



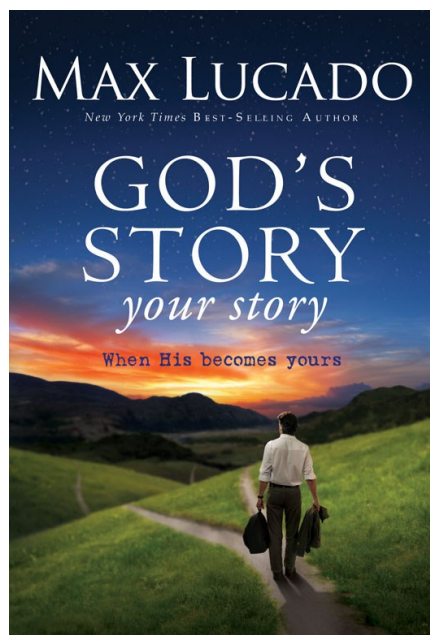
Tidings

A Newsletter of Yardley United Methodist Church

Volume 25, Issue 1

Yardley, Pennsylvania

Winter 2024



Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm Feb 14 at NUMC

As is our custom, we will share **Ash Wednesday** with the Newtown UMC congregation. Pastor Lee will preach at the service at 35 Liberty Street, Newtown, PA. A joint YUMC/NUMC choir will lead the music.



Covered Dish Dinner and Game Night for Adults is Saturday, February 24 at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring a covered dish to share. Join in the fun! Sign up at www.yardleyumc.org/events or by calling the church office.

Lent Study starts February 13 and 15

We will study Max Lucado's book "God's Story." We will meet on **Tuesday evenings at 7 pm** in an in-person/hybrid Zoom format and a second group will meet on **Thursdays in person at 2 pm**. The book study will continue for six weeks. Carpools and car crashes, job switches and joint custody, moves and motionlessness. Is there a cohesive storyline to the chaos, confusion, and clutter of your daily life? According to well-loved author Max Lucado, the answer is a resounding yes! So what is the text of your life? With his unequaled warmth and honesty, Lucado plumbs the depths of your storyline and comes up smiling. 'Your story indwells God's,' writes Lucado. 'This is the great promise of the Bible and the hope of this book ... Above and around us God directs a grander saga, written by his hand, orchestrated by his will, unveiled according to his calendar. And you are a part of it ...' Join Max for an unforgettable journey woven with New Testament stories and contemporary examples of God's beautiful story-making skills. The beginning of the narrative is legendary, the middle unfolds with surprises still in store, and the ending of your final earthly chapter ushers in a reunion that almost defies description. It's time to see what your life looks like when God's story becomes your story. Sign up at www.yardleyumc.org/events or by calling the church office.

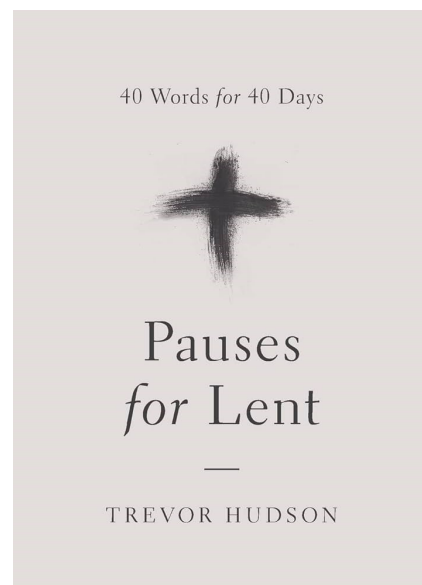
PAUSES FOR LENT

by Trevor Hudson

This Lent we will go through a daily devotion that invites us to pause and reflect on a single word.

Grab a book and let's see where God leads us each day!

Books are available in the church or you can order one for online.



Tidings is published by
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light increases, the ground thaws, and the animals appear more often. We, as humans, seem to respond in kind with increasing activity and anticipation of the new season. I wonder if the Spring thaw does the same for you.

