



Tidings

A Newsletter of Yardley United Methodist Church

Volume 21, Issue 2

Yardley, Pennsylvania

April 2020

Note from the editor: While most of this newsletter will be devoted to how we will “do church” while staying safe in our homes, we also want to highlight the wonderful ministries of YUMC which were celebrated on March 8, 2020. Look for more photos of this special day on pages 3, 4 & 8.

March 8th Celebration, Open House & Ministry Fair

by Nancy Froysland Hoerl

The bells were ringing and the choir singing as the Bagpiper, in full regalia, led us up the aisle to the altar. The organ was thrumming and the congregation singing “Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me....”

Excitement and energy were in the air. The church was decorated with brilliant purples, reds and pinks, with banners flying and ribbons twirling as they dangled from the dazzling chandeliers and along the walls.

The church has entered the building to do God’s work. We are about to embark on another 60 years of service to the community from this site, inside our building and outside our walls.

The Ministry Fair followed the service in Fellowship Hall. The tables were set up with information on all of the missions that are serving and being served by Yardley United Methodist Church, our church! As we celebrate 60 years in our “new” building, the Church on the Hill, we also celebrate the many groups that use our church and the many ways we reach out into the community to let them know that they are loved by God and by us and that we see them; we see them struggle with addiction and food insecurity, we see them as they grieve and suffer loss, we see them as they look for new jobs and worry about their family’s stability, we see them as they look for sustainable housing; we see them and we reach out to them.

We will also be reaching in to shore up our “old” building and make it the perfect and safe place we want it to be to support Sunday worship, in-house activities, and all the groups that come to us to meet and share and grow.

The amazing history of our church that was highlighted in Fellowship Hall lets us know that the Spirit of reaching out has been palpable since our first “little” church was built in Yardley in 1838. We remodeled and continued to grow and we now occupy our third church building. But the work is still not done and we need to “grow and build” into it.

We embrace each other in love and we reach out to those in our community who have need. We encourage you to continue to support all the missions of the church and to contribute to shoring up our facility to make that work an ongoing and viable mission in the church, in the community, and in the world.

“Praise God from who all blessings flow.” Gratefulness continues to challenge us and encourage to move forward!



See more photos from March 8 on p. 3, 4 & 8

Tidings is published by
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Phone: 215-316-1431
pastorcyndi@yardleyumc.org



Holy Week and Easter

As we get closer to Holy Week and Easter, we see that it won't be possible to gather in person at the church.



The safest place for all of us is at home at a safe distance. While some other churches have decided to postpone their Easter celebration until churches resume services, our staff feels strongly that we should stay on schedule. During Holy Week, we will offer a daily devotional.

Easter will be something completely new and different. Isn't that what it means to celebrate the impossible act of Jesus' resurrection when the disciples thought he was dead and gone? We will share the details via email.

In the meantime, part of our celebration will include YOUR witness to signs of hope and new life. Send your photos or video testimonies about how God is present among us even in the midst of this shutdown. Family photos, spring flowers, neighbors helping neighbors (safely!), music or anything that you'd like to share that reminds us that Jesus is alive, and love goes on. **Please email these photos and videos to pastorcyndi@yardleyumc.org**



Dear Church Family,

In trying to describe my reaction to the upheaval of the past weeks, the best word I can find is off-balance. Everything we depended on to give us stability, routine and predictability is disrupted, and worse, we don't know when it will stabilize. We can't expect things to "go back to normal" because we will all be changed. However...

The one constant and sure thing is that we are God's beloved community. Amen? Amen!

To be a community means to stay connected! We are trying different ways to do that. We are posting a worship service, including music from Eduardo on our Youtube channel, TheYUMC. Denise is posting mid-week devotionals. The staff plus a couple of church members and I are making individual phone calls to our church families this week to say hello and share information. The Church Mouse still comes out every week with updates and news.

Then there's ZOOM! We are holding bible study, meet-ups, Books group and staff meetings with an online meeting platform called ZOOM. It's free to use, easy to learn and very helpful to see and hear each other. The church now has an account, so anyone can set up a ZOOM meeting. Contact any of the staff for help to use it. Denise is doing the scheduling of ZOOM meetings.

A lot of resources are available online to those with internet access or a smart phone. There are devotionals, cartoons, inspirational quotes and even on-line exercise classes. Teachers are teaching, friends are playing games, families are visiting. Keep sharing what you find with the church and each other on our Facebook group, Yardley United Methodist Church, or on Instagram.

