

Won't You Be My Neighbor?



Ruth M., Kim B., Maureen M., Jean W., Marion H., and Carmela S., Wesley Village

We began welcoming new residents to the Brooks Cottages expansion on the Wesley Village Campus two years ago. Our original cottages were running close to full capacity with a waiting list for several years, so the addition of 73 homes filled a critical need to offer seniors in our community another option in senior living. While the pandemic did halt the majority of construction, tours, and activities, we are pleased to announce that we are sold out of our expansion project and have started a waiting list. We are delighted to welcome so many new neighbors into both our original and new Brooks communities.

Marion Heycock and her daughter, Carmela Shiptoski, took advantage of this unique opportunity to move in together. Marion says, "My late husband, Jack, and I sold our two-story home and moved to a beautiful little cottage on Pollock Drive, Brooks Estates. We loved the idea of no more steps. We enjoyed making new friends and attended all the parties. In 2017, due to health problems, we moved to a lovely apartment at Myers Manor. Once again, new friends and new activities. My husband passed away shortly after the move, but I stayed and remained very busy and happy. In March 2020, COVID came, along with all the restrictions. I went to stay with my daughter in Berwick, which we thought would be for a few weeks. After 15 months, we decided we really



*Marion Heycock and Carmela Shiptoski,
Wesley Village*

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As We Move Forward



As I reflect on 2020 and the first half of 2021, our organization has endured by far the greatest challenge that could have ever been brought upon us with the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, this was an extremely difficult year not only for healthcare but for every type of business, big and small, for-profit and non-for-profit. It goes without saying that in addition to the emotional stress came financial stress as everyday operating costs surged. United Methodist Homes spared no expense to help ensure the well-being and safety of our residents and staff. We invested in a plentiful supply of PPE and testing supplies along with a robust training program and an enhanced communication system for our residents and families.

As a faith-based non-profit, I am very proud of how we weathered the storm of COVID. Without hesitation, I can say that as human beings, we have come out of this stronger and better prepared for what the future may bring. Our residents and staff have become further unified and have displayed great resolve. While we suffered a significant loss last year, we have also experienced triumph and success together as we continue to move forward. We're coming together and reopening our communities to a lifestyle we all longed for--- socialization with each other, activities with each other, and person-to-person connectivity outside of virtual connections.

The vaccination success and continued supply readily available to all of our residents, staff, and the community at large have been crucial to getting us back to "normal." It has been a pleasure seeing people in person once again, meeting in person, as well as seeing residents reunited with their families and friends. While we must still practice various precautionary measures, it is a welcome change to the restrictions we faced this last year-and-a-half.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remember those whom we have lost, for they will live on in spirit and our hearts and communities. I had the honor of attending and speaking at a memorial service at Elizabeth Church Campus for those who had lost their battle to COVID-19. It was a beautiful ceremony and a special day of remembrance. I look forward to being a part of each campus' memorial services. While we walk forward together and resume festivities and special events on our campuses, we will never forget the year, what we have endured, and those we have lost.

In closing, a special thank you to our residents, families, staff, and board members for their incredible support, strength, and words of encouragement—past and present as we recover together. Thank you to all of those who have generously donated to our Foundation, which served such a critical need for our residents this past year. Without such philanthropy, we would not have been able to purchase more than \$60,000 in iPads and supplies for our resident's activities program, allowing for continued engagement and connection with families during restrictions.

In appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Picchini". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brian Picchini, President & CEO



Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Continued from cover

enjoyed being together. That's when we came and looked at the new cottages. We fell in love with the layout and instantly put down a deposit. I can't say enough about the staff. They were so helpful with our move. From my experiences, I would recommend and highly praise the entire Wesley Village Campus to anyone who wants to enjoy life, stay active, and meet new friends. As for living with my daughter, I look forward to spending the rest of my life with her."

While Marion was no stranger to Brooks and knew what to expect, Carmela is also incredibly pleased with the move. "My standards are very high, and we've had the best experiences with staff and residents. I love the community; everyone is so pleasant and nice. It is very peaceful, beautiful, and safe here. I can't say enough about the maintenance-free living, which I appreciate at this stage in my life—no more cutting grass, shoveling snow, or home repairs. I would recommend it wholeheartedly and am glad to speak with anyone who might have questions," Carmela said. "Mom and I knew we would move in together eventually. After living together since COVID, we thought, 'why wait--why not now?'. Brooks Estates was the obvious choice. We could now enjoy our beautiful home together, our new community and friends, and partake in the wonderful activities Brooks Estates offers its residents!"

