



Tidings

A Newsletter of Yardley United Methodist Church

Volume 21, Issue 1

Yardley, Pennsylvania

Winter 2020



YUMC Hosted Winter MyCalling! Jan 17-19

Not even the snow could slow down Winter MyCalling! this year. Here at Yardley UMC we hosted 5 different churches with over 50 participants for a weekend of awesome worship, service, and fun! We had the support of our generous congregation, with over 20 members participating that weekend. Some of the adults served alongside the students in our new Adults in Missions service day. That's up there with our summer MyCalling numbers. **Wow!**

The MyCalling! Leadership Team is so very grateful to our church for the ongoing support, encouragement, and help. There is nothing that tells a youth their value more than your willingness to be there. There is nothing that teaches a youth more about God's love than living it out in mission and worship. There is no better way to show our community God's love than serving. **Whether you were one of the 20+ there over the weekend, or if you are simply a part of this church that shared its resources and hosted Winter MyCalling!, we say Thank You, and "Well done, Good and Faithful Servant!" God is Good! All the Time!**

Our Winter Worksites:

Anchor House

Anchor House, in Trenton NJ, is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to work with runaway, homeless, abused, neglected and aging-out children and young people. Through residential and community-based programs, at-risk and vulnerable youth find hope and healing, access their strengths and supports available to them, discover new possibilities for their lives, and develop the tools they need to grow up healthy, strong, and resilient and to become responsible, independent and contributing members of the community.



Anchor House worksite



Makers Place worksite



**MyCalling!
July 12-16**

continued on p. 7

Tidings is published by
Yardley United
Methodist Church
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pastorcyn@yardleyumc.org

Sunday Mornings

9 a.m. Celeb. Service & SS for
Preschool to Gr. 5
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour and
SS for Youth & Adults
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service



So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind,^[b] he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

I love this episode from Matthew 4:29-31. It's visual, visceral, entertaining and inspiring. It involves Peter, the disciple who is everything that I'm not! The disciples are bobbing around in a boat, blown by a strong wind. Jesus has stayed behind, finding some quiet time to pray on a nearby mountain. When he's done, he calmly strolls out towards the boat across the whitecaps. The disciples are frightened by his ghostly figure appearing through the fog. I've seen that fog! When we visited Israel, our boat trip on the Sea of Galilee was cancelled the first day because visibility was too low. If I'd seen a figure appearing through that fog, I'd be frightened, too. As soon as Peter thought he recognized Jesus, he gave him a test. “If it's really you, tell me what to do!” Jesus said, “Come” and Peter-with his usual impetuosity launched himself over the side of the boat. He was walking on water! It was a miracle! Until suddenly Peter realized what was happening, and as soon as he did, he began to sink. Jesus was right there to reach out his hand and haul Peter up. For all his fear, Peter was never in danger.

I'm not so quick to follow as Peter was. As I shared with you recently, I have sensed a new call from God to “Come” that I want to honor. It is a call to something different, to a ministry or a project that will take me closer to people who need direct help, whether that's children learning to read, or LGBTQ+ teens in crisis, or seniors who are lonely. It might also be a time to explore my personal interests, like family research and art appreciation. It reminds me of the time before I entered seminary, when I felt called to study, and then later sensed the call to get ordained. It's insistent, persistent and compelling. I have prayed for specific instructions and a clear direction, but so far, the only word is “Come” and the urge is to follow.

I am ready to step out of the boat and take the first steps toward a beckoning Jesus. His hand is outstretched. He knows what he's getting, all my strengths and secret fears, as well. Right now, the future is a bit foggy, but I trust in the One who has always been there for me throughout my ministry, from the first whisper of my call in 1986 right up until today-34 years of faithfully following the God who calls us all. I give thanks to God and pray for you, my church at Yardley every day, and now I ask for your prayers, as well. In the meantime, there is ministry to do together! Amen!

