

November 2023
Mouthly Newsletter

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Flannel Festival.................. 1
A Note from the Pastor...... 2
Chili Contest ...................... 3
Pinewood Derby................. 4
Advent Series/Study.......... 5
Thanksgiving Eve Service.. 5
WLW Menu ........................ 6
Preschool Fundraiser........ 6
Job Opportunity................. 6
Children \& Family Min. ..... 6
Financial Snapshot ............ 7
Fellowship Hosts................ 7
Bible Distribution .............. 7
Circle of Love ..................... 8
Women's Book Club .......... 8
Food Pantry ....................... 8
Women's Retreat ............... 9
New Furniture ................... 10
Build For Hope Photos ...... 10
Youth Page.......................... 11
Safe Haven .......................... 12
Baptisms ............................ 13
Thank you ........................... 13
In Loving Memory.............. 13
Directory App .................... 14


PINEWOOD DERBY | CHILI CONTEST
BOUNCE HOUSE $\mid$ MAKE \& TAKE HAND WARMERS MISSION TABLE | TIMBER TOWERS ILINCOLN LOGS burlap bag races | HOT COCOA | MINI hotdogs

## |ION 11 11 AM-1 PM <br> WEST LANN GHURGH 15 WOODSIDEANE WEST LAWN

 MORE INFO,DERBV SIGN UP
\& CHILI
RECISTRATION:


Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
-John 14:6
Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. -1 John 4:8

Dear West Lawn Church Family,
I have to admit, in today's world I find it difficult to discover the truth, the real truth; truth that is not shaded and draped with someone else's perspectives. So much of the truth is expressed as the one and only way. At the same time one person's loving act is labeled by another as disgrace, a misinterpretation of love.

In scripture, God asks us to look at Jesus and to see the one who is Truth. The image of Truth itself. In addition, the Bible tells us that Jesus is Love. The one who is Truth is also the one who is Love -- it is not possible to separate them without diluting or limiting both of them. And God is grieved if we try to separate the truth and love we find in Jesus in any way because they are part of the same, inseparable. Any time we try to dissect one from the other, we sin. Expressing truth apart from love, or love apart from truth, is a fallen attempt; God demands the whole. Truth and Love are united in Jesus.

To proclaim Truth that moves away from Love is to proclaim no Truth at all. To declare we are loving while moving away from Truth, we simply fool ourselves into thinking we are loving. And to do either is to move away from the one who is both Truth and Love. Eric Metaxas explains this in his book Letter to the American Church claiming we often speak so much truth with so little love that we are actually not speaking truth, we offend others. We are more concerned with justifying ourselves as uncompromising providers of the truth than with actually providing the truth.

The inverse is an equivalent problem, to show so much love that we misinterpret the love that is Jesus and neglect God's truth. We can become so fearful of saying something controversial or disagreeable for the reason that we might push someone away, avoiding the very truth God wants someone to receive. The Apostle Paul calls us to "become all things to all peoples" so others may know Christ. But we have to be careful as we are obligated in our call to Truth and Love.

Only Jesus fulfilled this calling in its fullness; however, we are all blessed as ambassadors for Christ in this hopelessly confused and broken culture. What are the circumstances and issues that you face in this time and place that require the Love and Truth known only in Jesus? Call upon the Holy Spirit in seeking to fully represent both as the best Christ has to offer.

Blessings,


## CHILI CONTEST RULES

You have an opportunity to prove that your chili is the best at our second annual Chili Contest on Saturday, November 11 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in our Community Center as a part of West Lawn UMC's Flannel Festival.

The winning chili contestant will be awarded an all-expense-paid mission trip to Appalachia with WLUMC from July 28 to August 3, 2024.

This will be our third consecutive mission trip with ASP (Appalachia Service Project) where both youth and adults serve.
This prize is sponsored by the Men's Ministry of WLUMC.
Contestants and chili judges/tasters (anyone that wants to participate) will not have to pay an entry fee.
Donations are strongly encouraged.
All donations will be applied to the ASP Mission Trip in 2024.
Chili may be made ONLY with BEEF. Vegetarian chili is permitted, but the only meat that may be used is beef.

