

THE FRIENDLY VOICE

NOVEMBER 2017



LANGHORNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

301 E. Maple Ave.,

Langhorne, PA 19047

(215) 757-4984

lumc-online.org

A Note from your Pastor, Rev. Laurie J. Pfahler...

Greetings in the Name of the Son, For Whom We Are Truly Grateful!!

*“Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers’ arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.”*



The month of November generally has four days we set aside to observe: All Saints Day; Election Day; Veterans’ Day; and, of course, Thanksgiving Day. Other lesser known days in November include World Community Day; International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church; Bible Sunday along with National Bible Week; and a couple of United Methodist days of observance – Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday, and United Methodist Student Sunday. Not to mention all the days, “official” or not, that we hear about via social and news media, like National Clean-Out-Your-Refrigerator Day, and yes, even National Pizza-With-the-Works-Except-Anchovies Day. And then there is the day known as “Black Friday...”

Sadly, folks may tend to remember the latter three days because of personal relevance, and forget the others of social and faith based importance. And how many of you know that the entire month of November is Native American Heritage Month?

And in the short time it took for you to read thus far, your mind is probably focused on things other than giving thanks to God, despite the fact that I started my note with gratitude for Christ and our thanks for blessings from God. We are so easily distracted...

Personal relevance - - What do we allow in this world to stimulate our minds and senses to the point of distraction? What takes us away from the moral, the ethical, the spiritual, the loving of our neighbor, and the loving of our God? It has to do with personal relevance. If cleaning is relevant to you, “your thing,” then a day devoted to cleaning out the refrigerator may not be a bad thing to set aside a day for. And heaven KNOWS I am all for enjoying what God has given us, and having fun along the way with the occasional pizza, but I have to remember to thank God for the gift; and to still love God and neighbor in all I say and do. Some people say “Laurie! You think and worry too much!!” What is “too much” for the building of the kingdom and staying accountable and right with God?

I worry about the relevance Black Friday has in the lives of many people. I worry about what relevance, what meaning Thanksgiving Day has for many people and families. I worry about the relevance of God in the world.

But then, I remember that God is IN the world. And where there is God, there is hope...

- ♥ ...hope for people to open their hearts and take personal inventories of what they think is relevant in their lives now, and what needs to be relevant for a truly better life with Jesus Christ here on earth and in the kingdom.
- ♥ ...hope for people with opening hearts learning to know from whom all things come, and to actively praise and thank God for all His blessings past, present, and future.
- ♥ ...hope for all that someday they will understand and know what it is to love and to be loved by their neighbors, and to love and be loved by God.

Hope exists because of the love of Jesus Christ in each of us. I thank God for all of you who are faithful and share in Christ’s mission as we extend ourselves as the body of Jesus Christ to others. And in so doing, we extend God’s hand of hope for the world.

I also thank God for you who may not be faithful, because in you there are amazing seeds of hope! To watch them burst open and give you incredible joy in Christ and God’s grace is such a blessing to me and a tremendous celebration for all of heaven!

Beloved, take time this Thanksgiving and ALL month to look around you and within you: evaluate what is truly relevant for your spiritual life with Christ and what is not. Allow your heart to open wide to truly see and feel the MANY gifts of God before us and in us; and lift high your thanksgivings “with heart and hands and voices!” And after you have thanked God, thank each other. For ALL have gifts from God they have shared with you. Love God; love your neighbors.

For further thought, read

Luke 17:11-19

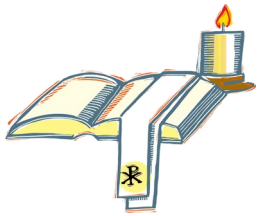
With love, and MANY THANKS to YOU and God,

Laurie, your pastor.



