



# Tidings

A Newsletter of Yardley United Methodist Church

Volume 21, Issue 4

Yardley, Pennsylvania

June 2020



## We say farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Cyndi and Dave.

Pastor Cyndi and David moved out of the parsonage to their new home in Mt. Airy, Philadelphia on June 12, and she is technically on vacation until June 30. If necessary, she will be available for emergencies and tying up loose ends with church leaders and committees. After July 1, all church matters and requests for care need to be directed to Pastor Barb Seekford. This is official United Methodist policy for all departing clergy. In our itinerant system, with regular pastoral changes, this allows the new pastor and congregation to build relationships with each other, and permits the departing pastor to focus on her next field of ministry. It's a challenge for the pastor and the congregation. We separate with sadness, but also with respect for the process.

### Worship in June (live Zoom, Sundays at 11 am)

Welcome our Guest Preachers! June 14-Youth Director Denise Harris, June 21-Layperson Ken McDaniel, June 28-Pastor Bob Everett

### "Love Actually"

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

*(Adapted from Pastor Cyndi's last worship service on June 7, 2020.)*

This is our season at Yardley to say good-bye to each other. This is our time to remember good memories we've shared, to give thanks to God for bringing us into each other's lives for a time, and to name our loss and even our grief as we part ways.

*(continued on p. 2)*

## We are grateful for Pastor Cyndi

At the end of June 2020, after 29 years in pastoral ministry, Pastor Cyndi will retire from local parish ministry, move to a new home in a new community, ..... and, after a brief "time-out" for rest and renewal, will be exploring interests and opportunities in other areas of Christian ministry.

Upon arriving at YUMC in July 2015, Pastor Cyndi, quickly and enthusiastically immersed herself in the church's very busy summer schedule  
*(continued on p. 5)*



*We wished Pastor and Dave farewell at the parade past the parsonage.*

## We say farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Cyndi and Dave. *(continued from p. 1)*

There's not enough time to say it all. In fact, it would take me five more years to tell you about how much I've enjoyed and appreciated every day of the past five years being your pastor at Yardley. I know that our quick call-and-response at the beginning of every service is probably so familiar that you don't notice it anymore... "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!" But rote gets real when we do it enough. Even on my days in the church that were hard or sad, and there weren't many- I could almost always find some reason to be grateful, some glimpse of God working in and through us, and I could rejoice and be glad in it; rejoice and be glad in you and in the shared work we did in Jesus' name.

You have been supportive of me from the very first day, when a flock of pink flamingos magically appeared on my lawn, as they did again last night. You have said "Yes" to helping or serving on committees much more often than "No".

You have supported David and me personally and professionally. You celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination with me, encouraged my sabbatical and celebrated the Lilly Grant we all received, walked alongside us as we cared for Dave's mom, helped us graduate Stefan and Ryan and see them launched in Brooklyn and Oakland, and welcomed my parents' RV and my whole extended family who came for Christmases and Easters and Thanksgivings to stay in the parsonage and to worship, even singing in the choir!

You have supported my ministry at YUMC as we worked together to follow God's call. And God has been with us as a church while we struggled and while we celebrated, visioned and planned; played, prayed and sang. We taught children, youth and adults, supported missions and comforted the elderly. We wrestled with some of the bigger questions facing all United Methodists, which are still unresolved, and we navigated a social and political situation that still divides our country. And yet, in spite of any differences, we found common ground-we even found unity-in our bond as faithful followers of Jesus Christ and most especially as a church family. We love and serve God and God's people: that's what Yardley does and what guides us every day.

This pandemic has surely changed the way we do church, but we've seen that the heart of our ministry, while we do need to care for our buildings, is really in the heart of each of us. I will always be grateful for all of you, for your support, your encouragement, your commitment to growing in faith, your constructive criticism when it was needed, your prayers, and surrounding it all, your love, actually...

If there were any parting words (notice I didn't say parting shots!) that I'd share, let me say thank you to everyone who's ever believed in this calling I've had, including my parents, my siblings, my husband Dave and my wonderful sons, Stefan and Ryan, along with all my extended family who've let me be part of family baptisms, weddings and funerals over all these years.

