

*** THIS WEEK AT LEESBURG UMC ***

Sunday 12/11/11

Christmas Pageant
Newsletter items due
8:15 AM Traditional Worship
9:00 AM Children's choir (choir room)
9:00 AM Pageant reading (red)
9:45 AM Sunday School (Asb, EdBldg)
9:45 AM Praise Worship
11:00 AM SH youth band (AG2)
11:00 AM Traditional Worship
4:00 PM FPU (Wes)
5:00 PM Youth Christmas Party (AG)

Monday 12/12/11

7:00 PM Troop 998 adults (red room)
7:00 PM Troop 998 (Asb, 3 clsm)
7:00 PM Stephen Ministry (Wes)

Tuesday 12/13/11

10:00 AM LUMC staff meeting (Libr)
6:30 PM FPU preview (AG)
7:00 PM Heavenly ringers (Sanc)
7:00 PM AA Literature meeting (Wes)
7:00 PM Adult discipleship team (parl)

Wednesday 12/14/11

10:00 AM LUMP music (Asb)
7:00 PM Baptism preparation (Parl)
7:00 PM Chancel choir (choir, Sanc)
7:00 PM Library Comm (Libr)
7:00 PM Boy Scout Roundtable (Asb, Wes, grn & red rms)

Thursday 12/15/11

8:30 AM Play Day Thursday (nursery)
10:00 AM LUMP music (Asb)
12:00 PM Senior Luncheon (Asb)
12:15 PM LUMP music (Wes)
7:00 PM SPRC (Parl)
7:30 PM Chorus Old Dominion (Asb)
7:30 PM Praise Team (Sanc)

Friday 12/16/11

11:00 AM Overeaters Anon (Parl)
5:00 PM Pasck 982 lockin (Asb)
6:30 PM Fife & Drum (Wes, classroom)

Saturday 12/17/11

9:00 AM OA (Parl)
10:00 AM SLA 12-step group (Parl)

Sunday 12/18/11

8:15 AM Traditional Worship: Cantata, "Tapestry of Light"
9:45 AM Praise Worship: Cantata, "Songs of Praise"
9:45 AM Sunday School (Asb, EdBldg)
11:00 AM Traditional Worship: Cantata, "Tapestry of Light"
12:30 PM Angel Ringers (Sanc)
4:00 PM Birthday Party for Jesus (AG1&2)
6:00 PM Club 45 party (AG)

Special Worship for Advent:

Sunday 12/18/11

8:15 AM & 11:00 AM *Christmas Cantata: "Tapestry of Light"* (combined LUMC Chancel Choir and Harmony UMC choir)
9:45 AM *Christmas Cantata: "Songs of Praise"* (Raising Praise)

Our Prayers

Healing: Harry & Anna Hough, Dick Hammond, John Laycock, Clayton Mallery, Ginny Moore, Jim Tiffany, Shon Jerry, Vicky Weaver, Sarah Klein

Military & non-military personnel serving overseas, especially Scott Lewis whose unit is in Afghanistan, and Don Lew, Jr.

Congratulations: to the Becek family. Victoria Brynne was borne on Dec. 6; mom and baby are doing well!

CHECK THE CALENDAR!

LUMC facilities get a lot more use than you may be aware of. If you want to have an unscheduled meeting – especially in Wesley or Asbury halls – please check the weekly calendar posted by the office door before you get started. To schedule a room, please call or email Linda Stoutenburgh in the church office. 703-777-2056, office@leesburgumc.org

December 11, 2011

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LUMC4Life—We're downtown and all around!
"The mission of LUMC is to make disciples who live transformed lives, and influence their generation and the next with God's love!"



Ministries

► RECONNECT SUNDAY: SAVE THE DATE!

January 8th, 2012 is Reconnect Sunday. Join us in Asbury Hall between 7:30 and 11:00 for breakfast, meet some new people and find where you will fit in! Representatives from the various LUMC ministries will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. For information or questions, please contact Laura van Leliveld at laura@leesburgumc.org.

