



Tidings

A Newsletter of Yardley United Methodist Church

Volume 22, Issue 6

Yardley, Pennsylvania

Christmas 2021



Join us for Advent and Christmas Worship

December 5 *Second Sunday of Advent: LOVE*
9 am worship, Communion and Advent candle-lighting in the sanctuary
11 am Zoom and Facebook Live

December 12 *Third Sunday of Advent: JOY*
9 am worship and Advent candlelighting in the sanctuary; Special worship music provided by The Newman Oltman Guitar Duo
11 am Zoom and Facebook Live

December 19 *Third Sunday of Advent: PEACE*
9 am worship and Advent candlelighting in the sanctuary
11 am Zoom and Facebook live

December 24 *Christmas Eve*
5 pm Zoom and Facebook Live
7 pm worship in the sanctuary, Lighting of the Christ candle, Lessons and Carols, Candlelighting to celebrate Christ the King

December 26 *First Sunday after Christmas Day*
9 am worship
11 am Zoom and Facebook Live



On December 12 at the 9 am service, we are privileged to have special guest musicians, **The Newman and Oltman Guitar Duo**. Hailed as a “revelation to hear” by The Washington Post, the Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo’s phenomenal musicianship places them solidly at the top of their field. Their innovative programming, matchless technique and ensemble precision, combined with their commitment to expanding the repertoire for guitar duo, make them a chamber ensemble of world renown. Plan on joining us at 9 am on December 12th, the third Sunday of Advent for this special worship event. The music for this service is supported in part by the Vi Tillson Memorial Fund.



Congregational Firepit! Join your church family for chili, hot chocolate, Christmas carols and fellowship around fires on Friday, Dec 17th at 6:30 pm. The last firepit was well attended and great fun! See photos from that gathering on page 11.

Tidings is published by
Yardley United
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fourheinz@aol.com

Sunday Morning Worship
9:00 am in Sanctuary*
11:00 am Zoom and Facebook

*All are welcome to on-site
worship. It has been recommended by
the CDC that all wear a mask indoors.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The church season of Advent is fast upon us! The word “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During Advent, the Church celebrates the first and second coming, or arrival, of Jesus. The first arrival was the Jesus of history who we celebrate being born as a baby in Bethlehem. The second arrival will be King Jesus, coming in the future to consummate all time and history and to restore a fallen creation. So, we look back at the first arrival and we simultaneously look forward at the pending arrival. That’s the meaning of Advent.

I hope you will consider joining us this Advent season as we celebrate the coming of Christ. I will be preaching a sermon series based on the journey of Mary and Joseph as they move from the Annunciation to the birth of Jesus.

I also ask you to please take note of a **special 9AM worship service planned for December 12th**. The internationally known classical guitarists, Laura Oltman and Michael Newman, known professionally as The Newman Oltman Guitar Duo, will be joining us to share their Advent/Christmas music, *A Christmas Pastoral, 600 Years of Carols, Preludes, and Pastorals*. This is a rare opportunity for our congregation to hear classical guitar music of this quality, and something you don’t want to miss!

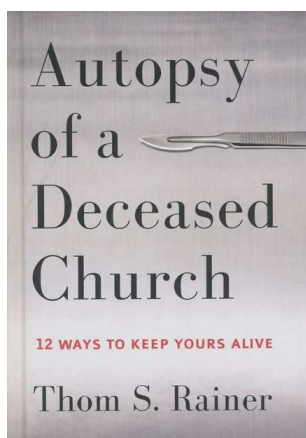
Please take a moment to note the times of our **Christmas Eve services**. Zoom worship will take place at 5PM. Our in-person, in the sanctuary worship will be at 7PM where we will enjoy the traditional service of Lessons and Carols.

Check out the youth and children’s calendar for all of their activities during this season, and don’t forget the Adult Fellowship on **December 17th**, when we will gather around the **fire pit** for chili and the singing of Christmas Carols.

From my family to yours, may you have a blessed and a joyous Christmas.

See you in Church!

Pastor Marcia



Save the Date!

Congregational Breakfast and Workshop

Based on the book *Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive* by Thom S. Rainer

Saturday, February 5, 2022

We will discern our past, present and future as the body of Christ.