You've asked how you can help others at this difficult time. One way the church is already helping is by providing a space in our parking lot for our neighbors to play and be with their families. Children are learning to ride bikes. Teens are learning to drive. Families play volleyball. Moms and dads are getting a few minutes outside to relax. It's wonderful to see their joy in the midst of all this.

For other ways to help our neighbors, check out the special edition of the Church Mouse email from March 28 or the articles on the subsequent pages of this newsletter.

In spite of the hardship, there are signs of life and hope all around us. People are caring for each other. Spring is coming and trees are blooming in spite of coronavirus. I lean on the promises of God's strength and our love for each other. I can't wait for the day when we gather in person, but we are still a church family wherever we are. I'm praying for each of you. Be kind and never lose hope.

Sending peace and love,
Pastor Cyndi 215-316-1431

Birthdays in April

01 Franklyn Cox	17 Christopher Potash
01 Michelle Findley	17 Patrick Merrick
01 Christopher Lefebvre	17 Pablo Azzati
02 Robert Heilig	18 Valentin Hurni
02 Trevor Hart	18 Samantha Reed
02 Angela Fernandez	19 David Kyle
03 Rachel Bromberg	19 Drew Potash
04 Laura Amweg	21 Becky Diamond
06 Emily Abbott	22 Pamela Bunnion
06 Dorothy Chreitzberg	22 Bill Rymer
07 Jeffrey Pirog	22 Kirsten Binder
09 Mary-Kate Findley	22 Angelina Hachoose
10 Carolyn Sherman	27 Natalie Chassen
13 Knisley Kooker	28 Mary Ellen Eckman
13 Taylor Winters	30 James Lefebvre
16 Andrew Laba	



On March 8, we came together to praise God through worship, singing and prayer.



MISSION!
POSSIBLE!

March 8, 2020

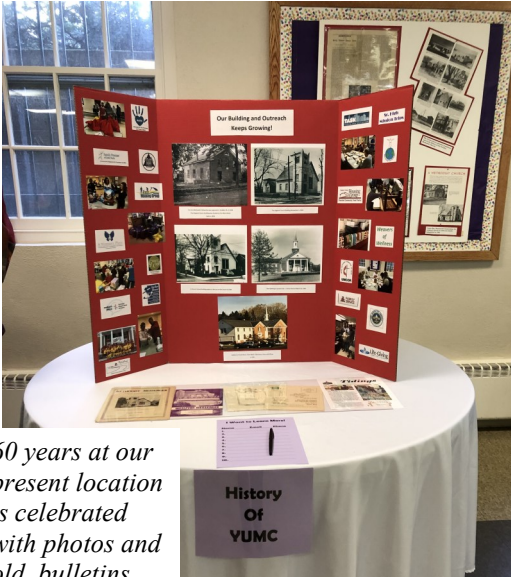
celebration
WORSHIP



MISSION: POSSIBLE! MINISTRY FAIR



Pastor Cyndi, Stephanie & Nacia speak with representatives from Family Promise & Family Service.

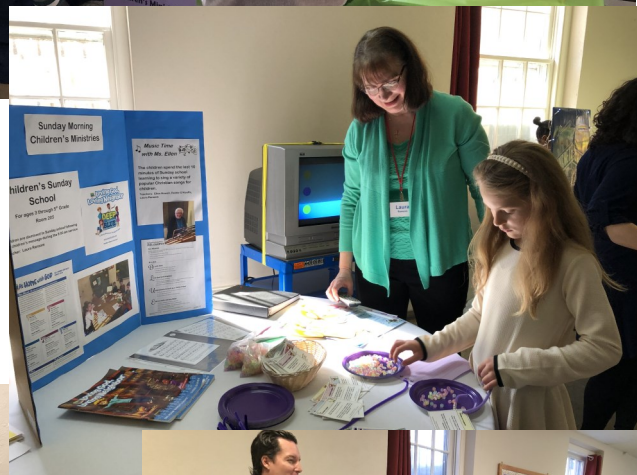


60 years at our present location is celebrated with photos and old bulletins.

YUMC children do fun activities at Sunday School & God Squad booths.



Eduardo coaches Steve on ringing the low G handbell.



Denise & YUMC youth play a funny question game.



Mary Ellen speaks with a board member from Family Promise.



