



Tidings

A Newsletter of Yardley United Methodist Church

Volume 20, Issue 7

Yardley, Pennsylvania

Christmas 2020



In-person Worship is Temporarily Suspended

The leadership of the church, after much prayer and discussion, has determined that we need to temporarily suspend the 8:45 am indoor worship service. All of the health and government recommendations are asking us to limit our in-person gatherings. We feel that we should be honoring those recommendations and not encouraging inside worship gatherings. One of the tenants of our Methodist faith is that we "do no harm."

Therefore, we have made the difficult decision that in-person worship will be suspended through the beginning of 2021. We will reevaluate in January and keep you informed. On-line worship will continue on ZOOM and Facebook Live each Sunday at 10:00am. We hope you will join us. Please do not hesitate to call or email us if you have any questions.



Christmas Eve Service will be at 7 pm via ZOOM.

Join us on ZOOM as we celebrate the birth of the Lamb of God. Have a candle ready to light to represent the light of Jesus in our world.



The Angel Tree is back!

We are so gifted here at YUMC that we are looking for ways to share our many blessings. The Angel Tree is one way to help those less fortunate during this challenging holiday season. All the gifts will be donated to Buck County Housing Group. It is simple to donate, you just purchase a \$25 gift card from Target, Walmart, or buy a Visa card and drop it off at the church or mail it to the Church by December 13th.

If you would like to send a check or make a monetary donation to this mission, please write Angel Tree in the memo section.

If you have any questions, please contact Janice Laba or call the church office.



A Christmas Blessing

May love come alive within your heart
As Christmas time draws near.
May hope fill each room you decorate
And bring joy to those you hold dear.
May peace be before you at every meal
And faith ring through every song.
For Christ is alive, the light of the world
May he bless you all season long.

www.lords-prayer-words.com

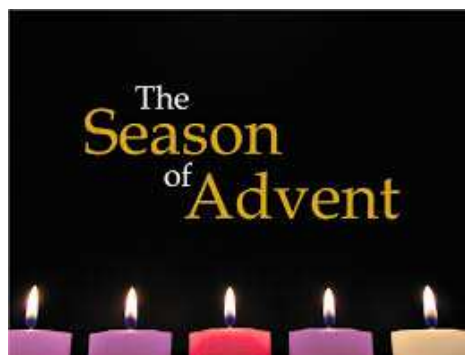
For Those Who Wait

The season of Advent has begun. Christmas is coming! We find ourselves waiting, wondering, and watching as the darkness lingers longer each day. We are told we need to be rejoicing.

How do we rejoice when we are waiting;
in a hospital room
in a prison cell
in a funeral home
in a college dorm room
on the battlefield
at home - unable to get out or around?

When we are waiting;
for news
for the phone to ring
for a job
for money to pay our bills
for a place to live
for a diagnosis
for a relationship to be restored
for a loved one to come home,
for the pain to ease

When we are waiting;
alone
forgotten
scared?



In these Advent days of darkness and waiting, it may indeed seem that God is hidden from us. But Christmas reminds us that God so loved the world that God sent his Son not to condemn the world but to save us, to be with us. During this Advent season, while we wait in the shadows, in the darkness, God's healing presence is with us covering us in grace, tending to our needs and nurturing our spirits sitting with us until we are ready to face the light and a new day. Don't let the fear of the dark rush you... allow time for healing to happen. Sit, wait, and let God attend to you in the extravagant ways that you deserve.

Listen as God calls you beloved.
Feel the arms of mercy envelope you as each tear is wiped from your eye.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Really, really, good.

We sit in the darkness
and we wait
and we rest
and we grow
and we heal.

May your spirit be renewed and refreshed this holiday season.