Hello Friends, Spring is coming! Praise the Lord!

Don't get me wrong. I like the winter and the idea of being warm under the covers and near a roaring fireplace while snow falls outside. But my soul seems to come back alive bit by bit when the sun's

Spring often comes with a need to open the doors and windows to allow fresh air flow. It's almost like we feel we can breathe again. The need for Spring cleaning comes with this new sense of fresh air and breath. While Spring cleaning can be simply a chore for some, for others, it can go part and parcel with opening the mind, as in cleaning out the cobwebs of one's mind. Clutter can build up not just in the rooms and attics of our homes; our minds can also be cluttered with stale thoughts and putrid judgements.

With all the cleaning in mind, we are entering the season of Lent with an eye toward Easter. Lent is a time of intentional reflection upon our flawed and finite humanity contrasted by a perfect and infinite God. In fully recognizing human limitations, we ask ourselves if there is the possibility of more. The way God answered that question was by sending his own Son into all the mess and misery of human experience to be with us, to teach us, to die for us, and to be resurrected again to make the infinite possible for us. Isaiah alluded to this when he wrote about God making beauty from ashes (Isa. 61). What beautiful imagery of mixing the ashes with the oil of God's anointing that we might of the sign of God's love written in our hearts and on heads. God's love never fails, and Christ proved this to us. You cannot fail when you prioritize loving others. Join us through Lent and Easter as we encounter our infinitely loving God together.

We Methodists have long sought to unite in prioritizing others through loving presence and mutual action, and that is no different for the people of Yardley UMC. Missions and outreach efforts at Yardley UMC happen throughout the year as we seek to collaborate faithfully to love our neighbors. We are looking at ways to improve our functioning and communications as a team to do this more effectively. Working together to love others should be a joyful process, so we are exploring ways of creative play. What a joy it is when a parent sees their children playing and having fun even while doing household tasks. I wonder if it is the same for our heavenly Father.

Our Church Council is most focused on pulling together a Congregational Care Team that would integrate elements of welcoming visitors and returning friends while keeping in touch with those who are homebound or receiving medical care. Of course, it is rightly expected that the Pastor maintains contact in these areas; however, the full responsibility of care belongs to the entire congregation. We know the primary and best way for people to encounter the church and remain in the church is through prior established relationships of trust through friends, family, and neighbors. So, we would like to provide some framework for facilitating those relationships. If this is an area that you may be gifted in, we would be grateful for your response.

Many good things are yet to come by God's grace. With Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Lee Corpiere



Holy Week Services:

- Palm Sunday @ 9:30 AM & 11 AM Zoom (March 24)
- Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 PM (March 28)
- Friday Prayer Stations (self-guided) @ 2:30 - 7:30 PM (March 29)
- Easter Sunday Services @ 9:30 AM & 11 AM Zoom (March 31)

February birthdays

07 Suzanne Hart	22 Ruth Bachike
09 Micaela Azzati	25 Chuck Hart
12 Katie Van Aken	25 Barbara Ortolf
13 Ellen Howell	28 John Ward
14 Richard Habgood, III	
15 Paula Nelson	
15 Christine Grace	
15 William Jackson	
18 Thomas O'Keeffe	
18 Zellie Laba	
19 James Kalmes	
19 Debbie Ray Green	
20 Maya Mitchell Kunda	



March birthdays

01 Nancy Hoerl	18 Jennifer Ehrhardt
01 David Miller	19 Matt Burger
03 Trey Marco	21 Sally Edwards
04 Joyce Anderson	21 Cindy Pirog
04 Kelly Skinner	22 Janet L. Smith
05 Beth Kalmes	22 Kevin Hart
06 Roger Tillson	23 Rebecca Kelly
07 Destini Cox	27 Bradley Jackson
08 Brian Roberts	29 Emily K. Merrick
09 Brooke Jackson	
12 Diane Kreger	
12 Max Kalmes	



Handbell Choir

I'm so very pleased to announce that we have two new ringers! The Handbell Choir will be offering *Re sounding Joy!* By Larson and *A Festive Peal* by Helman during February.

