

TUMC WEEKLY NEWS – December 19, 2021

3503 Lincoln Highway, Thorndale, PA 19372

610-384-2433 www.thorndaleumc.org

THORNDALE
Learning
CENTER

*A Christian Preschool where children
experience TLC as they learn and grow.*



On Wednesday, December 15th, Thorndale Learning Center had its First Annual Christmas Program. It was an amazing night. Ensley Toney, in our 3's class, started the program by reciting Matthew 1:21. Then Miss Cheryl narrated the story while the children acted out the story while dressed in costume. Esther Mino was the accompanist as the PreK sang "Joy to the World" and "Away in the

Manager" followed by the 3-year-old class singing "Jingle Bells" and "Jesus in a Manger". All the children were part of the finale singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." After the program we all enjoyed refreshments and fellowship. They all did a marvelous job. We were so proud of all of them. It was truly a wonderful and joyous evening.

We would like to thank all of those who helped make the evening so special. First and foremost, we need to thank all the teachers and assistant teachers for all their hard work, all the friends and family who came to support us, the members of TUMC for coming and showing their support, Esther Mino for playing the piano, Josh Dwyer for all the tech support, Rosemary and Terry Moore for helping with refreshments and clean up, Holly and Daryl Orr for being greeters, Mrs. O (Renay Oberholtzer) for being our costume director, Pastor Shauna for her support, and of course, our Miss Cheryl (Cheryl Faust) for narrating and all the behind the scenes help & support.

All of us here at Thorndale Learning Center wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. Stay safe and healthy and we will see you in 2022!!

The students and staff of Thorndale Learning Center

What a joy for us to host and support the first Christmas Program from our preschool! The seed God planted and nurtured has become a blooming reality. Our Worship Center was full on Wednesday night of families and friends who came to watch our students share the good news of Jesus' birth. It was pure joy! We are so grateful for our Director, Laura Venezia and her staff, Kim Campbell, Susan Ivarone, Pat Donnon, Renay Oberholtzer, and Becky Aaker. The ways in which they love and teach these children is what Christmas is all about! Won't you take a minute or two to drop them a note or card of thanks for all they do? ***Gratefully, Pastor Shauna***



3's at rehearsal.



Part of our PreK class as they first came in. You can see Annamae waving to parents.

Our sweet Mary and Joseph and one of our shepherds. (right)



Our entire PreK class (below).



A message for Advent and Christmas

Pastoral theologian Frederick Buechner described what God said to Job about suffering and calamity: "You don't want to know why things happen. You want to know that I love you."

Job, one of the books in the Bible, describes the story of a man who lost everything but his life. And after losing everything else, he wished he'd lost his life too. Job lost his wealth, his family, his friends, and his health. Left utterly and completely alone, he wanted to go nose to nose, toe to toe with God and ask, "Why? Why did you allow this to happen to me?"

Can you blame Job. Who wouldn't? I haven't lost as much as Job, and I have looked God straight in the eyes and asked, "Why?"

At some level, all of creation is in a Job moment. Disasters, poverty, racism, and a pandemic that has brought the world to a common experience of tragedy and loss. We have lost family, friends, time, identity, health, trust, jobs, interactions with people, innocence, confidence, and the list goes on.

It is not just what an individual has lost, but our communities and their social relationships, family, church school, the neighborhood. People in our networks are all experiencing similar losses. Collectively, we most likely have never globally and collectively known such loss, tragedy, and fear for such a sustained period of time.

You would think people would lose faith, belief in God. Nope. A recent Pew Research study found that people's faith at this moment has not changed because of the pandemic. We cling to the Advent/Christmas story in which God said, *I Love you*.

This faith, this love, this hope does not come easily. It is hard-fought. Just ask Job, or your friend who just lost their mother, or the parents who have been at their wits' end working and engaging children in online learning with not enough room in the house to find a quiet space for an important zoom meeting.

It's hard, and yet, it is worth fighting for because God fought for us. A love greater than we could have imagined came as a whisper in the birth of a child.

During this Advent/Christmas season, don't forget that in the midst of the tragedy and the challenges, you are loved. And don't forget to love someone else. It may be their only means to know that they too are loved by God.

A Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to each of you.

John

Bishop John Schol

The United Methodist of Greater New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania



The INN: "Room with a View"

This Sunday we offer the Light of Love to illumine the Doors of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Love awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There IS room in the Inn, a House for the Holy.