We are pleased that the Brooks Clubhouse is back in full swing with festivities and activities while closely following CDC safety measures. It has been a joyful experience for all of our residents, new and old, to meet their neighbors and get to know one another. We have often heard from our residents that the opportunity for building new friendships as one embarks on the journey into retirement living is a great draw to the UMH Community. For more information about our Brooks offerings or activities, reach out to Lindsey Maslar, Campus Life Coordinator, at 570-655-2891 x5230.

Remembering Loved Ones at Elizabeth Church Campus

Elizabeth Church Campus held a Memorial Service to remember the residents who passed away from COVID-19. Chaplain, Rev. Janet Abel, Maintenance Director, Gordon Gardner, and Activities Director, Kathy Micha spearheaded the planning and organization of this special event. The memorial began with messages from UMH CEO, Brian Picchini and Campus Executive Director, Vicky Morabito.

Rev. Abel gave a brief reflection, and several staff members read meaningful scriptures and poems. Tori Gac, Activities Department, played the guitar and led those gathered in singing hymns. In closing, each resident's name was read as a chime was played in their memory. Many families and staff were in attendance at the outdoor ceremony and encouraged to visit the memorial garden. The Dempsy Family generously donated the Grassy Knoll Memorial with a weeping cherry tree and plaque in memory of Howard Dempsey, a resident who passed away from COVID.



Life Is A Gift

Each of our lives is unique and different - hopefully, a gift to those around us in life, and sometimes our gift continues after we've passed. It may be through the photos and memories we leave behind, but sometimes our legacy is a gift in a very tangible way. The family of Tom Westfall shared his story with us and how they chose to honor the gift of his life.

On July 3, 1928, Tom was born in Susquehanna, PA, a railroad town, the 5th of 7 children. His father, Harry, was the yardmaster for the Erie Railroad Station in Susquehanna. It was a large and boisterous family in the small, close-knit community.

On September 5, 1933, Tragedy struck when the infamous "Hospital Hill" train wreck occurred in Binghamton. A passenger train was returning to Susquehanna when another train struck it, injuring many and killing ten Susquehanna residents, including Tom's father. His mother, Marie, was left to care for the children, ranging from ages 14 to 2, with Tom being just five years old. Life changed dramatically for the Westfall family. There was no income to sustain the family and only a small railroad settlement to help pay the bills. The railroad promised apprenticeships to the boys in the family once they came of age. Tom followed his older brothers into the apprenticeship program and became an electrician for the Erie Railroad. He stayed with them until he joined the Army in 1951, where he was stationed in Korea as a Master Sergeant and Heavy Tank Commander. While serving in Korea, he received letters of commendation and military decorations for his heroic gallantry. Tom never talked much about his time in Korea, but later in life, he opened up a bit, and his family came to realize what a dramatic effect it had on him. He simply served his time and came home to start a new life.



Westfall family; Tom is second from the left



Tom was lucky enough to marry his hometown sweetheart, Jan Tierney, and begin a new career at IBM. Tom started as a test technician in 1953 and rose through the ranks in his very successful 36-year career. Tom and Jan raised four children on the Southside of Binghamton and enjoyed a full and happy marriage for 57 years. They were able to attend five Olympic Games as a part of their many travels around the world. Tom and Jan took the entire extended family, including grandchildren, on many exciting trips as the family grew. Tom loved to see the fun the whole family enjoyed and was very content in being the benevolent head of the family, having a special relationship with each one of his 11 grandchildren. Jan's death in 2009 was a heavy blow for Tom after sharing so many wonderful years together. He struggled for a while, traveling and enjoying time with family, but something was missing. Most of his lifelong friends were gone, and his days were not as fulfilling as they once were.