Thank you to all who have made their tithes and gifts by mail or on line. Please continue your regular giving to the church during this difficult time. Your checks can be mailed to this address..... Yardley United Methodist Church, 300 Langhorne Rd, Yardley PA 19067. You can also make online gifts by going to the church website or <https://giveinjoy.givingfuel.com/yardley-united-methodist>

Our staff is working faithfully to bring church to you via online posts on Facebook and Instagram, the website, phone calls and texts. (You don't need to have a Facebook account to access the on line worship which will be sent by email each Sunday morning)

Please continue to be in touch with the church. You can reply to this email, call Pastor Cyndi at 215-316-1431, or email : pastorcyndi@yardleyumc.org denise@yardleyumc.org eduardo@yardleyumc.org office@yardleyumc.org
Your ongoing support makes possible our ministry to each other and to our community, especially in this time of crisis. God bless you.



A prayer for anxious times

Dear Lord, help us not to let our fears and anxieties tie us in knots. Let us relax and trust in your loving arms to hold us and support us. Keep us connected to one another in friendship and love, even when we are separated by space. Heal those who are suffering, and protect us from sickness and hopelessness. We lean on you, our Comforter and Friend. Amen.



Calling all donations!

By Erica Lipton

This crazy and hard time is a great opportunity for us to show people that the church is more than a building! Two of our MyCalling! ministry partners are looking for donations and support in this time. Anchor House is looking for donations of canned goods, pasta, sauce, water etc. to help support their residents and outreach ministries. And Furniture Bank in Philadelphia is looking for donations of small kitchen tables as they rush to house as many people as possible in this crisis.

Food Donations can be dropped off in the labeled plastic bin at the top of the church ramp (There will be wipes available for disinfecting.) **If you have a small kitchen table to donate please contact Erica Lipton at EricaLipton@mycallingministries.com** and we can arrange pick up.

Thank you Yardley UMC for your support and stay safe!

****Bucks County Housing Group which runs food pantries in Bucks County including Pennndel Food Pantry, is not accepting actual food donations currently. To donate funds, please go to www.bchg.org**



The staff are meeting via Zoom



Since YUMC was unable to host Family Promise at our church due to the coronavirus this month, the guests were housed during the day at the Family Promise Day Center, and spent the nights at Highland Park Community Church. With the help of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, our partner church, we were able to provide meals for 8 adults, 3 small children, and an infant. Thanks to all those who helped prepare and delivery meals during these challenging times.

The Mission Committee

Reflections on Hosting Family Promise at YUMC

By Joyce Lee

Yardley UMC is one of 13 “host” churches in Lower Bucks County that provides services and support to the Family Promise of Bucks County program, dedicated to helping homeless persons secure a greater level of independence and a permanent home. We “host” up to 13 persons for one week at a time, 6 times a year.

Patrons enrolled in the program spend their daytime hours at the Day Center, at their place of employment, or at school, and time with counsellors, receiving guidance and training in skills needed to live more successfully and independently, while searching for affordable housing. At the end of the day, patrons are transported by the FP van to a “host” church where they’re welcomed and provided with an evening meal, sleeping rooms (often, in Sunday School rooms), breakfast the following morning, and lunch fixings for packing their own lunches for the next day. Early the next morning, the van picks them up and returns them to the Day Center for another day of activity.

During YUMC’s host week from February 2nd – 9th, two of our guests were Anne-Marie and her toddler-daughter, Leila. After nearly 6 months of intensive counselling and personal work, Anne-Marie and Leila, graduated into permanent housing in an apartment in Bristol! And, the Family Promise staff, officers, host church volunteers, and fellow patrons CELEBRATED her success with an “Open House” at the Day Center on February 20th.

I attended the Open House that night, along with several volunteers... On Anne-Marie’s and Leila’s last night in the program, Anne-Marie was very “emotional” as she spoke about her gratitude for the help she had received in the Family Promise program and the sense of welcome and support she had felt at the “host” churches. Several people gave her “envelopes;” I gave her a card and a gift card to Target, on behalf of all of us here at YUMC. Anne-Marie told us that she had received *almost all* of the items on her “Wish List” of home furnishings that Steve Kyle had sent out to us shortly before her graduation. Then, we ate pizza and cake! For those of us who had met Anne-Marie and Leila during their stay at YUMC in early February, it was a heart-felt and very rewarding night.

