



Tidings

A Newsletter of Yardley United Methodist Church

Volume 25, Issue 2

Yardley, Pennsylvania

April/May 2024



*Please join us for an afternoon
Tea Party
to support YUMC missions*



*Indulge in scrumptious treats while socializing with our
Yardley community and wearing a hat!*

When: May 4, at 11am-12:30pm or 3-4:30pm

Where: YUMC, 300 Yardley Langhorne Rd

How: Register & Purchase tickets by April 24

\$20 Adult, \$90 Table (seats 6)

Help Needed for the Tea Party

Planning for the second annual Tea Party is underway. We are having two seatings this year... 11:00 am and 3:00 pm. This event supports Missions.

Please sign up for food and/or volunteering here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054EA8A92EAAFD0-48855939-teaparty#/>

Drop off is as follows:
already plated Saturday, May 4 by 10 am and
not plated Saturday, May 4 by 9 am.

We appreciate your support. If you need help with the sign up genius or have any questions, please contact Becky Corpier, Erica Asare, Priya Babu or Betsy Sanford.



The Easter Egg Hunt was enjoyed by the children on Easter Sunday.

Tidings is published by
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FROM THE PASTOR

Hello Friends, Happy Spring!

As I am writing, we are just coming away from Holy Week and Easter Sunday with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a busy and exciting time in the church's life. Easter and the resulting emotions and attitudes set the tone for the rest of the Christian year. The musical and liturgical resources of the church were engaged in expressive and hope-filled worship of our risen Savior. Vocal & Bell Choirs, and a Praise Band engaged in singing praises.

We often say, "April showers bring May flowers," setting our expectations for the beauty of life that comes through Spring. Our Spring of the Christian year is the Easter season. Participation and excitement build as new life is injected into the church, and new avenues of sharing the love of God are opened to those who are willing.

One of those new avenues of sharing in the love of God is through drawing together a **Congregational Care Team**. Some time ago, Yardley UMC had a Welcome Team, and their activities were significantly curbed when COVID threatened every kind of close, personal contact. To meet the challenges of today, we are combining Member and Guest communications through one organizing principle. The Congregational Care Team will be organizing activities in certain areas, each focusing on different aspects of care:

- 1. Spiritual Care:** This includes conducting weddings, baptisms, and funerals, offering prayers and spiritual support, and visiting the homebound or hospital-bound members. Success in these areas is measured by the number of sessions conducted, prayers offered, and visits made.
- 2. Physical Needs:** This involves providing meals for needy families, arranging rides, and maintaining a resource list of available equipment. Success is measured by meeting expressed needs and maintaining an accessible sign-up list and resource list.
- 3. Social Needs:** This includes monitoring attendance, sending cards for significant life events, and managing communications through various channels. Success is measured by the ability to make timely contact and communicate effectively. Each team has specific members, resources they need to succeed, and potential roadblocks to mitigate. The goal is to encourage and support one another to live and love like Jesus.

Each person in our faith community will need to participate, but the Congregational Care Team will organize these activities. If this sounds like something you may be gifted for, please contact the Church Office or Pastor Lee so we can start moving in this direction.

One big event is coming soon: our Second Annual Tea Party, which will benefit Missions. As I write this, many have already received their tickets and donated for the benefit. Whole tables are being sold as families register. Some find it a wholesome event to celebrate with their mothers and daughters a week before Mother's Day. Last year, we had a fantastic time sharing (yes, your Pastor attended) finger sandwiches, scones, clotted cream, various jams, and, of course, TEA! There was a sense of fellowship and conversation about the youth program, mission opportunities, and getting to know each other. I hope this year will be just as fruitful as the last. And guys, you're invited too; it's not just for the ladies.

Coming in July is MyCalling! I don't want to steal Denise's thunder about this incredible ministry and service opportunity. Let me say that these service projects don't happen without our adult volunteers' generous and energetic help. We invite our sister churches to participate in MyCalling! Many pastors I have spoken to about it have expressed an appreciation for such opportunities for young people. Many churches talk about young people being the "future of the church," but our young people are the church today. Young people have energy and vitality that becomes contagious as we "mature saints" serve alongside them and build relationships with them. When we serve together, we show that faith in God works across all avenues of life.