Birthdays in December

04 David Hunt	19 William Binder IV
05 Charlotte Sands	20 Latajia Cox
06 Linda Rowley	23 Peg Boysen
07 Julianna Griffin	24 Eve Moody
08 Emilie Croggon	27 Dave Chassen
09 Catie Rymer	27 Reagan Ward
14 David Green	28 Megan Kyle
14 Christopher Moody	30 Ginny Lavanish
15 Kim Laba	30 Elena Hurni
17 Greg Van Aken	31 Thomas Lefebvre
19 Doris Wilkes	
19 Stephen Griffin	

Birthdays in January

03 Nellie Rooney	16 Ferdinand Salapong
04 Charlene Bray	21 Margaret Moshinsky
04 Ted Pirog	21 Kim Hart
06 Annelise Zygmunt	22 Hazel Costain
07 Ashlee Smith	23 Ian Croggon
07 Andrew O'Keeffe	26 Charles Guenzel
07 Peter O'Keeffe	27 Kristen Marco
07 Raymond Kooker	27 Chase Marco
10 Dick Jensen	28 Chris Ortolf
11 Erich Kaiser	29 Maureen Kyle
11 Marian Sitko	30 Elizabeth Nunziato
13 Emily Zygmunt	30 Matthew Hurni
14 Connor Reed	
15 Cindi Harris	



Thank you for supporting the ministries and missions of YUMC with the return of your pledge cards or your continued donations. Because of you, our leadership teams can better plan and support the programs and activities that go on both here and within our community. If you have not yet pledged, you can still return your pledge card, visit our website at www.yardleyumc.org to set up an automatic recurring payment, or you can contact the church at 215-493-3345 or office@yardleyumc.org. Thank you.



The Food Drive Continues: No Purple Bags, but yes to food donations for Pennadel Food Pantry. Last month 167 pounds of food was delivered to a grateful Pennadel Food Pantry. Since 2016, YUMC has delivered 14,599 pounds of food to the food pantry. Even though the country is beginning to get back to normal, many people will still be facing food insecurities. So do not worry about purple bags or when to drop the food off, just bring it with you any time and place it in the shopping cart in the lobby of the church. (If the church is not open when you bring your donations, you may leave them at the top of the ramp.)

Did You Know? As the end of 2021 approaches, remember that there are ways to reduce your tax liability through charitable giving. Donating stocks, bonds or mutual funds that have experienced capital gains may allow you to avoid paying taxes on those gains. Donors who are 70 1/2 or older can even make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from their IRA up to \$100,000 annually and exclude that amount from your taxable income if donated directly to the church or charity organization from the IRA. Remember to always seek advice from your personal financial advisor to know what is best for your circumstances.

The Year of The Most Ever!

Report on the Pumpkin Patch *by Denise Harris*

This year was our 8th year of YUMC Pumpkin Patch! In every way possible, it was the **Year of Most Evers!**

On October 16th, **the most YUMCers** we have ever had came to unload pumpkins. Thirty nine people gave up their afternoon to unload 700 pumpkins.

As we unloaded by our most efficient way ever, we successfully unloaded 700 pumpkins in 40 minutes. However, there were still more pumpkins in the truck. Since we were the last stop, we had to take all the pumpkins. So, as a thunderstorm moved around us, we continued to unload for a total of 1,087 large pumpkins... **the most pumpkins ever!**

It was a crazy day! Everyone worked together and supported one another to unload the truck. Afterwards, a youth shared that it was a group bonding experience and was a lot of fun!

The next day, the Pumpkin Patch was open for business. On Sunday October 17th we had non-stop customers. That day ended up being **the day we sold the most pumpkins ever!** The day was full of people from our community coming by and sharing that they had been waiting for weeks for us to open. For the next two weeks, we continued to have record sales and so many people come by to say they are glad we are open.

Every day we are open, it takes a minimum of three people to run the patch for six hours. Last year, I was in the patch a lot, because no one signed up. This year, we had **The Most Sign Ups Ever!** I am amazed and so thankful that people made time to sit in the patch!

Because we had 300 extra pumpkins, I reached out to a few churches in our community to see if they could use them for ministry. Three churches took us up on our offer and picked up a total of 200 pumpkins and used them to do good in their church community.

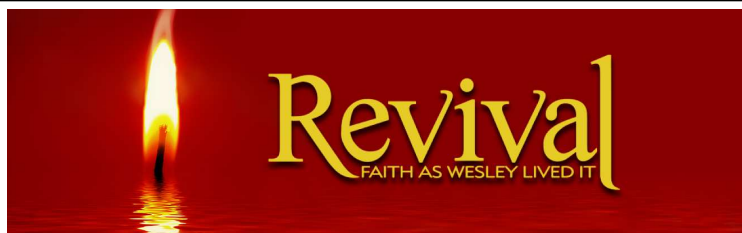
In the end, our goal is to raise money. After we send the Patch their portion, we usually raise about \$1200-\$1500. This year, **we raised \$2500. . . The Most Ever!**

I am truly amazed at the year we had. The first year, YUMC Pumpkin Patch started as a new fundraiser for our youth. In the past 8 years, it has turned into so much more. The YUMC Pumpkin Patch is a tradition for many people. The YUMC Patch is a place where our neighbors connect with us and share a few moments of conversation. The YUMC Patch is a place our community knows they can stop by, grab a pumpkin they need for decoration, school projects and more. The YUMC Pumpkin Patch is a place where the church family comes together to serve, share and support one another and our community.

