



# Tidings

A Newsletter of Yardley United Methodist Church

Volume 22, Issue 1

Yardley, Pennsylvania

Winter 2021

## Our 2021 Lenten Series: HOLY VESSELS



A LENTEN SEASON OF RECOVERY

*"Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness—body, mind, and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten "season of recovery" for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken."*

([www.worshipdesignstudio.com/vessels](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/vessels)).

Our series will begin on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17th**. **We will be meeting on ZOOM that evening at 7:00.** Our friends from Newtown UMC will join us on Zoom. Ash Wednesday is the official start date of Lent. This is the day you often see people walking around with ashes on their foreheads or hands. It is a sobering reminder of our brokenness and mortality. "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. From dust we came to dust we shall return."

This year as we enter the season of Lent, while acknowledging our brokenness we will also enter into a season of healing and recovery for ourselves, our families, our community and the world. The promise of Jesus is that he is with us in our weariness and burdens.

(continued on p. 2)

## Lent at Home

In an effort to help make your observation of Lent meaningful, we've put together a bag materials for you. The items included enable you to participate at home during the experiential/ritual portion of our Lenten worship services. Don't worry if you are unable to participate in worship. Enclosed in the bags are also recommendations for you to use the materials on your own. We encourage you to find a time each week to rest, reflect and respond to the scripture readings and suggested ritual actions. We hope these items will help you feel spiritually connected to your friends and family at Yardley UMC while we are unable to meet in person.

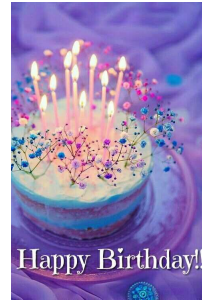
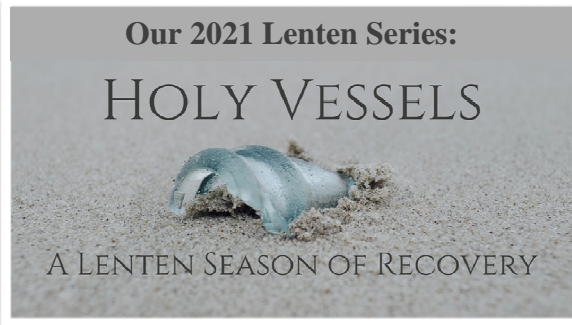
The bags are available for pickup beginning Thursday Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. They will be at the door by the ramp. Please sign the sheet on the door letting us know you picked one up. (One bag per household please.) If you are unable to pickup a bag but would like to participate contact the church office ([yumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:yumcoffice@gmail.com) or 215-493-3345) or Pastor Barb ([bjseekford@gmail.com](mailto:bjseekford@gmail.com) 610-310-8349) and we will see that you get one.

February 17, 7 pm

ASH  
WEDNESDAY  
SERVICE

On Zoom





## February birthdays

05 DeVeaux Kooker  
 07 Suzanne Hart  
 07 David Fernandez  
 09 Micaela Azzati  
 12 Katie Van Aken  
 13 Ellen Howell  
 14 Richard Habgood, III  
 15 Paula Nelson  
 15 Christine Grace  
 16 Jason Kellenbenz  
 18 Thomas O'Keeffe  
 19 James Kalmes  
 19 Debbie Ray  
 20 Maya Mitchell Kunda  
 22 Ruth Bachike  
 25 Vi Tillson  
 25 Chuck Hart  
 25 Barbara Ortolf  
 26 Leslie McBrayer  
 28 John Ward

## March birthdays

01 Nancy Hoerl  
 03 Trey Marco  
 04 Joyce Anderson  
 04 Kelly Skinner  
 05 Beth Kalmes  
 06 Roger Tillson  
 07 Cherie Kooker  
 07 Destini Cox  
 08 Brian Roberts  
 09 Griffin Foll  
 10 Jerome Lavanish  
 12 Diane Kreger  
 12 Max Kalmes  
 14 Kathryn Beavers  
 18 Jennifer Ehrhardt  
 19 Jacob Findley  
 19 Matt Burger  
 21 Sally Edwards  
 21 Cindy Pirog  
 22 Janet L. Smith  
 22 Kevin Hart  
 22 Madeline Kaiser  
 23 Cate Diamond  
 23 Rebecca Kelly  
 24 Joan Kaiser  
 27 Bradley Jackson  
 29 Emily K. Merrick  
 31 Timothy Carpenter  
 31 Armen Hussian

(continued from page 1)

*"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." - Matt 11: 28-30*

**Our symbol for this Lenten season will be beach glass.** Beach glass begins as something whole and yet discarded. As it is tumbled by the sea, it is broken and polished until it becomes a treasured "mineral gem."

**Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, Lent 1:** ZOOM/Facebook Live 10:00 am  
**"Treasure"** (Physical Health)

**Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, Lent 2:** ZOOM/Facebook Live 10:00 am  
**"Safe Keeping"** (Community/Economic Health)

**Mar 7<sup>th</sup>, Lent 3: (Communion)** ZOOM/Facebook Live 10:00 am  
**"Stories"** (Mental Health)

**Mar 14<sup>th</sup>, Lent 4:** ZOOM/Facebook Live 10:00 am  
**"Different Pictures"** (Intellectual Health)

**Mar 21<sup>st</sup>, Lent 5:** ZOOM/Facebook Live 10:00 am  
**"Restoration"** (Environmental Health)

**Mar 28<sup>th</sup>, Lent 6 (Palm/Passion):** ZOOM/Facebook Live 10:00 am  
**"Holy, Wholly"** (Integrated Health)

**Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> (Holy Thursday):** ZOOM/Facebook Live 7:00 pm  
**"Healed and Still Healing"** (Commission of Christ)

**Easter Celebration, Sunday April 4<sup>th</sup> (Holy Communion)**  
**tentative schedule:**

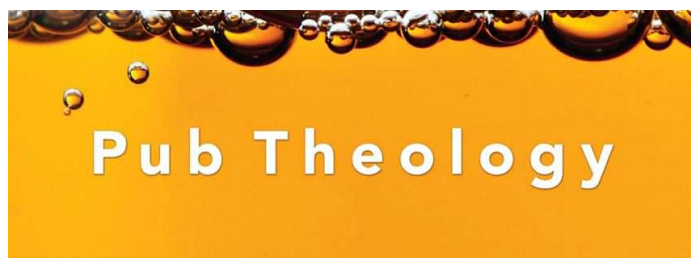
Outdoor service 9:00 am, Easter Egg Hunt for the kids following the service.

11:00 AM worship on ZOOM/Facebook Live  
**"The Ultimate story of Healing"**

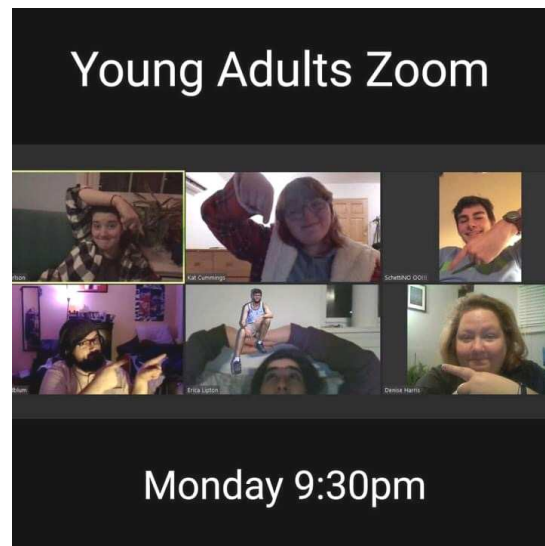


On behalf of the Stewardship and Finance Committees, we would like to thank you all for your generous support through 2020, and your continued support through 2021. Our Stewardship Drive was successful, with pledge totals higher than last year thanks to increased generosity, even though we had a fewer number of people who pledged. Our totals reached \$260,620, and with the help of those that do not officially pledge, we should be able to meet our 2021 budget goals.