Pastor Barb

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Sunday Mornings
10:00 a.m. Worship Service on
Zoom and Facebook Live

Birthdays in December



Birthdays in January

04 David Hunt	19 Stephen Griffin
05 Charlotte Sands	19 William Binder IV
06 Linda Rowley	20 Latajia Cox
07 Julianna Griffin	23 Peg Boysen
08 Emilie Croggon	24 Eve Moody
09 Catie Rymer	27 Dave Chassen
10 Sara Carpenter	27 Reagan Ward
14 David Green	27 Miriam Carpenter
14 Christopher Moody	28 Megan Kyle
15 Kim Laba	30 Ginny Lavanish
17 Greg Van Aken	30 Elena Hurni
19 Doris Wilkes	31 Thomas Lefebvre

03 Nellie Rooney	16 Ferdinand Salapong
04 Charlene Bray	21 Margaret Moshinsky
04 Ted Pirog	21 Kim Hart
06 Annelise Zygmunt	22 Hazel Costain
07 Ashlee Smith	23 Ian Croggon
07 Andrew O'Keeffe	26 Charles Guenzel
07 Peter O'Keeffe	27 Kristen Marco
07 Raymond Kooker	27 Chase Marco
10 Dick Jensen	28 Chris Ortolf
11 Erich Kaiser	29 Maureen Kyle
11 Marian Sitko	30 Elizabeth Nunziato
13 Emily Zygmunt	30 Matthew Hurni
14 Connor Reed	
15 Cindi Harris	



Please keep these people in your prayers:

Chuck Condee; Linda Knowles; Caleb Bonilla, friend of Linda Knowles; Katie Seifert, daughter of Keri Vaughan; Jackie Long, mother of Stevilyn Ortiz; Peter, friend of Marsha Snyder & George Isaacson; Christine, daughter of Bob & Nancy Amweg; The family of Albrecht Englert, friend of the Scherer family; Silvio Azzati; Kara Howard, friend of Diane Kreger; Hayley & Magnolia Lower, niece of

Sharon Abbott; Brennan family, friends of Merricks; Mike, friend of Edwards family; Tyler, grandson of Margaret Moshinsky & friend of Edwards family; Papp family, relatives of Quallis family; Dave Mock, brother of Lee Ann Mock; Cassie, friend of Edwards family; Josh, friend of Ruth Logan; Jill Dillard & family; Jean Deitterick; Josh Carty; Michael, friend of Diane Kreger; Jeanette Cole, friend of Jennifer Ehrhardt; Alicia Olmo, friend of Lenore Martin; Kim Schettino's father, Donald Redman; Ryan Thompson, friend of the Grace family; Alice Sidener; Julia Ransom.

God Squad met outside this fall. They are meeting on Wednesday nights by Zoom now that the weather got cold.



Thanks to everyone for all the prayers, cards and well wishes that I received after my fall and necessary surgeries for my broken elbow and hip replacement. The elbow has healed nicely and I am currently in physical therapy for the hip. I truly appreciated all concerns.

Doris McDaniel.





We would like to thank everyone who has continued to support the ministries and missions of YUMC by returning their pledge cards. Knowing what financial resources we can expect during the coming year helps our leadership teams better plan and support the programs and activities that go on both here and within our community. While postponing in-person worship has made weekly donating harder for some people, the financial needs of our church have not gone away. If you've never pledged, or just haven't yet pledged, you can still return your pledge card, visit our website's "Give now" button at www.yardleyumc.org to set up an automatic recurring payment, or you can contact the church at office@yardleyumc.org. Thank you.



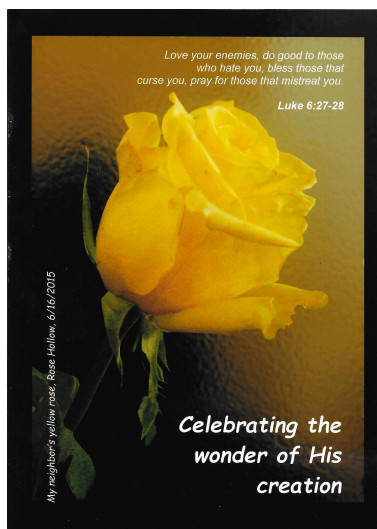
Ginny, former leader of WOW and Peg work on prayer shawls in pre-pandemic days.

New Leader for WOW

Lin Rowley, a long time member of the Weavers of Wellness and professional knitter, has taken over the leadership of the ministry. WOW has not met in person since the pandemic started, but members have been crafting anyway especially since we are all staying home as much as possible.

Even though we have worshiped mostly virtually, WOW still is available to meet your shawl requests. Relatives, friends and colleagues of the congregation are still going through life's challenges along with the Covid 19 threats. If you would like a shawl to provide comfort for someone, please contact Lin at 215-493-9231 or Linrowley@outlook.com

Editor's note: We thank and admire Ginny Lavanish for heading up this ministry for many years.