Thank you to every single church member here and at all of the seven churches where I've been, from New York to Germany to California to Pennsylvania. I've loved you all. The only question that remains is: Where do we go from here, all of you, and myself included? It's right there in the scripture. Jesus told us what to do. "Go therefore and make disciples... teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you...love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. And remember... I am with you always." Amen.



*Dear Friends at Yardley,*

*You outdid yourself in giving me an unforgettable farewell, full of wonderful surprises that truly came from your hearts. You have no idea how meaningful it was for me to be surprised by the virtual choir benediction and the laying on of hands!! Seeing all those people blessing me in the video was even more powerful the next day since I couldn't see them all on the live call. Thinking about my leaving, it was one of the things about being shut down that I was most disappointed about, that I wouldn't have the laying on of hands at our altar. The way you did it was beautiful and meaningful for me. Of course, the parade, the gift basket, the lawn signs and the flamingos were also amazing! I felt like the queen herself! I know that many of you worked behind the scenes for a long time to ease this transition for me and create a special day in the midst of a difficult time for the world and the church. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I love you all. After a year or so, we will be able to re-connect, and hopefully one day see each other in person. I know God's not finished with you-or me-yet, and there are more days of rejoicing ahead.*

*Thank you and God bless you,  
Pastor Cyndi*



## Even as we say “Godspeed” to Pastor Cyndi, we say “Welcome” to Pastor Barb.

On July 1, 2020, The Reverend Barbara Seekford, appointed by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, will begin as Senior Pastor at YUMC. She will conduct her first worship service at YUMC on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Barb has been a United Methodist pastor for fifteen years. She graduated from Ursinus College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and from Eastern Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. An ordained Elder in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, she has served as pastor of both Bustleton and Chalfont United Methodist Churches. As a clergy member of the Conference, she has served on the District Committee of Ministry as well as been both a candidacy and a clergy mentor. She currently serves on the Conference’s Congregational Transformation Team.

Pastor Barb has received training and a certificate in Coaching. She states in her bio, “This has been beneficial in my role as pastor as I am able to utilize these skills to help both individuals and churches discern where God is calling them and help them to feel equipped for the journey ahead.”

Pastor Barb is originally from Boyertown, PA. She and husband, Andy, have two grown children, Kevin and Stacy, one grandchild, Ellie, and are anticipating the arrival of a second grandchild. Stacy is hoping to be ordained as a United Methodist pastor in the Tennessee Conference in June 2020. In her free time, Pastor Barb likes to read, go kayaking, ride a motorcycle, and spend time with her family.

In her bio, Pastor Barb states, “My ministry is guided by my personal mission statement, which is to imagine, inspire, and ignite lives of authenticity and integrity. I am inspired to lead a church that is living into authentic community where people can experience the all-embracing love of God and neighbor. I am excited about the possibility of serving as your next Pastor, and walking this next part of the journey together!” During her introduction to the members of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee by our District Superintendent, Rev. Tracy Bass, Pastor Barb asked us two pivotal questions that are crucial for us to think about. The first, “What is YUMC known for in this community?” And, the second, “Where would you like to be in 3-5 years?”

According to Conference protocol, until July 1, 2020, we are not permitted to contact Pastor Barb about matters related to current or upcoming ministry at YUMC. She is, as is Pastor Cyndi, still fully engaged in ministry with her present congregation. Each congregation and pastor will want to savor those remaining months together, as they remember the experiences they’ve shared and the range of emotions that the anticipation of saying “Goodbye” brings.

So, we welcome Pastor Barb Seekford as our Senior Pastor and look forward to experiencing her leadership as we continue our journey, as individuals and as a congregation, to be authentic witnesses of God’s Word ... to each other, to our local community, and to our world.