Blessings,

Pastor Cyndi

Birthdays in February

04 Wouter Ijdo
05 DeVeaux Kooker
07 Suzanne Hart
07 David Fernandez
09 Micaela Azzati
12 Katie Van Aken
13 Ellen Howell
14 Matthew Salapong
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
27 Nathan Salapong
28 John Ward



Birthdays in March

01 Nancy Hoerl
02 Daniel Ijdo
03 Lorraine Mayer
03 Trey Marco
04 Joyce Anderson
04 Kelly Skinner
05 Beth Kalmes
05 Nathaniel Beckelman
06 Roger Tillson
07 Cherie Kooker
07 Destini Cox
08 Brian Roberts
09 Robert Amweg
09 Griffin Foll
10 Jerome Lavanish
12 Diane Kreger
12 Margaret Kalmes
14 Kathryn Beavers
16 Brandon Bromberg
18 Jennifer Ehrhardt

19 Jacob Findley
19 Matt Burger
20 John Ortolf
21 Sally Edwards
21 Cindy Pirog
22 Janet L. Smith
22 Elizabeth Beckelman
22 Kevin Hart
22 Madeline Kaiser
23 Cate Diamond
23 Rebecca Kelly
24 Joan Kaiser
24 Zachary Grau
27 Bradley Jackson
29 Emily K. Merrick
31 Timothy Carpenter
31 Armen Hussian
31 Pastor Cyndi Skripak



Communion offering for February

Bishop Johnson has appealed for donations to help Puerto Rico recover from earthquakes. Four thousand residents are still in shelters, and thousands more are living outside for fear of more destructive quakes. Volunteers in Mission (VIM) teams have been traveling there to do recovery and restoration work following Hurricane Maria; but the earthquake caused postponement of a January trip due to loss of electricity and water. Bishop Johnson was to have been on that team.

YUMC has the opportunity to give to UMCOR and it's Methodist Church of Puerto Rico partner agency, REHACE. You can write a check to YUMC and note Puerto Rico in the memo.



Tidings schedule for upcoming issues

Please email your photos and articles to office@yardleyumc.org no later than the noted deadlines.

Spring (April & May)...deadline March 22

Summer (June, July, Aug)...deadline May 20

Back to Sunday School (Sept)...deadline August 23

Fall (October & November)...deadline September 21

Christmas (December)...deadline November 17



Volunteers are needed to sell Groceries for Good in between services and after the 11 am service.

The table will be set up for you and the instructions are in the notebook. Sign up here: [https://](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a49afac3-grocery)

www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a49afac3-grocery

The church earns 5% from grocery store cards that we sell (for credit card payments, the church earns 2.25%). In 2019, YUMC earned more than \$1,600.00 from the card sales. Please consider participating in this program.



Rev. Barbara Seekford

The Rev. Barbara Seekford is appointed to YUMC as of 7/01/20

The Bishop's Cabinet of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church has appointed The Reverend Barbara Seekford to full-time pastoral ministry at YUMC, as of July 1, 2020. Her first Sunday in conducting worship at YUMC will be July 5th.

Reverend Seekford follows our Pastor Cyndi Skripak, who will leave the field of local church pastoral ministry at the end of June 2020 to explore other ways of being in Christian ministry beyond the local church.

Our District Superintendent, The Reverend Tracy Bass, met with YUMC's Staff Parish Relations Committee on January 13th to introduce Reverend Seekford to us as "Pastor Barb" and to provide an opportunity for a brief conversation and an exchange of questions and responses. During that time, Pastor Barb asked SPRC members two pivotal questions: "What is your church known for in this community?", and "Where do you see your church in 3-5 years?" Following the meeting, Lisa Zygmunt, SPRC Chairperson, took Pastor Barb on a tour of the church, and then to the parsonage, where Pastor Cyndi was waiting to welcome her and show her around it.

Rev. Seekford has been a United Methodist pastor for fifteen years. She graduated from Ursinus College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and 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 UMC and Chalfont UMC. 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.