¹ [Now Thank We All Our God](#); United Methodist Hymnal #102; ©1989 United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville TN; verse 1

² <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/november/>



November 2017 Sanctuary Servants



November 5

Worship Assistant, 9:30.....Ron Cookson
 Greeters, 9:30.....Rita & Chris Cresswell
 Ushers, 9:30.....Rowlands & Stockburgers
 Contemporary Assistants, 11:00Daeche Family

November 12

Worship Assistant, 9:30.....Barbara Jordan
 Greeters, 9:30Paul & Jackie Hansen
 Ushers, 9:30Vince Belmont & Carol Nielsen
 Contemporary Assistants, 11:00.....

November 19

Worship Assistant, 9:30.....Dolores Chemey
 Greeters, 9:30.....Stan & Connie Dettman
 Ushers 9:30Joe & Helen McDonald
 Contemporary Assistants, 11:00 Boyle Family

November 26

Worship Assistant, 9:30.....Jerry Hill
 Greeters, 9:30.....Vince Belmont & Carol Nielsen
 Ushers 9:30Paul & Jackie Hansen
 Contemporary Assistants, 11:00Letham Family



Rev. Laurie J. Pfahler, Pastor
Langhorne United Methodist Church

Greetings in the Name of All That is Good and Holy!

I am Laurie, your pastor here at Langhorne United Methodist Church.

My roots, though, are in the United Methodist (UM) Camping Ministry. I started my ministry in the two United Methodist camps in New Jersey for close to twenty years, with one summer in a Presbyterian camp. After spending time in the southern New Jersey UM camp, I moved to Pennsylvania to be camp director of a special needs camp. But the call back to ministry was great. I later returned to Drew Theological School to finish my Master's of Divinity degree, and worked at Phoenixville First UMC as Christian Education Director until I was appointed to two United Methodist churches in Pottstown as their pastor. From there, I was appointed here to Langhorne to serve as your pastor, July 1, 2017.

On a more personal note, I am passionate about honoring and acknowledging God's presence and love in all of creation, human and non-human. It brings me joy to work with people and to be in nature; finding God in all places; or being reminded that God is there by God's constant movement in and through all things, animals, and people. I am passionate about the love God has for me.

I am passionate about sharing that love of God with you...

Peace always with Christ; Grace always with God; Love always with Each Other.

In that Peace, Grace, and Love,

Laurie

Rev. Laurie J. Pfahler, Pastor
Langhorne United Methodist Church
laurie@langhornechurch.org
Education:
BA Pre-professional Biology, Kean College of NJ (now Kean University)
BS Recreation & Leisure Services Mgt, Outdoor Park & Recr., East Stroudsburg University of PA
M of Divinity, Drew Theological School, Drew University of NJ



Langhorne United Methodist Church

What is your favorite bible verse and why?

I don't have one favorite, but a top one is Luke 2:8-20. (This answer was turning into a sermon... LOL!! I have started over three times!! A summary doesn't do it justice.) Suffice it to say it is the first declaration that Jesus IS the Messiah by the angel of the Lord to very common every people... shepherds were told of the arrival of the ultimate shepherd. And with him is ushered in a new era of hope and justice and peace and love. And, like Mary, this news, this story is taken to my heart and treasured and pondered.

What is your favorite Hymn or Christian song?

Many I really like, but no one favorite. A few of the top ones are "Be Thou My Vision," "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus," "Just as I Am Without One Plea," "Blessed Assurance," "He Lives,"... and most of the Christmas carols

What are your hobbies or interests?

Camping; canoeing; day hiking; picnicking; board/table games; jigsaw puzzles; cross stitch; learning to crochet; baking; music; museums (art, natural history, history, etc.); American colonial historic villages and sites; movies;...

What would be your "Jeopardy Fact" – an unusual fact?

I drives a stick shift

If you could visit anywhere in the world that you have not been to where would you go?

Atlantis (no joke!)

What is your favorite Thanksgiving Day food?

My Dad's mashed potatoes. There are none like them anywhere.