[It was wonderful] to share this final “graduation” celebration with our FP guests; to celebrate with them, to hear their expressions of gratitude and to share our good wishes for their continued success. It’s a rewarding experience, for the patron, the Family Promise staff, and for the church volunteers, and an example of how we all can participate in “changing lives”...both theirs and ours!

I love that YUMC participates in the Family Promise program! It has helped me to grow in my capacity for feeling compassion for others, while helping others to succeed, too.

Currently, we’re all practicing “social distancing,” so Family Promise is contained entirely within the Day Center, with host church volunteers delivering meals to their location at 1700 Woodbourne Road in Levittown.

Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to set up for our week of hosting our guests from Family Promise, for serving during that week, and who clean up the week after, do the laundry, and put the rooms back in order. And, thanks to our Missions Committee, who organizes this ministry, and recruits and supports the volunteers.

Look for news of YUMC’s *next* week of hosting Family Promise guests, ...and for ways that you can help.



A Wonderful Service Project for all ages!

Manor Care Residents looking for Pen Pals. Are you at home and looking for a way to give back to the community? Our residents would love to receive pictures, letters, postcards, or drawings from you and your family. Help lift our residents' spirits and keep them feeling connected while they stay indoors and out of harm's way.

Mail them to:

Attn: Joyce Sarkodie

ManorCare Health Services - Oxford Valley

1480 Oxford Valley Rd

Yardley, PA 19067

Note: To ensure the safety of our residents all mail received will sit for a minimum of 3 days before we distribute it.



Help End World Hunger at Home!

Since we are all spending more time at home, did you know that by simply playing a game on your phone or computer you can help feed the world? On your computer google Free Rice, or you can get the free App on your phone from the App Store. On this site, they will ask you questions about different categories (Words, Languages, Health, Math, Science, Geography and even a new one on Coronavirus facts) and they let you pick the difficulty level, which means it's appropriate for adults and kids! If you get the answer right, a small ad will pop-up on the side of your screen and the ad sponsor will donate the cash equivalent of 10 grains of rice to the UN's World Food Program. The site will also keep track of how many grains of rice you've donated and the program has donated, so you can see the difference we're making in feeding the world. On any given day, WFP has 5,600 trucks, 20 ships and 92 planes on the move, delivering food and other assistance to those in most need. If you want to know more, read about it on their website in the "About" section of their menu.

It's an easy and fun way to make a difference in a world where many are still in need of a meal.



Church members who sew are invited to use this video tutorial to make much-needed hospital masks. Lin Rowley is available to answer questions about how to do it. lindacrowley@gmail.com

Please contact Pastor Cyndi if you would like her to buy supplies for your project.



A Message of Gratitude from The Peace Center

Within **The Peace Center**, we are sharing with each other ideas from our social contacts that offer encouragement or challenge us to grow during this season of change.

- What am I grateful for today?
- What expectations of "normal" am I letting go of today?
- Who am I checking in on or connecting with today?
- How am I getting outside today?
- How am I moving my body today?
- What beauty am I either creating, cultivating, or inviting in today?

These days are finding us trying to navigate what our new daily normals will be. There are the tangible physical stressors and constraints, as well as the emotional and psychological stressors associated with uncertainty. It may be difficult to experience anything for which to feel grateful. The extreme nature of our beings seeks out the overwhelmingly obvious (and easiest) things in our life, while often overlooking small, yet immensely more impactful offerings. As I've seen so many memes, jokes, and comments on the hoarding of toilet paper, I find that each day I am grateful for a flush toilet (inside my house no less!), running water, and soap!

Look around you, there are many things - simple yet overlooked - that are helping you to get through this crisis.

Visit The Peace Center's Facebook page (<https://thepeacecenter.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ef0fe29e9a2a665f09bd3c49e&id=e3a3aa4e3e&e=d18c0f1123>) to share examples or stories of your gratitude practice!

The Peace Center is so grateful for the continued support - emotionally, physically, monetarily - of everyone in our community. We are honored to have trusted friends with us on this part of the journey.