The family discussed the possibility of some type of retirement living community, and Tom was initially very much against it. He and his family visited all the retirement communities within the surrounding area, but they were most impressed by the welcoming and home-like feel of Hilltop Campus. During an initial interview conducted by Teresa Felter, everything was discussed while Tom sat silently. After the interview, Teresa turned to Tom in a cheerful and warm voice and said, "Tom, why do you want to live at Hilltop?" "Without missing a beat, he replied, "I don't." Teresa was surprised, and the family almost fell out of their chairs, holding in the laughter. From his auspicious beginning, Tom took up residence at Hilltop and began a new phase of his life. Teresa remembers, "Tom was a man of great faith who always had a smile on his face and complimentary words to share. He made many friends over the nine years we were able to be his Hilltop family and shared many stories about his Patron Saint, Padre Pio."

Like any new endeavor, it took a while for him to get his bearings and begin to feel comfortable in his new home. The staff made it a point to make him feel part of the community. Everyone from the front desk to maintenance, social workers, and the kitchen staff... all were wonderful to Tom. He raved about the meals and was very happy with the restaurant quality and service he experienced. One resident instrumental in making Tom a part of activities was a new friend named Doris Brownlow. She had him playing cards, going to book groups, taking the shuttle to outside activities, and becoming a strong part of the social scene at Hilltop. Tom always enjoyed an active social life with his wife and was once again having fun in a group setting with his contemporaries. His best friend at Hilltop was Dave Kacyvenski. Together they had many laughs and got into mischief together. They also shared strong religious beliefs and had many conversations about the world and how good God is. Rev. Lea Harding also played a key role in Tom's life. He very much enjoyed their discussions, the religious services, book groups, and overall camaraderie. "Tom never raised his voice and never said a negative thing about anyone. He had the unique ability to make each person feel like they were the most important person who ever came into his life. He lived out the message of Christ that we are to love one another," Rev. Lea reflected. Pam Corey, at the Front Desk, was another particular favorite of Tom's. She was his go-to person who, he said, "saved him; more than once."

Tom was a very strong person throughout his life, and in January 2021, when he wasn't feeling his old spark, he called the ambulance for himself to go to the hospital where he spent his last 12 days. He was diagnosed with COVID, and he rallied once, but the disease finally overtook him at 92 years of age. Because of COVID, the family was unable to see him in his last days. However, they know he died happy and loved. He woke up his last morning singing "You Are My Sunshine," had his favorite strawberry milkshake, and passed a few hours later.

To honor the gift of Tom's life, his family requested that donations be made to the Hilltop Resident Gift Giving program. Each Christmas, residents are asked what special item(s) they would most like from Santa. Those lists are given to staff who shop, wrap and deliver the presents back to Hilltop, ready for Santa to hand out. Jerry Westfall, Tom's son, said, "We knew



we wanted to give back to Hilltop after the wonderful years my Dad spent there. When we called, we spoke with Rev. Lea, and she told us about the Resident Gift Giving program. We knew right away that was the place to remember my Dad. He looked out for those less fortunate throughout his life, and he always supported causes that helped others who were sometimes forgotten in the shuffle. We learned from Dad to always look out for the little guy and be sure to have a few dollars at the ready to try and make someone's day a little brighter. We never knew what an impact my Dad had on the residents and staff at Hilltop. The outpouring of memories and love we received after his death was unbelievable. We knew how much he appreciated everyone at Hilltop, but it was nice to know how much everyone appreciated him and how much he is missed." Hilltop often holds several fundraisers over the course of the year to raise funds for their gift program. Over \$2,500 was given in memory of Tom, which will provide gifts for more than 160 residents this holiday season - more than half of their total goal! Tom's family gathered on July 4, 2021, for his burial. It brought closure to a well-lived life but continued the many wonderful memories that his family will cherish.

Every UMH campus organizes and celebrates Christmas gift-giving in their own unique way through the generosity and support of friends, neighbors, and donors. If you'd like to know more about the program on a specific campus, please contact Heather Murphy at the Foundation at hmurphy@umhwc.org or (570) 536-4313.

