

Linden Letter February 2021

Psalm 33:3 (NRSV) Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

We all get stuck in a rut sometimes don't we? We shop at the same stores, go to the same places for dinner, cook the same foods for dinner, sit in the same pews in church. We are creatures of habit and our habits sometimes become routines, and routines can become a stale rut. Someone told me one time that the only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth of the ditch. That got me to do some serious thinking about the habits, routines, and ruts in my life! We often get stuck in ruts when it comes to our faith. We attend the same worship services, we like to sing the same songs, we say the same prayers, we read the same devotionals, we pray at the same time, etc. What would happen to our faith if we shook things up a bit? If we stepped outside of our habits and routines and prayed and worshiped in a different way? Throughout the past several weeks, we have been talking about singing a new song to God. We have talked about recommitting ourselves to our baptismal vows. We have talked about new ways to worship. We have talked about praying prayers of thanksgiving instead of prayers listing our wants and desires. We have talked about new ways to serve God by spreading words of encouragement. For the next two Sundays we will continue this worship series as we talk about new ways to praise God and new ways to offer ourselves to God for God's work in this world.

We will carry over a bit of this theme as we enter into the season of Lent. We will be offering some new ways to experience a holy Lent this year. I hope you will take the opportunity to "sing a new song" to God during this holy season as we offer our gifts, our confessions, and our selves to God.

Have a blessed Lenten season!

Pastor Alicia

Mission & Outreach

Our Missions Ministry team has been very busy this past year ensuring that we continue to help meet the needs of those in the community during this difficult and challenging time. Below you will find a list of the mission collections, donations, and activities that were completed in 2020. There are also a few of the recent thank you notes that we have received from those whom we helped. Thank you for all of your donations and financial gifts, which made all of this possible!

2020

January

* Winter and food supplies for Pine Grove Middle School/Student Support Network

February

* Manna House – breakfast supplied and served

* Cash donation to the Child Crisis Center in Uganda

* Care Kits provided to the Parkville Police

March

* Several deliveries of requested non-perishable food items to Christus Victor food pantry.

May

* Supplies for Pine Grove Elementary as requested by the School Counselor.

June

* Cash to Student Support Network

* Christus Victor food pantry

July

* Bagged Lunches for Manna House

* Supplies to Manna House (cups, napkins, etc.)

August/September

* School supplies for students and teachers (13 sets of headphones to teachers and counselors at Parkville High and art supplies for students at Pine Grove Elementary)

* Non-perishable food supplies, bags and utensils for bagged lunches and a cash donation to Manna House

* Non-perishable food items to Christus Victor Food Pantry

October

* Cards for residents of local assisted living facility

* Operation Christmas Child

* Turquoise Table front lawn community

November

* Food and needed items for a local family need

* Financial donation to East Side Emergency Family Shelter for Thanksgiving meal items

* Cash donation to Hurree University in Mongolia (run by the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries) to provide a hot meal for 2 students for one year.

December

* Financial donation to Eastern Family Shelter for Christmas

* Financial assistance & presents for a local family in need.

* Diapers and wipes for a single mom in need

Linden Heights,

I truly appreciate your organization taking the time to gather such a large generous donation of supplies. The supplies that you have provided to me (Manna House) will allow me to provide the clients with a more efficient Breakfast Service. Instead of using 2-3 containers per client (which takes longer to prepare), I'll be able to serve more clients in a shorter amount of time. It will also allow me to get back to Manna Houses traditional breakfast service (a protein and two sides) with the use of the three compartment containers. Your donation will also

allow me to start serving a hot beverage and hot cereal to the clients once again because of the sugar. Which I am very delighted about since the weather has broken.

Please accept my deepest thanks of appreciation for all your organizations continuous support.

Regards,
Robin

The family that we helped at Christmas sent pictures of their children with a thank you note (not shown to protect the identity of the children). They were very grateful for and overwhelmed by the help and the gifts. The family continues to struggle, so we hold them in prayer.