HARVEST HOME SUNDAY

Harvest Home Sunday is November 19th. For many years our church has celebrated Harvest Home Sunday with a food drive. We have been able to help numerous local families and our bags have been donated to Local Food Banks. The need is still with us to help people. We need to ask for your generosity to support this.. Please fill your bags and bring them back to the church by November 19th. For anyone who doesn't like to shop we will take cash donations and do the shopping for you.



Help LUMC earn up to 15% this holiday season!

Purchase gift cards from Langhorne United Methodist Church at face value; the church purchases the gift card at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate to the church. It's really that simple!

When you spend the gift cards at your favorite retailers, you're fundraising while you shop. Over 300 of the country's biggest brands, including grocery, department stores, gas stations to pay for your normal weekly purchases or give as gifts this holiday season.

Gift cards will be sold primarily on a presold basis. Only a limited number of cards will be available for purchase without being preordered. Gift card orders can be picked up the Sunday after you place your order. You can start placing your orders October 29th!

Order forms are available at the gift card table, at the church office or on the LUMC website (<http://www.lumc-online.org/>). For the full list of retailers available go to <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/>. Orders can be paid for using cash or by checks made out to LUMC.

For more information contact Jackie Hansen; jhansen597a@hotmail.com or call 215-932-1594.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2nd Tuesday every month - 7:00 P.M. – Fellowship Hall

Please join us for our United Methodist Women's meeting on Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

We are gathering for faith and fellowship, sharing a scripture devotion. We will also discuss next years themes.

Everyone is welcome to come to relax in a fun fellowship time!



THANK YOU TO UNITED METHODIST WOMEN FOR HELPING THE HURRICANE VICTIMS

Thank you United Methodist Women members for your donations of paper, scissors, rulers, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, and crayons for the UMCOR School Relief Kits. These donations made it possible for our first grade class at Pearl S. Buck Elementary School to assemble 45 kits, which UMCOR will direct towards the areas of Texas, Florida, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico which were recently devastated by hurricanes.

We would also like to thank Lyn Wallace for sewing the wonderful bags in which the kits are assembled.

The students were excited to be able to help those impacted by the storms. Here are some of the comments from the students:

“Hurricanes are terrible storms, but don’t worry, we have help on the way!” – Julius

“It’s neat to think that I can help other kids.” – Brooke

Thank you again for your donations toward this special project.

Sincerely,

Leanne Raab

Pearl S. Buck Elementary



LIVING NATIVITY UPDATE

Louise and Ron Cookson have volunteered to be the coordinators for the Living Nativity. We would like to thank all those who have come forward to volunteer and help with this Wonderful Ministry.

Anyone that would like to volunteer to be part of the nativity or work inside helping the characters change etc. Please see Louise or Ron Cookson or give the church office a call.

Anyone who would like to donate to this ministry in order that we can keep it up and running every year may do so by placing your donations in the donation box at the back of the Sanctuary.



NEED FIREWOOD?

There is still wood in the back of the parking lot from some trees that were removed from the front of the church. Any one who would like some wood is welcome to take it from this pile. We are asking for a donation, which will be used to restore the area where the trees have been removed. The donation can be sent to the church secretary, please mark checks "for tree restoration."



The 2017 Christmas Festival will be held on **Sunday December 3**. The program will once again feature a 20 to 25 piece band made up of church members with Tri-County Band members filling out the sections. The Christmas Band is a special time of Christian fellowship and fun that is enjoyable for all who participate. Those interested in participating in the band should complete the sign-up form or contact Dale Habel at 215-357-5697. It is important to know the make up of the band by November 26 so that sections can be completed and music folders assembled. Vocal selections will be performed by various groups from the church. Those performing will have diner at 5:00 pm followed by a band rehearsal until about 6:45 pm. The Festival program will begin around 6:45pm. All members of our congregation are invited to the family fun evening which will include the singing of many familiar Christmas carols.

Band Members Wanted

To reserve a seat in the Christmas Festival Band please complete the form below and return it to the church office no later than November 26. Please bring your own instrument and music stand. Dress is casual.

