



# Tidings

A Newsletter of Yardley United Methodist Church

Volume 23, Issue 1

Yardley, Pennsylvania

Winter 2022



## YUMC reaches into the community with funds and services

Did you know that YUMC has a Local Missions budget that provides support for 9 local non-profit organizations? These are secular non-profit groups who are carrying out ministries described in Matthew 25: 31-46, where Jesus tells his listeners that in serving the needs of others, they are serving him. By supporting these groups, YUMC not only enables them to provide vital services, but it also enlarges YUMC's mission outreach into the community.

Our Local Mission budget provides funds from our pledges and offerings to these local non-profits. In 2021, our pledges and offerings made possible gifts of \$500 to each of these agencies: **Advocates for Homeless and Those In Need (AHTN)** in Fairless Hills, **Bucks County Housing Group (BCHG)** in Doylestown, **Grace Café** at Arch Street UMC in Philadelphia, **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK)** in Trenton, **Family Promise** in Levittown, **A Woman's Place** in Doylestown, **Penndel Food Pantry**, and **Anchor House** in Trenton. **Philabundance** in Philadelphia received \$250 from Yardley UMC.

In addition to our financial gifts, several YUMC members and attenders volunteer their time and service with several of these organizations. Their names are mentioned below and they would be happy to talk with you about their experiences in serving there.

**AHTN** operates the "Code Blue" program, which provides dinner, overnight housing, and breakfast the following morning for our homeless neighbors, from December through March, on nights when the thermometer or wind chill factor reaches 26 degrees F. and below. In December and January, the nearby Woodside Presbyterian hosts Code Blue; in February and March, it's held at Calvary Baptist Church in Bristol. Website: [www.ahtn.org](http://www.ahtn.org) Volunteers: Bob Scherer, Pam McCreery



*Another fun Firepit happened right before Christmas. On December 17 we gathered for fellowship, chili, corn bread and Christmas carols around the fires. See more photos on page 11.*



continued on p. 5

Tidings is published by  
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

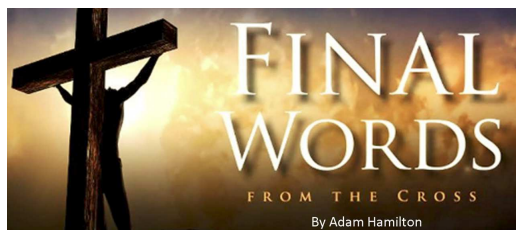
On March 2, we begin Lent with the observance of Ash Wednesday. To the world, this day looks like a solemn accounting of one's life and what might need to change. "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

That mark of ash on the forehead indicates to many a new beginning of a season of reflection and sacrifice that should leave us a bit different at the end. This is true.

But it is important to note that the mark of ash *is* in the sign of a cross. That cross reminds us of the One who gave *his* life so that we might have life. What wondrous love! It is *his* love that gives us the courage to reflect on our life reality. It is *his* love that transforms those broken area of our lives. It is *his* love that makes us different at the end of Lent than when we began.

Our Ash Wednesday service will once again be observed with Newtown United Methodist Church on March 2 at 7 pm. I encourage you to come and listen for God.

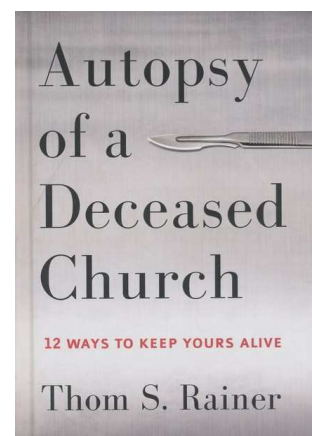
In Christ,  
*Pastor Marcia*



Following the Revival Bible study, we will move on to *Final Words from the Cross* by Adam Hamilton. In life and in death, Jesus' words were powerful and meaningful. Despite the serious effort and increased pain required for Jesus to speak as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke seven "final words"—statements that have much to teach us about Jesus, his Father, and ourselves. The study will coincide with the start of Lent. You may join in the ZOOM study for six weeks on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm starting Mar 1 or Thursday afternoons at 1 pm starting Mar 3.