Beans are permitted. Fillers, like rice or pasta, are permitted.
Contestants shall prepare a crock pot of chili, brought to the contest by 10:30 AM, hot and ready-to-eat in their personal crock pot.

Any toppings (shredded cheese, sour cream, saltines, etc.) shall be brought by the contestant.
Chili tasting and judging will begin at 11:00 AM and end at 12:30 PM. Winner announced by 1:00 PM.
Beginning at 12:30 PM, pints of the remaining chili will be offered for a donation to those in attendance. All donations will be applied to the ASP Mission Trip in 2024.

Pre-registration for chili contestants is required, made on our church's website/app under CALENDAR, select FLANNEL FESTIVAL.

Questions? Reach out to Pastor Chris (chris@westlawnumc.org)


Event Information
Nov. 11, 2024, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
WLUMC Community Center
Registration is required. Go on the app/website, under CALENDAR, select FLANNEL FESTIVAL Question? See Pastor Chris.

Entry fee for the event is a monetary donation.
All donations for the Pinewood Derby will be applied to West Lawn UMC's Mission Trip with ASP (Appalachia Service Project) on July 24 to August 3, 2024.
NOTE: This does not include a Pinewood Derby Kit, these must be purchased on your own, available at local department stores, hardware stores, and online retailers.

There will be three Pinewood Derby classes:
Children's Class - $5^{\text {th }}$ grade and younger
regulation Pinewood Derby cars
PRIZE: $1^{\text {st }}$ place: Amazon Fire HD 10 Tablet
Youth Class $-6^{\text {th }}$ grade thru $12^{\text {th }}$ grade
regulation Pinewood Derby cars
PRIZE: $1^{\text {st }}$ place: all-expense-paid mission trip to Appalachia with our church from July 28 to August 3, 2024.

This will be our third consecutive mission trip with ASP (Appalachia Service Project) where both youth and adults serve.
This prize is sponsored by the Firehouse Youth.
Adult Class - adults 18 years of age and older non-regulation Pinewood Derby cars PRIZE: bragging rights

For more information, including the complete rules, stop by the Welcome Center or visit our website.

## Advent Sermon Series/ Small Group Study

Everything seems different at the end of the year. We put lights on our houses to dispel the growing darkness, Christmas music floods local radio stations, apple cider and cranberry sauce are again on the menu, and wrapping paper and tape are always ready. Things just look, smell, and taste differently during the Advent and Christmas season, and these differences are a sign to us that God is about to do something radical and different. Christmas is when God surrounded the divine with senses of his own. That first noel was when God had eyes to see suffering, ears to hear our cries, and hands to hold those in need, and all of these senses were bundled in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. "This will be a sign to you," the angel told the shepherds, and they traveled to Bethlehem and found a child. What signs do you see during the Advent and Christmas season that point you to the divine?

Join us in worship beginning November 26th for the beginning of our weekly Advent Sermon Series based on Matt Rawle's book, "Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Advent." This study will also be available on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM in the HeBrew's Café with Pastor Tom, or in other selected small groups.



United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith will lead the Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. This year's theme will be "Cultivating A Grateful Heart" with special guest speaker Frances Whittington, South District United Women in Faith President bringing the message.
Members of United Women in Faith have planned and will participate in the service. The World Thank Offering will also be received. This offering represents the blessings that have been ours throughout the past year. Quilts that have been gathered for Lighthouse Shelter at Hope Rescue Mission will be displayed for blessing during the service.

All are welcome to share in this service of gratitude on Thanksgiving Eve.


Preschool Catalog Fundraiser
Charleston Wrap is happening now through November $20^{\text {th }}$. Catalogs and information about how to order are located at the welcome desk in the narthex. Gifts for everyone on your holiday shopping list as well as gift wrap and sweet treats. Lots more items can be found online!