A Sweet Treat from Our Friends

The Friends of the United Methodist Homes of Pennsylvania is a group of volunteers supporting the residents of Wesley Village and Tunkhannock Manor. The Friends have a mission to deliver smiles to residents by supporting special projects and sponsoring "cupcake socials" throughout the year. When COVID-19 restricted gatherings, our incredible staff on both campuses delivered the treats to the delight of our residents. They did not let COVID-19 stop the cheer! Wesley Village resident Phyllis Kohlander said, "Even amid the pandemic, they continued to make the holidays pleasant."



Phyllis & John Kohlander with Rosarie Musto & Judy Mulder

Golfing FORE Good

Last year, we decided to cancel our 2020 Golf Tournament due to concerns for the health and safety of our supporters. This year, we were pleased to resume this fundraising event on September 16 at the Conklin Players Club in NY. All proceeds from the Golf Tournament benefit our Resident Assistance Program. This benevolence program offers financial assistance to those residents that have exhausted their personal resources, offering peace of mind and continuity of care. Continued funding of this program is a critical part of the Foundation's mission



UMH Employees: Kyle Harchar, Jim Silkworth, John Rhodes, Mary Ann Wheeler, Sal Lamantia

and last year's cancellation was another significant financial loss due to COVID-19. Now, more than ever, the support of our sponsors and participants can help in the long road to recovery. A special thank you to Lockton for choosing to be our ACE Sponsor and PharMerica as our EAGLE Sponsor. All charitable donations to our Foundation would significantly and positively help those we serve who are most vulnerable. If you missed our golf tournament, it's not too late to contribute, and we appreciate your generosity. For more information, visit our Foundation website at www.unitedmethodisthomes.org/giving.

Go Paperless!



In an effort to be good stewards of our donations and the environment, Connections Newsletter is encouraging recipients to go paperless. Starting with our next edition, you can opt-out of a paper copy and have Connections emailed right to your inbox. If you'd like to participate in this initiative, please email Abbie Evans at abevans@umhwc.org. Rest assured, all donors will continue receiving a mailed copy if that is your preference. Please contact us with any questions. Thank you!

Celebrating our Employees

2020 Service Anniversary Recognition

Each year, United Methodist Homes honors employees with anniversaries ranging from 5 to 40 years of service. While we couldn't gather in the traditional sense to celebrate in 2020, we remain grateful to our employees for their hard work, continued commitment, and dedication to our organization's mission, vision, and values. We are blessed with a dedicated workforce that continually strives for excellence, positively impacting residents and their families. Every role is crucial to the overall experience of our residents. Longevity amongst our staff allows us to grow strong roots and expand our reach in the communities we serve. Not only does it impact the overall consistency and quality of our care, but it affects the overall employee experience. In 2020, we honored 101 employees, totaling 1,310 years of service with an average employment of 13 years with UMH. Amazing! We extend our sincere appreciation and would like to congratulate all of our employees on their accomplishments!



"Asking me to sum up the last 25 years in a few sentences seems almost impossible. Without a doubt, I have most enjoyed my resident "family." Listening to and learning about each resident's life song has been a true blessing. Working at UMH has to come from a love deep inside your heart. It can't be just a job or a place to work and receive a paycheck; it has to mean more. There are no bad days here; our residents are always a joy. I love to come to work; this is my home." Maria Barnhart - 25 Years - Receptionist - Elizabeth Church

Corporate

Salvatore Lamantia **40 Years**
Joann Dudek **40 Years**
Kim Garey **30 Years**
Patricia Harmalik **25 Years**
Lisa Nickerson **20 Years**
Laurie Demarco **20 Years**
Karen Smith **20 Years**
Jennifer Balchikonis **10 Years**
Brian Grant **10 Years**
Monica Clark **10 Years**
James Silkworth **5 Years**
Tara Babcock **5 Years**

Elizabeth Church

Maria Barnhart **25 Years**
Stephanie Boland **20 Years**
Clinton Creller **10 Years**
Dianne October **5 Years**
Brenda Christian **5 Years**
Maria Neagu **5 Years**
Annette Page **5 Years**
Lynn Sweetay **5 Years**
James Maniates **5 Years**
Jessica Riegal **5 Years**
Roger Boyer **5 Years**

Joshua Brazeal **5 Years**
Renee Brazeal **5 Years**
Maria Chambers **5 Years**
Barbara Oney **5 Years**
Sandra Putman-Copeland **5 Years**
Keith Hettig **5 Years**
Helen Loop **5 Years**
Gina Weisberg **5 Years**