In peace,
Danny



Mark views Peggy's handcrafts

Handcrafts by Peggy

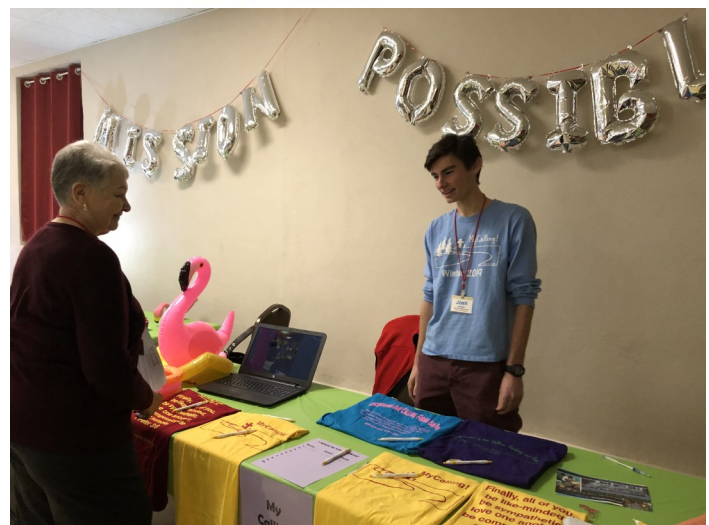
Custom handwork done by Peg Boysen to earn money for the YUMC Capital campaign. Knitting, crocheting, tatting, afghans, baby blankets, rag dolls, toys, Christmas decorations, etc. Call Peggy at 215-321-1688 or email peggyannboysen@gmail.com

Handcrafts by Peggy

Custom Handwork done to earn money for the
Yardley United Methodist Church Capital Mission Project

Knitting, Crocheting, Tatting or Whatever (your pattern or mine)
Afghans, Baby Blankets, Rag Dolls, Toys, Christmas Decorations, Etc.

Peggy Boysen
215-321-1688 (H), 609-903-1841 (C)
peggyannboysen@gmail.com



Josh tells Stephanie about MyCalling! Mission experience


[Join a Meeting](#)
[Sign In](#)

Phone and Video Chat make it possible for us to come together in this time of distancing.

We are meeting on Zoom just about every day of the week.

Below are a list of weekly meetings already in progress. New meetings are being scheduled regularly. Be sure to check the Church Mouse email for updates.

If you would like to join a meeting, reach out to the host. If you would like to host a meeting for church gatherings, email Denise Harris at Denise@Yardleyumc.org

If you don't have a computer, you can call Denise at 267-980-6054 to find out how to phone in to a particular meeting. We want everyone to feel invited to join in!

Let's continue to dream of ways we can meet together online!

Sundays 11am Host: Eduardo
Music Ministry and Friends Gathering

Wednesdays 2:00 pm Host: Pastor Cyndi
Staff Meeting

Wednesdays 6:30 pm Host: Eduardo
Music Ministry and Friends Gathering

Wednesdays 7:30 pm Host: Denise
Youth Group Gathering

Thursdays 1:00 pm Host: Denise
The Way Book Study

Thursdays 9:00 pm Host: Denise
Young Adult Drinks and Discussion

Friday April 10th 1:00 pm Host: Debbie Van Aken
Books Group

Thursday, April 23rd 8:00 pm Host: Denise
Pub Theology

Ad Council and other Committees as scheduled,
hosted by Pastor Cyndi & Committee Heads.

YUMC Music Ministry virtual gatherings - Open to all!

Even though our music ministry groups cannot currently meet physically in the church building, we have been continuing our fellowship, friendship and sense of church through virtual Zoom* gatherings.

We "meet" on Sunday at 11 am, and additionally on Wednesday at 6:30 pm for anyone that can't join in on Sunday morning. We check in on each other, talk about our week, the challenges the current times are imposing on us and others as well as the blessings the present may be bringing. We talk about ways we can be helpful to others within and outside the church, we share prayer requests and we close with a group prayer.

These virtual gatherings are open to ALL church friends. Anyone interested in joining in please refer to the weekly church email with the listing of all Zoom gatherings happening that week, and follow the link for the "Music Ministry and Friends Gathering" or send Eduardo an email (eduardo@yardleyumc.org) and he'll be glad to send you the information to join.

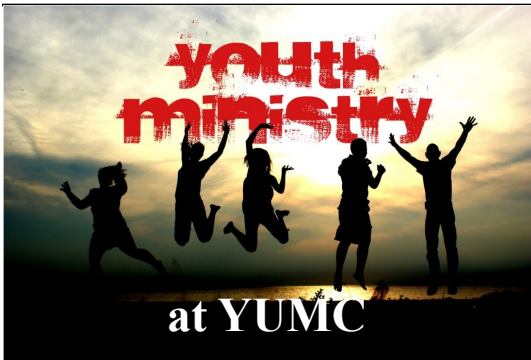
In the midst of the difficulties of the current social distancing and shelter in place ordinances, being able to see and chat with our church friends via a virtual gathering has been an oasis and a blessing. Jesus said in Matthew 18:20, "for where two or three have gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst," luckily he didn't specify that it had to be in the same physical space!