Celebrating the wonder of His creation

Did you know that more than 20 households start off their week with an email and beautiful photo of God's creation? What a wonderful start to the week! The photos were taken by the late Sig Boysen and shared thanks to Peg Boysen. If you would like to be added to this email list, please email office@yardleyumc.org

The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen Helps Families Celebrate the Holidays

"We are really trying to make this holiday season as cheery as possible – especially in this COVID-19 environment", said Jaime Parker, TASK's Program Manager. For Thanksgiving, TASK provided meals to patrons in several ways: for those who could reach Escher Street, two special meals – wrapped and ready-to-go, were distributed from the front doors. Also, the "Thanksgiving At Home" program, funded by the Geltzer Family Foundation, provided 250 Thanksgiving Dinner Bags to families who were able to prepare their Thanksgiving meal at home. In addition, 65 Thanksgiving baskets were delivered to the homes of patrons in special situations, known to TASK's social workers through their participation in the adult education, work training and arts programs.

In December, TASK will celebrate the holiday season with a meal, wrapped and served from its front doors on Christmas Day. Gifts will be distributed at a later date. To that end, TASK is seeking donations of new and gently used warm clothing, food pantry items, and personal care items for an ever-increasing number of people who are experiencing hunger and food insecurity. New clothing items will be given as gifts; gently-used winter coats and jackets will be placed on "Sandro's Coat Rack" outside of the Soup Kitchen's location on Escher Street and are free to anyone needing one. The coat rack was donated four years ago by Sandro Cunningham, an elementary school student who started collecting coats for TASK when he was 6 years old.

Now that in-person church services are temporarily suspended, donations of the needed items can be left on the front porch at 56 Manor Lane West in Yardley (Joyce Lee's home), just off of Black Rock Road. Members of YUMC's TASK Volunteer Team will transport all donations to the Soup Kitchen.

For questions, or to alert Joyce regarding donations, email joycewlee@aol.com, text her at 215-499-5405, or call 215-295-3940.

These are the items needed:

TASK's Winter Wish List

Holiday and Winter Items: Gloves, scarves, rain ponchos, winter hats/skull caps, sweatshirts/hoodies (sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL)

Hygiene Bags (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, razor)

*When purchasing clothing, men's or unisex items are the most helpful.

Food Pantry Items: Canned Chicken Noodle soup, peanut butter and jelly, spaghetti sauce (no glass jars) coffee, canned beans and vegetables, granola bars and other snack bars.

Personal Care items: Wash cloths, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, disposable razors, shaving cream, bars of soap (Zest and Irish Spring preferred), wallets, nail clippers.

THANK YOU! ... on behalf of TASK and TASK's patrons.



A YUMC church family prepares Hygiene Bags for TASK patrons.

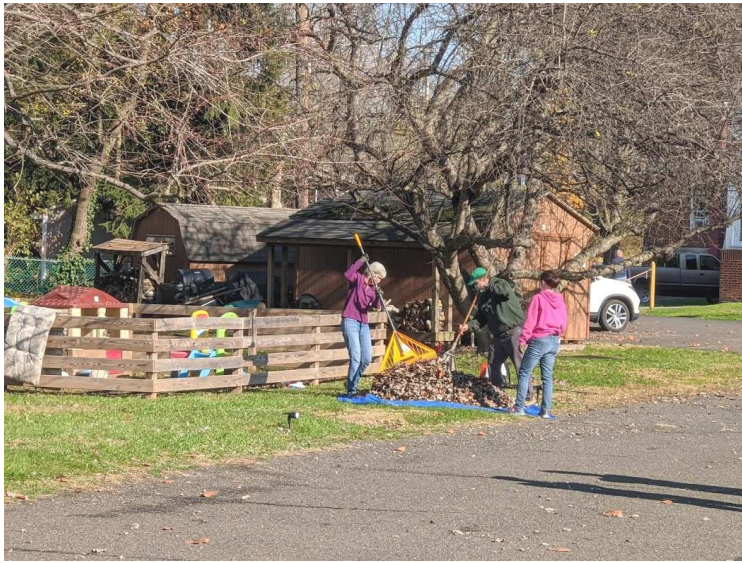


"Sandro's Coat Rack" holds gently-used coats for anyone who needs one.