Over the last month, Yardley UMC has been assembling a Praise Band, and I have already heard from many people that they appreciate the vitality and life this brings to our Sunday Morning Worship services. It's even getting noticed by some of our youth who hear the music rehearsed on Wednesday nights. Hopefully, we can continue to gain momentum in growing deeper in our worship together, not just with our worship but also with our praise. Friends, all of these things happen because of you. Your willingness to be a part of a movement of God is not just expressed in public worship on Sunday morning but also in small groups throughout the week, with youth and adults, with hymns and praise songs, in Bible studies and book studies, in recovery groups and prayer teams, in leadership and as friends.

None of this happens without you, and someone needs the gifts that you have. Consider how you can bless someone else today. Because it is in doing so that you bless the Lord. - Matthew 25:34-40

Live out God's calling on your life. This is the Resurrected Life.

Pastor Lee



A Good Friday Station

Birthdays in April



01 Franklyn Cox
01 Christopher Lefebvre
02 Robert Heilig
02 Trevor Hart
02 Angela Fernandez
06 Emily Abbott
06 Dorothy Chreitzberg
07 Jeffrey Pirog
10 Carolyn Sherman
13 Taylor Winters
16 Andrew Laba

17 Patrick Merrick
17 Valentin Hurni
18 Samantha Reed
18 Roman Hurni
19 Megan Luce
22 Kirsten Binder
22 Angelina Hachoose
25 Cathy Hyland
28 Mary Ellen Eckman
30 James Lefebvre

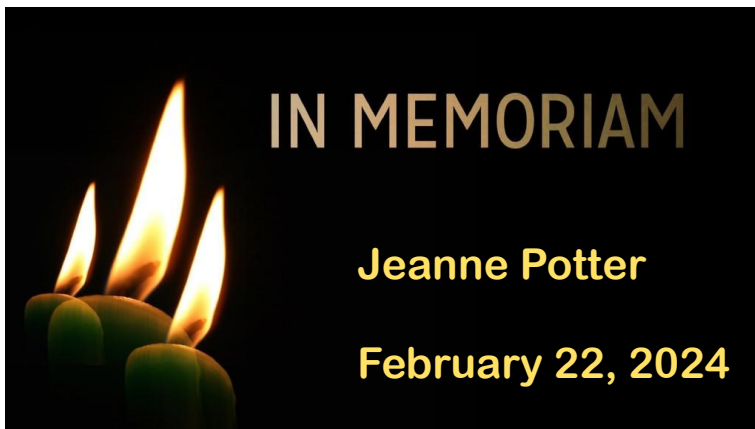
Birthdays in May

04 Kevin Shaffer
04 Stacey Eppley
07 Dennis Laba
08 John Richards
10 Denise Harris
12 Devon Skinner
13 Alec Nunziato
15 Abby O'Keeffe

19 Kim Schettino
22 Ryan Ward
23 Ruth Ann O'Keeffe
25 Mariel Edwards
25 Nacia Lipton
28 Rosaline Cox
29 Kelly Mitchell



Barb Ortolf writes that she is thankful for the support of her church family regarding her mother, Jeanne Potter, who passed away in February. And special thanks to the prayer team as well!



Dear Friends,

Your gifts of cards, phone calls, rides to doctors' appointments, flowers, prayers, and more, have sustained me through 3 hospital stays since February 15th and the time at home since then. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! And, through the "fog" of my hospitalization, I remember that Pastor Lee visited and prayed at my bedside...Thank You!

The "You Are Loved" bag from the Prayer Team is a fantastic idea; I pointed it out to many nurses, some of whom said they were going to take the idea back to their churches. Church Family, you came through for me and my family! I feel so blessed!

God is good....All the time!

Joyce Lee



Dear YUMC Family,

Thank you for the lovely orchids and the package of goodies along with material for Lent.

However, more importantly, thank you for thinking of us. We really appreciate it.

We hope to be back in church soon.