Begin the season of Lent at the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm on March 2 at Newtown United Methodist Church, 35 Liberty St., Newtown. Pastor Marcia will preach during the service.



**Save the date!**  
**Saturday, April 30, 2022**  
Workshop based on Thom Rainer's book, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church, 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive*. We will discern our past, present and future as the body of Christ. Watch for more details.



## February birthdays

05 DeVeaux Kooker  
 07 Suzanne Hart  
 07 David Fernandez  
 09 Micaela Azzati  
 12 Katie Van Aken  
 13 Ellen Howell  
 14 Richard Habgood, III  
 15 Paula Nelson  
 15 Christine Grace  
 16 Jason Kellenbenz  
 18 Thomas O'Keeffe  
 19 James Kalmes  
 19 Debbie Ray  
 20 Maya Mitchell Kunda  
 22 Ruth Bachike  
 25 Vi Tillson  
 25 Chuck Hart  
 25 Barbara Ortolf  
 26 Leslie McBrayer  
 28 John Ward



## March birthdays

01 Nancy Hoerl  
 03 Trey Marco  
 04 Joyce Anderson  
 04 Kelly Skinner  
 05 Beth Kalmes  
 06 Roger Tillson  
 07 Cherie Kooker  
 07 Destini Cox  
 08 Brian Roberts  
 10 Jerome Lavanish  
 12 Diane Kreger  
 12 Max Kalmes  
 14 Kathryn Beavers  
 18 Jennifer Ehrhardt  
 19 Jacob Findley  
 19 Matt Burger  
 21 Sally Edwards  
 21 Cindy Pirog  
 22 Janet L. Smith

22 Kevin Hart  
 22 Madeline Kaiser  
 23 Cate Diamond  
 23 Rebecca Kelly  
 24 Joan Kaiser  
 27 Bradley Jackson  
 29 Emily K. Merrick

## Tidings schedule for upcoming issues

*Please email your photos and articles to [office@yardleyumc.org](mailto:office@yardleyumc.org) no later than the noted deadlines.*

*Spring (April & May)...deadline Mar 21*

*Summer (June, July, Aug)...deadline 5/22*

*Back to Sunday School (Sept)...deadline August 21*

*Fall (October & November)...deadline September 25*

*Christmas (December)...deadline Novem-*

## Earth Day is April 22 – Celebrate it at Snipes Farm!

Snipes Farm and Education Center in Morrisville will celebrate Earth Day on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and YUMC will be there! YUMC member and frequent volunteer at the Farm, Andrea Scherer, will lead a team of volunteers in one of the events taking place that day. Andrea extends an invitation to all of us to spend the morning in celebration with her and the Snipes family at the Farm that day. Andrea says, “It will be farm work, so volunteers should be prepared to play in the dirt”!

Located on 25 acres at 890 West Bridge Street in Morrisville, PA, the Farm’s mission is “to model and teach sustainable farming while building community and reconnect people to the land”. It hosts a variety of programs and activities throughout the year for children, youth and adults, including a farm market of home-grown produce every Saturday from 9-1, pick-your-own fruit, in season, a summer camp, and more. Snipes donates 50% of their home-grown produce to several food banks in the area.

For the past six years, as part of MyCalling!, the local mission trip for middle-schoolers, a group of youth and adults from YUMC have spent a day of volunteering at Snipes Farm, under Andrea’s and Denise’s guidance. Says Andrea, “Every year, the work is different. Sometimes, we’re berry-picking, other times, we’re weeding, washing the farm eggs, washing vegetables, etc.”

Our volunteers enjoy “playing in the dirt,” like the sense of community that builds while volunteering together, and know that, through their service at Snipes Farm, they are contributing to the far-reaching influence of this successful business.

**Hope you’ll want to join Andrea “at the Farm” on April 23<sup>rd</sup>!**





**Tools for Ministry:** 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.

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.

Workshops include: Identifying Resources for Ministry, Gifts of the Spirit, Church Audits & Best Financial Practices, Gospel Discipleship, The Work of the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee, Beyond Building the Brand: Powering Ministry Through Marketing, Simplified Accountable Structure (One Board Model), An Intro to Disaster Response Training, Mental Health First Aid, Tools for Understanding the Financial Health of your Church, The Ministry of Being a Local Church Trustee, Mission Rift: Leading Your Church through Conflict, Our Wesleyan Heritage, etc. For a full list of workshops, go to: [https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022\\_ToolsForMinistry\\_Brochure.pdf](https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022_ToolsForMinistry_Brochure.pdf)

Contact the church office for registration information.