Name of Band Member: _____

Instrument: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Order Your
Poinsettias



**CHRISTMAS
POINSETTIAS
2017**

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

By: _____

Phone/Email: _____

I would like to order Poinsettias (6" pot; 4-6 flowers) @ \$9.00 ea.

(indicate # of each type):

____ Red

____ White

____ Pink



Total # Poinsettias: _____ x \$9.00 ea. = \$ _____

I will pick up my poinsettia(s) on Christmas Eve:

____ After the 5 p.m. Contemporary Service

____ After the 7 p.m. Children's Service

____ After the 9 p.m. Service

All order forms along with payment must be received in the church office by

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Please do not put your order form in the offering plate where it may get overlooked; put it in the Secretary's mailbox or mail your order form and payment to the church Office. Thank You.



All across the nation, churches are gearing up for another Angel Tree® Christmas season and so are we. We have registered again this year with the intent of providing a special Christmas for 20 children in our area who have an incarcerated parent.

The Angel Tree ministry here at Langhorne United Methodist Church **GOES BEYOND CHRISTMAS.**

A Program of Prison Fellowship For the past three Christmases we have helped brighten the lives of local children of incarcerated parents through Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship®. The Christmas component of the ministry encompasses the purchasing, wrapping, and delivering gifts to prisoners' children on their parents' behalf. This delivers not only a message of love from parent to child, but also the true meaning of Christmas—the Good News of Jesus Christ.

But the Angel Tree ministry doesn't end with Christmas. For us, that first Christmas connection was the beginning of a rewarding, ongoing relationship with these children and their families. We have been working on continuing our Angel Tree ministry throughout the year and asking God to use our church to help these children and their families grow in their faith, strengthen their family relationships, and fulfill the purposes that God has for their lives.

We have opportunity to reach out to these families and embrace them in the life of our church. I would like to explore these opportunities with you in person. Join Becky Remillard (bremy26@yahoo.com / (215) 920-3344) and myself as we kick off year four of our Angel Tree Ministry here at Langhorne UMC. I'd love to hear your ideas on how we might connect further with the children and their caregivers.

Pray for the kids to come to know the Lord and for believers to be there to support, disciple, and follow up with these kids until their parent returns home.



I'm interested in becoming an active instrument of God by participating in the **ANGEL TREE** ministry of Langhorne United Methodist Church.

Bill Bryan, Church Coordinator

bill@langhornechurch.org / 215-847-2130

A Program of Prison Fellowship

Name _____

Email _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| _____ Child's Xmas Gift Purchase | _____ Inmate Correspondence (M / F) |
| _____ Caregiver Encourager | _____ Child's Prayer Aunt/Uncle |
| _____ Ministry Prayer Warrior | _____ Contact me when a need arises and I'll help i |

Check all of interest to you or share your own idea _____

SPONSORED BY WOODSIDE CHURCH, CLPRM
AND ADDICTIONS VICTORIOUS



Fall Recovery Worship Service & Luncheon

For those in recovery and
all who support them

Sunday, November 19 @ 12:30pm

What:

Featuring worship by Dave Pettigrew
Lunch follows the service // All are welcome

Where:

Woodside Church // 1667 Edgewood Rd, Yardley PA

Questions:

Contact Scott Burgess 215/359-5541

November 12, 2017 - Organ Donation Sunday | National Donor Sabbath

What is the United Methodist view on organ donation?

United Methodists take a very proactive stand to encourage organ donation. Our Social Principles state:

"We believe that organ transplantation and organ donation are acts of charity, agape love, and self-sacrifice. We recognize the life-giving benefits of organ and other tissue donation and encourage all people of faith to become organ and tissue donors as a part of their love and ministry to others in need. We urge that it be done in an environment of respect for deceased and living donors and for the benefit of the recipients, and following protocols that carefully prevent abuse to donors and their families. " ¶ 162 (W)).

