
THIS MONTH AT LUMC | March 2023



Beloved Church Family,

In my personal opinion, one of Leominster's greatest hidden gems is Doyle Conservation Area. My husband and I discovered Doyle the first summer we moved to Leominster, when I was still pregnant with our daughter, and we have been walking there ever since. I've walked Doyle pushing Esme as a newborn in a stroller, toting her strapped to my back in a baby carrier, lugging her kicking and screaming in my arms because she didn't want to leave, and—most recently—running to catch up with her as she searches for “treasure” (i.e. pinecones and rocks) in the mud and snow. I also walk there alone, often while praying, which is when I most notice the dramatic and subtle ways the landscape changes with the seasons.

Lately, I've been noticing the first signs of spring. Even in the midst of all this snow, tiny buds are forming on tree limbs, a million little promises of new life to come. As we prepare for Easter, I am reminded that new life is the central promise of our faith. In John 10:10, Jesus says, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” However, sometimes, when there's still snow on the ground (or, ahem, the church is facing a significant budget deficit, and the denomination is torn asunder), you have to look hard to see signs of spring.

Nevertheless, signs of spring there are. The choir is back in the loft on a weekly basis, the youth group is gearing up for a lock-in on March 31, and the food pantry and clothing closet are making renovations. Pledge cards are being consecrated on March 26, a Celebration of Life for Jim Belmont will be held on March 20, and several new families and individuals have graced us with their presence in worship this year. Plans are underway for our third annual community Easter Egg Hunt on April 1, and we are on our way to “selling out” 200 free tickets just like we did the past two years (if you want to come, I recommend reserving your spot yesterday!). Last Sunday, the whole church was issued an invitation to participate in a conversation around LGBTQ inclusion at the Elephant Brunch on March 19, not because having such a conversation will be easy (it won't), but because having the courage to engage in difficult conversations is a sign of congregational health and strength. (Also, there will be a waffle bar, and waffles make everything better.) On a personal note, I will be on vacation March 8-14 as I travel to Tennessee to celebrate my grandmother's 90th birthday with her. If you think of it, please say a prayer for Grammie on March 9! Scott Newcombe will be bringing the Word while I am away.

Please go ahead and mark your calendar for Holy Week, April 2-9. Special services will be held for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. In the meantime, if there is anything I, or the church, can do to support you, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Michelle

UPCOMING EVENTS AT LUMC THIS MONTH

Wednesday, March 1

6:30 pm Listening Group

Friday, March 3

6:30 Senior Choir Practice

Saturday, March 4

9:00 am United Women in Faith meeting

Sunday, March 5

9:30 am Worship Service (in person & live streamed) & Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee Hour

10:45 am Bible Study w/ Bob Harrison

6:00 pm Youth Group

7:00 pm Bible Study w/ Bob Harrison via zoom

Wednesday, March 8

2:00 pm Bible Study w/ John Mims

7:00 pm Bible Study @ John Mims' home

Thursday, March 9

7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting via zoom

Friday, March 10

6:30 pm Senior Choir Practice

Sunday, March 12 Spring Forward

9:30 am Worship Service (in person & live streamed) & Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee hour

10:45 am Bible Study w/ Bob Harrison

6:00 pm Youth Group

7:00 pm Bible Study w/ Bob Harrison via zoom

Wednesday, March 15

2:00 pm Bible Study w/ John Mims

6:30 pm Listening Group

7:00 pm Bible Study @ John Mims' home

Thursday, March 16

7:00 pm Church Council

Friday, March 17

6:30 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 19

9:30 am Worship Service (in person & live streamed) & Sunday School

10:30 am Elephant Brunch

10:45 am Bible Study w/ Bob Harrison

7:00 pm Bible Study w/ Bob Harrison via zoom

Monday, March 20

10:00 am Jim Belmont Celebration of Life

Wednesday, March 22

2:00 pm Bible Study w/ John Mims

7:00 pm Bible Study @ John Mims' home

Friday, March 24

6:30 pm Senior Choir Practice

Saturday, March 25

8:00 am Food Pantry/Clothing Closet

Sunday, March 26

9:30 am Worship Service (in person & live streamed) & Sunday School

10:30am Coffee hour

10:45 am Bible Study w/ Bob Harrison

7:00 pm Bible Study w/ Bob Harrison via zoom

Wednesday, March 29 Pledge Cards Due

2:00 pm Bible Study w/ John Mims

6:30 pm Listening Group

7:00 pm Bible Study @ John Mims' home

Friday, March 31

6:00 pm Youth Group Lock In



United
Women
in Faith

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!



Children Activity Volunteers Needed!

North Star Family Services has announced that they have returned to completing in-person skill-building trainings with their adults every Tuesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. They are looking to have 1-3 coordinators and/or volunteers from each group do structured activities with the children during their rotation. All volunteers do need CORI (no older that 1 year) on file with North Star.