## From the Mission Committee: Bucks County Housing Group Donations for School Supplies

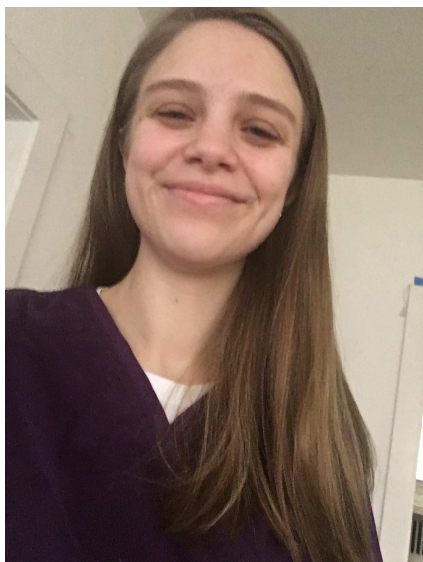
As an unusual school year comes to an end, we think ahead to what will or might happen in September. Some things will not look or seem the same, but students will continue to need supplies to help them prepare for their new school year. Again this year, before everyone goes into summer mode, please consider making a donation to help kids in the Bucks County Housing Group. Checks can be sent to the church or donations can be made online via the website. Be sure to put “School Supplies” on the check or in the notes section of your online giving.

## Birthdays in June

01 Susan Kellenbenz	19 Lukas Azzati
01 Jenn Noblejas	20 Carson McGarrity
02 Cherron Crane	20 Adrienne Frye
04 Kathryn Ortolf	22 Mitch Harris
06 Sonia Baker	24 Nancy Coles
09 Erica Lipton	24 Lily Griffin
10 Jeanette Leonhauser	25 Michael Lipton
10 Pam McCreery	26 Makayla Frye
11 Olivia Sawyer	26 John Kelly
12 Laura Jane Bennett	27 Lenore Martin
13 Catherine Bretz	29 Randy Findley
15 Andrew Grace	30 R. J. Cox
17 Jayme Stier	
17 Chase Stier	
17 Shayna Winters	

## Birthdays in July

03 Susan Hunt	17 Lisa Hammelman
04 Lisa Grayson Zygmunt	18 Hank Zygmunt
05 Diana Carlson	18 Michael Dileo
07 Patrick Diamond	20 Alexander Schettino
09 Nancy Roberts	23 Janet B. Smith Tolbert
10 Henry Rooney	23 James Beckelman
11 George Isaacson	25 Adam VanAken
11 Thomas Habgood	27 Lamar Frye
13 Mollie Mitchell	27 Linda Heilig
14 Nancy Binder	28 Amy Gonzalez
16 Pat Roth	29 Eva Haas
16 Simon Bagdonis	30 Eduardo Azzati
17 Joyce Lee	31 Patricia Coiante



*Mica Azzati has recently completed her sophomore year as a nursing major at the University of Pittsburgh, and is working as a Patient Care Technician at Magee Women's Hospital, a branch of UPMC, in Pittsburgh. We keep Mica in our prayers as she cares for others during these challenging times.*

## Birthdays in August

01 Nicholas Lefebvre	14 Richard Edwards
02 Stefan Skripak	14 Brooklyn Bromberg
02 James Anderson	15 David Fernandez
02 Dale Van Aken	15 Heather Bromberg
04 Samuel Kaiser	15 Kevin Heilig
05 William Binder	18 Larry Day
05 Everett Haas	19 Ken McDaniel
05 Evan Luce	20 Kevin O'Keeffe
05 Doris McDaniel	21 Donald Heasley
06 Marge Quallis	22 Jane Rooney
06 Lauren Moody	23 David Breen
08 Kathleen O'Keeffe	24 Carolyn Richards
08 Sharon Lavish-Ijdo	24 Rebecca Van Aken
10 Marsha Snyder	25 David Fernandez
10 Jennifer Kimock	26 Joanna Chassen
	26 Kimberly Walker
	27 Emma Menzel
	27 Anjali Baker
	29 Deborah Corey
	30 Cooper Winters



*Welcome Quinn, the daughter of Victoria (Richardson) and RJ Adams, born May 20, 2020.*

*Welcome Brooke Harper born March 9, 2020 new baby daughter of Christina & Bill Jackson and baby sister of Bradley.*





## We are grateful for Pastor Cyndi

*(continued from p. 1)*

of ministry events – Vacation Bible School, the Local Mission experience for Middle Schoolers, and the distant Youth and Adult Mission Trip.