As a way to embody this stand in our corporate worship life, General Conference 2000 urged all United Methodist congregations to celebrate "Organ Donation Sunday" on the second Sunday prior to Thanksgiving week, which is recognized in interfaith circles in the U.S. as "National Donor Sabbath." (See Book of Resolutions 2012, pp. 439-440).



Our Church Finances
Finance Committee, Chuck Boyle, Chairperson
September 2017

In the month of September our revenue fell below expectations because of the general offering coming in \$2,100 less than what we had budgeted for the month but on the expense side we exceeded expectations for the month by spending \$5,000 less than our budget. The year-to-date financial picture continues to be positive. Our revenues are ahead of expectations and our operating expenses are below expectations. Our bottom line is showing a small gain. Typically at this time of the year we carry a significant negative bottom line, but this year we are doing much better. Thanks go out to our loving congregation. This picture could change, but for now we are looking financially stable.

For the year-to-date on the revenue side our total revenues equaled \$233,600, which is \$1,600 above our budget, which is good. The major differences between our budget and actual revenue are noted below:

1. Total offerings are over budget by \$4,100. The main reason for this was a generous and much appreciated offering of \$6,000. Please keep in mind that large offerings like this cannot be counted on every month.
2. The Wednesday night dinners have generated \$1,200 more than what was budgeted.
3. Investment returns from the McKay Fund are \$1,400 less than budget. We have checked with the Trustees and they confirmed that there have not been any changes in the way this fund is invested. This may be a reflection of over budgeting a bit.
4. Facility usage fees are \$1,000 below budget. This is due to a lack of use of our church for weddings, personal gatherings, etc.
5. Fellowship and refreshment giving is \$300 less than budgeted.
6. Gifting for the altar flowers is \$300 less than budgeted.
7. Sunday school offering is \$300 less than budgeted.

On the expense side for the year we reported total expense of \$232,500, which is \$21,000 under budget. The major differences between our budget and actual expenses are noted below:

1. The Missions Conference was not held this year resulting in a \$600 reduction in expense.
2. Our previous Youth Director volunteered to generously donate his services to our church and we had no compensation expense over the summer as the SPRC worked on filling this valued staff position, resulting in a savings of \$7,400.
3. Utility expenses are currently \$7,500 below our budget.
4. Pastor compensation is \$5,700 less than budget due to the change in leadership.
5. Church secretary compensation is \$400 less than budget.
6. Social security tax expense is \$600 less than budget due to a decrease in total staff compensation expense.
7. Altar flower expense is \$200 more than budget.
8. Moving expenses for Pastor John were \$800, which was not in our budget.

9. Payments made to the Methodist Conference are \$500 less than budget because of the change pastors.

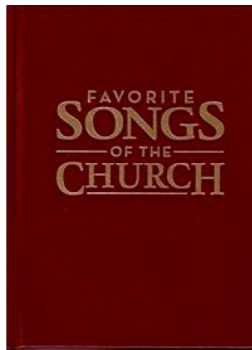
This leaves us with a year to date net operating gain of \$1,100. This is good as we had budgeted a loss of \$21,500 for this period. This small bottom line gain should hold through the rest of this year if we continue to control our expenditures and catch up on the offerings that were missed over the summer when many of us were away.

As of the end of September we have \$51,200 in the L.U.M.C. general fund. This is the financial cushion that we need to move forward. Our cash position has decreased over the summer because of our offerings decreasing.

The Reserve Giving Fund continues to grow nicely thanks to our congregation. As of the end of August the balance in this fund is \$8,400.

If any member of the church would like to receive a copy of the church's full financial reports please place a note in the finance committee mail box outside of the secretary's office.

LANGHORNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH				
Budget vs. Actuals: 2016 Budget - FY16 P&L				
January - September, 2017				
	Total			
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
Revenue				
4100 Income	233,642.93	232,054.00	1,588.93	100.68%
Total Revenue	\$ 233,642.93	\$ 232,054.00	\$ 1,588.93	100.68%
Gross Profit	\$ 233,642.93	\$ 232,054.00	\$ 1,588.93	100.68%
Expenditures				
5100 Administrative Board	21,025.08	21,566.00	-540.92	97.49%
5200 Council on Ministries	7,496.59	7,886.00	-389.41	95.06%
5700 Staff Parish Relations	136,290.30	150,172.00	-13,881.70	90.76%
5800 Trustees	61,563.67	68,647.00	-7,083.33	89.68%
5900 Business Operations	6,174.70	5,267.00	907.70	117.23%
Total Expenditures	\$ 232,550.34	\$ 253,538.00	-\$ 20,987.66	91.72%
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 1,092.59	-\$ 21,484.00	\$ 22,576.59	-5.09%



Do you know your hymns? I hope these make you smile) !

Dentist's Hymn – Crown Him with Many Crowns

Weatherman's Hymn – There Shall Be Showers of Blessings

Contractor's Hymn – The Church's One Foundation

The Tailor's Hymn – Holy, Holy, Holy

The Golfer's Hymn – There's a Green Hill Far Away

The Politician's Hymn – Standing on the Promises

Optometrist's Hymn – Open My Eyes That I Might See

The IRS Agent's Hymn – I Surrender All

The Gossip's Hymn – Pass It On

The Electrician's Hymn – Send The Light

The Shopper's Hymn – Sweet Bye and Bye

The Realtor's Hymn – I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop

The Massage Therapists Hymn – He Touched Me

The Doctor's Hymn – The Great Physician

And for those who speed on the highway – a few hymns:

45 mph – God Will Take Care of You

65 mph – Nearer My God to Thee

85 mph – This World Is Not My Home

95 mph – Lord, I'm Coming Home

100 mph – Precious Memories

The Kids' Page!!

**Always thank God for everything we have
every single day!!**



print.color.fun!

LET'S REMEMBER OUR SENIORS BY SENDING THEM BIRTHDAY CARDS!

11/4 **Larry Danas**
635 Jefferson Ave.
Langhorne, PA 19047



11/6 **Cheryl Fryer**
401 Station Avenue
Langhorne, PA 19047



11/8 **Bob Stott**
31 Bluebonnet Road
Langhorne, PA 19047

11/11 **Vince Belmont**
18 Hamlet Road
Levittown, PA 19056



11/14 **Dolores Chemey**
288 Maple Point Drive
Langhorne, PA. 19047

11/17 **Peggy Hacker**
290 E. Winchester Ave.
#314Y
Langhorne, PA 19047



11/20 **Joan Rooth**
164 Trenton Road
Langhorne, PA 19047

Langhorne United Methodist Church

301 East Maple Ave., Langhorne PA , (215) 757-4984

lumc-online.org

Rev. Laurie J. Pfahler

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP!

Sunday Worship Hours:

9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10 -11:00 a.m. - Adult Sunday School *

11- 12:00 a.m. - Adult Sunday School *

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

*2 Adult Sunday School Classes being held pick which time is best for you.



Laurie J. Pfahler, Pastor, laurie@langhornechurch.org

Bill Bryan, Director of Congregational Care, bill@langhornechurch.org

Erika Paton Lay Leader, jerp1968@verizon.net

Church Secretaries, church@langhornechurch.org

Donna Goodwin (Mon.-Wed.) Carol Nielsen (Thur-Fri.)

Anthony Vigile, Contemporary Worship Leader, Anthony@langhornechurch.org

Kerry Fenton, Organist, Kerry@langhornechurch.org

Amy Hansen, Treasurer, amy@langhornechurch.org

Hugh Green, Youth Director, Hugh@langhornechurch.org

Mark Letham, Christ Servant Minister, mrletham@comcast.net

Kim Stockberger, Bell Choir Director, Gs5th@comcast.net

Kurt Tommuscheit, Sexton