LUMC's rotation week is April 30th-May 6th. If you are interested in helping with this activity, please contact Dawnne Prince @ 978 799 6300 or Julie Haven @ 978 847 7225 or 978 534 1231.

Thank you!



Dear Church Family,

Recently as I was in discussion about church affairs at one of the several church meetings I attend, I realized that I have always enjoyed being on the "inside" at the organizations to which I belong. I LIKE TO KNOW what's going on! It occurred to me that many of you sitting in the pew may not have the time, opportunity, confidence or capability to participate in the "workings" of the church, but nevertheless you may still want to know what is being talked about!

This year I am the Chairperson of the Church Council which is a sort of Board of Directors of the local church. We meet monthly so I thought that I would pass along some information that might be of interest to you. By the way, all church members are welcome to attend the Church Council meetings held at the church on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00PM.

We try to alternate between business and spiritual development meetings so in January we started with a business meeting to catch up with the new committee chairpersons. Scott Newcombe (Trustees) and Emily Funk (Finance) continue to work on acquiring a large trailer-sized battery that would be installed on church property along the side of our field. This would supply energy to the surrounding area AND generate income in the future for LUMC. The project has been in progress for over a year and requires Church Conference, city, and neighborhood approval in addition to attorney services. It is a few years off but moving ahead.

You may notice a small lending library of Christian books appear on the shelves near the elevator in the future. We are trying it on a trial basis.

The Council gave permission to Barbara Peterson to open a church TIK TOK account that may help to bring a younger generation of people into the church.

In February, before having a guest speaker, we had to pass the church's annual budget which was a difficult task. Trying to pass a balanced budget, the Finance committee pared off nearly \$20,000 but still could not get the budget to balance. In the end a deficit budget was passed, but it will not be sustainable for the church if this continues to happen. You will be hearing more from the Finance committee in the near future.

For the greater part of the meeting we were joined by Miguel "Mickey" Guzman from the Spanish American Center in Leominster. The Spanish American Center has been an advocate for the Hispanic population in Leominster for 50 years. They have several amazing programs to help the Hispanic population transition into the community, but finding housing is one of the most prominent issues for lower income families in the area. Check out their website at spanishamericancenter.org to explore more and find out how they help.

That is some of what is going on. I know it, and now you do too!

Blessings to you all,

Nancy King



Elephant Brunch and Workshop!!

Please mark your calendars to join your church family after the 9:30 service on Sunday, March 19th for a delicious brunch followed by a workshop.

The worldwide United Methodist Church will be grappling with the topic of LGBTQ inclusion in the near future. Let's face it, this

can be a challenging conversation. While some may be hoping to see things change, others in the church may be struggling with potential change. Recognizing that ignoring tough issues is not healthy, this will be a forum to open a respectful line of communication and listening by using reflective questions that people will be invited to answer honestly and anonymously. As equally loved members of God's family whether traditional or progressive, please come and participate as part of the church community as we process the conversation that is happening at the denominational level. Our commitment is to create a forum in which **everyone** feels safe.

Our commitment is also to give you a great meal!

So please come and be a part of the process as we walk through this together as a church family"

Adult Bible Study Class Led by Bob Harrison

Two formats:

Sunday morning (in person) after the Worship service (10:45- 11:30am)

We are currently studying "The Lord's Prayer The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught" by Adam Hamilton

Questions: Contact Bob Harrison at 978 537 6298 or through email: r.robert.harrison@gmail.com

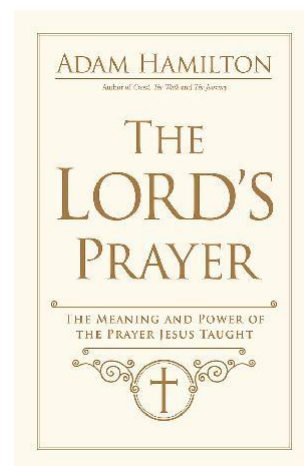
Sunday evening (virtual via Zoom) from 7-8 PM

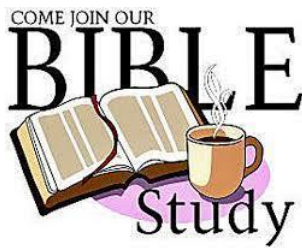
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84890012066?pwd=ZVFZR3FSU3JPKzA1eGtLSjF1K1J1UT09>

Meeting ID: 848 9001 2066

Passcode: 971709





Adult Bible Study Class w/ John Mims. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark.

The Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm at the Church and at 7:00 pm at the home of John and Linda Mims. (152 Berrington Rd., Leominster: 978-855-5888 or

mimsjohn5@gmail.com).

The study will be the same in each session, so you can attend one and another week join the other group.

If you have questions, please contact John Mims.



Our next food pantry distribution is Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 8:00 until 10:00 am.

All are welcome to receive food.