Over the past 5 years, Pastor Cyndi's gifts of ministry have enriched the life of this congregation and the local community. She has participated fully in all events and activities at YUMC; teaching adult and youth in small group settings, joining mission trips, playing in the handbell choir, and participating on "Work Days" to help maintain the church building and groups. At the parsonage, her love of gardening produced "spectacular results". Her passions for ministry included planning creative worship experiences and children's sermons that entertained and taught Christian truths to children and adults alike. Additionally, she demonstrated her passion for peace, social justice and inclusiveness by her participation in events in the local community that addressed those issues. Her husband, Dave Breen, has been involved in ministries at YUMC, too. He sang with the choir, and attended many of the church's events, when his work as professor and researcher at Drexel University permitted.

At our final online worship service together on June 7<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Cyndi's parting words to us were:

"What's next, for all of us? Jesus told us where to go and what to do... and promised us, 'I am with you always'."

That Sunday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. we lined up in our cars in the parking lot of the church for a "Drive-By" Farewell, past the parsonage, where Pastor Cyndi and Dave were seated on the lawn, with the parsonage, with its neatly-tended gardens, as a back-drop, and surrounded by lawn signs and flamingos, to receive our final, "in-person" words of appreciation and "Auf Wiedersehen"... while social-distancing from our cars.

*continued in next column*

The congregation at Yardley UMC is extremely grateful to Pastor Cyndi for her gifts of leadership, ministry and witness to us and to the local community over these past five years. We will miss her and wish her "Godspeed" as she discerns for herself "where to go and what to do" in her new community.



*A walk down memory lane...Pastor Cyndi in her early days at YUMC.*



## Pastor Cyndi's last worship service included An Order of Farewell to a Pastor

*Pastor Cyndi:*

I thank you, the members and friends of Yardley United Methodist Church, for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you for the past five years. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here and your love.

*Lisa Zygmunt, Chairperson of Staff Parish Relations Committee:*

**We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to explore new ministries. We are grateful for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave with your departure.**

*Pastor Cyndi:*

I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. I release you from turning to me and depending on me. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and for your new pastor, Rev. Barbara Seekford. Let us pray.

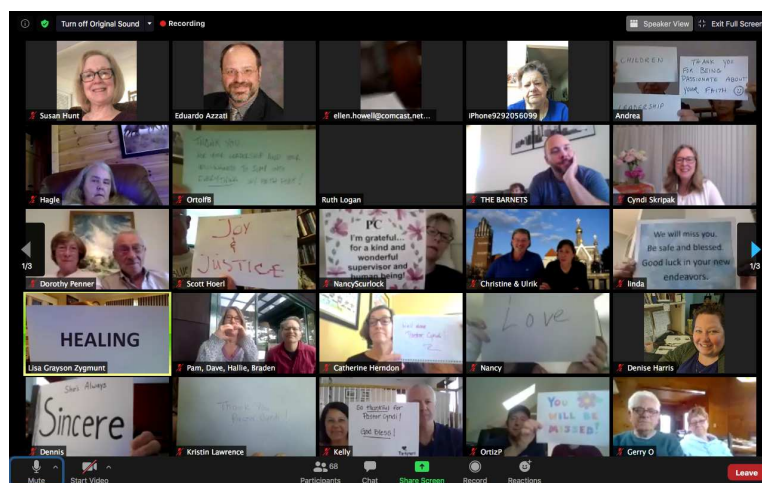
*Cyndi and Lisa:*

**Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting, we give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

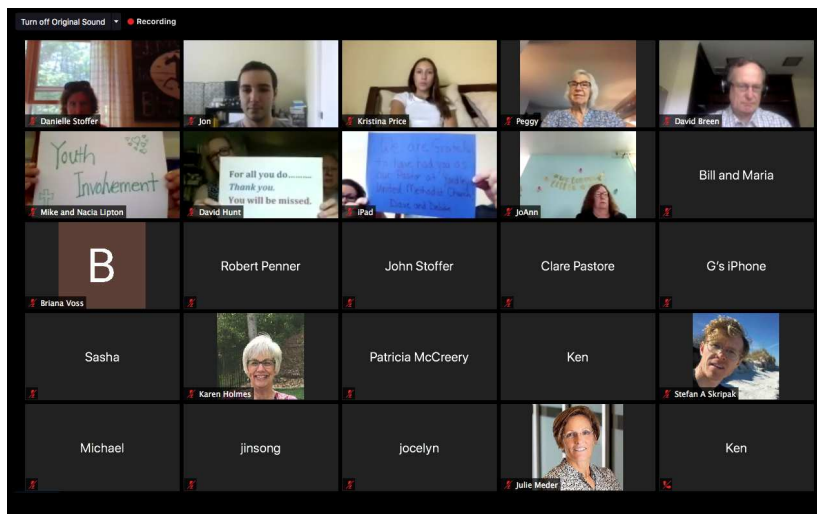
*Adapted from "An Order of Farewell to a Pastor or Deacon," Copyright © 1992 UMPH, alt. by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church.*