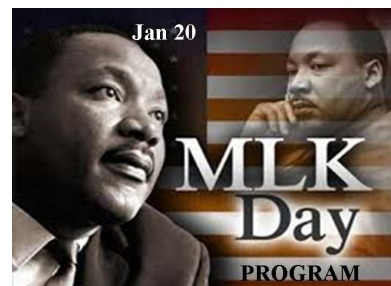
Pastor Barb has received training and a certificate in Coaching. She states in her bio, "This has been beneficial in my role as pastor as I am able to utilize these skills to help both individuals and churches discern where God is calling them and help them to feel equipped for the journey ahead."

Pastor Barb is originally from Boyertown, PA. She is married to Andy and they 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 the bio she shared with the SPRC, Pastor Barb wrote, "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!"

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 experience the range of emotions that the anticipation of saying "Goodbye" brings.

In July, we will welcome Pastor Barb Seekford as our 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 and in our local community and our world.



The Newtown-Yardley Ministerium sponsored a Martin Luther King Jr. program at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Newtown. Pictured are the pastors, rabbis & chaplain who participated, including Pastor Cyndi.

MISSION



A word of **gratitude** from the Mission Committee:

In addition to filling various collection bins throughout the year from food to gift cards to diapers to toothpaste, because of your generosity, YUMC was able to provide financial donations to the following organizations in 2019:

Penndel Food Pantry, Grace Café, Habitat for Humanity, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Bucks County Housing Group, AHTN, Family Service, Anchor House, A Woman's Place, Welcoming the Stranger, Newtown Yardley Ministerium, UMCOR, Peace with Justice, Native American Ministries, Water for Life, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund

And because of the gift of your time, missions like **TASK, Grace Cafe, Family Promise, Service Sunday & MyCalling!** were well served through Yardley United Methodist Church.

We hope to continue our spirit of giving in the New Year! So mark your calendars as we turn the page to 2020:

Penndel Food Pantry Purple Bags: Bring non-perishables the first Sunday each month

MyCalling!: Sign up to support youth and adults in mission at YUMC.

Family Promise: Hosting homeless families at YUMC Feb 2-9

Thank You YUMC!

(Thank you letters are featured on this page and p. 6)



Family Promise®

Building communities, strengthening lives.

From Lisa Kuhn, Co-President of the Board of Family Promise of Lower Bucks

...I wanted to personally thank you for your generous financial and volunteer support in 2019.

Your contributions have provided homeless children and their families with immediate and tangible support—shelter, day-to-day needs and intensive case management—so they can work toward a sustainable future in a safe home...

Together, we made a tremendous impact in the lives of families this year and look forward to continuous growth and progress. We are so grateful for your passion and dedication to families with children in our community...



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

...Your donation of \$500.00 is helping feed hungry families and individuals...and to provide life-changing programs that help our

struggling neighbors. Thanks to compassionate donors and volunteers like you, in the past year,

-5,000...received hot, nutritious...meals

-240,000 meals were served...

-150,000 meals were delivered ...[to persons who have] little food to eat at home...

-250 people participated in our Adult Education & Work Preparedness Program

-70 people secured...employment...

-90 people found housing...

Your support provides food and hope to thousands of struggling households. We are grateful...



From Trish Rowen of the Penndel Food Pantry:

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your generous and continuous support through-

out 2019 for the clients of the Bucks County Housing Group Community Food Pantry at Penndel. Your commitment allowed us to feed and support our neighbors...

From the Chief Executive Officer of Family Service:

....[We are] grateful for your gift of

\$500.00. As you may know, the mission

of Family Service is to support individu-

als, families and children, and their social and psychological functioning. Last

year, more than 30,800 people turned to us for help in addressing a broad range of challenges...



Parents' Night Out

On December 6th, YUMC hosted our second annual Parents Night Out. Care was provided by 8 very experienced adults in our church. They had the opportunity to spend a few hours with 9 children.

