

We Have Your Valentine's Day Date Night Planned!

Save the Date of MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14th for a Valentine's Day event of hilarious, unplanned, unscripted comedy by LANCASTER IMPROV PLAYERS.

Throughout the evening, also enjoy abundant appetizers and desserts. This event is for ADULTS ONLY from 6:30 — 9:00 PM in our Community Center.

The cost is \$40 PER COUPLE / \$20 PER PERSON, and you can sign up at the Welcome Center, in the Church Office or online:



For additional information, or child care assistance, contact Kelly Rismiller at kelly@westlawnumc.org, 610–507–9141.



PRESCHOOL

Preschool Registration Opens February 14

Registration for next school year opens to the public on Monday, February 14! Refer to our website for all of the class times, tuition, extended day options, registration forms and much more!

https://westlawnumc.com/preschool



You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you.

What you do makes a difference.

You just have to decide what kind of difference you want to make. **9 9**

-Jane Goodall



Will They Know We Are Christians?

Whenever we would have a hymn sing in church, whether asking for favorite hymns on a Wednesday evening or in summer worship in the sanctuary, I knew I could always count on someone to request "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" (#2223 in The Faith We Sing). I used to think of this song as a campfire song from my youth. Now, I wonder if it isn't more aspirational in it's message.

WILL THEY KNOW that we are Christians by our love? Are our lives so identified by the Love of God that others see in us something different? Something special? Something they long for in their lives?

In February we are going to be focusing our worship and messages on the theme of relationships. In this month where the world so casually talks about love, we are going to look at what the Word of God has to say about our relationships, and how we are to live. I hope you will join us each Sunday, online or in person as together we explore our most important relationships in a series called, "It's Complicated."

For now, I would remind you of some of God's Words that I have found to be a guiding light in my life these past few years. You know where I am going, don't you? These have to sound familiar by now.

LOVE GOD – In the 12th chapter of Mark we read, ²⁹ Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' Of course, this is simply Jesus reminding us of what was written in Deuteronomy 6:4-5. We are to first Love God. How? With ALL our heart, ALL our soul, ALL our mind and ALL our strength. Sounds pretty clear to me, albeit demanding. God loves us eternally. His steadfast love endures forever. But God has not lowered the bar for us in any way. Love. God. Completely. Once we do that, then we can...

LOVE ONE ANOTHER – Specifically, I would remind each of us of the words of Jesus, who said (John 13:33-34), ³³ Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer... ³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.

Can you believe that?! Not only are we to love God completely, but Jesus said we must love each other! No exceptions. No exception because someone disagrees with me, or gets on my nerves, or doesn't look like me, or vote like me, or think like me. No exceptions. Love one another. And what happens when we do as Jesus said? Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR – Love God? Check. Love one another? Check. But, seriously? Did Jesus really say we are to love our neighbors? - Love those people? Yes, he did. Again, let's go back to God's Word, Mark 12 (also Lev. 19:18), where we read, ³¹ The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

It really is all about love. Maybe the Beatles were on to something when they sang, "Love, love, love – love is all you need." Or, more importantly, we will stick with the Word of God here, as we read again from Deuteronomy 6, ⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.

Love God. Love One Another. Love our Neighbors. Love, and live. Not just in February, but always, and forever. Amen.

Loved by God, I remain,





Ready... Set... GROW!

West Lawn
Preschool
Invites You to
Our Spring
Open House!

Tuesday, February 8 from 5PM-7PM Thursday, February 10 from 5PM-7PM 15 Woodside Avenue, West Lawn, PA 19609

Please join us to learn more about West Lawn Preschool and its exciting class option for the 2022-2023 school year.

- Meet the Teachers
- Tour the Classrooms
- Review the Curriculum
- Meet Students & Parents
- Learn About Extended Day & Lunch Bunch Options
- Ask Questions
- Pick up Registration Packets

For more information, contact Preschool Director, Elise Coakley, at preschool@westlawnumc.org. https://westlawnumc.com/preschool.



In March 2022, the Faithful Friends will be hosting their 19th semi-annual children's and maternity consignment sale. This year, 2022 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Faithful Friends Consignment Sale Committee. Over the past 10 years, this ministry team from West Lawn UMC has been able to donate over \$85,000 back to non-profit organizations right here in Berks County. With a mission to serve the community and to help others in need, this team of mamas is working hard and continuing to grow. Help us to make our spring sale the most successful sale yet as we ring in our 10th Anniversary! Register to be a consignor. Sign up to volunteer for our sale. And help us spread the word to friends and family by following us on social media. We can't wait to see everyone at the sale on March 11th & 12th.