## Director of Children and Family Ministries

West Lawn United Methodist Church is seeking a Director of Children and Family Ministries to continue to nurture the faith formation of children from birth through 5th grade. Candidates with prior child leadership and/or teaching experience with strong relational and organizational skills, are forward thinking, creative, and energetic, will all be considered. The ability to integrate the children into the congregation and continue to attract new families to West Lawn UMC is very important.

Along with Laurie Jentes, the Program Coordinator for Children and Family Ministry, this person would oversee the Sunday School classes, plan and lead mid-week and Sunday night programming, manage the Nursery staff, organize special family events and VBS, and conduct all communication and marketing of WLUMC Children and Family Ministries using the tools available. The candidate should demonstrate a strong personal faith in alignment with the beliefs and practices of the United Methodist Church.

This is a 12-month position, up to 30 hours per week. Salary is commensurate with experience. Interested candidate should submit cover letter and resume by November 17, 2023 to: office@westlawnumc.org.

Children's Ministry groups continue to meet this month on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday nights! Refer to the West Lawn App for more details on the November programs, or contact Kelly Rismiller at 610-507-9141, kelly@westlawnumc.org.

Tween Group (Grades 4-5)
Sunday Nights: 6:00-7:30 PM
November 5
November 19
Kids Club (Grades 2-3)
Sunday Nights: 6:00-7:30 PM
November 5

# WLUMC Children \& Family MINISTRIES 

November 19

## Kids Stay and Play

Tuesday Nights: 6:30-8:00 PM
Thursday Nights: 7:00-9:00 PM
Stay \& Play+ with Kelly \& Laurie will take place on November 7 and November 28

[above] Pictures from the well-attended Craft \& Vendor Show held in the Community Center on October 14th.


## 3rd Grade Bible Distribution

It's always a special Sunday when we can present our Grade 3 children with their first Bible! This year, the students received their West Lawn Bible on Sunday, October 15. Congratulations to the 22 students that now have the word of God in their hands!




Barnhart at dmbhart2@gmail.com or 610-678-7873

The next Wilson Area Food Pantry distribution will be on November 17th from 3:00-5:30 PM in the WLUMC Community Center. Pre-registration is preferred and can be scheduled by calling 484-525-0980.


Donations accepted weekdays in the church office. Thank you!

# God's Presence in Your <br> STORMS <br> Women's Fall Retreat 

The Traber Center November 3-5, 2 O 23<br>Tickets: \$140



The 2023 WLUMC Annual Women's Retreat is again being held at the Traber Center on the grounds of Camp Sankanac in Spring City, PA. During this weekend, women of all ages will enjoy comfortable lodging, delicious meals, sharing, worship \& fellowship. It's an incredible weekend of teaching, learning, and growing in God's Word provided by a guest speaker and teacher. The group shares meals and lodging together, while the guest speaker guides the discussion and focus of the casual daily agenda.

What to Anticipate:

- Learning \& insight from our speaker, Debbie Keever, each other, and of course God's Word!
- Gaining a greater understanding of what it means to feel HIS presence when storms come.
- Time to chat, laugh, reflect and relax.

The retreat starts on Friday around 7 PM, continues thru Saturday with some free time in the afternoon, an evening session, and concludes on Sunday morning with Worship and Communion, ending by noon.

Cost: $\$ 140.00$ per person Retreat cost includes: 2 nights lodging, 4 meals, and speaker. Full payment is due by Sunday, October 27, 2023. Payment can be made via the app registration, check or Venmo. All checks should be made payable to West Lawn UMC, and marked "Women's Retreat" in the memo line. Mail or drop off check payments to the Church Office. A full registration form is on the West Lawn UMC website and App.