Though we were not together in the building for much of the year, that did not stop our Worship, Nurturing or Outreach. Our online Worship continued live via Zoom, and Facebook, including some special music events and a Christmas Eve service. We have Nurtured each other through online Bible Studies, additional email notices, Youth Group activities at the church and online, as well as at home VBS, Advent and Sunday School programs. And thanks to your continued Outreach generosity, we have continued to provide a safe area for a number of self-help groups to meet, Angel Tree gift cards, dinners for Family Promise, Food Pantry donations, items for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Shawls/Afghans from the Weavers of Wellness, donations of school supplies to Bucks County Housing Group and held 2 Youth Mission Trips. As you know, none of this would have been possible without your support and our exceptional staff, and thanks to your continued support, we hope to be able to not only continue much of what we have done, but to expand into whatever new ways we can fulfill God's Calling for our church.



**Pub Theology** is Feb 18 on Zoom at 8 pm. Join us for fun, fellowship and discussion. You can access the Zoom link here: <https://linktr.ee/Yardleyumc> or email [denise@yardleyumc.org](mailto:denise@yardleyumc.org)



**Young Adults meet** Mondays at 9:30 pm. Join the Young Adults every Monday at 9:30pm for a night of check-in, games and discussion.

Join us March 22nd for a special one year anniversary celebration!

Here are the dates for February and March. Access Zoom link at <https://linktr.ee/Yardleyumc>

Feb 1, 8, 15, 22



*Rock paper scissors night with young adults.*

**YOUNG ADULT  
MINISTRY**





Thanks go out to all the Family Promise volunteers who helped hosting, sleeping overnight, and cooking for our families. YUMC was to host Family Promise for the week of February 7, but due to the pandemic, Family Promise has sifted their focus to a new program, Future Begins at Home (FBH). They are trying to keep families together in their current homes during the pandemic instead of bringing them to a central location. Family Promise is also looking into finding a Static Site, instead of moving the future families from church to church. Both these programs are important and challenging. Instead of serving the Families with meals, you can make donations to Family Promise at the link below. Future dates for Family Promise are the weeks of May 2, September 12, and November 7. If you have any questions, please contact Janice Laba. Here is Family Promise's website:

<http://www.fplb.org>



Please keep the following people in your prayers. If you want anyone to be added to the prayer list, call 215-493-3345 or email [office@yardleyumc.org](mailto:office@yardleyumc.org)

George Isaacson; Cyndee Ward; Chuck Condee; Linda Knowles; Caleb Bonilla, friend of Linda Knowles; Katie Seifert, daughter of Keri Vaughan; Jackie Long, mother of Stevilyn Ortiz; Peter, friend of Marsha Snyder & George Isaacson; Christine, daughter of Bob & Nancy Amweg; Silvio Azzati; 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; Julia Ransom.



**God squad is coming out of hibernating on March 17th, 5:30-7 pm.** First grade to 5th grades will return outside for fun, faith and fellowship!! Repeats every Wednesday, weather permitting.



## An Update from BOOKS

The BOOKS group has continued to meet regularly via zoom. We have found our continued online connection to be a lifeline during this difficult year, for sure. We are currently reading *When God Says Wait: - Navigating Life's Detours and Delays without Losing Your Faith, Your Friends, or Your Mind* by Elizabeth Laing Thompson which is a very relevant topic at this particular moment in our lives! In the Fall of 2020, in response to some of the relevant conversations around us, we read *White Fragility* by Roin Diangelo and *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Our next book currently "on deck" is *Caste, the Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson.

BOOKS meets every other Friday afternoon and conversations can be passionate and energetic for sure! We are practical with our reading assignments as members are very busy with work and family demands, volunteerism, and numerous other activities. If you would like to learn more about this group, reach out to Debbie Van Aken at [drvanaken@gmail.com](mailto:drvanaken@gmail.com)



Each year the Mission Committee chooses several local non profits to support with a financial gift around Christmas time. This past December, several checks were mailed out. See the notes of thanks that are excerpted here.



*From Joyce Campbell, Executive Director of Trenton Area Soup Kitchen:*

**...Your donation of \$500.00 is helping provide emergency meals to our area's hungry during these unprecedented times...We practice a food first, no questions asked approach each day and in this time of trouble TASK lives by this, focusing our efforts on providing emergency meals to our area's most vulnerable neighbors.**

**Supported by your donation, this is what TASK is doing to provide food to our community:**

**-TASK's dining room is closed, but we continue to cook and serve meals from our front door – we are providing more than 1,400 meals a day to residents in Trenton.**