Hilltop

Michael McLaughlin **30 Years**
Karen Acly **25 Years**
Ann Leonti **25 Years**
Laura Kostyshak **20 Years**
Cheryl Haggerty **20 Years**
Cheri Howard **20 Years**
Bruno Stillittano **20 Years**
Oscar Slater Jr. **20 Years**
Misty Harper **15 Years**
Natalie Keefer **15 Years**
Barbara Wayman **15 Years**
Tara Scales **10 Years**
Rebecca Colwell **10 Years**
Rose Rosa **10 Years**

Kristine Gal **10 Years**
Melody Ryan **10 Years**
Joseph Skiba **10 Years**
Joanna Riegel **10 Years**
Daniel Sherman **5 Years**
Sonya Briggs **5 Years**
Taylor Decker **5 Years**
Daniel Lomodong **5 Years**
Syravan Phommarath **5 Years**
Cynthia Poliskey **5 Years**
Alicia Powell **5 Years**
Erica Vinson **5 Years**
Ronald Patti **5 Years**
Cameron Ziller **5 Years**

Tunkhannock

Terry White **25 Years**
LeeAnn Knoss **5 Years**



"What I enjoyed the most about working here is the flexibility that this environment offers and the wonderful coworkers that are so patient and caring. I have been here since 1995 and have worked in several different departments; I've had the opportunity to change and grow with this company. My advice would be to treat the residents as you treat your mother, father, grandparents, or any loved ones."

Terry White - 25 Years - Activities Director - Tunkhannock

Wesley Village

Audrey Zeller **30 Years**
 Diana Basham **30 Years**
 Ronald Pecukonis **25 Years**
 Nancy Augustine **25 Years**
 Kathleen Harrington **25 Years**
 Deborah Rosa **25 Years**
 David Ksiezopolski **25 Years**
 George Chronowski **20 Years**
 Danielle Janeski **20 Years**
 Mary Ann Wheeler **20 Years**
 Donna Dolinish **20 Years**
 Ruth Charnogursky **20 Years**
 Justine Hritzak **20 Years**
 Rebecca Psolka **20 Years**
 Cheryl Lavalie **20 Years**
 Eric Traver **20 Years**
 Romaine Kowalczyk **20 Years**
 Beth McCoy **15 Years**
 Loretta Chmura **15 Years**
 Lindsay Cooper **10 Years**

Kayla Krakowski **10 Years**
 Sarah Klimek **10 Years**
 Barbara Caldwell **10 Years**
 Kelly Piechota **10 Years**
 Jill Woodring **10 Years**
 Amy Furmanski **10 Years**
 Linda Schiefer **5 Years**
 Brian Palma **5 Years**
 Skylar Sunder **5 Years**
 Sharon Kreitzer **5 Years**
 Cheryl Falvo **5 Years**
 Tamra Shotwell **5 Years**
 Loveline Tiapo **5 Years**
 Shirley Zalenski **5 Years**
 Akossiwa Akakpo **5 Years**
 Barbara Fetterman **5 Years**
 Jude Glasgow **5 Years**
 Cynthia Szumigala **5 Years**
 Robert Caldara **5 Years**
 Kim Nugent **5 Years**



"I enjoy the interactions and relationships with our residents throughout the campus. We have a great community of residents here with so many diverse backgrounds. Getting to know them has been my favorite part. I always make sure that the residents come first. Without question, my best memory is from the day I finally saw the Village

Café, post-renovation, become a hub for the campus. Residents, staff, and family members from all areas of the campus were all together in one place. It literally stopped me in my tracks when I saw that scene." *Brian Palma - 5 Years - Assistant Administrator - Wesley Village*



"All the things we get to do for the residents warms my heart and makes me love working with our residents here at UMH. The bonds we make with the people we see here are so precious - between the families, staff, and residents. One of my best memories is singing Christmas carols throughout the hallways and resident rooms. One year we were in the JGJ Building singing, and we had a resident so touched by our caroling that she was crying, and with her tears of joy, she made us all cry. The spirit of the holidays was felt by us all and validated my reason for choosing this career. Making a difference every day, little or small. I love what I get to do here with so many different people every day."