The Prayers of the People – Becoming Involved

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Prayer is a word that describes a relationship. Prayer opens us to the divine dialogue through intentional encounter with the Trinity. In his book The Way of the Heart, Henri Nouwen quotes Theophan the Recluse: "To pray is to descend with the mind into the heart, and there stand before the face of the Lord, everpresent, all seeing, within you." Prayer is sustained less by duty than by a desire to connect and grow in intimacy and communion with the holy Three. But prayer also moves us up and out into our world. In Love in A Fearful Land, Nouwen also writes, "Prayer is the way to both the heart of God and the heart of the world-precisely because they have been joined through the suffering of Jesus Christ...Praying is letting one's own heart become the place where the tears of God's children merge and become tears of hope." (excerpt from page 231 - Spiritual Disciplines Handbook by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun)

On January 23, Pastor Chris preached on the fourth mark of a disciple: "A Disciple Prays Constantly". And you saw the prayers of God's people on the altar, the thousands of prayers prayed over by those who have felt a calling to do so. If you have that desire, if

you want to be part of something bigger than yourself, if you feel God calling you to get involved, **contact Pastor Lisa** to learn more about the prayer team and how you can become part of such an exciting ministry.

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." -James 5:16



I Am A Stephen Minister

Life is not easy; we all have our ups and downs. My own experiences have made me more aware of the peace obtained when overcoming obstacles. Also, how much easier it is if you don't have to walk through those hard times alone. All are opportunities to grow in faith, but must be recognized as such.

As a Stephen Minister, I desire to comfort others. I can't change someone's past, but I can be there now to care. I can't give you solutions to life's problems, doubts and fears, but I can listen while you search for answers. Your decisions are your own, but I can support and encourage you. I can't keep your heart from breaking, but I can cry with you while you pick up the pieces.

Together we can find the peace that comes when the physical and emotional pain is replaced with hope to sustain you. -Barbara Slegel



DIVORCED? SEPARATED?WE CAN HELP

DivorceCare is a weekly seminar/support group that will help you heal from the hurt. It's a warm, caring environment led by people who understand what you are going through. Learn practical information and gain hope for your future!

Contact us today for more information

Beginning on March 16th

Contact Pastor Lisa at 484-519-4517 for more information.
Childcare will be available.

Find Help • Discover Hope Experience Healing





UMW Day Apart/ Call to Prayer Saturday, February 19, 2022 10AM to 1:30PM in Hebrews Café.

This year's theme is "Answering the Call to Service". This is our Call to Prayer where we lift up those who have answered the call to be deaconesses & home missioners in The United Methodist Church. Our offering will support the training opportunities for those who prepare for the deaconess/home missioner ministry. We will explore what being a deaconess/home missioner means as well as hear from members of our church community who have served in mission opportunities. This quiet day is open to all women, so please join us!

The cost for the day is \$5.00 payable with reservation. Lunch includes a sandwich on Kaiser roll with lettuce, tomato, mayo packet, small bag of chips, bottle of water & cookie. Please indicate choice of sandwich on the form (right) and return with payment by Feb. 11 to Harriett Ziegenfuss, 420 Weidman Ave., Sinking Spring, PA 19608 (610-678-3107) or drop in the UMW mailbox outside of the church office. Checks should be made payable to West Lawn United Methodist Women.

Proposed schedule for Feb. 19th Day Apart:

10-10:30— Fellowship Time 10:30-10:45— Devotions

10:45-12:45— Program

Deaconess—45 minutes Short break—10 minutes Sharing from WL mission participants—15 minutes each Jen Fuhrer; Jen Little; Trisha Rabold



Phone
Select one:
Italian
Ham & Cheese
Turkey
Checks made payable to West Lawn United Methodist Women.
Return with payment by Feb. 11 to
Harriett Ziegenfuss, 420 Weidman Ave.,
Sinking Spring, PA 19608 (610-678-3107)
or UMW mailbox outside of the church



Safe Haven Lighthouse

As we begin a new year here at Safe Haven, we are looking forward to the Wednesdays that we are able to spend together.

We had a movie day for our Christmas party, and it was extremely rewarding to hear the kids asking us "When is Bible lesson." We are very glad that they look forward to the Bible readings and the lessons that we have planned for them. It is uplifting to hear them answer the questions and to hear their thoughts on what the Bible is telling us.

Our first field trip of the year was to The Works. The kids each received a Game Card as their Christmas gift from our ministry. We had a fun time watching them play the games and help each other out to try and win prizes. We are very blessed to be a part of this wonderful ministry.