**More than 90 people attended our live farewell worship service on June 7 and 37 people have viewed it on YouTube so far. To view all of our videos, go to [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for *theyumc*.**



**On June 7, we held up signs of gratitude for Pastor Cyndi.**



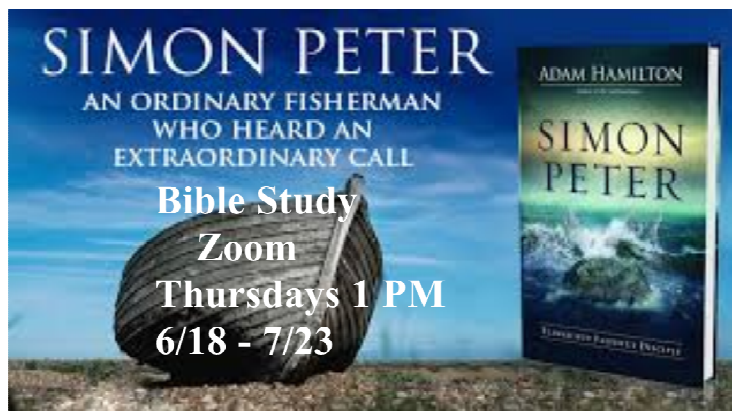




*Members of our choir and Eduardo created a virtual recording of the famous Lutkin Benediction "The Lord Bless You and Keep You," which was shared as a surprise benediction sung at Pastor Cyndi and David Breen's last worship with us. While the recording was being played at the end of the service everyone who was on the Zoom worship call lifted their hand offering David and Pastor Cyndi their virtual benediction.*







**New Bible Study starting June 18th on Zoom!** We study Adam Hamilton's Book "Simon Peter, a flawed disciple." Email Denise at [denise@yardleyumc.org](mailto:denise@yardleyumc.org) with questions and to find out the zoom information, or click on the green Link Tree button in the small groups article.

We will watch the video together for the 1st week. So, if you don't get the book in time, you can still come to week 1. (Scroll below for book ordering info)

Feel free to invite others to this study.

[https://www.amazon.com/Simon-Peter-Flawed-Faithful-Disciple/dp/1501845985/ref=tmm\\_hrd\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=](https://www.amazon.com/Simon-Peter-Flawed-Faithful-Disciple/dp/1501845985/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=)

#### Simon Peter: A Flawed Disciple

He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man. And that's the point of Simon Peter, a new book and six-week adult Bible study by Adam Hamilton. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today.



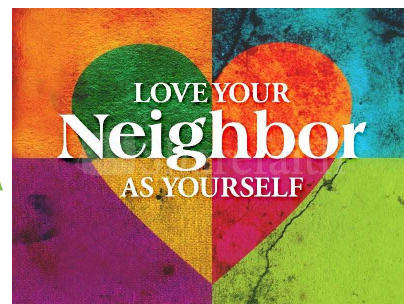
*Elly Azzati enjoying her YUMC prayer shawl*



## At Home VBS

**July 12-17!** I'm sure you wish that this summer's Concrete and Cranes VBS were an in-person event, just as we do. We are truly going to miss seeing all of the children singing, laughing, learning, and growing together this summer at VBS. We came up with an alternative.

Introducing Knights of the North. A virtual at Home VBS, We will hold At-Home VBS on July 12-17th. Be on the lookout for more information in the next few weeks.