From the single mom who needed diapers, “Thank you so much. I wasn’t expecting all of that! It really means a lot and I really appreciate it. Thank you again for your kindness. This is awesome!”

Thank you for Linden Heights United Methodist Church’s past support and recent \$400 donation toward the Unity Faith Build.

For many families, shelter-in-place or stay-at-home orders aren’t as straightforward as they sound. For those living in overcrowded, or substandard housing, stay at home orders only increase their feelings of uncertainty and vulnerability. The need for safe, affordable housing has been amplified this year but our ability to welcome volunteer groups has been greatly reduced due to Covid19. Volunteers are a crucial part of the Habitat model allowing us to keep our costs low. Without the ability to welcome volunteer groups, our costs have increased significantly. This makes us especially grateful for our financial supporters - like YOU.

During this challenging and unprecedented time, Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna is working together with our community to build homes, hope, and unity. Harford and Cecil counties are home to a diversity of beliefs and opinions, but one thing we believe we can all agree on is that local families deserve a decent and affordable place to live.

Once our sites can safely reopen to volunteer groups, our hope is to bring together congregations from a variety of traditions to volunteer side-by-side to help fund and build affordable homes. It will be a time of tolerance, cooperation, and love for one’s neighbor. We invite you to join us.

We also collected donations of hygiene items for those entering the homeless shelter at the Easter Family Crisis center. Here is a picture of your donations!



For February we are doing two outreach projects.

1. Notes and gifts for teachers and staff who are re-entering the schools to teach in person. This is a tough time with a lot of questions and stress and we want to support the teachers and staff members. We are collecting \$5.00 gift cards to Dunkin Donuts to hand out as well as hand written notes or cards of support. They go back soon, so if you would like to contribute a note or a gift card, please drop it by the church in the next two weeks. You can place your items in the church mail box if no one is at the church.

2. Food insecurity and hunger continues to be a pressing and urgent need in our community. We will be collecting food for the Victors Vittles food pantry at Christus Victor ECLA. You can take donations directly to them on the days they are open, or you can bring donations to the church at the times listed below and we will deliver them for you.

Wednesday, 2/10 12:00 to 1:30 and 6 to 7

Wednesday, 2/17 12 :00 to 1:30

Wednesday, 2/24, 12:00 to 1:30 and 6 to 7

Sunday's after 9-1

Items needed:

Pasta – all types, Sauce, Packet mixes – gravy mix, taco mix, meatloaf mix, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper. Instant mashed potatoes, Canned fruits, Applesauce, Cereal – hot and cold, Peanut Butter, Hygiene items.

Worship

Shrove Tuesday (Virtual) Pancake Supper February 16th at 6:30 pm!! We will gather through zoom at 6:30 to fellowship with one another and eat pancakes. It may seem a bit strange, but these are strange times! Let's share a meal as best as we can and have some fun. There may even be a game or two involved!

If you don't want to cook, you can place an order for pancakes, and we will cook them for you. Just email the pastor at alicialhumc@verizon.net or call her at 410-206-4826 and let her know how many adults and children you would like to have pancakes for, then pick them up at the church between 5 and 6 pm on the 16th. You can also sign up through sign-up genius.

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

All you will have to do is reheat them in the microwave or the oven!

**** You can also pick up a container of ashes for the Ash Wednesday Service.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84048314327?pwd=aFRIOHlkTWk0NWpGR1Z3dy9NQUNFQT09>

Meeting ID: 840 4831 4327

Passcode: 350608

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84048314327#,,,,*350608# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Ash Wednesday Services February 17th: This year we will offer two Ash Wednesday services.