The Traber Center (https://campsankanac.org/facilities/):
The main building in the center has a dining/meeting space and a separate lounge room. Please feel free to bring your favorite comfy blanket, slippers and that book you've wanted to finish for months! It's a nice space to spend time together whether in small groups, individually or for our large group fellowship. Just a few steps away are four smaller buildings for sleeping quarters. Each of these buildings (A, B, C, D) holds 4 rooms. Each room has two twin beds and a set of bunk beds. Parking is available in front of each housing unit.

Check In / Out:
Check in is at 6:30 p.m. Friday evening. Welcome/announcements will be at 7:00 p.m. Upon arrival, please check in first at the Traber Center registration office (located in the main building). Hand in your emergency medical form. You will be given room assignments at registration. Check out on Sunday is at noon and if you take a room key, please return it to the registration contact person in the office before leaving.

There will be a mixture of large group sessions led by our speaker Debbie Keever, small group discussions, and time for individual reflection. We will conclude by 12:00 noon on Sunday, with breakfast being the only meal served that day. If you would like to carpool to the Traber Center or have any questions about the retreat, please email wlumc.womens.retreat@gmail.com


Help Build Hope Update: On October 13th and 14th, West Lawn volunteers set out to build the framework for a house that would later be transported to a building site to be reconstructed. Working many hours in cold and rainy weather, they succeeded in their mission. They then turned the job over to Habitat for Humanity who put the house together on the building site on Miltmore Street in Reading for a Habitat family. Thank you to all of the volunteers: team leaders, workers and those prepared food!


## November 2023



## Confirmation Class 2024

The class of 13 students has started to really form a good bond. We attended a Youth Conference down in Wildwood back at the beginning of October, and we've had a few class sessions so far. On Oct. 27th, we also attended a Shabbat service at a local synagogue. It's a service where their youth help to run the service, so it's always great for our youth to see them live out their faith. We then followed up that trip with a lesson on the history of Christi-anity- from Judaism, to the early church, Catholicism, the Reformation, and Methodism, of course.

This fall we've had a great time playing games, learning about leading well, the book of Hebrews, and gratitude. And of course we've been eating a lot of pizza \& nachos. Earlier in October we went to Duncan's Corn Maze, and had a blast on a hayride, and getting only a little lost in the corn maze.

In Sunday School we've started digging through the Old Testament. We ate some fruit and gummy fruit snacks while talking through the Fall in Genesis ch2.

## Firehouse Youth Nov/Dec 2023

(See App to register \& for more details)
11/5-6\&7th SS, 6-8pm Youth Group
12/3-6-8pm Youth Group 11/12-6\&7thSS, YOUTH AUCTION 11/19-6\&7th SS, Confirmation 6-8pm- Youth Group
11/26-6\&7th SS, No Youth Group
12/10-6\&7th SS, 6-8pm Y Group 12/17-6\&7th SS, Confirmation 6-8pm- Youth Christmas Party 12/24-CHRISTMAS EVE!!!

More info and youth event registration is available on the Church App or website... https://westlawnumc.org/youth-group.

Safe Haven Lighthouse is having a great time this fall. We welcomed back most of our children from last year, and we are glad to see them! The children are enjoying our time together during our Bible lessons, crafts and, of course, snacks and Gaga ball.

We took our first field trip to Brecknock Orchards. We enjoy going there each October. The children got to eat their snacks (apples \& apple cider) at the picnic tables at the orchard. Then they each made a caramel apple. The maze and play area are always a favorite too. Then they could move on to the hay maze in the barn. The day goes too quickly, but it is extremely fun!


## A Note From our Kitchen Ministry Team Leader:

Thank you for giving your time and talents for our West Lawn Church food Outreach programs. Welcome to the new servants, and thank you for the continued support from the "steady eddies."

The purpose of this mission is to help individuals and communities with their food insecurity as much as we can. This includes meals, groceries, donations, bag lunches, etc. These items can come from anywhere, for example, products from stores, food service businesses that may have leftovers, day old bread, products with short shelf life, our own West Lawn Wednesday meals, free turkey or ham certificates from supermarkets, etc. Keep this in mind when you go anywhere. Restaurants like Panera have been a great source - it doesn't hurt to ask! We would rather have the product be put to good use rather than disposed of.