-Linda & Richard Miske

Dear Prayer Team,

Thank you for the goody surprise. I love the puzzle, Lent Book, Tissues and the candy too.

Please let the Ransoms know I appreciate the call and visit. I have all good memories of YUMC going back 50 years...

Thanks again,
Nancy Lee Breece



The big news from the Trustees this Spring is the repair to our parking lot. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Capital Campaign to make this much needed repair possible!



Two thousand utensils packages have been wrapped and delivered to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen in March. THANKS goes out to all the people who stayed after 2 church services to make this happen!



The **Music Ministry** has been very active during the past few months. We now have three ensembles rehearsing and offering music to the glory of God! Our newest group is the YUMC Praise Band and they have really

taken off! We literally offer a wide range of beautiful music from every period of Christian History; there's always something joyful for everyone. Please consider joining one of the ensembles. No previous experience is needed; all members are very welcoming and helpful to newcomers.

- ◇ Praise Band Rehearsal Wednesdays at 6:30PM
- ◇ Bell Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays at 7:30PM
- ◇ Choir Rehearsal is typically every other Sunday at 8:30AM.

I would like to express my deep appreciation and thanks to all the members of the ensembles in the YUMC Music Ministry for all their time and dedication to the preparation and musical offerings for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Our Music Ministry offerings were truly exceptional. Everyone made a joyful noise to the Lord!

Bravo!
Nick



Wednesday nights at Yardley UMC are nights of fun, energy and growth for our kids, youth, adults and families.

What exactly happens on a Wednesday night at YUMC? Only a handful of people in our church get to experience the joy of Wednesdays, so I wanted to share a glimpse of our weekly experience and why it's important. Every Wednesday between 5:20-5:45, the ramp and lobby is a flurry of activity as parents/grandparents drop off their kids and youth. Pam is busy in the lobby checking everyone in and helping kids and youth get where they need to go.

For the first 30 minutes of the night, God Squad (K-5th grade) and Youth Group (6th-12th) are spending time in games and hang out time to decompress after a nonstop day. By 6 pm pizza has arrived and the kids and youth meet in Fellowship Hall for dinner. They are surrounded by our registration and food adults that know the kids & youth by name, greet them with a smile and find ways to connect with each of them while making sure everyone gets enough food.

After dinner, the God Squad and the leaders head to the Pat Garnier Room for a lesson & activity based on the theme and Scripture for the evening. The Youth head upstairs to 208/209 for a worship activity then they split into their regular small/support groups. One week they are in small groups, learning and discussing the lesson for the night. The next week, they are in their support groups designed to provide opportunities for each youth to give and receive support from their peers. At 7:30, parents/grandparents pick up their kids & youth. Every young person leaves knowing they have been seen and heard by others.

It sounds so simple. But what God is doing in those hours reverberates into the rest of the week, creating valuable memories for our kids & youth to last a lifetime. Recently, Paula Nelson, a leader in our Kids Ministry, shared an article from Axios Philadelphia. The article was titled "Anxiety Emergency" by Mike Allen. In the article, it quotes Jonathan Haidt, "Rates of depression and anxiety among American adolescents jumped by more than 50% in multiple studies between 2010 and 2019." Haidt is a leading expert on the spike in teen mental illness. Those numbers were relatively stable in the 2000s." Our kids and youth are growing up in a different world than any other generation. Their parents and grandparents are looking for a way to give their young people stable, secure ground.

I believe this is the call God has placed on Yardley UMC. In the past two years, God has brought us kids, youth & parents/grandparents with no past connection to the church. However, the moment they walk in the doors, they know Wednesdays at YUMC are a safe place to be themselves and find connection. They have become part of our church as we work together to care for this generation. God has called us to reach a generation in need of security and the ability to be known by others and God is leading us!

So now you know what happens on Wednesday nights. I hope you will join me in prayer for all of this! If you want to see Wednesdays in action, I invite you to stop by! I also invite you to seek God's call for you. Could God be calling you to serve with kids and youth of YUMC? Could God be calling you to share what's happening at YUMC and invite kids and youth you know to Wednesday nights?