*For anyone not familiar with it, Zoom is a virtual meeting platform that allows people to see and hear each other through a computer, smart phone or tablet. It is a free application available for both Apple and PC computers, iPhone, iPad, Android phones, etc. For more information about Zoom visit zoom.us



A recent Music Ministry Zoom gathering. Note that if you feel uncomfortable with doing Zoom on a computer, or don't have a computer, there is a call in option it's easy, to get details for calling in to a certain meeting, call Denise at 267-980-6054.



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?
Email denise@yardleyumc.org or text 267-980-6054

Friends, this is not how we thought we would be spending March and April 2020. We had big plans! Fund-raiders, Wednesday night fun, Sunday morning discussion, Mission Trip meetings and so much more!

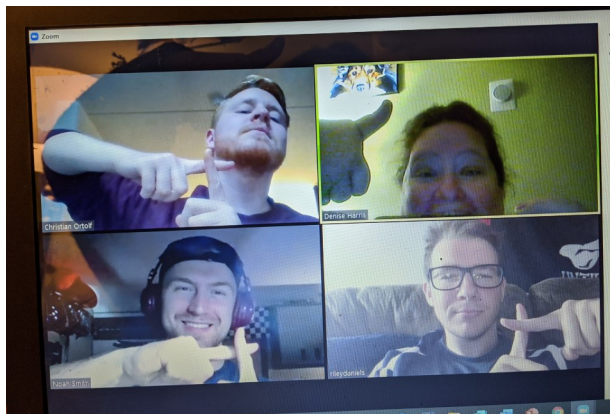
So this isn't the Spring we planned and that's sad and frustrating. But, we are still here! We are finding different ways to connect, support one another and grow in our faith.

Here's what the Youth Ministry is doing to continue to meet together, support youth and parents and help everyone grow in their relationship with Christ.



We are still meeting!

Youth On Wednesday Evenings you can log on to a Zoom call and find the youth and leaders hanging out. We are playing games, having discussions, sharing our experiences and reading Scripture. All youth and their friends are invited to join us!

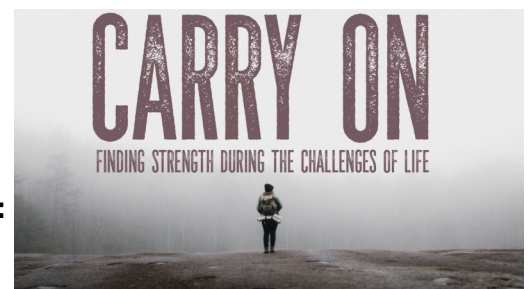


Young Adults (18-27 yrs old)

We are meeting Thursdays at 9 pm on Zoom. We check in, share our experiences and have a discussion.

Bible Study

We are using You Version Bible App and going through 5 day devotions. Each day, there's something to read, a Bible verse and an opportunity to discuss and ask questions within our group. **We kick off a new study "Carry On: Finding Strength During the Challenges of Life" on Thursday April 2nd.** To sign up, text Denise or check link in our weekly email.

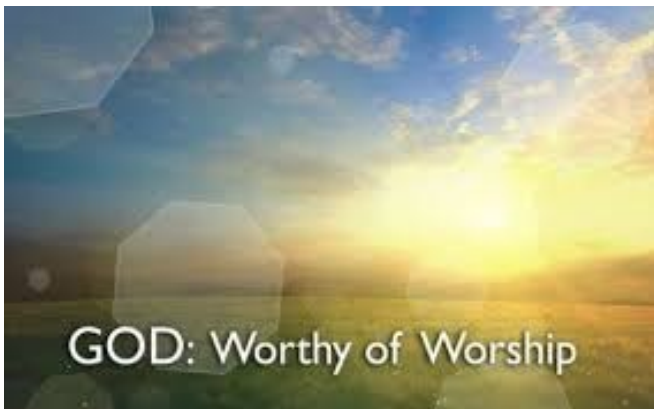


(Denise's note is continued on the next page)

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



April 2020