heritage, the people of The United Methodist Church are stepping in faith into a new season of ministry. Since 2021, the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table have journeyed together in prayerful collaboration, seeking God's wisdom and discerning a hope-filled vision for this unfolding era in The United Methodist Church.

The Vision:

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections.

Love Boldly: We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. (Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35)

Serve Joyfully: With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy. (Psalm 100:1 | Nehemiah 8:10 | John 13:14-15 | 1 Peter 4:10)

Lead Courageously: Following Jesus' example, we resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. (Joshua 1:9 | Ephesians 6:10)

First  United

Methodist Church of Lancaster

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24

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT
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