## notes from the Belcher Room

Matt did a spectacular job on the FH floor! He completely stripped the old wax, thoroughly cleaned the tiles, applied several coats of new wax, and polished to a beautiful shine. He is now turning his attention to the hallway ramp that leads to the Sanctuary and Room 005. Both had water leaks that have now been repaired. Matt is going to repair and repaint where necessary to get both looking great again.

The Trustees have approved two significant capital upgrades to systems in the church. Our very old alarm system is being replaced with a new, modern version. Our service provider has been calling attention to the age of the system for several inspection cycles. And our phone system and internet are also being updated. Our new internet will provide a strong and secure Wi-Fi connection throughout the church for staff, congregation, and guests.

Lastly, we are soliciting bids to repair our steeple. We have received one bid and are waiting on a second. More information on this project will be coming soon from the Trustees.



## YUMC reaches into the community with funds and services *(continued from p. 1)*

**Bucks County Housing Group's** main focus is housing. It provides subsidized rental apartments to those who are transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing. It also operates 2 community food pantries in Bucks County, one in Pennel, another in Doylestown. [www.bchg.org](http://www.bchg.org)



**Pennel Food Pantry**, operated by BCHG, is where our donations of non-perishable food items from the grocery cart in the Entrance Parlor are taken on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. [www.bchg.org](http://www.bchg.org) Volunteers: Dennis and Janice Laba, Paul and Stevilyn Ortiz



**Grace Café** serves a restaurant-style community meal at Arch Street UMC in Philadelphia, every Sunday night from 6-7 p.m. to homeless persons and those experiencing food insecurity. Meals are prepared and served by church groups and community volunteers, with support from the Arch Street Volunteer Support Team. Alongside the community meal is a weekly wellness clinic, and a monthly legal clinic and HIV/HEP C testing. In past years, YUMC has provided dinners in the past; currently, we support this ministry with our financial gift.

[www.gracecafe@archstreetumc.org](mailto:www.gracecafe@archstreetumc.org)



**TASK** feeds those who are hungry in the Trenton area and offers programs to encourage self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life. TASK serves two healthy meals per day, provides social services, health screenings and referrals, a literacy program, training in the use of a computer, and opportunities to make art, poetry and music. Prior to the pandemic, YUMC's TASK Volunteer Team, currently Mary Ellen Eckman, Elwood Bowman, and Joyce Lee, helped prepare and serve meals at TASK on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Currently, the indoor dining room is closed and meals-to-go are served from the front door. The team plans to resume their participation when indoor-dining returns at TASK. Meanwhile, members and youth at YUMC assemble hygiene bags for use by TASK patrons. [www.trentonsoupkitchen.org](http://www.trentonsoupkitchen.org) TASK Volunteer Team: Mary Ellen Eckman, Elwood Bowman, Joyce Lee

**Family Promise of Bucks County** provides training and temporary shelter to homeless families as they work to regain employment and self-sufficiency. During the day, they attend classes at the Day Center, then, families they are transported churches and synagogues where they receive dinner, overnight lodging, and breakfast the next morning before returned to the Day Center. YUMC hosts patron families twice a year, when health prevails. [www.fplb.org](http://www.fplb.org)

Volunteers: YUMC members, attenders and friends



*A Woman's Place*  
ON THE ROAD TO FLOURISHING

**A Woman's Place**, the only domestic violence organization in Bucks County, offers counseling and temporary shelter for abused women and their dependent children.. [www.awomansplace.org](http://www.awomansplace.org)

**Anchor House's** mission is to provide a safe haven where abused, runaway, homeless, aging out and at risk youth and their families are empowered to succeed and thrive. [www.anchorhousenj.org](http://www.anchorhousenj.org)

Volunteers: YUMC youth and adult leaders. See Denise for stories.