► PLAY DAY THURSDAY VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We are looking for a volunteer to assist with the Play Day Thursday ministry. Play Day Thursday is held the first and third Thursdays of every month from 8:30 – 11:30am in the Nursery. Caregivers of children under the age of 3 are able to drop the children off and enjoy a morning out, the new volunteer would join Celesta Miller and Margrit Snyder in caring for the up to 6 children that sign up. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Laura van Leliveld at laura@leesburgumc.org.

► FINANCIAL PEACE

Financial Peace University dates have been set for January! We will be starting the next session on Tuesday, January 24th at 6:30 in the AG front room. We are also considering a weekday morning class, more details soon.

Graduate Reunion and next class Preview dates have been set! We are hosting a graduate reunion on December 13th for fellowship and to check in with each other in our journey to Financial Peace. This evening will also be a preview for anyone interested in learning more about the class. Please join us in the AG at 6:30pm.

More details of all these events are on the website: <http://LeesburgUMC.org/Ministries/FPU>

► THE ROLL "UP YONDER"

The hymn "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder" was written in 1893 by a Methodist Sunday School teacher, James Black. This Advent season, we're keeping a "roll" in the church library, where you are invited to write the names of loved ones who are already answering the roll call in Heaven. The poster

for names is positioned beside the small ceramic angel piece, which is from the Georgia Bange angel collection. Come by, and honor the memory of the angels who were important in your life. If you haven't visited the library before, it's just between the church offices and Wesley Hall. Stay and browse a while!

► LEESBURG UMC PRESCHOOL

Preschool registration begins Feb. 6 for church members and currently enrolled families. There is a \$25 discount in the registration fee if you register that week. There will be an Open House on Jan. 9 and Jan. 30, 9:30-11 am. Please see our website for information: www.leesburgunitedmethodistpreschool.com.

► STEPHEN MINISTRY

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. *Galatians 6:2*

► INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE FORMING AT LUMC

Do you play an orchestral or band instrument? Interest is growing for an instrumental ensemble at LUMC to include both adults and youth. If interested, please contact Pam Bentley at pam@leesburgumc.org for more information.

► GIVE THE GIFT OF COMFORTING PRAYER

Do you have an acquaintance, a special friend, or a family member around whom you'd like to wrap a physical reminder of your concern and prayers? A prayer shawl, provided by the LUMC Prayer Shawl team, will provide the warm, comforting reminder that your special someone is being remembered in daily prayers. To learn more about giving a prayer shawl, contact Carolyn Reynolds (703-777-4796) or Bonita Metz (703-443-2142) or the church office (703-777-2056).

If you like to join the Prayer Shawl Team, bring knitting needles, crochet hook, or scissors to the monthly work session on the last Monday of each month, 2 – 4 pm, in the Church Parlor.

Youth Alternative Gift Bazaar

On-going in Wesley Hall

Choose a meaningful gift to give a loved one and help children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant.

Please note: you cannot gift the tax deduction.



Flock of Geese, \$20



Flock of Chickens, \$20



Trio of Rabbits, \$60



Heifer, \$500



Pig, \$120



Llama, \$150



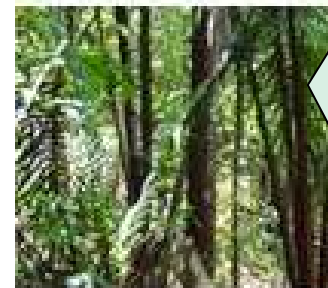
Goat, \$120



Flock of Ducks, \$20



Sheep, \$120



Trees, \$60



Honeybees, \$30

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Sample of the inside of gift card:

"In your honor, a gift has been made to Heifer International to help struggling people around the world become self-reliant for food and income. May this gift bring you joy as it brings hope to families in need."