At 6 pm we will have a worship service outside in our parking lot. This will be a non-traditional service. (Weather permitting) We will have several fire pits going. You will have the opportunity to write your confession on a piece of paper and then burn it in the fire. If you would like to attend this service, please call the pastor or sign up through sign up genius so that we can prepare for you! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-ashwednesday>

At 7 pm we will have a worship service through zoom. The zoom information is below!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81115566618?pwd=Q1F3aU1xR1pENm56czkvbnpaSIFuQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 1556 6618

Passcode: 797515

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,81115566618#,,,,*797515# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

I hope that you will join us at one of these services as we begin the season of Lent together.

Easter Flower Orders: We will have Easter Flowers in our sanctuary again this year. The order form is attached. If you would like flowers in the sanctuary for Easter, please fill out the order form and send it to the church as soon as possible. Due to delays in delivery, if you can, please drop it off at the church. You can place it in the mailbox if no one is at the church. You can also email Pastor Alicia at alicialhumc@verizon.net if you would like to order flowers but are concerned that we will not receive the mail in time.

The last day to place an order is March 14th.

Our zoom link for all 10 am Sunday Services remains the same each week. 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/j/83148539664?pwd=ZHhtNGpzNVZ6QjVBb08zeHBONW9EUT09>

Outdoor Hymn Sing February 28th 12 pm!! (weather dependent) Join us in the church parking lot to sing some of your favorite hymns and praise songs. Please follow the directions of our greeters for parking and seating arrangements. We do ask that people remain masked since we are singing. I hope that you will join us! Please use the link below or call the church office if you would like to attend so that we can prepare for you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-outdoor5>

Bible Study Opportunities

We will have a Lenten Bible study on Monday evenings at 7 pm beginning on February 22nd. We will be using various art forms to examine themes around the season of Lent. Here is the zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86462115431?pwd=b1FtbjdUSGJJSgHlB3MvbjUzWld3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6211 5431

Passcode: 575936

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,86462115431#,,, *575936# US (Washington DC)

+19292056099,,86462115431#,,, *575936# 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/86462115431?pwd=b1FtbjdUSGJJSgHlB3MvbjUzWld3Zz09>

We are also reading the Bible cover to cover together this year. We typically meet every other Wednesday at 7 pm to talk about what we have read. The schedule is shifting slightly due to Ash Wednesday. In February we will meet on the 10th and 24th. In March we will meet on the 10th and 24th. The zoom link remains the same for the study and is included below. Also included is the daily readings for February.

2/1	Numbers 16-19	2/15	Joshua 1-4
2/2	Numbers 20-23	2/16	Joshua 5-8
2/3	Numbers 24-27	2/17	Joshua 9-12
2/4	Numbers 28-31	2/18	Joshua 13-16
2/5	Numbers 32-35	2/19	Joshua 17-20
2/6	Numbers 36- Deuteronomy 3	2/20	Joshua 21-24
2/7	Deuteronomy 4-7	2/21	Judges 1-4
2/8	Deuteronomy 8-11	2/22	Judges 5-8
2/9	Deuteronomy 12-15	2/23	Judges 9-12
2/10	Deuteronomy 16-19	2/24	Judges 13-16
2/11	Deuteronomy 20-23	2/25	Judges 17-21
2/12	Deuteronomy 24-27	2/26	Ruth 1-4
2/13	Deuteronomy 28-31	2/27	1 Samuel 1-4
2/14	Deuteronomy 32-34	2/28	1 Samuel 5-8

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87077417886?pwd=cm5RWCTiUm9MdElqbm00d0duOGQ5UT09>

Meeting ID: 870 7741 7886

Passcode: 298812

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87077417886#,,,,*298812# 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/87077417886>

Coming in warm weather!!! Small group study and workshops on our covenant to be an inclusive church and to be an example of living as anti-racist people. These workshops will include information on ways that minority people are discriminated against as well as time for conversation and dialogue. More information will be coming to you in the next few months!

A New member class will be held Sunday, March 14th at 1 pm. If you are interested in joining the church or in learning more about the church, please contact Pastor Alicia for more information.