Ruth Stephens, and Dan and Sue Allan have spearheaded this group for years. They transport food supplies to two places downtown: New Journey located on Pearl St. off of Franklin Ave. and City Light (The Keep) on North Ninth St. The trips are done primarily on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, because this is the time we are given baked goods from Giant. They also transport food items that might be left over from West Lawn Wednesday and other church functions. This might mean a trip down town on other days. They use their own cars to transport these items.

As such, we are trying to organize a more regular way to reach the servants for the gathering and delivery of food and groceries to the various locations throughout Berks county. If anyone would like to help in this mission, we would love to have you join us. You can reach Ruth by e-mail wrtstep@aol.com or text: 717-940-5983, and Dan prefers to be contacted by text:610-804-7739.

## Bowling Night Returns

The Calvary / West Lawn recreational bowling league at Berks Lanes is beginning on Tuesday, November 7 and will run through May. All are welcome regardless of age or ability, as this is a "for fun only" league. No commitments, no dues, simply pay for the games (shoes extra) whenever you join us. We have 2 lanes and can comfortably take up to 12 people per week. Start time is 6:00 PM and the cost is $\$ 15$ per person for 3 games. Join us for a night of fun $\&$ socialization. Questions? Contact Bruce Morton at 484-794-0744.

## Poinsettia Orders

It's almost time to order Christmas flowers to adorn our sanctuary for our Christmas Eve Services. Poinsettia order envelopes will soon be available in the narthex at the Welcome Center and in the Education Bldg. This year, they will be available in red, white or pink. Orders will be due by December 3.

## Baptisms



Addison Rose Hope (center) Lilly Grace Hope (baby)

Baptized 10/8/2023
Parents: Jason \& Sarah Hope


Holly "Gabbi" Rhodes
3/9/1955—10/15/2023

## In Loving Memory



Randolph M. Blatt, II 8/10/1946-10/19/2023

***************
OUR PASTORS:
Tom Ebersole, Lead Pastor
Chris Hardy, Associate Pastor
Pat Goshert, Congregational Care Pastor
Terry Cooney, Visitation Pastor
Manfredo Luna, Latino Ministries Pastor
***************

Sunday Worship
8:00 am Traditional Worship
9:30 am Praise Worship
11:00 am Traditional Worship


15 Woodside Ave.
West Lawn, PA 19609
Phone: 610-678-5611
Fax: 610-927-1225
office@westlawnumc.org
www.westlawnumc.org

# VIEW OUR CHURCH <br> DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE! 

FREE App for iPhone, iPad
\& Android

Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for Instant Church Directory and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.

Availsble on the App Store


| Every Sunday: |
| :--- |
| 8:00 am Traditional Worship |
| 9:00 am Fellowship Time |
| 9:30 am Contemporary Worship |
| 9:30 am Sunday School for All |
| 9:30 am Barth Memorial Class |
| 9:30 am Table Talk I |
| 10:30 am Fellowship Time |
| 11:00 am Traditional Worship |
| 11:00 am Table Talk II |
| 4:00 pm El Buen Pastor Service |
| 6:00 pm Youth Group |


| Every Wednesday: |
| :--- |
| 7:14 am Prayer Serviœ |
| 9:30 am Pastor Tom's Bible Study |
| 1:00 pm Griefshare |
| 3:30 pm Safe Haven Lighthouse |
| 4:30 pm WLWDinner |
| 6:30 pm Griefshare |
| 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal |
| 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study |



NOVEMBER 1
Edward Jones
Byron Mellinger
Katelyn Miller
Sherry Randall
NOVEMBER 2
Brian Debelius Bronwen Gamble Caitlin Heiser Jade McVaugh