Vocal Choir

The Choir will be singing at the Ash Wednesday service being held at Newtown United Methodist Church on February 14th at 7:00pm. We hope to see many of you in Newtown.

Our beautiful Vocal Choir is in need of a few good men! Even if you've never sung in a choir please consider joining. Choir is an excellent opportunity to deepen your Faith through words and music. We will get you singing! We typically rehearse three Sunday mornings a month from 8:30AM to 9:15AM. We are very flexible with rehearsal and are welcoming to everyone.

Organ and Harp

As many of you have heard me say, "I LOVE YUMC's organ!", I've planned exciting organ music by J. S. Bach, Handel, Gallon, Vierne, and Dupré. I hope everyone has been enjoying the harp. I will continue to offer contemplative harp music during Lent.

Truly yours in Christ,
Nick





notes
from the
Belcher Room

Before & After

We have heat in the Sanctuary! Thanks to the generous donations from two members of the church towards the Sanctuary heating repair we have a brand-new water pump for our boiler system! The before and after pictures show the dramatic difference between the old one and the new one. Owing to the age of the system the new pump had to be custom built for us.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PLEDGES AND DONATIONS!

Thank you all for your 2024 pledges and donations. Because of your generosity, YUMC can continue to provide all the services that not only helps us continue to worship and learn about God, but also helps those in need. Working together, our committees and groups will make the best use of these gifts entrusted to us. If you would like to become a part of one of the committees in the church, please let Pastor Lee or the church office know.



Training for all Children and Youth Leaders

is Wednesday, February 7th at 7:45-8:45pm Or on Zoom on Saturday, February 10th at 9-10:30 am. All those working with the Children and Youth Ministries are asked to attend one of these two trainings.

We will review and discuss policies and procedures that keep our young people and church safe. Children and Youth Ministries are growing ministries in our church and there are always opportunities for people to serve. If you are interested in serving in these ministries in the future, you are invited to join this training. If you are an adult or parent interested in participating in this training, please join!

Sign up or ask questions by going to calling the office, going to www.yardleyumc.org/events or email Denise@yardleychurch.org



Food Pantry Donations Continue to be Needed

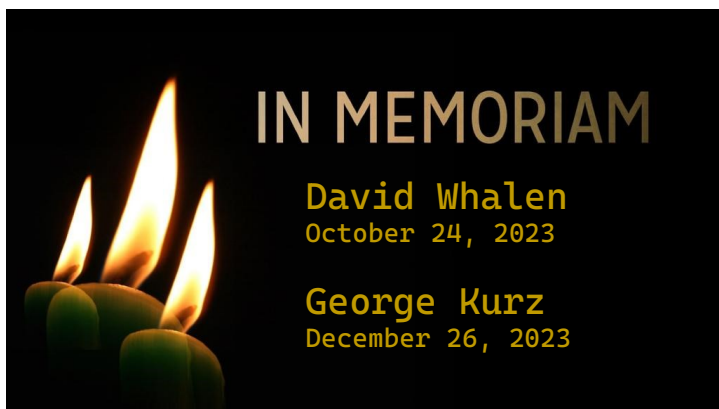
Our food collections for the Penndel Food Pantry and our own Mini-Pantry in the parking lot continues to be used by our neighbors in need. This month 86 pounds of food were delivered to a grateful Penndel Food Pantry, and more food was supplied to our Mini-Pantry. Since 2016, YUMC has delivered 16,950 lbs of food to the Penndel Pantry. A list of food donation ideas is available on the front of the shopping cart in the lobby. Food Donations for either pantry can be placed in the shopping cart, or if the church is not open, you may leave it in the donation box on our front stairs or at the top of the ramp. Thank you for supporting this important mission.