**Children's Sunday school** is still happening; it has moved online. Cokesbury has provided a virtual Sunday school lesson for children ages 3 through 5th grade for each Sunday. The theme for the month of June is "Communities Live Together". The Bible focus is: We are to treat all people as if they were our neighbors. Laura is emailing out links to the lesson on Saturday evening for use at any time on Sunday. If you would like your family to be included in this email list, please send an email to [ljransom@comcast.net](mailto:ljransom@comcast.net).

Elly Azzati, Eduardo Azzati's mother, passed from this life to life eternal on May 8, 2020. As seen in this photo from early January, Elly was comforted these last few months by a prayer shawl given by YUMC's weavers of wellness, with which she became inseparable. Elly often commented that she enjoyed the warmth from the shawl but most importantly that she could feel the support from the prayers intertwined in the fabric. She was a knitter all her life and definitely appreciated yarn and the positive energy that goes into hand-knitting. All the way to her last moments Elly gifted everyone around her with the same peaceful expression, smile and sense of gratitude and joy with which she always lived.

Eduardo and his family want to thank YUMC's church family for all the prayers and words of support and encouragement during Elly's last seven-month health struggle as well as all the expressions of love and comfort upon her recent passing. Please continue to hold Silvio, Eduardo's dad and Vivi, Eduardo's sister in your thoughts and prayers.





On June 7th, the youth celebrated the end of another year of youth ministry at YUMC with their Golden Plate Awards. Each youth received an award and a video from this year was shared. The youth continue to meet via Zoom.



#### Farewell tribute to Tracy Bass on Zoom, June 20

There will be a special farewell online tribute to the Rev. Tracy Bass, District Superintendent, on Saturday, June 20, 3 to 5 PM on Zoom.

There will be remembrances about Bass' 6-year tenure and leadership as DS, and there will be music, souvenir photos and other forms of tribute. Bass leaves the conference to go start a new congregation in the Virginia Conference, an area which is home for him and his wife (and namesake), Tracy Bass. For more information, contact the Rev. Jackie Stewart, committee chair, at [jkste635@msn.com](mailto:jkste635@msn.com).

**Our church will take part in this online tribute to Rev. Bass. Pastor Cyndi will speak,** and a picture of Rev. Bass at YUMC for Pastor Cyndi's 25th Anniversary Celebration of Ordination on 6/19/16 has been submitted to the event organizers for inclusion in the program. (Picture above) Additionally, a letter of appreciation and congratulations will be sent on behalf of YUMC to Rev. Bass at his new address in Virginia after June 20th. **Please** find the link to the farewell tribute at [www.epaumc.org](http://www.epaumc.org) on the East District flyer on the page for Zoom events.

*Cindi and I would like to Thank everyone from our church family for the prayers, love and support that has been expressed during my Fathers illness and passing. Your thoughtful caring at this time has truly been a blessing! May God bless each of you!*

*Mitch & Cindi Harris*

*God bless  
YOU ALL*

*InMemoriam*

*Catherine Bretz*

*May 31, 2020*





## Members' Activities at home during lockdown

*Do you have photos of you or your family exercising, doing hobbies, working, cooking, etc. during the lockdown? We would love to share them in the next newsletter.*



*The Lawrence family's response to Pastor Cyndi's big stuffed animal party which she shared during a recent Children's Moments.*



*Andrea & Bob Scherer celebrated 18 years of marriage by dressing up in their wedding clothes and getting take out from the Yardley Inn. To quote Bob, "18 great years!" Congratulations Andrea & Bob! This is priceless!*