Peace, Lori Madara and Bonnie Rissmiller





No Shave November Update

We were thrilled to raise and gift \$5,700 through our No Shave November campaign. Not surprisingly, this congregation's generosity just keeps going and going. As of the end of 2021 you have added an additional \$800 to that total. That means that a total of \$3,250 was gifted to advance community health initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo AND an another \$3,250 was donated to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital to help fund pediatric cancer research in honor of Charlotte Roland. Thank you for your generous hearts!



Women's Book Club will meet Wednesday, February 9, at 7:00PM in room 109 of the Education building to discuss Then She Was Gone by Lisa Jewel. March's book will be The Wednesday Letters by Jason Wright. 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.



The next Wilson Area Food Pantry distribution will be on February 18th from 2:00-4:30PM in the WLUMC Community Center. <u>Pre-registration is preferred</u> and can be scheduled by calling 484-525-0980.

We are currently looking for donations of canned and dry goods. Items needed include cereal, peanut butter, jelly, macaroni & cheese, canned meat and canned pasta meals.

The Food Pantry is held on the third Friday of each month with setup the Thursday before. Please contact Nancy Poole at 610-678-5537 if you would like to help with Thursday set up from 2-4 PM or Friday Pantry from 2-5PM.

Church Vehicles Overflowing

– by Pastor Chris

We had an idea in late November that it would be great to collect food for our friends at New Journey Community Outreach. What initially began as a project for our children's ministry and adult small groups, soon transformed into a church -wide Advent campaign and, ultimately, the "Reverse Advent Calendar" was born. More than 150 households participated in collecting nonperishable foods – a different item each day during the month of December - and brought them to church on Christmas Eve. Midway through the services, the bus was already filled... and then the van was filled... and then, by the end of the night, your generous donations filled our bus, van, and pickup truck! It was amazing to see your abundant kindness in a tangible way as we offered food to our fellow brothers and sisters. Thank you for responding so generously this Christmas.









"Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon." -Isaiah 58:10

Ways to Financially Support Our Church Ministries

EFT - Electronic Funds Transfer

Go to the West Lawn website <u>www.westlawnumc.org</u> and click on the GIVE tab. Follow the prompts to give or set-up recurring gifts.

WLUMC Smart Phone APP

Go to your APP store and download the <u>West Lawn</u> <u>UMC App</u>. Click on the GIVING 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

And, of course, you can still give through the offering plate during Sunday worship.

Thank you for your financial support of WLUMC!



Our next **Inquirers' Class** will be offered on Saturday, April 30th at 9:00 AM in the HE-Brews Cafe.

If you would like to know more about West Lawn Church, The United Methodist Church, or are

interested in uniting with this congregation, please call the church office to register and plan to attend this upcoming class.

WLW Pastor's Study for February

Pastor Jeff will be leading a 4-week study in February entitled "Whisper." This study is based on the book, <u>Whisper</u>, by Mark Batterson (author of <u>Draw the Circle</u>). Our goal will be to discover how to hear the voice of God in new, deeper, and perhaps more meaningful ways. Copies of the book will be available for purchase (\$15), for those who desire to go deeper. No registration is required. The group will meet in HE-brews Café each Wednesday in February **from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m.** (Please note the earlier start time.)



Children & Family Ministries Programs in February



Wednesday, February 2 - Toddler Time & Kids Club Junior - 6:15-7:30 PM

Wednesday, February 9 - Toddler Time & Kids Club Junior - 6:15-7:30 PM

Sunday, February 13 - Kids Club & Tween Group - 6-7:30 PM

Wednesday, February 16 - Toddler Time & Kids Club Junior - 6:15-7:30 PM

Wednesday, February 16 - Toddler Time & Kids Club Junior - 6:15-7:30 PM Wednesday, February 23 - Toddler Time & Kids Club Junior - 6:15-7:30 PM Sunday, February 27 - Kids Club & Tween Group - 6-7:30 PM



For info, contact: Youth Pastor Trisha Rabold 610.678.5611 (O) 484.432.7808 (C) trisha@westlawn umc.org

February 2022

The youth have been on and off for a couple of months. Between snow cancellations, and rescheduling due to the pandemic, we've been trying to make the best of our times together.

We have begun meeting regularly on Wednesday nights, now that the Firehouse Café renovation is finished. It's a perfect place for all of us to share a meal, play some games, and have some deeper faith discussions.