Thank you to all who shopped, unloaded, supported and served at the YUMC Pumpkin Patch this year! **YOU made it the BEST YEAR EVER!!!**



See p. 10 for more photos of the patch!



Bible Study Coming Soon! Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It

<https://www.amazon.com/Revival-Faith-as-Wesley-Lived/dp/1426778848>

Wesley's message and his faith continue to speak to 21st-century Christians—calling for a revival of our hearts and souls so that our world might be changed.

Join Adam Hamilton for a six-week journey as he travels to England, following the life of John Wesley and exploring his defining characteristics of a Wesleyan Christian. Wesley's story is our story. It defines our faith and it challenges us to rediscover our spiritual passion.



The Angel Tree is back!

We are so gifted here at YUMC that we are looking for ways to share our many blessings. The Angel Tree is one way to help those less fortunate during this holiday season. All the gifts will be donated to Buck County Housing Group.

It is simple to donate, you just purchase a \$25 gift card from Target, Walmart, or buy a Visa card and drop it off at the church or mail it to the Church by December 12th.

If you would like to send a check or make a monetary donation to this mission, please write Angel Tree in the memo section. If you have any questions, please contact Janice Laba or call the church office.

WORD OF THE DAY
Advent 2021
 RETHINK CHURCH & YARDLEY UMC

November

28 PROMISE 29 FULFILL 30 TIME

December

1 JUSTICE
 2 RIGHTEOUSNESS
 3 LIVE
 4 CALLED
 5 HOPE
 6 MESSENGER
 7 PREPARE
 8 SEEK
 9 DELIGHT
 10 ENDURE
 11 OFFERING
 12 HOME

13 FEAR
 14 GROW
 15 GLADNESS
 16 VICTORY
 17 RENEW
 18 GATHER
 19 GREAT
 20 WATCH
 21 AWE
 22 AMAZED

23 TREASURED
 24 SEEN
 25 WORSHIP

Each day we will post a Word of the Day. We invite you to Pause & Reflect on how you perceive that word. Perhaps take some time to ask God to show you how that word impacts your life.

Good News! **AHTN (Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need)** will be hosting **ONE in-person Volunteer Training** for anyone new looking to join our Volunteer Team.

When: Sunday, December 5th at 12:30pm-2:00pm

Where: Woodside Church - 1667 Edgewood Rd, Yardley

During this training we will discuss the various missions that AHTN offers to those in need, along with what volunteer opportunities are available and how to register for them. At the end of this training, all in attendance will be required to have a background check completed before registering for any open volunteer positions. (AHTN will provide the link for the background check as well as cover the cost.)

To register to attend IN PERSON Training, register here:** <https://ahtn.volunteerhub.com/event/b4bef325-e728-40b9-9b8c-367b5beede34> ****Face**

masks must be worn by everyone inside the church, regardless of vaccine status.

Anyone unable to attend this training, but still would like to Volunteer with AHTN, can participate in the online training at your convenience. Instructions are on our website: <https://www.ahtn.org/volunteer-with-ahtn>





notes from the Belcher Room

We have a new Sexton! Matt Pashley has returned to YUMC as our Sexton. Many of you may remember Matt when he was our Sexton before Jack Reed. Matt has been working at the church since about the middle of October. Matt brings a host of skills to the position.

In addition to his regular duties, he is very capable of handling many types of repairs. The Trustees have given him a long list of items he has already begun to address. Matt did an amazing job repairing the ceiling damage to Room 108 caused by the rook leak we had last year. If you see Matt at the church please take the opportunity to say hello and welcome him back.



This lovely note was sent to the Trustees by our new tenants in the parsonage:



Dear Yardley United Methodist Board of Trustees,

As the school season begins and we are finally able to catch our breath, we wanted to extend our thanks to the board of trustees for trusting us to be caretakers of the property at 4 Scammell Drive. The house has truly been a blessing for our family. We are astounded at the ways God has continued to place individuals in our path who are blessings to us. I hope that you find us to be exemplary guests during our stay.

Warmest Regards,

The Freemans (Chaz, Christa, Cristian, Cross, and Cebastien)



Second and Third graders received Bibles at God Squad (right) and during the Nov. 21st worship service (above).