**-TASK continues to deliver approximately 500 meals a day to hungry families through our Community Meals Sites.**

**-We have increased access to TASK meals by partnering with 14 low-income senior housing communities in Trenton.**

**-TASK has also partnered with the local food bank to provide more than 20 tons of groceries to support emergency food pantries that experienced food shortages during the pandemic.**

**Your recent donation makes this possible....**



*from Sara Hertz, Chief Development Officer of Philabundance:*

**Thank you for your generous gift to help drive hunger from our communities, especially during these difficult**

**times...thanks to you, individuals and families in our community will have access to the food they need...**



*From Marianne Lynch, Executive Director for A Woman's Place:*

***Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$250.00 ...Your gift is a choice to stand in the values of Courage and Creativity, ensuring that services for victims of domestic violence continue... [we are] working together to continue life-saving programs and services to create a society where all individuals are safe and can flourish.***



*From Kim McNear, Executive Director of Anchor House:*

**...thank you so much for your generous donation of \$500. We truly appreciate your partnership with us in making the world a brighter, safer place for some of New Jersey's most in-need and vulnerable youth.**

**...a safe place to live, food, clothing and much needed crisis intervention, individual, family and group counseling, medical, and mental health care....life skills education, prevention education...and job readiness training...Substance abuse assessment, prevention, counseling...for youth and their parents...**

**Thank you for supporting our mission to provide a safe haven where abused, runaway, homeless, aging out and at-risk youth and their families are empowered to succeed and thrive...**



*From Trish Rowen of the PennDel Food Pantry:*

**...We deeply thank you for your generous donation of \$500.00 for our Community Food Pantry at PennDel.**

**...we continue to encounter folks who are facing unemployment and food insecurity for the first time.**

**Thank you for standing proudly with us as a champion of poverty relief in our community...**



*From Jessica Schwartz, Director of Family Promise of Lower Bucks*

**...Yardley UMC's generous 2020 donation of \$500.00 now, more than ever, means the world to us and our families...Your contribution will go a long way toward helping families get the assistance they need and get back on their feet...**

**We truly appreciate your dedication and support.**





As you know, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and because of safety measures, our Music Ministry groups have not been able to meet in person. Singing indoors, even with masks and physically distanced, is still not safe due to the pressurized aerosols that singing produces which can carry particles that then linger in the air and can travel longer distances than the recommended six feet of physical separation.

During last summer months and into the fall our bell choir (see photo) was able to meet, first outdoors and then in the Sanctuary (properly masked and physically distanced), practice, record a few pieces and even ring at a couple of our fall in-person services. However, when pandemic numbers started to increase again, late in the fall, and we were forced to suspend in-person worship, the group also deemed wise and safer to suspend our in-person activities.

However, in spite of the Covid-19 challenges our music ministry has remained connected through Zoom gatherings, both for worship as well as fellowship, emails, texts, phone calls, etc. Our YUMC Virtual Choir (see photo) has produced several recorded anthems that we have been able to share at worship.

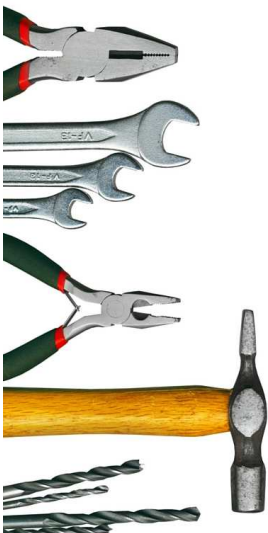
As we look towards the next few weeks and months, I hope and pray things begin to look up and we can start to gradually resume some of our in-person activities while continue doing what we can remotely.

Plans for the upcoming Lent/Holy Week/Easter music include virtual choir anthems for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday and Easter, as well as hopefully bell choir offerings for Palm Sunday and Easter.

As you may have seen on our schedule we are tentatively planning a 9 am outdoor Easter Sunday worship as well as a 11 am Zoom worship. At the outdoor in-person service we will have the opportunity to sing together, masked and physically distanced; I am certainly looking forward to be able to return to that form of worship and prayer through congregational song.

Thank you to all the members of our Music Ministry for their steadfastness and resilience during this challenging times and for being part of a small community within the larger church family. My thanks also to the entire church family for your continued support of our Music Ministry. You are all in my prayers!