During our time in Youth Group on Sunday evenings we have talked about God the Creator, and ways we can be good stewards

of the Earth. We will be thinking about ways we can do better right here at West Lawn UMC. -Trisha



Confirmation Class 2022

Confirmation classes are starting to learn some of the basics of the Methodist faith, including communion, baptism, and understanding various forms of worship.

Students will be participating in an offsite weekend retreat with other EPA UMC groups later this winter, and we can't wait for some normalcy.

Please continue to pray for these 15 students, their mentors and the teachers through the coming months.

Souper Bowl of Caring February 6th

The Youth have continued to keep their hearts focused outward and come February, we will be continuing our tradition of collecting canned goods and non-perishable items for the Wilson Food Pantry.

Even though COVID has been affecting our lives for 22 months now, there's always a need for people who experience food insecurity. Last year, due to Sunday morning snow, we didn't collect much, so this year we are excited to have a much bigger collection. Save up those cans and bring them in on February 6th as we take time to help feed the hungry.

This is a date change from previous newsletters, so please mark the date, and we will see you with Soup Bowls on the 6th!

February 2022

(See App for times &details)

2/2- WLW Youth Night 6-7:30

2/6— Confirm.& 6/7 SS to attend

worship, Youth Group 6-8pm

2/9- NO WLW

2/11-13— Winter Retreat at Pocono Plateau

2/16– WLW Youth Night 6-7:30

2/20– 9:30am Confirm. & 6/7 SS 6-8pm Youth Group

2/23– WLW Youth Night 6-7:30

2/27– 9:30am Confirm.,6/7 SS 6-8pm Youth Group

COMING...

March 4,5,6th-Confirmation



Thank You...

We delivered another 370 bags for the Power Pack program. I am very thankful to your congregation for their kindness and willingness to donate to our project. I received all your donations in the past week and am very grateful. We are now good till the beginning of February, 2022. David Babczak,

Power Pack Program Coordinator

Tools for Ministry Set for March 5th on Zoom

It's time to open the proverbial tool box again to help build and repair church ministries—to fix what's broken and improve what's working. That requires leadership development and training more than anything else.

So the Eastern PA Conference will sponsor its 2022 Tools for Ministry on Saturday, March 5, 9 AM to 12:30 PM. Classes will be offered virtually on Zoom once again, out of an abundance of caution during the still-surging COVID pandemic.

Tools for Ministry is a half-day academy offering two sessions of diverse, dynamic learning for leaders. And it's open to all laity and clergy. Skilled instructors will provide valuable information, wise insights and helpful resources. And some classes will be recorded and made available later to be viewed again or for the first time by those who want to learn more.

For a list of workshop descriptions, visit https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022 ToolsForMinistry Brochure.pdf

To register, visit

https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=652793&



A sincere thank you to all of the administrative staff and volunteers who pulled together to help make our Christmas Eve services come together seamlessly, from the worship participants to the greeters and ushers to those to who tidied up after each service and everyone in-between. I appreciate all of your efforts—you made my job so much easier and my first Christmas in this position a joy. Thank you again, everyone!

Daryn Zeiner

Our Newest Members

<u>Donald & Sandy Burt:</u> Don and Sandi moved from Carlisle, PA to the Reading area after Don retired from a freight company he drove for. They settled in West Lawn. Soon they discovered WLUMC "around the corner" and were excited to attend. They have three children, 12 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Sandi enjoys card making with rubber stamps, baking, crocheting and other crafts. Don likes to golf and is an avid sports fan of baseball and football. Welcome Sandi & Don!



Raylee Joy Babula Baptized: 1/9/2022 Parents Ryan & Stacey Babula

Baptisms



Carter Matthew Haas Baptized: 1/9/2022 Parents: Vanessa Gilmore & Matthew Haas



Callie Ruth Albanese
Baptized: 1/22/2022
Parents: Erin & Leo Albanese



River Jamie Balla Baptized: 1/23/2022 Parents: Justin & Dayna Balla

If you are interested in scheduling a baptism or joining the church, please contact the church office at office@westlawnumc.org / 610-678-5611 or one of the pastors.