*Misty Harper - 15 Years -
 Activities Coordinator - Hilltop*

Campus



Jean Smolinsky

Elizabeth Church Campus - Residents at Elizabeth Church Campus frequently benefit from Activities Director Kathy Micha's love of baking and cooking. Kathy says, "I love it when I bring in something homemade for the residents and watch them enjoy a little something special. I also love when they can teach me something new.

I learned how to make Halupki from some residents here a few years ago. We had a blast, and they were cracking up watching me try to roll it for the first few times. I enjoy challenging myself when it comes to baking, and honestly, nothing compares to homemade goodies! It also makes me smile when I share my baking talents with the residents I love, like family. I think it's so special when they can have something super tasty!" Recently, residents enjoyed scones with clotted cream and fresh berries for Mother's Day. They also celebrated National Jelly Donut Day with homemade donuts filled with freshly made jelly!



Joan Halligan

Hilltop Campus - There are many different activities used to help residents living with dementia - art, music, and animal therapies are just a few. Doll therapy involves giving a person with dementia a doll to hold as if it were a baby. Residents might rock the doll, sing to it, and cuddle it. Studies on doll therapy for dementia have found that it can reduce aggression, obsessive behaviors, wandering, and negative mood, among other benefits, and that it can also improve a person's ability to relate to others. Recently, Hilltop's SUN Unit residents held a baby shower to welcome two new babies into their "nursery room." The event was complete with sweet treats, decorations, presents, and of course, two new babies. The residents were so joyful, and some staff members were moved to tears seeing the residents interact with the babies. The dolls were purchased through donations to the Foundation.



Georgia Brown

Tunkhannock Campus - This year, residents at Tunkhannock Manor went to Harding Dairy Bar one at a time rather than a group bus trip. While it may seem like a mundane task to some, it was a great pleasure for Terry White, Activities Director. She took 15 trips in one day to ensure everyone interested was able to participate. If she knew where residents lived or places they enjoyed going in the past, she would drive that way, returning to the campus. There was a lot of reminiscing! Terry said, "My favorite trip was when a resident said to me, "Where's your ice cream?" and further down the road, she said, "Next time, get two spoons & I'll share mine with you while you're driving."



Mary S. & Terry White



Ruth E.

Highlights

Wesley Village Campus - Residents of Brooks Estates at Wesley Village celebrated a whole year of holidays in July. Because COVID canceled all of the 2020 events, July 2021 was jam-packed with events. Each Friday of the month, residents partied at the Clubhouse, including a 4th of July Cookout, Valentine's Ice Cream Social, Shamrock Shindig, and Halloween Boo Bash. The month ended with a week-long Christmas in July, closing out with the ever-popular Mingle & Jingle. Many new residents of the Brooks Expansion were able to fully experience the Clubhouse for the first time since the facility reopened. Neighbors old and new were thrilled to see each other and spend time together again.



Trish P. and Carol D.



July 4th Event

All of the facilities on the campus are enjoying more "normalcy" as they resume participation in their favorite pastime activities. They have all enjoyed a full calendar of activities and socializing with one another, including Partridge-Tippett Nursing and Anderson and Myers.



Sharing Rev. Buxton's Story

Congratulations to Rev. Leonard Buxton, resident at Brooks Estates, on publishing his second book, "Sing Along With Me: Sequel to This is My Story, This Is My Song." "Sing Along With Me" picks up where his first volume ended, recounting stories and adventures from his life as a pastor and counselor. Rev. Buxton held a book discussion and signing in the Irene Raeder Clubhouse at Wesley Village. Residents at Wesley Village can borrow a copy from the Clubhouse Library. Both books are available for purchase through Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and other booksellers.

Rev. Len Buxton with Walter Klepaski

Rev. Len Buxton and fellow residents at the book discussion & signing

Donor Satisfaction Survey Update

"I appreciate the programs that the Foundation supports for its residents."

"It is a well-run organization, and donations are well spent on residents."

"I give to help your organization help others."

The support of friends like you is critical to our work. At the Foundation, we're committed to creating meaningful donor relationships and gaining a true understanding of our supporters. In January of this year, we sent a survey to current and previous donors in an effort to gain valuable feedback to help us improve our message and mission.