Worship in-person with us at 9:15 am on Sunday mornings or livestreamed on-line via our YouTube channel or anytime afterward. Don't forget to leave comments and let us know where you are worshipping from.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCwKffzSZ9By5sasoPFftNA>



Join us on December 21, the longest night of the year at 6PM for a time of reflection, peace, quiet and candle lighting.

December 24 - Christmas Eve worship

11AM in the Sanctuary or 4PM family worship in the Worship Center.

INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT.



Jesus commands us to make disciples, by teaching and encouraging all to grow in their faith.

- "Our Daily Bread" devotional for December, January and February has come in. They are on the table at the top of the stairs for easy pick-up.
- The "Upper Room" for January/Feb/March has also come in. They are on the table at the top of the stairs for easy pick-up.
- Our Advent small group study, "Bread for Our Journey" is halfway to Bethlehem. Each week is a stand-alone study/discussion so feel free to come and join in when you can. If you would like, bring a bagged lunch. We will share in fellowship and dive deeper into His word. Each week we will start with the scripture. We will then look at the different ways to reflect on the passage and the theme of the week. We will also ponder how that scripture connects us to the world we are living in today. As we journey to Bethlehem, "The City of Bread," we will share in a Love feast, using a different type of bread each week. So come and feast on Jesus, our Bread of Life.

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

*God is the giver of every gift.
Therefore, we will grow in our
generosity to be active in our mission
and ministries through our prayers,
presence, gifts, service, and witness.*



2021 Year-End Giving

Past giving records indicate that many of you have made contributions, as special gifts as the end of year approaches. IRS rules recognize a contribution on the day of delivery. For the contributions to be deductible for 2021, they must meet one of the following criteria:

- By mail: Make sure your check is dated 2021 and postmarked on or before December 31, 2021
- Offering Plate: Included in the late during the service on Sunday, December 26, 2021.
- Hand-Delivery: Received by 2PM on December 30, 2021.
- Online Giving: Utilize our convenient and secure giving option from our website. On-line contributions and credit card contributions that are posted before the end of 2021 count for 2021, even if the credit card bill isn't paid until 2022.
- Stock Transfers, Mutual Funds, Bonds (see related article at end of newsletter).

Tax situations vary. There have been changes in the tax law. We encourage you to consult with our tax or financial advisor regarding any charitable donations or gifts.

THANK YOU for making a difference with your AMAZON smile shopping. It makes a difference with no additional cost to you! We recently received **\$18.60** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation. Know, that **YOU ARE making a difference when you shop at**
smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7408418

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



Our preschool is currently seeking to hire a part-time teacher's assistant for our three-year old class. We are looking for someone with prior preschool experience and prefer the individual to have prior experience as a classroom assistant.

For a more detailed job description or to apply contact Laura Venezia at tlcdirector@thorndaleumc.org. Days are M-T-W-R from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM. Preschool tuition discount is available.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY LIFE

Providing opportunities to build and strengthen relationships within our faith community through communication, collaboration, and accountability.

We received a Christmas card this week from Barbara and Phillip Byers thanking all of us at TUMC for the love and prayers for their family during these hard times. Barb hopes she and her sister Irene will be able to come back soon.



Upcoming December Birthdays:

12/17 – Tim Eaton

12/22 – Ryan Jackson

12/25 – Mary Sweeney

12/30 – Cheryl Faust

12/19 – Jennifer Lafferty

12/23 – Cyndy Weiner

12/26 – Chet Ochar

MEMORIAL SERVICE for Debbie Regener: will take place at Wilde Funeral Home in Parkesburg on Saturday, January 15 at 4PM. Visitation will begin at 3PM.

SHUT-INS:

Listed below are our shut-ins and their mailing addresses if you would like to send them a card.

Onzelle Barber Hickory House, 3120 Horseshoe Pike, Honey Brook, PA 19344


Shirley Hammons Harrison House, Room 224, 300 Strode Avenue, Coatesville, PA 19320

Gretna Crossan Newport Meadows, 41 Newport Avenue, Birch Unit, Rm. 206,
Christiana, PA 17509

Ivan Purcell Regal Heights Healthcare, Room 7A, 6525 Lancaster Pike, Hockessin, DE 19707

Caln Elementary School

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40 NIV

Out reach 

Thank you to everyone for your generosity in providing Christmas gifts for the children at Caln School. We are able to provide gifts for 21 children who otherwise would have a rather bleak Christmas. Gifts will be delivered to the school on Monday.