Donation Ideas for the Food Pantry*

- Pasta Sauce & Pasta Varieties
- Canned Soups
- Mac and Cheese in a cup (no milk needed)
- Stove Top Stuffing
- Canned Chicken or Beef
- Canned Stews
- Chicken, Beef or Vegetable Broth
- Granola Bars
- Shelf-stable boxed milk
- Cereals
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Applesauce in plastic cups
- Tea Bags or Coffee
- Sugar and Flour
- Canned Tuna
- Crackers
- Cake mix and Frosting (for Kid's Cakes...)
- Olive oil or Canola Oil
- Dishwashing Detergent
- Feminine Hygiene products
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Spices - Oregano, Basil, Cumin, Rosemary, Thyme, Cinnamon

*Things to Remember:

Pop-top lids are better; avoid glass jars; fruits in cans or plastic cups; don't donate expired foods; no items that need refrigeration





The mission committee would like to thank YUMC for their continued support throughout 2023. As a congregation, we have sent financial donations to TASK, Welcoming the Stranger, A Woman's Place, Family Services, and Maker's Place. In 2023, the congregation participated in wrapping utensils and collecting and packing toiletries for

TASK, diaper donations and bundling, donating books for 21st Century Community Learning Center, sent donations to Church World Services to purchase 30 blankets. The Angel Tree collected 41 gift cards to be handed out through Buck's County Housing Group. YUMC has partnered with Promedica Facility to provide Christmas gifts to be handed out to guests who might be alone during the holidays. We continue to support both Pennel Pantry and our Mini-Pantry with food donations which are also supported with help from Floral Creek Alzheimer's Special Care Center, and Polo Run. With the congregation's help, we have been able to reach out to people in our community and the world.

A few notes of thanks have been received from local organizations YUMC supports thanks to the generosity of this congregation:

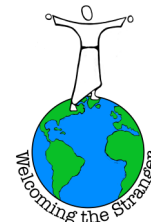
From Jennifer Locker of A Woman's Place

...I would like to thank you for your gift of \$200.00 to A Woman's Place...Your donation supports those in our community experiencing domestic violence and helps to transform the future of Bucks County into a community where all individuals are safe in their relationships...Your generosity provides safety for those in crisis, empowerment for the marginalized, education for the future...Thank you so very much!



Patricia Lorenz, Executive Director of Welcoming the Stranger

Thank you very much for your generous donation of \$200 to Welcoming the Stranger...Your gift will support the continuation of our free educational programs for adult immigrant and refugee learners...



Your gift will help to change lives and improve the communities in which we all live. Students in our computer skills classes will be able to create resumes and apply for meaningful jobs. English language learners will be able to integrate more successfully...Increased numbers of students in our citizenship classes will become proud Americans...please accept our deepest appreciation of your support.

From Julie Dees of Family Service:

Thank you for your generous gift of \$200.00 to Family Service...Support from caring, result-oriented donors like you is the driving force behind our ability to meet a wide range of critical needs including homelessness, mental illness, hunger and isolation for more than 30,000 of our neighbors in Bucks County each year...



From Penny Martin of AHTN:

Thank you for your gift [\$200.00] to Advocates for the Homeless & Those in Need. Your support towards our mission is deeply appreciated...These are just a few of the programs this generous gift will make possible: Code Blue Homeless Shelter, Wheels to Meals Transportation, Those in Need Fund...This gift specifically, and the overall support of donors like you, are what make it possible for us to expand and enrich the services we provide.