We are very grateful to everyone that took the time to return the survey. Overall, our donors shared that they felt a sense of loyalty to the mission of our organization and believed the importance of their gift had been well communicated to them. However, there was a desire for more impact stories in our Foundation communications. We hear you! And we love to share the excellent work that your gifts make possible. As a result, we will continue to focus on more impact stories in our seasonal newsletters, Good News monthly email blasts, and social media.

Just because the survey is over doesn't mean the feedback has to stop. If you have a question, suggestion, or idea, please contact our Director of Development, Heather Murphy, at hmurphy@umhwc.org or (570) 536-4313 to talk or schedule a meeting.



UMH Legacy Society Welcomes New Members

The UMH Legacy Society is a Foundation initiative to encourage a sense of community among our major donors. Through generations of generous support, many who share our mission have carried on the legacy of our founders so that United Methodist Homes can continue to grow and thrive. The Society recognizes those who have made a lifetime contribution totaling at least \$10,000, have included the Foundation in their estate plans, or have established a legacy gift. It is best to contact us in advance for assistance to ensure that your wishes are properly understood. If you have already included a bequest for United Methodist Homes in your estate plan, please get in touch with us to let us know. We want to thank you and recognize you for your gift. The Foundation would like to welcome Rev. Jim Baker and Maryann & Dale Johnson to the Society.

"I had personally experienced the loving care given to my wife, Yvonne when she was a resident at Partridge - Tippet. I know that some of my money is used in the Resident Support Program for those who have used all their resources, so they can continue to receive excellent care. Men and women of faith established United Methodist Homes with a desire that all who live here would feel God's love in the care given to them. I want to be a small part in providing this care for many years to come." - Rev. Jim Baker

At United Methodist Homes, we have remained true to our faith-based heritage by providing on-campus chaplaincy services for residents and staff. It's a fundamental part of our mission, and it defines our Caring, Connecting, Community philosophy. Through our Chaplaincy program, a dedicated pastor is available to meet the spiritual needs of our residents, families, and staff. Some of the services our chaplains provide include:

*Coordinating Regular Services, including a Multi-Denominational program
Offering Pastoral & Palliative Care, Grief Counseling & Support
Collaborating with Staff and Attending Various Activities Programs*

During the pandemic, usual groups and activities stopped, but spiritual needs did not. Rev. Lea Harding, Hilltop Chaplain, decided to reach her congregation through a weekly newsletter. The newsletter contained a suggested scripture reading, a brief meditation, a prayer, and a word puzzle. Her goal was to get a weekly message to the residents even though she could not see them in person. Each day at 4:30, a short scripture and prayer are read over the loudspeaker. Rev. Lea does the reading five days a week, and the other days are handled by staff or even a resident. She said, "During the pandemic, I ended up doing many things that were not necessarily in my job description. For instance, I was the one to answer the phone and screen visitors on Sunday afternoons." Gail Haddock, a resident at Hilltop, says this is exactly what makes Rev. Lea approachable; "Rev. Lea has been here a long time. She helps at lots of different activities and wears many different hats. It makes me comfortable to see her at an event, and she is more accessible to residents. Someone may be more likely to talk with her if they've seen her at other events. She's essential to our campus."



Barbara McDonough, Independent Resident at St. Louise Manor, says the Chaplain program has significantly impacted her experience at United Methodist Homes. When she moved here five years ago, Rev. Janet Abel blessed Barbara's apartment. This began a wonderful friendship and spiritual journey. Barbara started to attend Monday worship services and Bible Study. She says, "I didn't have a specific church connection when I moved here. I started attending services, and Rev. Abel's Bible readings and sermons are so meaningful. I've learned so much, and she is such a wonderful teacher. She's wonderful to talk to. I've even asked her, when the time comes, to preside at my funeral service." "For many of our residents, going to church is so very important, and having the services right in the facility enables them to attend. I love to preach and teach the Bible, and it's a joy to share that here," Rev. Abel shared about her role as Chaplain.