Our January collection will be pajamas for the children at Caln. Any size pajamas from 4T – 16 are needed. Perhaps you can pick up a pair of jammies at one of those January sales! **Pajamas are due no later than Sunday, January 30.**

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for this ministry.

Holly Orr, Caln School Coordinator

Collection Drive for Afghan Refugees

We continue to be an area collection site for the Afghan Refugee drive. This week we received several truck and carloads of clothing items which will be gathered and taken to Ft. Dix/McGuire bases. **There is a great need for strollers, baby items and school supplies.** At this time, they have asked us to pause on the collection of toys, and especially stuffed animals. With winter approaching, fall/winter coats and other fall and winter items are also in need. Items may be dropped off during office hours or on Sunday morning.



"Always be joyful. Always keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 TLB

Where have you experienced God's presence in your life this week?

Shopping for our Angel tree kids.
Remembrance service at James Terry Funeral Home.
In God's strength and loving arms.
In prayer; in family gatherings and in daily devotionals.

Praise and Thanksgiving:

For relative who came home for holidays before next Air Force posting.
Ken and Kim Kramer's 13th wedding anniversary. Release of the Haitian hostages!
Generosity opens hearts and quiets the mind.
For family and friends.
For safe trip and time with daughter's family.

Traveling Mercies: Mom home from FL All those traveling this holiday season

Surgery: Patrick McLaughlin

Treatment and Tests:

Carl Purcell-chemo & radiation. Nancy McDowell-radiation.
Tom Zynn

Condolences: Michele Orr on the death of her father, Pete Adams.

Regener family.
Mauger family on the death of Dan.

Pray for our Staff: Pastor Shauna

Pray for our Ministry Team: Finance Team: Rosemary Moore, Carol Barnes, Pete Scotti, Dave Davis.

Pray for all of our students and their families during their Christmas break.

Pray for our Outreach Ministries: CYWA

Other:

For us to be able to grow our family.	Staffing needs in TLC.
Dennis's retirement and birthday on 12/17.	Victims of mid-west tornados
For sale of house.	Ivan & Carl Purcell
Marg Dwyer-on hospice	
Karen Flowers – proper diagnosis and treatment for her cardiac and kidney problems.	
Young people-Chris Kramer, Mike Kramer, Sarah, and Katy Hanks and Leah Blackburn may all come to the table.	

Healing

Aunt Anne-Hip fracture	Matt Scott	Robin
Chuck M. (Holly's cousin)	Dan D.	Michelle C.
Larry's 1 st eye surgery	Meg H.	Lois M.
Dennis' hip pain	Judi A.	Sarah Hanks-wisdom teeth
Carl Purcell	Helen Pennell	Lee & Shirley Carroll
Doris Kramer	Elaine Lynch	Dave & Kay Norrbom
For our country	For the UMC	Tom Zynn
Our District Superintendent's mother, Beatrice hospitalized.		

Christmas Poinsettias

Thank you to all who purchased poinsettias this year.

Katherine and Norman Beale

By: The Beale, Almond, Selvey and Johnson families

Tom Gibbons, Christine Baker and Lewis Hiserote

By: Susan and Harley Baker

Alma and Pearl Beavers and Evelyn Gibson

By: Larry and Patsy Beavers

Vickie Davis, Allen Davis Sr, Allen Davis Jr., and Dorothy Davis

By: Dave and Sue Davis

Ken and Nancy Bell and Jeff Babb

By: David and Sally Dwyer

Bob Mercer, Ken and Eloise Hopton

By: The Hopton families

Otto Munzenmayer and Pearl Speakman

By: Linda Munzenmayer and family

Given in Loving Memory of:

Robert and Loretta Hanks, Lynn Kramer, and Frani Testa

By: Ken and Kim Kramer

Loved Ones

By: Daryl and Holly Orr

Loved Ones

Bobbie Polovina

Loved Ones

John and Ruth Smith

(Discretionary Fund contribution)

Given in Honor of:

Lyle and Leone Norrbom

By: Dave and Sue Davis

Jim and Laura Arndt

Dot Johnson

Esther Mino

Bobbie Polovina

Mary Sweeney on her birthday (Dec 25)

By: David and Sally Dwyer



year-end is a time for giving

CASH GIFTS

A cash gift in any amount is a convenient and popular way to show your faithful support for the church or other ministries. The full amount of your gift qualifies for a 2021 charitable income tax deduction - up to 50% of your adjusted gross income. Make certain check is dated 2021 and received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2021, to receive a deduction this year.