This morning, the children of LUMC present our annual Christmas pageant at the 11:00 am service. Following is a message from Pageant Director and Children's Ministries Co-Coordinator, Pam Bentley.



It has been such fun preparing our performance of "The Mouse's Tale." Productions like this are the culmination of many talented people working together. When we all bring our gifts together, God blesses them in abundant ways!

Special thanks to Rebekah Daugherty for her assistance with all aspects of the pageant, Christy Tallamy and Jeannie Boyer for their wonderful work with our choir, and Elaine Gladwin, Lee Gladwin, Kim Hardman and Jeff Frazee for their dedication to the Angel Ringers Handbell Choir. Many thanks to Renee Skillman, Jordan Skillman, Audrey Corbet, and Liz Bentley for reading lines with our cast each Sunday morning and assisting at rehearsals. Thanks to Celesta Miller, Tamara Hayter, Laura van Leliveld, Tina Suddueth and Maggie McIntyre for outfitting our cast with wonderful costumes, and to Tina Suddueth, Maggie McIntyre and Margrit Snyder for stage props. For covering the technical needs of today's performance, thanks to Jill Ryan, Chuck Boyer, and Chris Shelton.

Wishing you joyful days and peaceful nights this holiday season, and throughout the new year. Just as Old Granny Mouse made a commitment to share the Good News, let us all be faithful followers and share the joy.

Merry Christmas!

Pam Bentley

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Missions

► GIFT TREES IN WESLEY HALL

There are still unclaimed gift tags on the trees in Wesley Hall to provide gifts for Loudoun County youth and teens in need. Won't you take one? Gifts must be returned by TODAY, Sunday, Dec. 11. See more information in the December newsletter (Missions, p. 9)

► SIGN UP TO RING THE BELL FOR THE SALVATION ARMY!

Sign-up through the church website: <http://leesburgumc.org/ministries/Salvation%20Army%20Bell%20Ringing%202> If you need to change time or can't make your designated time, please call Bill Harrison at 703-777-4586 and let him know.

The dates are: Fridays & Saturdays, Nov. 11 – Dec. 24, plus the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving. With the expectation that we will be able to fill so many weekday slots, if you are available during the workday, please take those timeslots, thank you!

Who: Anyone! But... Giant has requested no more than two people at a time because of large groups blocking access to the store in the past.

What: Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army to raise money for them to help those in need in Loudoun County.

Where: the Giant on Market Street in Leesburg

When: 2-hour shift (you can pre-arrange to split a shift.)

How: Wear layered clothing as temperatures may fluctuate. Bring a cardboard box or rug to stand on, which will help keep the cold from the pavement from your feet. Remember to say: "Merry Christmas!" and "Thank you!" Never leave kettle unattended, if you need a break, please take the kettle to the customer service desk in the store.

► INTERFAITH RELIEF

Reminder it is the first Sunday of each month. We are so appreciative of everyone's **generous** donations. In Oct and Nov we collected 422 lbs of food. The bags can be found under the Missions table in Wesley Hall and it has a list on it with commonly needed food.

► ESL TEACHERS NEEDED

There is an opportunity for several English as Second Language (ESL) teachers, starting in our winter session. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED, only need to speak English. Contact Wayne Reynolds 703 777 4796 or the church office, 703 777 2056.

Miscellaneous

► CHRISTMAS LOVE GIFT

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST, The time has come again to show our appreciation for the Staff of LUMC. Please make your contribution and mark on your check "Christmas Love offering" and place in offering plate. Thank you, *SPRC*

► CHRISMONS TREE

The tree set up in the front of the sanctuary is called a Chrismons Tree, which is derived from the words "Christ Monogram" Beside the tree you will find brochures which describe the significance of the symbols depicted on the ornaments on our Chrismons tree. You can find more about Chrismons at chrismon.org.

► ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

If you have a problem with alcohol, there is help. 540-667-0322 or 1-800-835-6130 www.AALoudounDistrict10.org

► BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE—LONGEST NIGHT LITURGY

Wednesday, Dec 21, 2011, 7:00 PM
at St. Peter's Episcopal Church,
37018 Glendale Street, Purcellville

In this service we remember those feelings of pain and darkness and loss in the Christmas story and we're reminded there's more there than just "a Hallmark Christmas". This service offers the freedom for people to feel whatever they're feeling and to not have to put on a Christmas smile for everyone.

We've chosen December 21, before the Winter Sol-

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stice, because it is literally the longest night of the year and represents the longest night of our lives, in which all of us find ourselves from time to time. We will light three Advent candles signifying people's losses, saying prayers for each. Finally, we will light a candle of hope and share a message of hope. We'll sing songs, read scripture and pray and offer anointing with oil for healing.

Do you know someone blue this Christmas? A great way to help them would be to bring them. More information is available at www.stpetes.net.

Administration

► YEAR END GIVING FOR 2011

IMPORTANT YEAR-END REMINDER: Contributions you wish to make to LUMC for 2011 MUST BE either: 1) put in the offering plate on or before Sunday, December 25, or 2) placed in the Admin. Asst. mailbox by December 31, or 3) mailed with postmark on or before December 31. All offerings put in the offering plates on Sunday, January 1, will be counted for 2012, regardless of any notes or preprinted dates that may be marked on your offering envelope.

► BULLETIN ITEM SUBMISSIONS

Items and information are due to the office by the end of the day each Wednesday, so that I have all bulletin information available first thing Thursday mornings. Items received after 8:30 am on a Thursday may not be able to be included in the Sunday bulletin.

-Linda Stoutenburgh

► BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

The next baptism preparation class will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 7 pm in the PARLOR. This class is for parents who want to have their children baptized, as well as adults who wish to be baptized.

► NEEDED! SCRIPTURE READERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Adults Needed! Scripture readers for Christmas Eve worship: Noon, 8:00 pm, and 11:00 pm. Please contact Pastor Wishmyer or the church office. Thanks!

Children Needed! We are still in need of some children to do readings at the 5:00 and 6:30 family Christmas Eve services. If your child is interested, please let Laura van Leliveld know at laura@leesburgumc.org.

► CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Here is our schedule of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship for 2011. Nursery will NOT be available for these services.

Christmas Eve:

- 12 noon—Traditional Worship
- 5:00 pm—Family Service I
- 6:30 pm—Family Service II
- 8:00 pm Contemporary Worship
- 11:00 pm Traditional Worship



Christmas Day:

- 11:00 am—Worship (no Sunday School)

New Year's Day:

- 8:15, 9:45, & 11:00 am—Worship (no Sunday School)

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Welcome Our Newest Member:

9:45 Service
Baptized Member:
Nicole Faith Kirsten
Daughter of David &
Cheryl Kirsten, sister of
Grace



Our 2012 Commitments Report

Leesburg UMC, thank you! Through the first two weeks of Advent, **76** families/individuals (representing about 160 persons including family members) have presented their 2012 Commitment forms, including most of our leadership. Of these, **76** made a commitment to give regularly to the Operations Fund, and **44** to the Building/Mortgage Fund!

In addition, **11** families/individuals expressed their intention to tithe, thus committing a tenth of their income directly toward God's work.

All are encouraged to complete your 2012 Commitment form and, if you have never done so, begin to measure your giving not in dollars but as a proportion of your income, which is the biblical norm for measuring our gratitude and faithfulness. Faithful giving means giving our "first-fruits", not our left-overs.

Thank you for your faithful response!

(2012 Commitment forms along with envelopes are available in Wesley or Asbury Halls. We hope to have everyone's completed commitments by **Sunday, December 18**, with our final report in the January newsletter. Place completed forms in the envelope and include with your regular giving, or mail to the church office [107 W. Market St., NW, 20176]. Thank you!

"But just as you excel in everything... see that you also excel in the grace of giving."

- 2 Corinthians 8:7