Lee C. Longenecker 5/6/1934 – 12/16/2021

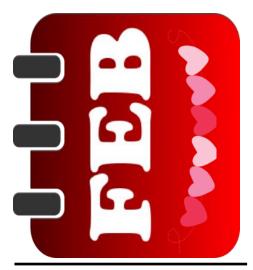
In Loving Memory



Elizabeth L. "Betty" Langdon 9/26/1932 – 1/5/2022



Warren Wealand, Jr. 5/14/1930 – 1/13/2022



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 Worship9:30 am Praise Worship11:00 am Traditional Worship11:10 am Community Worship







February

Jessica Schmidt Dale Shuey Dave Wahl

Stephanie Christman Mary Congdon Ronan Knauer Tonia Masciotti Rebecca Miller Amanda Sweitzer Adam Warner

FEBRUARY 2

Marilena Bona Brittany Bramlett Chuck Busack David Fischer Noah Gallagher Benjamin Jacobson Jeffrey Kauffman Ethan Meharg Andre Rivera Robin Stemler

FEBRUARY 3

Jerry Karacz Lauren Leed Grant Miller Carl Noecker Denise Romich Franklin Seifert Joseph Stemler Donna Stine

FEBRUARY 4

Sheldon Henne Ashlee Hertzog Lila Houck Mark O'Donnell Lauren Stout John Wascavage

FEBRUARY 5

Janet Behrenshausen Shannon Rhodes Steven Shimp

FEBRUARY 6

Mehgan Epler Kathleen Kreitz Tammy Seda Cynthia Sweigart Zachary Whitney

FEBRUARY 7

Abigail Daubert Gabriella Foster Jamie Marturano Donald Smith Wade Warmkessel

FEBRUARY 8

Brittany Cloud Thomas Moore Zane Paolini Janeen Salsbery

FEBRUARY 9

Beth Hozey
John Magee
Rosemarie McLean
Tim Mochan
Ben Morrow
Nickolas Sweetwood
Evan Witman
Randi Zaborowski

FEBRUARY 10

Drew Barnett
Claire DePalma
Damian Donato
Renee Donovan
Melissa Getrost
Jaycee Hill
Taylor Smith
Madison Stambaugh
Ben Weber
Breanna Wixon

FEBRUARY 11

Mark Adams
Dennis Bechtel
Anna Bickhart
Erica Kairis
Terry Klee
Cindy Strausburger

FEBRUARY 12

Wendy Hauschild Shane Herb Lydia Hunter Margaret McCahon Hailey Weber

FEBRUARY 13

Dennis Brubaker
Judith Clarkson
Eric Freeman
Sheryl LaManna
Jackson Miller
Barb Piscitello
Jo Schweitzer
Linda Wicks
Ben Wilcox

FEBRUARY 14

Skip Cannon
Wyatt Gordon, Jr.
Jessica Hart
Andrew Hettinger
Anika O'Leary
Steven Ortenzi
Mabel Reighley
Lucille Tschop
Robert Weed

FEBRUARY 15

Birthdays

Elyse Elliott William Graul Richard Mays Andrea McGinnis Braeden McLean Marie Reider Charlotte Rismiller Cheryl Schwenk

FEBRUARY 16

William Frear Ashley Mills Aiden Peppers Tyler Williams

FEBRUARY 17

Isabella Faith
Lisa Gardner
Stanley Ikonya
Gabriel Jalil
Lindsey Miller
Amy Noble
Karen Nunes

FEBRUARY 18

Emma Fazio Jenna Galan Wendy Hart Zoe Levering Avery Manara Pili McCloy Nathan Schucker

FEBRUARY 19

Mike Adam Roger Cote Austin Gardner Ed Stauffer Stone Voelker Brian Zelinske

FEBRUARY 20

Rebecca Fanning Pamela Hoffmaster Robyn Jones Helen Smith Allison Vandersall

FEBRUARY 21

Joshua Grill Zach Grill Jeffrey Guers Braden Miller, III Rick Rhoads

FEBRUARY 22

George Behney Cynthia Cooper Lori Fisher Donald Grabey Kristen Mauser Jacob Miller Oseghale Odiale Ellis Thompson

FEBRUARY 23

Patty Baker Leianne Cobaugh Matthew Epler Elizabeth Focht Ella Peppers Collin Troutman

FEBRUARY 24

Brenda Bauer
Michele Daubert
Jack Denny
Adam Filer
Andrea VanCampen
William Wyrick

FEBRUARY 25

Isabella Ache-Hassler Rachel Adams Jason Donaldson Betty Dyer Edward Tomes

FEBRUARY 26

Ian Bare
Hannah Brewer
Darryl Focht
Makayla Forrest
Chris Huls
Alycia Kauffman
Andrew Kochel
Franklyn Luff
Sean Magee
Phil Marshall
Darren Metzgar
Keith Rittle
Larry Sailer
Kevin Williams

FEBRUARY 27

Brianne Lacey Fazio Diane Wrentzel

FEBRUARY 28

Michael Davis Rebecca Drayer Nathaniel Huber Theodore Puc Marco Romero

FEBRUARY 29

David Palmertree

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