Parents had the opportunity to spend some time shopping, napping, enjoying other's company and relaxing. At the same time, the children (age 18 months to 9 years) enjoyed dinner, crafts, games and movies. The children used their craft time to make Christmas gifts for their parents this year. A great time was had by all, and the experience provided an opportunity for the adults and children to get to know one another better and all children were returned happy!!



From Rita Brouwer-Ancher, Director of Development for A Woman's Place:

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$500.00 ...This gift

creates real, lasting change in our community by ensuring that survivors of intimate partner abuse are supported in their journeys toward healing, justice, and empowerment. This gift sends AWP educators and trainers out into the community to help shape a brighter future for Bucks County. This gift clearly tells every survivor that 'you are not alone.'...

The work of changing our community is not easy, nor is it ever over, but with your help, our progress is stronger than ever...

Your congregation is making a significant difference in our community.

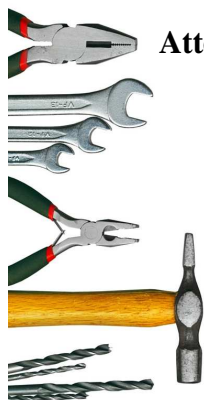
A note of gratitude from George Kurz's daughter on the death of George's wife, Elisabeth-

On behalf of my father, please thank the Yardley United Methodist friends for their prayers and support.

You have all been so thoughtful and kind to my father during a difficult time in his life. Elisabeth was a very special woman.

**With best wishes,
Ruthann Kurz**

*Thank you
for your
kind
expression
of
sympathy*



Attention Church Volunteers!

**Tools
For
Ministry**

**Save the date!
March 7**



Winter MyCalling! *Continued from p. 1*

Furniture Bank

In conjunction with the organization Pathways to Housing, Philadelphia Furniture Bank collects gently used furniture from the public in their warehouse and provides it to individuals and families in crisis. They work with a network of member agencies that refer clients to them.

Holmesburg United Methodist Church

Holmesburg UMC, Pastored by David Piltz, is a local church in need of some young hands to spruce up their facilities. The church hosts its own standard groups such as bible studies and women's ministry, as well as more rare programs such as tutoring for small children and English as a second language. Other programs the church hosts or supports include the King's Kitchen Soup Kitchen, their food pantry, Nothing But Nets, and Heifer International. The congregation is very small, as well as being on average older than most other UMC congregations. Due to this we did work such as cleaning, organizing, painting, and rubbish/junk removal.

Makers Place

Makers Place is a new nonprofit in Ewing NJ that provides diapers and other types of support for mothers in their community. Our groups helped package and organize these diapers so they can be handed out in the community.

Gratz Gives Day

Some of our groups were able to join forces with other organizations in Huntington Park in Philadelphia to support Gratz Gives Day. These groups put together meals that will be sent out to feed the surrounding community.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020. Newtown UMC will host us for a worship service with ashes and holy communion at 7:30 pm. Pastor Cyndi will preach. We will have a joint YUMC - NUMC choir. NUMC is located at 35 Liberty Street, Newtown, PA 18940.



Adults in Mission prepare to go to Philadelphia to distribute Blessings Bags to the homeless.



Holmesburg UMC Worksite



The staff of YUMC thanks the Staff Parish Relations Committee for the wonderful time of fellowship at our recent luncheon. Thank you to all on SPRC who planned, cooked and baked. We enjoyed delicious chicken, beef stew, salads, and dessert in the cozy dining room of the parsonage. And, thank you to SPRC and the entire congregation for the ongoing support of our ministry here at YUMC.

Blessings,

Pastor Cyndi, Denise, Eduardo & Nancy



Pointers for Liturgists

by Ellen Howell

You are invited to volunteer to be a liturgist. Being a liturgist is a meaningful way to participate in worship. It's not difficult—especially with a little advance planning. Here are some suggestions...