TASK prepares Thanksgiving meals and hands out soap to patrons.





YUMC friends and staff gathered on November 14th to clean up the leaves around the property. Thank you to all who participated! Many hands made for lighter work.



Ma and Pa Kettle strike a pose! (Pastor Barb and Andy)



Mental Health Challenge



November Challenge Thrown Down....Challenge Accepted

For 16 days in November, youth and adults have participated in the Mental Health Challenge. Their challenge was to do something every day that had a positive impact on their mental health.

For daily support, they were in text groups. Every other day or every 3rd day, we would ask everyone in the group text what they did that day or what they hope to do the next day for their mental health.

If they participated in the challenge, they earned prizes according to how many days they participated.

Over 16 days, we listened to podcasts, did yoga, went for walks, turned off our phones, played games with family and more. It was a valuable experience to be directed daily to think of our own mental health!

Thank you, to everyone that took on the challenge. It wasn't easy. But we all learned and grew in those 16 days.

No doubt, God led us every step of the way. God is Good!

It doesn't need to be an official challenge for you to do something for your mental health.

What can you do today to improve your mental health?

Check out our webpage for some ideas! yardleyumcyouth.org/mentalhealth

Why Would Youth Group Focus on Mental Health?

We believe God created our complex bodies. And when we are healthy, we can grow in our faith and care for others. As we get into the winter months, youth are at risk for increased depression, loneliness and anxiety. We want to give our students and families tools to deal with not just this difficult time, but regular and difficult times in the future. Taking care of our mental health is not something that comes natural to us. It comes with work and daily practice. This challenge gave those who participated tools for a lifetime.

Purpose:

- Help Youth take responsibility for their own mental health.
- Give youth real world ideas of how to understand mental health
- Remind youth that church is a safe place to talk about mental health
- Give youth words to share their emotions

YUMC YOUTH MINISTRY

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? See Denise or any youth leader. Or, email denise@yardleyumc.org

Not sure of dates for events? Check out the calendar on our website at www.yardleyumcyouth.org

Need to sign up for an event? You can go to the youth website at www.yardleyumcyouth.org and click on events.

DEC.12

Christmas Scavenger Hunt and S'mores Night

Families will meet at the church, get assignments and head out!

After an hour, you will return to the church for hot chocolate, s'mores, firepits and telling tales of your hunt.

Spread the fun! Invite a friend!



DEC. 11

Game Night 8-9:30pm

Log on for a fun night of Jack Box games!

Please have a second device to play on if possible.





Even during a
pandemic,
ministry
happens!

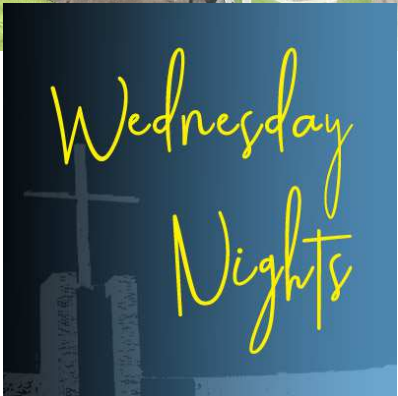




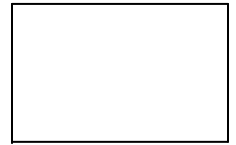
708 pumpkins unloaded!

**\$1,800 raised for youth
missions and showers!**





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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2020

Dear Friends,

You are receiving this newsletter by snail mail because we want to stay in touch with you! Please email or call us if we can be of service to you...prayers, conversation, questions... email office @yardleyumc.org or call 215-493-3345.

Upcoming Events

December

- 2 Youth Group
- 3 God Squad on Zoom
- 4 Books Small Group, 1 pm
- 6 SPRC meeting, 11:15 am
- 7 Finance meeting, 6 pm
- 9 Youth Group
- 10 God Squad on Zoom
- 11 Youth Game Night on Zoom, 8 pm
- 12 Youth Scavenger Hunt & S'mores Night, 7 pm
- 13 Trustees meeting, 11:30 am
- 14 Administrative Council, 6 pm
- 16 Youth Group
- 17 God Squad on Zoom
- 18 Books Small Group
- 24 Christmas Eve on Zoom & Facebook Live, 7 pm