*Church members at a protest.*



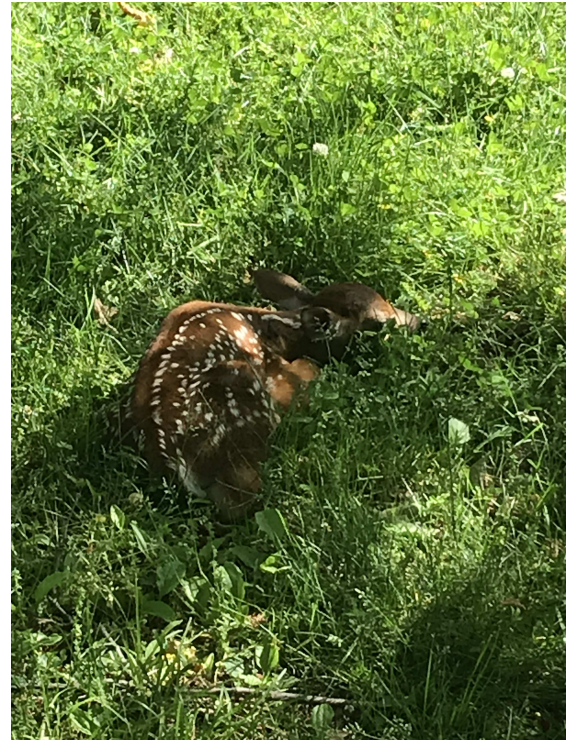
*Carole, Eduardo & Hershey on a walk.*







*The grounds of YUMC bless our community. The parking lot is used by families to play during the lock down. A group gathered to have a birthday car parade in the neighborhood. Even a fawn sheltered in the grass at the edge of the parking lot. We are told that fawns don't give off a scent to their predators, so the mama hides them in the dappled sun of the lawn. If you see a fawn that looks abandoned, don't worry and don't touch it. The mama will return at dusk!*



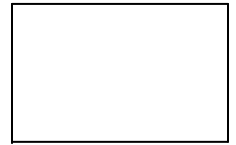
**We are doing two virtual mission trips this summer! Watch for details in the next newsletter.**



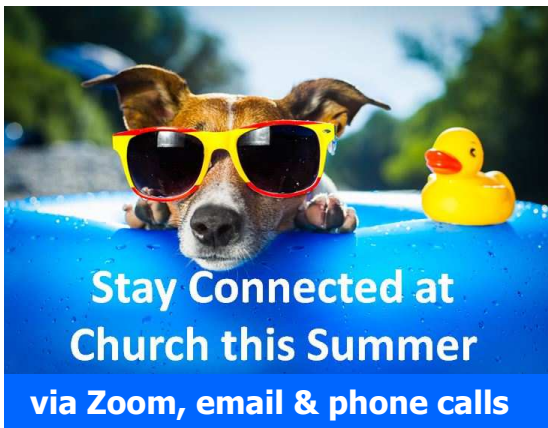
If you would like to add a prayer to our prayer list, you may call the church office, 215-493-3345. You can also email [cathleenhyland@verizon.net](mailto:cathleenhyland@verizon.net) to add the name to our prayer team list for ongoing prayer.

*Please pray for: Silvio Azzati; Linda Heilig; All health workers & essential personnel; first responders; grocery store workers; students & teachers; Doris McDaniel; family of Sam Fuoco, former co-worker of Bob Scherer; Kara Howard, friend of Diane Kreger; Hayley & Magnolia Lower, niece of Sharon Abbott; Brennan family, friends of Merricks; Mike, friend of Edwards family; Tyler, grandson of Margaret Moshinsky & friend of Edwards family; Papp family, relatives of Quallis family; Dave Mock, brother of Lee Ann Mock; Cassie, friend of Edwards family; Josh, friend of Ruth Logan; Jill Dillard & family; Jean Deitterick; Josh Carty; Michael, friend of Diane Kreger; Jeanette Cole, friend of Jennifer Ehrhardt; Alicia Olmo, friend of Lenore Martin; Kim Schettino's father, Donald Redman; Ryan Thompson, friend of the Grace family; Alice Sidener; Catherine Bretz; Julia Ransom.*

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Greetings and may God bless our YUMC friends! You are receiving this newsletter by snail mail so that we can make sure everyone receives it during the lock down. If you do not normally receive the church mouse email each week, and you use email, please email [office@yardleyumc.org](mailto:office@yardleyumc.org) and we will put you on our email list. If you think we have your email, please double check your spam folder to see if our emails are landing there. We want to stay connected!

We miss you and look forward to connecting with you in person in the future.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who are continuing to support the work and ministries of YUMC. You can mail your checks to Yardley United Methodist Church, 300 Langhorne Rd, Yardley, PA 19067. Or, you can donate online at [www.yardleyumc.org](http://www.yardleyumc.org).

We check the church office phone machine (215) 493-3345 and welcome your calls. Leave us a message and we will call you back!