1. **I am no authority on this subject.** I am just trying to ease you into the task in a way that I found helpful.
2. Sign up by calling the church office, 215-493-3345, or by clicking on the link in the church mouse email.
3. The words you read **must** be from the New Revised Standard version. **The reason** is there are those congregants who will follow along as you read. The type in the Bible is small so you may want to transcribe it into larger print. I do it on my computer in 12 or 14 font. **IMPORTANT: Edit your rewritten words** to be exactly as in the Bible.
4. On Wednesday of your week to read, call Nancy, the Office Manager, to get the scripture for the week at 215-493-3345.
5. The microphone should be at your correct height, and the green button on the top should be green. The other choices are red (not on) and yellow (on but waiting). Staff will help you with this!
6. Remember what you learned in public speaking class in high school or college. Read slowly and project your voice to get your message out there.
7. Closing sentence when finished.
 - A. I use, "Here ends the reading of the word."
 - B. Other liturgists use different endings. E.g. "The Word of God for the people of God." Please feel free to ask and pick the one with which you feel most comfortable.
8. **Relax.** Pastor Cyndi has your back and is listening to you, so she will very tactfully make any corrections needed without anyone noticing.



The Sacrament of Baptism was celebrated on January 5, 2020 on behalf of Hazel Jane Costain. Hazel is the daughter of Vanessa and Todd Costain and little sister of Liam and Wyatt.




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? Have a sports event, concert, or other activity that you want your youth ministry friends to know about? Check out the calendar on our website at www.yardleyumcyouth.org! You can add your birthday, activities or even prayer requests by clicking on dates on the calendar.

Need to sign up for an event? You can go to the youth website at www.yardleyumcyouth.org and click on sign up, OR you can go to the 'SIG NUP' board outside of the youth room and sign up there!



SKI TRIP

Jan 31 –Feb 2, 2020

If you are signed up, see you on the 31st at 5:30 pm!



Youth Group Fundraisers-

Goods & Services Auction...Mar 29
Flower Sale...April—pick up May 2
Car Wash...May 2
Flea Market...May 2



IMAGINE A WORLD OF ABUNDANCE, WHERE THERE'S

ENOUGH

FOR ALL

**30 Hour
Famine**
Feb 21-22



The 30 Hour Famine is a worldwide hunger awareness program to help feed the world's poorest children. Our youth and youth leaders go without food and only have water or juice for 30 hours to get a taste of real hunger. This experience teaches us about Christ's compassion for all people, and about how each and every one of us can help make a difference in our world. Since 2001, the YUMC youth group has raised more than \$30,000 for hungry children in the world! Get ready to be part of something **BIG!!!!!!** What should you do to get ready? Start praying and get some sponsors! **Deadline for signing up is Feb 5.**



All who are interested in Middle School and Senior High Mission Trips this summer should plan to attend a meeting on Sunday, February 9th at 12:15 pm in Fellowship Hall.



Winter MyCalling!



Family Advent Night



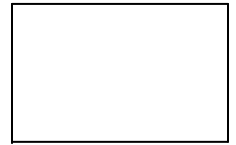
Christmas Season at YUMC



*In January we
prayed for
Richard Hachoose
as he prepared to
move to California.*

Good Friends
Never Say Goodbye
They Simply Say
"See You Soon"

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

February

2-9 FAMILY PROMISE

9 Trustees, 12:15 pm

9 Mission Trip meeting, 12:15 pm

10 Administrative Council, 7:30 pm

11 Finance Meeting, 7:30 pm

12 Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

21-22 30 Hour Famine

26 Ash Wednesday Service at NUMC, 7:30 pm

27 Pub Theology, 8 pm, Continental Tavern

March

7 Tools for Ministry

8 Trustees, 12:15 pm

9 Administrative Council, 7:30 pm

10 Red Cross Blood Drive, 2-7 pm

11 Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, 9:30 am

22 Newsletter Deadline

22-29 FAMILY PROMISE

26 Pub Theology, 8 pm, Continental Tavern

29 Goods & Services Auction & Dinner



Begin the journey to the cross

*February 26, 2020
Newtown UMC will
host Yardley UMC*

Winter 2020

www.yardleyumc.org