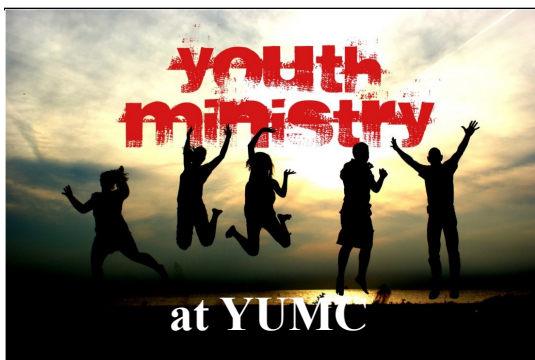
From Michelle Wexler of Trenton Area Soup Kitchen:

Thank you for your donation of \$100.00 to benefit the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. With this gift, you have made it possible for TASK to provide healthy, nutritious meals to those who need them...

Right now, our kitchen is serving 10,000 meals each week –nearly twice the pre-COVID amount –at 36 meal sites...Amidst our growth, we continue to focus on our neighbors in Trenton. We offer a holistic suite of programs and services...

A meal at TASK can be a life changer. Your recent donation makes all of this possible....





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



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:
Go to yardleyumcyouth.org/events, 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!



Sacred Rhythms "Be Still and Know that I am God" Psalm 46:10

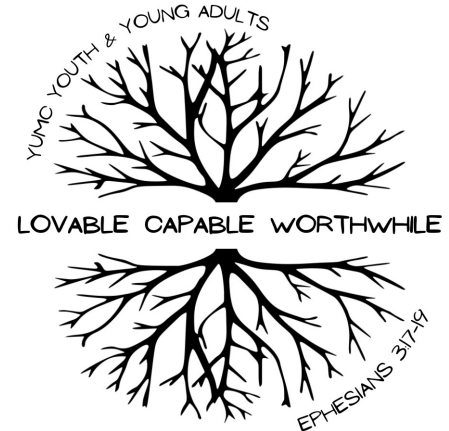
Wednesdays during Lent we will be learning and practicing Sacred Rhythms. These are ways we can create a pause in our day to connect with God.

We will practice Scripture reading, Prayer, Breath Prayers, Lectio Divinia, Silence and worship in action.

We are looking forward to making this Lent a time to pause and connect!



Wednesday Night Support Groups



Youth Support Groups

Every other Wednesday Night we have Youth Treehouse Support Groups. We come together to give and receive support. Support Groups help us build empathy and openness.

All youth 6th-12th grade are invited to join!



Mission project - Winter MyCalling!

Young Adult Support Groups

On Wednesdays during Lent, we will run young adult support groups.

Young adults (18+) are invited to log on to give and give and receive support.



Ash Wednesday is a day to pause and reflect. We set aside this day to reflect on our own human-ness and our connection to God.

Pausing on a busy Wednesday can be difficult!

So, we invite Parents of our kids and youth to stop by the YUMC Sanctuary on Wednesday Feb 14th any time between 7:15-7:45. You are invited to spend a moment in silence, receive prayer or receive Ashes and leave.

If you have any questions or want to talk about Ash Wednesday, I would be excited to talk to you!

Reach out anytime!

Denise@yardleyumc.org



Worshipping God at Winter MyCalling!



Serving our community at Winter MyCalling!





*Women's Retreat
in Ocean Grove, NJ*





The youth went on a progressive Christmas dinner, including Christmas caroling at Floral Creek Alzheimer's Care Center.

Youth rock climbing outing.



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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**February/March
2024**

Every Sunday 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary
9:30 am Sunday School
11 am Worship on Zoom

Every Wed 5:30 pm Youth Group
except Holy 5:30 pm God Squad
Week 9:30 pm Young Adults Zoom

February

7 & 10 Children's Leader's Training
11 Trustees on Zoom, 12:30 pm
12 Finance Committee, 7:30 pm
13 & 15 Lent Study begins
14 Ash Wednesday Service, NUMC 7:00 pm
19 Administrative Council, 7 pm
24 Pot Luck Dinner & Game night

March

10 Trustees on Zoom, 12:30 pm
24 Palm Sunday
25 Newsletter Deadline
26 Red Cross Blood Drive
28 Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm
29 Good Friday Stations 2:30-7:30 pm
31 Easter Sunday