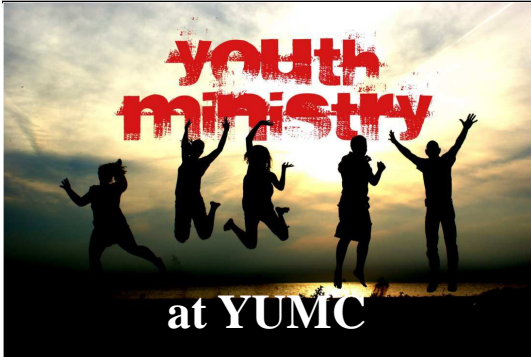
Blessings,  
Eduardo



**Attention Church Volunteers!**

**For  
Ministry**

**Save the date!  
March 13**



*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](mailto:denise@yardleyumc.org) or text 267-980-6054

**Youth Group in Person** unless "Feels Like" temps are below 20 or there's snow/ice  
Dress warm! Bring a chair (if you have it), blankets and anything else you need for a night of fire pits, discussion and games. Feb 3, 10, 17, 24—March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

**Game Nights on Zoom Fridays 8pm**  
Feb 19





## 5 Mile Woods Clean Up

February 20th 9 am-12 pm

Mark your calendar and get ready to get dirty!  
Saturday February 20th 9am-11am we will pick up trash at 5 mile woods! Bring a bagged lunch and we will have lunch when we are done!

Family and Friends invited!

Rain Date:

Sunday Feb 21st 12pm-2pm

## IT'S OUR HOME!

Let's Clean it up!

**SAT 2/20**  
**9AM-12PM**

5 mile Park Clean up  
We will provide bags.  
Bring gloves, clothes  
that can get dirty and a friend!

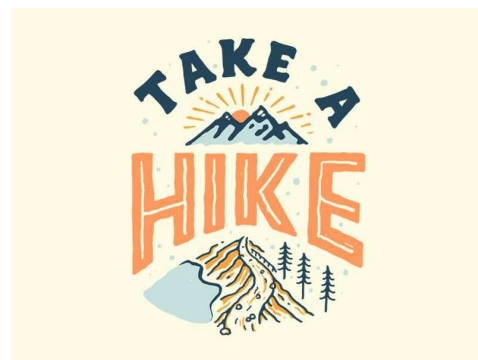


## St. Patrick's Scavenger Hunt and S'mores Night Saturday March 20th, 7 pm

Families will meet at the church, get assignments and head out to try their luck!

After an hour, you will return to the church for hot chocolate, s'mores, firepits and telling tales of your hunt.

Spread the fun! Invite a friend!



## Winter Hike Feb 27th (Time TBA)

Let's get fresh air, connect with friends and get some exercise!

We are heading to Valley Forge for a day of hiking and safe interaction!







*Denise delivered art supplies for a night of art and Christmas story telling.*











***YUMC youth and adults hard at work cleaning up trash from Core Creek Park.***





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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### **February**

- 14 Trustees on Zoom, 11:30 am
- 15 Administrative Council on Zoom, 6 pm
- 17 Ash Wednesday Service on Zoom, 7 pm
- 18 Pub Theology on Zoom, 8 pm
- 19 Youth Game Night on Zoom, 8 pm
- 20 5 Mile Woods Clean up 9-noon
- 21 Rain date 5 Mile Woods Clean up, 12-2 pm
- 27 Winter Hike, time TBA

### **March**

- 4 Faith Formation on Zoom, 7 pm
- 7 SPRC on Zoom, 11:30 am
- 8 Finance Committee on Zoom, 6 pm
- 13 Tools for Ministry
- 14 Trustees on Zoom, 11:30 am
- 15 Administrative Council on Zoom, 6 pm
- 20 St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt, 7 pm
- 30 Red Cross Blood Drive, 2-7 pm

### **Holy Week**

- Mar 28 Palm Sunday, Zoom and FB Live, 10 am
- April 1 Holy Thursday Service on Zoom/FB, 7 pm
- April 4 In person Easter Service, Outside, 9 am
- April 4 Easter Egg Hunt following 9 am service
- April 4 Easter Service on Zoom/FB, 11 am



**Our Lent journey  
begins February 17**  
Pick up your  
At Home Lent Bags