GIVING APPRECIATED PROPERTY

If you own investments that have increased in value (stocks, bonds, real estate, or mutual funds), you can donate them to a church or charity and take a charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value and avoid declaring the capital gain of the assets as income. Many people consider this the equivalent of a "double deduction."

SALE & GIFT		DIRECT GIFT	
Stock with fair market value (Cost basis \$200)	\$1000	Stock with fair market value (Cost basis \$200)	\$1000
Taxable Gain on Sale	\$800	Taxable Gain on Sale	\$0
Capital Gain Tax @ 15%	\$120	Capital Gain Tax @ 15%	\$0
Net Sales after Tax	\$880	Net Gift to Charity	\$1000
Charitable Tax Deduction	\$880	Charitable Tax Deduction	\$1000
Tax Savings @ 25%	\$220	Tax Savings @ 25%	\$30

Notice how the Direct Gift option can result in the church or charity receiving \$120 more while costing you \$30 less! To receive this special tax treatment, you must have owned the property for at least one year. In most cases, your gift can be deducted up to 60% of your adjusted gross income.

GIVING & RETAINING INCOME FOR LIFE

Did you know you can give to a charity while retaining income from the gift for the rest of your life? A charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust enables you to receive flexible or guaranteed income. Plus, there are significant tax advantages. Let's assume you are 70 years old, single, and wish to make a \$10,000 gift to the church when you are gone but need to receive income until then. You can make the gift now and receive

several attractive benefits. First, you could receive income that exceeds what you are currently earning on the \$10,000. At age 70 with an annuity rate of 4.7%* of the \$10,000 each year through a gift annuity (\$470) - greater than most bonds or C.D.s. Next, a portion of the \$470 annual annuity may be tax-free over your life expectancy. Finally, you could receive a 2021 charitable income tax deduction for the remainder portion of your gift. This deduction can save you a sizable amount in federal income taxes. Making a life-income gift now offers all these advantages and provides the satisfaction of knowing you have helped your church or charitable organization in a significant way. **The United Methodist Foundation that serves your conference can help you with these types of gifts.** Visit www.naumf.org/locations to find contact information for your UMF Foundation.

GIVING UNNEEDED LIFE INSURANCE

Do you own an old life insurance policy that is no longer needed? Perhaps the purpose for the policy no longer exists (your children are grown or your mortgage is paid off) or your financial situation has changed and mitigates the need for the insurance. Consider giving the policy to the church or a charity and receive a charitable income tax deduction for the lesser of your cost basis or the replacement value. This is a great way to benefit a cause you support without reducing your checking account. If the value is more than you wish to donate, consider cashing in the policy and giving a lesser portion. Your gift may sufficiently reduce or eliminate any potential taxes due from the sale.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

As you think of those special persons (a teacher, pastor, relative or other loved one) who have touched your life, you may want to do something "just right" to demonstrate that they are remembered. A memorial tribute can be a satisfying way to salute those whose memories continue to enrich our lives.

WISE TAX PLANNING

Making extra gifts or accelerating future gifts into the 2021 tax year can enable an itemized income tax deduction. The standard deduction threshold for 2021 is \$25,100 for joint filers, \$18,500 and \$12,500 for singles (\$1650/person 65+, \$2600 if joint return, \$1,650 if unmarried). If your total deductions are less than those amounts, you won't be able to deduct any charitable gifts. An extra year-end gift may add just enough to allow you to take advantage of your full itemized deduction. Many tax-wise donors accelerate contributions for the coming year to enable itemization at least every other year.

EXPRESSING YOUR FAITH

Year-end is also the Christmas season. For many Christians this is an occasion to give in gratitude for God's greatest gift to us, Jesus Christ. In all our giving, let us never forget these familiar words, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son..." Why not make a special effort to honor Him in your giving this Christmas season - perhaps most important gift you give? May God bless you as you make this expression of your faith.