Rev. Janet Abel with Barbara McDonough



UMH would like to welcome Rev. David Parry as the new full-time Chaplain for our PA Campuses. Rev. Parry will be sharing his time between Wesley Village and Tunkhannock Manor. A native of Wilkes-Barre, he has extensive education and experience and spent a great deal of his career in Ohio. Rev. Parry says, "I have been aware of the outstanding reputation of UMH over the years. It will be a privilege to be part of the spiritual growth and journey of the people at UMH. We still have family in the area, and coming to Wesley Village/Tunkhannock will be coming home in many ways. I look forward to learning the stories of the lives of the people and sharing in their joys."

The Chaplain Program is funded, in part, by donations to the Foundation. You can support this important outreach by choosing "Chaplain Program" on the enclosed envelope or online at unitedmethodisthomes.org/giving.

News & Announcements

James G. Johnston (JGJ) Memorial Nursing Home at Hilltop received the Project Echo Grant for participating in a 16 week-long program with LeadingAge NY to share best practices throughout the pandemic and for Infection Control. The Administrator, Director of Nursing, and Director of Quality participated in the program. The Advanced Training Institute Grant was also awarded to JGJ. As part of the grant awarded through the Department of Health, they will participate in a three-series program with LeadingAge NY for DISC (Dominance, Influence, Steadiness, Conscientiousness) training. The program will involve several JGJ team members and provide insight and workable strategies to reduce conflict, promote productivity, foster self-awareness, improve communication, enhance team performance, appreciate different work styles, and increase management effectiveness.

Excellus BlueCross Blue Shield awarded United Methodist Homes \$5,000 through their Community Health Awards. These funds were used to support the purchase of two Clorox Total 360 Systems, one each for Elizabeth Church Manor and James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home.



The Luzerne Foundation awarded Wesley Village a wellness grant of \$4,300. Due to COVID-19, the wellness program essentially closed. Recognizing that residents still needed to exercise, staff changed gears and modified the program to one-on-one wellness visits in resident rooms with proper PPE. The social interaction of a one-on-one visit helped improve mental health during the pandemic guidelines. However, decreased access to regular exercise routines and equipment began to take a toll. Now that restrictions are lifted, the wellness center is welcoming people back and starting the process of strengthening and healing. Moving forward, the wellness staff have developed a plan to bring back a normal lifestyle and improve issues related to the modified exercises of the past year. Funds from this grant were used to purchase additional equipment needed to help residents increase strength, balance, and endurance. With different and improved equipment, residents will have an enhanced experience and efficiency in their wellness routine. The overall mission of the wellness staff is to identify "What can we do to improve their overall quality of life?" and make it happen.



Ann Irvin, Wesley Village

AllOne Foundation & Charities administers the NEPA Nursing Home SOS program, short for "Supply Operate Save," designed by Senator John Yudichak and in partnership with The Pennsylvania Health Care Association and LeadingAge PA for long-term care organizations in Northeast and North Central Pennsylvania. Wesley Village and Tunkhannock Manor have both received significant funding for PPE and cleaning supplies through this program throughout the pandemic.

Staff Updates

Corporate

Gerald Terpak is the new IT Technician.

Elizabeth Church

Starr Regan is the new RN Supervisor at Elizabeth Church Manor. Amy Taborne is the new Case Manager at St. Louise Manor. Sandra Farrell was promoted from ADON to Director of Nursing. Josh Bell was promoted from Staff Development Coordinator to Director of Licensed Agency.

Tunkhannock

Ryan Bogedin is the new Plant Operations Supervisor. Leslie Bullock is the new Chaplain.

Wesley Village

Marina Sinelnikova is the new ADON-RN at Partridge-Tippet. Nancy Gartland is the new Social Services Director at Partridge-Tippet. Rosalie Garcia is the new RN Unit Manager at Partridge-Tippet. Tess Capobianco is the new Registered Dietitian at Partridge-Tippet. David Perry is the new Chaplain Director for PA Campuses.

Hilltop

Gayle Barton & Cori Weaver are the new Health Home Care Managers for Complete Care by UMH. Lisa Davies is the new RN Supervisor at JGJ. Suzanne Greene is the new RN Infection Control Coordinator at JGJ. Lauren Poccia is the new Social Worker at JGJ.



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Connections is designed for easier readability. Contact Abbie Evans at abevans@umhwc.org

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