**Philabundance** is a non-profit food bank that serves the [Philadelphia](#) and [Delaware Valley](#) region of [Pennsylvania](#), It works with over 350 agency partners to provide food to people. Pennel Food Pantry is an agency partner, and pays a small fee to receive food for distribution to supplement what is donated locally. [www.philabundance.org](http://www.philabundance.org)

YUMC's mission statement reads: *"As followers of Jesus, we passionately serve and grow in relationship with God to transform lives in our community."* That's what these agencies are doing, too, and we're grateful for the opportunity to be in ministry with them.



## YUMC's Volunteers Express Their Thoughts on Code Blue

Several of our members and attenders volunteer in the non-profit organizations that we financially assist through our Local Missions budget. Our volunteers at Code Blue, the overnight emergency for homeless persons, operated by Advocates for Homeless and Those In Need, expressed their thoughts about their volunteer experience and how it has enriched their lives.

**Pam McCreery** is an attendant on AHTN's minibus and van. On evenings when Code Blue is open, Pam accompanies the driver along the Bristol-Levittown route, making four stops to pick up homeless persons and transport them to AHTN's Code Blue overnight shelter at either the Woodside Presbyterian or Calvary Baptist Church, depending on the month. At each stop, Pam gets off the bus, greets the riders, helps them to board and get settled, and rides with them to the shelter. The next morning, after the patrons have had breakfast, the bus, with Pam aboard, returns to the shelter, picks up the patrons and returns them to the AHTN Day Center. Why does she do it? Pam writes,

*"I volunteer to be of help to others. The guests at Code Blue either sleep in tents in their encampments or are sleeping in their cars. It makes me very grateful for everything I have in my life--good housing, food, and the opportunities for travel."*

## An easy way to support Family Promise

YUMC been a participant in Family Promise of Lower Bucks since its founding in 2016 with the mission to address the needs of homeless families with children, by providing shelter, meals and comprehensive services while helping them to lasting self-sufficiency.

Over the last year and a half, FPLB has been forced to adjust the services they provide to continue serving families in need. Through funding from Family Promise National, they now offer a new core program called, "Future Begins at Home" (FBH). This program provides eligible families with funds for eviction prevention, high-quality case management services, and creative problem-solving to help avoid eviction and remain stably housed.

These services are all provided through volunteers and donations from the community. While hosting families in our church is on hold, Family Promise still needs the support of YUMC to do this work. One easy way to help is through their fund-raising initiative, "\$10 On the 10th," an automatic monthly donation of \$10 on the 10th of each month. Its easy to do through their PayPal account. You do not need a PayPal account to participate, just go to [www.fplb.org/donate](http://www.fplb.org/donate), click the "Donate" button, and sign up for a monthly contribution of \$10 (or more) with your credit card or PayPal account.

If you need any assistance or more information, please contact Steve Kyle at [sckyle@gmail.com](mailto:sckyle@gmail.com) or (215) 499-9510.



**Bob Scherer** also volunteers with the Code Blue program. He's there from 6:00 – 7:30 a.m. on "the mornings after" Code Blue has been held. Bob says,

*"I've been lucky enough to volunteer with the local Code Blue shelter run by AHTN for the last five years, although I did sit out last year due to Covid. This year I've been volunteering mostly in the morning, cleaning up and clearing the cots and tables and chairs from the area where the guests stay that is also used for childcare during the day. Volunteering on this shift gives me limited opportunity to interact with our guests since they are also eating breakfast while I'm working. I do occasionally discuss books, mostly WWII history books with one of the guests. He's very well read in the subject and we've read several of the same books. He has been coming to Code Blue for a few years now and is very interesting to talk to. Most of the guests go out of their way to acknowledge what we do and express their appreciation. They are generally very nice people who have just had a few bad breaks. Being able to do something for them is truly a blessing. I can't recommend AHTN enough as a volunteer opportunity."*

Thank you, volunteers, for what you do for others.