YUMC YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry at Yardley UMC exists to share God's love with teenagers, equip them to experience the work of ministry, honor the Lord and enjoy one another.

Do you have questions? Need someone to talk to? See Denise or any youth leader. Or, email denise@yardleyumc.org

Not sure of dates for events? Check out the calendar on our website at www.yardleyumcyouth.org

Need to sign up for an event? You can go to the youth website at www.yardleyumcyouth.org and click on events.



YUMC Youth Group Christmas Bake Off!

It's not a cookie walk, it's a cookie delivery! This year we will create a sign up for our friends to pre-order holiday baked goods for a donation to the YUMC Youth Group summer mission trips. But before we get to that, we have set up a sign up for baker/assistants (those with email, please see church mouse email). Once we fill the slots, we'll send out another link to a new sign up where you can select a dozen of this and a dozen of that for your holiday festivities. All baked goods will be brought to the church on Sunday morning, December 19th where orders will be assembled and delivered to either the back of the sanctuary if you plan to attend that service OR to an address (within about 5 miles from church) that you have provided in the sign up. So the two ways to support this new endeavor is to either bake or place an order (sign up later) ... or both!



DEC 4

Christmas Scavenger Hunt/Food Drive - Saturday December 4th 6:30pm

All Kids, Youth, Parents and Young Adults are invited to join in on our Christmas Scavenger Hunt! Saturday December 4th at 6:30pm we will meet at YUMC.

You will be given packets, pizza and you will head out! The hunt will take them to homes where they will find canned goods and other donated items. Along the way, you will take pictures and complete tasks. We will return to the church to eat s'mores, drink hot chocolate and tell tales of our adventures. It will be a fun night! Friends are encouraged to join in! Mark your calendars, sign up and get ready for a night of serving and fun!





Winter MyCalling! : A weekend of serving for ALL! Jan 14-15 2 days of service with options for youth, kids and adults!

On Friday Night, **youth** will meet at the church at 7:30 pm for a night of service projects and games.

We will sleep over at the church and enjoy our first lock-in together!

On Saturday morning, **youth, adults and children** will gather for service projects. We will have indoor projects as well as projects outside of our own building and around the community.

We are so excited to bring back our MLK Jr. Day weekend of serving! It will look different, but we are excited to serve!

See Denise for any youth ministry questions and Joy Boysen for any adult project questions.

Please note: All precautions will be made to keep everyone safe. Masks will be worn in-doors.

There is a \$15 fee for youth, \$10 for adults, kids free.



HIS HANDS HIS FEET



Dedications may be made in two ways for Christmas

Members and friends are invited to order poinsettias for decorating the church and the altar for Christmas in memory or honor of a loved one. The plants may be taken home by the donors after the service on Christmas Eve. To order, please use the form below and place it, along with your payment, in the offering plate, or deliver it to the church office by December 12, 2021. The price is \$11.00 per plant.

As an alternative to Christmas flowers, a gift may be given to the ministries of Yardley United Methodist Church ministry in memory or honor of a loved one. Your loved ones will be listed along with the poinsettia donations in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please use the form below.

Christmas Dedications

Given by: _____

In Honor/Memory of: (circle one) _____

Number of plants: _____ Paid herewith:
\$ _____

and/or:

Ministries of Yardley UMC
Amount: \$ _____



October Happenings

1087 pumpkins unloaded!

\$2,500 raised for missions!





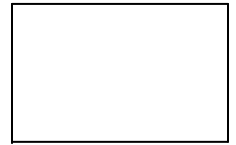
*On November 12th,
YUMC adults gathered
for a fun night of
fellowship!*

*The next firepit is
December 17 at 6:30 pm.*

*Faith
Friends
Fun
Food*



Tidings of
Yardley United Methodist Church
300 Langhorne Road
Yardley, Pennsylvania 19067



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events



December 2021

December

- Youth Group & God Squad meet each Wed, 5:30 pm
- Young Adults meet each Wed, 9:30 pm
- Advent Study meets Tues 6:30 pm, Thurs 1 pm (Zoom)
- 4 Family Scavenger Hunt, 6:30 pm
- 6 SPRC meeting on Zoom, 6 pm
- 12 Trustees meeting on Zoom, 12:15 pm
- 13 Finance meeting on Zoom, 6 pm
- 17 Congregational Firepit
- 19 Cookie Bake-off
- 20 Administrative Council, 6 pm
- 24 Christmas Eve
 - 5 pm Zoom & Facebook Live,
 - 7 pm In the Sanctuary, Lessons & Carols, Candlelighting