Rebekah's Clothing Closet News

Needed: Spring New and like new lightweight jackets, sweatshirts, and t-shirts for Men, Women and Children. Please place them in the box in the Narthex.

The Clothing Closet will be open to distribute these items during Food Pantry hours so that they will be available to Food Pantry clients. The clients may leave a donation for them. These donations help support LUMC's mission to North Star Family Services.

The Clothing Closet is being revamped. If you have other bags of clothing to donate during this time please place them in the Clothing Box in the parking lot by the field. LUMC receives donations for these clothes for its ministries.



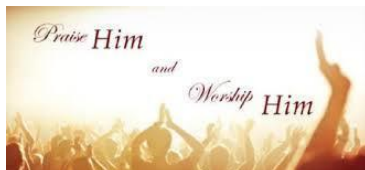
3rd Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt

We are excited to be planning our community Easter Egg Hunt again! It is scheduled for Saturday, April 1. This is an opportunity to share God's love with the 100+ children and families from the community who attend. Help is needed! If you would like to help, please contact Beth Newcombe at (978) 340-2423.

Join us Sunday mornings for worship service at 9:30 am.

(As a personal privacy reminder, if you choose to worship in person, the back two pews in the sanctuary are reserved for those who wish not to appear on camera. Additionally, to protect privacy, the camera is turned upward to the large cross (and thus no people are visible) during the weekly children's message and monthly communion. If you have any questions or concerns about privacy, please contact Pastor Michelle and she will be happy to work with you to accommodate your needs.)

Online worship is still available at 9:30 am; see below for details.



Join us Sunday morning for worship via livestream.

You can watch the livestream at our website:

www.leominsterumc.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/leominsterunitedmethodistchurch

Time: 9:30 am



Holy⁺Week

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2 (Palm Sunday)	9:30AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE
April 6 (Maundy Thursday)	6:00PM DINNER CHURCH SERVICE
April 7 (Good Friday)	7:00PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS SERVICE
April 9 (Easter Sunday)	6:00AM SUNRISE SERVICE AT SHOLAN FARMS 9:30AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Leominster United Methodist Church

www.leominsterumc.org

LUMC AT CAMP WANAKEE

July 2-8

open to kids and youth grades 2-12



JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF
OUTDOOR ADVENTURES IN
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN
MEREDITH, NH

CONTACT PASTOR MICHELLE FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER

Ways to Give:



- 1) Set up an automatic deposit through your bank or your bank's billpayer app.
- 2) Give online with your debit or credit card at www.leominsterumc.org/give.
- 3) Text "GIVE" to 978-496-3126.
- 4) Mail a check to the church.
- 5) Drop off your offering in the secure black mailbox outside the church door.



March 4	Leo Clark	April 2	Kevin Bazucki
March 5	Caleb Weldon	April 2	Henry Dantini
March 7	Greyson Clark	April 3	Mason Dobbs
March 8	Roy Mwangi	April 5	Greta Peterson
March 8	Ray Mwangi	April 7	Sammelia Abakah
March 11	Clay Swenor	April 16	Shirley Furey
March 11	Wendy Koski	April 18	Alec Prince
March 11	Tyrone Twerefour	April 20	Edith Stephen
March 12	Andrea Brimigion	April 22	Loren Tinker
March 14	Robert Barclay	April 23	Karena Peterson
March 16	Mark Kauffman	April 25	Charles Keller
March 23	Debby Oldfield		
March 24	Kristen Hamel		



March 2	Edward & Bernadette Mota	April 1	Daniel & Jamie Filteau
March 27	Cory & Margie Cole	April 8	Michael & Jean Rollo
		April 12	Charles & Tammy Weaver

Please pray for the following people this week:

*** Indicates newly added requests**

Church Members...

Eddie Strobel
Cynthia Smith, open heart surgery
Continued prayers for Tammy Weaver
Praise for Carol, Steve Perry's wife, her treatment is working, continued prayers for healing
Nancy Henderson
All who are shut in
*For Steve, that God will give him the strength during this time

Family, Friends and Neighbors of Church Members...

Debbi Haven, healing from back surgery
Rich Kelly
Carl, father of Dawn Prince, heart issues
Rebecca Parent, continued prayers for healing
Damar Hamlin
Leslie, ALS (Edith's niece)
Mary Palmer, kidney dialysis
Barbara Scenna, hip pain (Ann Marie's sister)
Wendy Garcia with 4th stage renal failure
*Shirley Coit; cataract surgery March 13
*Nancy McGuinness for renewed good health (Nancy)

Those who are grieving...

Family & friends of Doris Mitchell

Family of Harry Abraham (Bruce)

Family of Marilou Crohan

*Steve Pierce, the loss of his husband Jim Belmont

Our World...

The people of Ukraine and Russia

Russian-Ukraine war

All of our local, state, national & global civic leaders

All those affected by winter storms

Our Leaders...

DS Megan Stowe

Pastor Michelle

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