*From the editor: There is a lot of talent in our congregation! This page highlights the talents of two of our members. We would be delighted to share other contributions in upcoming issues of Tidings!*

*The following is an update to a story in George Kurz's book, Something in Return: Memoirs of a Life in Medicine, chapter four. This story is about the Adshead Health Center that volunteers, including George, built in Ozone, Tennessee 72 years ago.*



*This photograph by Scott Hoerl was in a juried exhibition at Gallery 14 in Hopewell, NJ . It is a still life of leaves and a stone found on a nature walk.*

## What Happened to the Adshead Health Center?

*By George Kurz*

The story I told about the Quaker work camp in Ozone, Tennessee in the summer of 1949 caught the attention of two new residents at our Pennswood Village retirement community, Bob and Peggy Anderson. They were preparing to visit a daughter in New Orleans for Thanksgiving and would be driving through Knoxville, TN. When they heard that campers, mostly college students, had constructed from scratch a building that would be a health center, they wondered if that building was still standing. They determined to stop in Ozone to see for themselves.

Ozone is a small village in eastern Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau. I had tried unsuccessfully to locate the clinic building on Google Maps and concluded that it must have been torn down. Bob and Peggy remarkably connected with the curator of a museum, Sharon Weible, in a village called Pleasant Hill west of Ozone. Sharon had heard of the clinic, but failed in her attempts to learn details of what had become of it or if it even still existed.

Sharon and her husband drove to Ozone and found the building. The Andersons arrived the very next day, November 22, 2021. Sharon gave them a tour of her museum and a copy of a book by May Wharton, M.D., the woman doctor who had been largely responsible for establishing a hospital in nearby Crossville and several satellite rural health clinics, including the one in Ozone. The Andersons brought that book, entitled *Doctor Woman of the Cumberlands*, to Pennswood for me. More importantly, Sharon knew for sure that the building, although unoccupied, was still standing. She gave Bob and Peggy directions to find it.

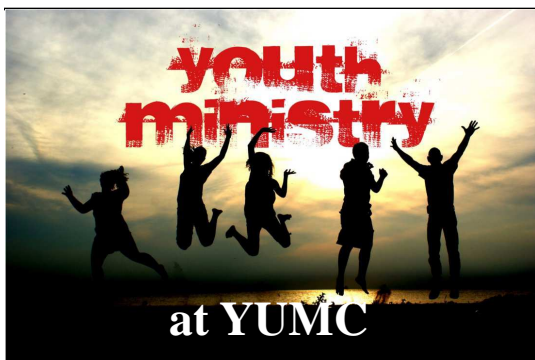
The Andersons found the building and identified it by the cornerstone with the date "1949" clearly inscribed on it. Windows were broken, but the stonework was remarkably intact\*, as shown

*(continued in next column)*

in the photographs they took. Despite a "No trespassing" sign, they went inside. The condition of the interior left no doubt that it had been abandoned for quite some time. Through Sharon Weible they knew that after it no longer served as a clinic, it had been used as a polling place. Eventually it was abandoned. When Bob and Peggy shared their photos with me, I was absolutely certain that it was the building the work campers had constructed 72 years ago. Alice Adshead, for whom the building was named, was a nurse who joined with Dr. Wharton in medical care, in health education, and in establishing the hospital in Crossville (between Pleasant Hill and Ozone), as described in the second half of May Wharton's book.

\*The mortar between stones had no cracks. It looked almost like new, suggesting that it may have been scraped out and re-pointed with new mortar not that long ago.





*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](mailto:denise@yardleyumc.org) or text 267-980-6054



## Mental Health Challenge February 6th-21st

We will run our next Mental Health Challenge in February! This will be for Youth, Young Adults and Adults! This would be a great thing for a family to do together!

If you accept this challenge, you will kick off 14 days of doing something to improve your mental health each day.

Log your activity and at the end of 14 days, send Denise the list of activities you have done. You will earn prizes based on how many days you completed a Mental Health Activity!

Check out the process and sign up:  
[www.yardleyumcyouth.org/mentalhealth](http://www.yardleyumcyouth.org/mentalhealth)  
Questions? See Denise.



## All youth & kids grades 1-12 are invited to join the YUMC Winter Olympics!

We will compete in several games with different skills. This will be "challenge by choice" so you don't have to compete in every game. Cheering on your team can earn you points!

**Opening ceremonies kick off  
Feb. 23. Games continue March 2, 9,  
16.**

Join the fun 5:30-7pm! Youth Group discussion continues until 7:30pm.

The cost is \$4 for pizza dinner.  
Friends are encouraged to join!

We will see YOU at the YUMC Winter Olympics! Let the games begin!

