

*Linden Heights UMC
9914 Harford Rd.
Parkville, Md. 21234*

*Linden Letter
March 2021*

Psalm 23: 1-3a: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

The 23rd Psalm is a much-loved psalm for many people. It is a psalm of reassurance and comfort, one that reminds us that God is with us and God cares for us. I commend the entire psalm to your reading and study today. These opening lines of Psalm 23 speak of the depth of God's love and care for us. The phrase "makes me lie down in green pastures" reminds us that God will provide rest for us. God knows that we get tired, and God knows that we do not always take the time to rest even when we need it. God gives us rest when we are weary. When I read that God leads us beside still waters, I am reminded that God gives provides for us gentle, and quiet peace. The world is a busy place and the pace of life is often frantic. God gives us space to sit, be quiet, and dwell in God's peace. The last line speaks to the depth of the gifts that God gives to us. God does not only restore our bodies and minds when we are sick. God does not only provide comfort when we are side. God does not only keep us company when we are lonely. God restores our very souls. When we feel empty, battered, and bruised, God restores our very souls. God makes us whole.

In this season of lent, as we continue to think about and ponder the different ways that God brings healing into our lives, I invite you to ponder the ways that God has restored your soul. How has God worked in your life to make you whole?

May you have a holy Lent and a blessed Easter!

Pastor Alicia

Worship

We have a LOT going on in worship over the next few weeks!! Please feel free to invite friends and family to join us in worship! It is easy to do- you can share the links on your social media accounts, send an email to someone whom you know might be looking for a church, mention to a neighbor that they can worship with us from the comfort of their home. Let's invite as many people as we can to worship God and hear the Good News of our risen Lord!!

All Sunday 10 am worship services on zoom have the same zoom link, meeting ID and passcode. Here is the information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83148539664?pwd=ZHhtNGpzNVZ6QjVBb08zeHBONW9EUT09>

Meeting ID: 831 4853 9664

Passcode: 599815

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,83148539664#,,,,*599815# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kempIykVjh>

Every Sunday, at the 10 am service, a limited number of people can gather to worship in the sanctuary. We continue to follow the command of Jesus to “Love one another as I have loved you,” by doing our best to protect the health of everyone who enters the building and to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Based on the most recent guidance of the CDC, our Task Force Team has determined that we can safely accommodate 30 people in the sanctuary for worship. We will move from 12-15 people to 30 on March 28th. (Palm Sunday)

We respectfully ask that everyone who attends an in person service in the sanctuary adhere to the following policies that the team has put in place:

- * If you are not feeling well, please stay home.
- * If you have been exposed to someone with covid-19 or someone who is being tested for covid-19, please stay home.
- * Masks need to be worn at all times.
- * Social distance of a minimum of 6 feet should be maintained between you and others (except those in your household). The floors are marked with blue tape and the pews are marked with ribbon to help you maintain social distance. Remember, if you can touch someone, you are closer than 6 feet!
- * The CDC’s most recent guidelines indicate that singing is still a risky activity that spreads covid-19 droplets more than singing. Please do not sing in the sanctuary.
- * Please follow the directions of the ushers when being seated and when leaving the sanctuary.
- * You must register if you want to attend. You can do so through the sign-up genius links sent out each week, by calling the church office, or by sending the pastor an email.

For outdoor worship, the protocols are slightly different. Here are the differences:

- * If you are seated and not singing, you can remove your mask. If you are singing or moving around, a mask should be worn.
- * Singing is safe to do outside (masks please!) when socially distanced from others.
- * All of the other protocols for indoor worship apply to outdoors as well.

Links for attending worship in person on Sunday, March 21st

10 am <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-sunday7>

11 am Sunday School Service <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-sunday8>

Holy Week Activities

Palms

We will be handing out palms for people to have at home if you wish to worship through zoom. We do not have a delivery date for the palms yet. As soon as we have one, we will let you know when you can pick them up.



Labyrinth: New this year you will have an opportunity to walk a labyrinth at the church. It will be painted on the front lawn by April 1st. This is not a maze, but a meditative walk. There are several ways to pray as you walk from the outside to the center and back out again. You can confess your sins on the way in, then give God thanks for forgiveness on the way out. You can pray for needs on the way in and listen for God to speak on the way out. You can listen for God to speak on the way in and respond to God on the way out. The idea is that as you move closer to the center you move closer to God. As you move back towards the edge, you enter the world to serve.



Easter Egg Hunt

We are having a community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 27th from 11 am-1 pm. Families, including adults, will hunt for eggs together. There will also be a scavenger hunt for you to do. Prepackaged goodie bags will be handed out after you have found the items for the scavenger hunt and some eggs! We are asking families to preregister so that we can provide a safe experience for everyone. Families will be assigned a block of time to participate in the event. We are assigning times in 30 minute increments. If you want to attend, please email the church at lindenheightsumc@verizon.net. Leave your name, how many people will be attending, and your preferred time. (11, 11:30, etc.)

Stations of the Cross

This will be a new experience this year. Instead of being located in the sanctuary, it will be throughout the first floor of the entire building. Each station will be a scene that tells a part of Jesus' story from the Last Supper through his death. If you, you and your family, or you and some friends would like to create one of the scenes, please contact Deirdre Duda or Pastor Alicia.