If you think God is calling you to serve, I would love to talk with you! If God is calling you to reach out to parents, kids & youth you know, I would love to talk with you! If God is calling you to pray for our kids, youth, parents/grandparents or leaders, I would love to talk with you!

With Love & Gratitude,

Denise





Youth Ministry at Yardley UMC exists to share God's love with teenagers, equip them to experience the work of ministry, honor the Lord and enjoy one another.

Do you have questions? Need someone to talk to?

Email denise@yardleyumc.org or text 267-980-6054

Sign up for events at www.yardleyumcyouth.org/events



MYCALLING MISSION TRIP JULY 14-18

Youth and Leaders will

- Learn how they can serve others
- Get to know and learn about others
- Spend time in worship together
- Eat good food and more!



MyCallingMinistries.com



YOUTH GROUP

Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm

YardleyUMCYouth.org

MY CALLING 2024! July 14-18th

Our Biggest Serving Event of the Year is just a few months away!

Sign up today for MyCalling!

We will eat, play and stay at YUMC with other churches. During the day we will go out to sites to serve others and learn about different ways to help others. At night, we will have dinner, play games and have worship time.

Friends welcome to join!

WEDNESDAYS WITH YUMC!

Wednesdays are a night of belonging for kids, youth & young adults!

God Squad meets Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm for Kindergarten-5th graders. They have a great time playing games, eating dinner and learning together. Do you know a kid that would love to be part of Wednesdays with YUMC? Invite them to check out God Squad!

Youth Group meets Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm for all youth 6th-12th grade! They meet for a time of connection, discussion and growth. We have pizza and fun together while supporting each other every week. Friends are invited to be part of Wednesdays with YUMC!

Young Adults meet Wednesdays 9:30pm on Zoom! Each week, Young Adults ages 19-28 log on for a time of connection, support and catching up! It's never the same group twice! Young Adults are invited to log on each Wednesday!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM Calling all Youth 6th-12th Grade!

We are starting a Student Leadership Team!

The purpose of this team is to work to ensure that the youth group is a safe place for youth to grow, learn and have fun together. We will do this by sharing our experiences, planning events, praying and solving problems together.

Are you interested in serving on a leadership team? Fill out the brief application on the website!



DESSERT WITH DENISE

This year, our theme is "What's Your Story?" We are focused on sharing our stories, hearing others' stories and learning about Bible Stories. I want to hear your family story! What was the BEST vacation you ever took? What is your favorite tradition? What is something your family is proud of? etc.

If you will allow me to come to your home, (we can also meet somewhere) I will bring dessert and we can chat!

Here's how this will work: You find a date that works for your family and sign up. If no date listed works for you, we will work together to find a date!

If you forget about this, no worries! I will be reaching out to every family to make sure we connect over desserts and stories!

I CAN'T WAIT to hear your family's stories!



CAMPING TRIP FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES!

5/31-6/2 Get ready for a weekend of fun, rest, swimming, hiking and more! Friends are welcome! Whole families welcome! Youth are welcome! Let's get out in nature and enjoy a weekend together!



GIRLS RETREAT August 12-14th

Let's spend 2 days at the beach having some great discussion, crazy fun and experience growth together! Friends are invited to join in!

The cost is \$135 and covers lodging, food and supplies.

If finances are any issue for you or a friend, please talk to Denise! We have options!

Sign up or ask questions today!

Tidings of
Yardley United Methodist Church
300 Langhorne Road
Yardley, Pennsylvania 19067



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Every Sunday

9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary & Facebook Live
11 am Worship on Zoom

Every Wednesday 5:30 pm Youth Group & God Squad
9:30 pm Young Adults on Zoom

April

8 Finance Committee, 7:30 pm
9 Faith Formation, 7 pm
14 Trustees, 12:30 pm Zoom
22 Administrative Council, 7:30 pm

May

4 Tea Party
12 Trustees, Zoom, 12:30 pm
13 Finance Committee, 7:30 pm
20 Administrative Council, 7:30 pm
22 Newsletter Deadline for Summer issue
31 Youth, young adult & family Camping Trip

Spring 2024