NOVEMBER 3
Rodney Beidelman
Crystal Born
Joann Karacz
Maryann Kauffman
Gene Messner
Sandra Petersheim
NOVEMBER 4
Courtney Billman
Claude Davis
Heather McNeal
Kerry Powell
Susan Rhoads
Ben Spencer
Tyler Whitney
NOVEMBER 5
Travis Berger
Tony Cunningham
Colleen Gensemer
Deborah Lutz
Michael Whitney
NOVEMBER 6
Erin Becker
Kurt Behrenshausen
Ryan Kairis
Rodney Loose
Robert Myers
Nancy Ricketts
NOVEMBER 7
Keith Angstadt
Chastitti Gonclavez
Judy Krepps
Jenny Semsel
Jennifer Williamson

November Birthdays


## NOVEMBER 8

Michelle Antonio
Diane Cleres
Adam Hauck
Raidily Lopez-Castillo
Jay Moyer
Susanne Naylor
Charles Soper
Adena Ukoha-Ajike

## NOVEMBER 9

Michael Broome
Carolyn Ladany
NOVEMBER 10
Jacqueline Becker
Emmalee DeJesus
Landon Farrell
Jean Howe
Elizabeth Miller
Lauren Santoro
Jean Urbaez
NOVEMBER 11
Donna Barnhart
Devin Born
Emily Endy
Machiko Kawata
David Tartaglia
Jeffrey Zillhardt
NOVEMBER 12
David Haas
Amy Palm
Charles Saylor
Jeffrey Smith
Mary Stahler
Becci West
NOVEMBER 13
Erika Bare
Nan Parks
NOVEMBER 14
David Aulenbach
Harvey Heffner
Richard Jessup
Cynthia Kees
Jennifer Kopp

Lori Krause
Meredith Pfennig
NOVEMBER 15
Eileen Kastura
William Smith
Diane Stuart
William Thorne
NOVEMBER 16
Karen Carles
David Endy
Joanne Grill
Cristyl Lapi
David Palka
Jere Stamm
Fay Sweigart
Wesley Wixon
NOVEMBER 17
Nancy Lewis
Brennan Noecker
Ralph Rivera
Chris Weikel
Jeffrey Weikel
William Wyandt
NOVEMBER 18
John Bertolet
Thomas Tschop
NOVEMBER 19
Candace Achey
Cassandra Hillegass
Yvonne Rivera
Susan Scalese
NOVEMBER 20
Kathryn Loose
James Mauldin
Carol Moyer
Cindy Schock
Sharon Swierczynski
NOVEMBER 21
Matthew Kauffman
Robert Mays
Gary Miner
Alice Moyer
Thomas Witman

NOVEMBER 22
Robert Bechtel
Caitlyn Bleiler
Daniel Cullen
Nina Hostetter
Shelby Kahn
Lauren Peterson
Joseph Szymborski
NOVEMBER 23
Robert Johnson
Joseph Speece
Evan Spohn
Heather Troxelle Mark Weitzel

## NOVEMBER 24

Alex Columbus
Frances Curry
Michelle Frey
Reese Gaenzle
Richard Kramer
Carole Young
NOVEMBER 25
Chris Clabaugh
Cody Clabaugh
Richard Hoffert
Timothy McKechnie
Melissa Scalese
Thomas Walter
Katie Wentzel
NOVEMBER 26
Layne Adams
Megan Hoppman
Eric Landes
Alex Massengale
John Mercer
Robert Peppers
Carolann Stevenson
Joan Sweigart
NOVEMBER 27
John Burkhart
Shane Gerner
Joseph Marturano
Eric Ruth
Sally Stoltz

NOVEMBER 28
Colleen Duffy
Donna Mauldin
Patricia Whitney
NOVEMBER 29
Vanessa Baker
Muriel Shotwell

## NOVEMBER 30

Meghan Doyle
Heather Gunzelmann
Darren Gunzelmann
Margaret Mellinger Jeremy Palm


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