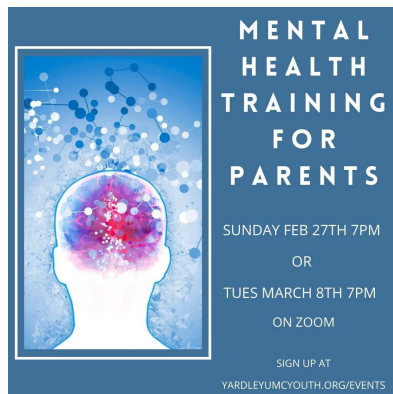
Questions? Kids & Parents contact Christine [cgriffin1126@gmail.com](mailto:cgriffin1126@gmail.com)  
Youth & Parents reach out to Denise [yumcsm@gmail.com](mailto:yumcsm@gmail.com)



## Parent of Young People Mental Health Training Sunday February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm OR Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm on ZOOM

We're facing an urgent mental health crisis among young people in America.

In a 53-page report released last month, the US Surgeon General highlighted that while some young people thrived during the pandemic, worldwide youth anxiety and depression rates that were already high before COVID-19 have doubled in the last year.



Looking specifically at the United States, the rate of anxiety among all ages tripled, and depression almost quadrupled. Approximately half of US young adults ages eighteen to twenty-four have wrestled with anxiety or depression during the pandemic.

If you're a parent of a teenager or twenty-something, you're probably no stranger to this information. You've likely seen the emotions and experiences behind these statistics in your family room and your car's passenger seat as your kid deals with familiar worries about major exams and being left out of social activities, as well as new pandemic-generated fears about social contact, disease, and death.

Parents and interested adults, you are invited to join us for a night of training and discussion.

We will discuss ways to identify a struggling young person, emergency resources available to you and real life tools to create space for honest, safe communication.

We will hold two identical sessions. Both sessions will be held on Zoom to make it accessible to all.

I hope you can join us **Sunday February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm or Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm.**

Please sign up at [Yardleyumcyouth.org/events](https://Yardleyumcyouth.org/events)



## Embracing Friluftsliv!

We learned about this Norwegian word last year and it became our battle cry! Last year, YUMC Youth adopted Friluftsliv: life in the fresh air.

We were outside breathing in fresh air into our lungs, even in the cold!

This year, we continue to see the benefits of meeting outdoors and will continue for the month of February.

Join us as we breathe in the winter air, learn and grow together Wednesday nights!

For the next 4 weeks, YUMC Youth will be discussing "The Big Questions of Faith"

Our topics will be:

WEEK 1: Knowing Jesus changes everything.

WEEK 2: You don't have to prove you're enough.

WEEK 3: You belong here.

WEEK 4: You matter more than you



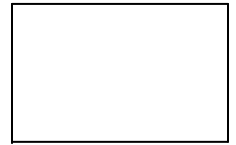








*Tidings of*  
**Yardley United Methodist Church**  
300 Langhorne Road  
Yardley, Pennsylvania 19067



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Every Sunday 9 am Worship in Sanctuary  
11 am Worship on Zoom/Facebook

### **February**

First 3 weeks, Revival Bible study on Zoom, Tues  
6:30 pm, Thurs 1 pm

- 2 Youth Group, 5:30 pm
- 9 Youth Group, 5:30 pm
- 13 Trustees on Zoom, 12:15 pm
- 14 Finance on Zoom, 6 pm
- 16 Youth Group, 5:30 pm
- 21 Administrative Council on Zoom, 6 pm
- 23 God Squad & Youth Group Winter Olympics
- 27 Mental Health Training for parents, 7 pm, Zoom

### **March**

- Every Wednesday Youth Group & God Squad
- 2 Ash Wednesday Service, NUMC, 7:00 pm
  - 5 Tools for Ministry 9-12:30 on Zoom
  - 8 Red Cross Blood Drive, 2-7 pm
  - 8 Mental Health Training for parents, 7 pm, Zoom
  - 13 Trustees on Zoom, 12:15 pm
  - 14 Finance Committee on Zoom, 6 pm
  - 21 Administrative Council on Zoom, 6 pm
  - 21 Newsletter Deadline



**February/March  
2022**