The Stations will be open to walk March 31- April 2nd from 2-7 pm. Please wear a mask and stay distanced from one another.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday

10 am in person <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-palm>

10 am Zoom link is the same as the regular Sunday link on the page above

11 am Sunday School Service in the parking lot

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-sunday9>

Holy Thursday: April 1st 7 pm

In person: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-holy>

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83162894608?pwd=eWMvenNIazJGZ01yejZsMjkzN1VTUT09>

Meeting ID: 831 6289 4608

Passcode: 580867

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,83162894608#,,, *580867# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83162894608>

Good Friday April 2nd 7 pm

In person: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-good>

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88597031033?pwd=YUdlV0tOYkhFN28waE94bE1LelpSQT09>

Meeting ID: 885 9703 1033

Passcode: 258857

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,88597031033#,,, *258857# US (Washington DC)

+19292056099,,88597031033#,,, *258857# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88597031033>

Easter April 4th

The Sunrise Service is at 6:15 am on the front lawn. We begin our Easter celebration with this quiet, meditative service. Join us as we praise God and give thanks for the gift of the Son. If you want to attend, please use the link below or contact the church at 410-668-6181.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-easter>

Our Traditional Easter service will be held at 10 am. This will be a hybrid Zoom and in person service. Those in person will be asked to follow the policies described earlier in the Linden Letter. If you wish to attend, use the sign up link below or contact the church at 410-668-6181. The zoom link is the same as the regular Sunday worship services. Those attending in person are asked to park on the side of the church and in other marked areas.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-easter1>

The Informal/Family Friendly Easter service will be at 11:15 on the parking lot. Please park at the direction of the ushers. This will be an interactive service with activities for children and their families. If you want to sing some of the Easter Hymns, you can sing them at this service!! To sign up for this service, call the church office at 410-668-6181 or use the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-easter2>

Mission

Thanks to everyone who donated gift cards or wrote cards for the teachers and staff at Pine Grove Middle School. Over 100 staff received an encouraging note and small gift to lift their spirits during this challenging time in education!

This month we are collecting items for the Easter Family Resource Center. They would like bath towels, wash cloths, and laundry pods. You can bring these items to the church on Sundays or drop them off on March 25th from 5:30-7 pm or March 27th from 9-11 am.

Children & Youth

Summer Camp at Linden Heights!!

We have entered into an arrangement with Club SciKidz for the summer of 2021. They will be running a summer camp at our church for children in our community. Our leadership team considered the proposal that they sent to us, reviewed their safety procedures, and reviewed their covid-19 protocols. We are excited to be hosting them at Linden Heights for several weeks this summer.

The people at Club SciKidz are offering a discount to the families of Linden Heights. The code is below, but it does expire soon, so if you are interested, please take advantage of this opportunity! The brochure the classes offered at Linden Heights and the brochure for all of their locations are in the links below. We hope that this camp provides a needed service to the families of our church and our community!

Code for church families - \$40 off each camp: LINDEN40 (expires 3/28)

Club SciKidz Summer Brochure - <http://www.clubscikidzmd.com/summer-2021-brochure/>

LHUMC Schedule - <http://www.clubscikidzmd.com/programs/camp-locations/#location-177>

Sunday School Service

We continue to have our Sunday School service on Sunday's at 11 am. We sing some songs, dance around, play some instruments, and talk about a Bible story.

As the weather gets warmer, we will start doing some crafts.

We may return to having this Family Sunday School service at 9 am later in the spring.

All children and their families are welcome!

Church Announcements

Vacation Bible School

Family Vacation Bible Activities Wednesday Evenings

July 28, August 4, 11, and 18
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

This year we are exploring a new VBS format, inviting families to enjoy 4 evenings of VBS activities in a safe, socially-distanced format.

We hope your family will join us for our program: "Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through." Family crews will experience God's love as they explore different Bible stories, learn verses, make crafts, play games, sing songs, and gain friends!

If you have any questions, please call the church office by phone at 410-668-6181 or by e-mail at lindenheightsumc@verizon.net.

There will be no cost to attend this year.

Payroll Protection Program

Last month we applied for, and were granted, a loan from the Payroll Protection Program. Under the terms of this program, if the money that we received is used to make payroll, and we provide the appropriate documentation, the loan is forgiven and we do not have to pay it back. Many thanks to the Leadership Team and the Finance Team who worked to make this possible for our church. If you have questions, please speak with the pastor or a member of our Leadership Team.

Memorial Ministry Team

Our Memorial Team needs some help! The members of this team ensure that donations made to the church in memory of someone are used in ways that honor that person. If you would be interested in serving, please contact the pastor!

Front Yard Sign

The people who used to change the letters on the sign out front have moved out of town. We need someone, or a group of people, to periodically update the sign. Talk to the pastor if you would be willing to help!

Spring has sprung and the grass is growing!

It is almost time for our lawn mowing team to get to work. To help save money, we take care of the lawn ourselves. If you can help us mow the grass and trim this summer, please contact Joe Discher. You can call the church at 410-668-6181 or send an email to lindenheightsumc@verizon.net

We have several copies of the devotional *The Upper Room* at the church. If you would like a copy, please let us know and we can get you one.

Remembering our Loved Ones

This past year we lost several beloved members of our congregation. Memorial services have been set for Vanessa Lawson and Pat Erdman.

Vanessa's service will be at the church on Saturday, June 5th at 11 am. We will be livestreaming the service through zoom for those who cannot attend in person.

Pat's service will be on Saturday, June 12th at 11 am. We will livestream this service as well.

Frank Sheckells's service will be sometime mid-summer.