the Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF COLONIAL PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JANUARY 2025 – VOL.64 NO.1

Worship—Sunday 9:30m | **Sunday School—11am** | **Charging Station—5pm**



Celebrating Epiphany Sunday—January 5, 2025



upcoming events

- Jan. 1st—HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- Jan, 2nd—Clearing Thrift Shop from Activity Room
- Jan. 5th—Epiphany Sunday (communion and Star Words)
- Jan. 5th—Un-decorating the church following morning worship
- Jan. 6th—New Flooring Installation begins
- Jan. 12th—Installation of Council leadership
- Jan. 20th—MLK Day of Service
- Jan. 26th—Receiving New Members in worship



A Pastoral Letter to the United Church of Christ
On Unity and Justice

Read the full pastoral letter in UCC News with additional reflection on Christian unity, justice, and a vision for the future, as well as a prayer:
https://www.ucc.org/pastoral-letter-to-the-united-church-of-christ-on-unity-and-justice/

In the aftermath of the United States presidential election and the days of campaigning leading up to the election of the 47th president of the United States, the political divide in the country was evident. This political divide over critical social issues is not new; however, the polarization on the issues has created a chasm where there once was an aisle. More critically, this division is evident in the church, where diversity is broad and runs deep. This has always been so in the United Church of Christ, across the mainline churches and in the church at large. There is an inherent diversity in the church which includes political diversity.

The political divide poses a threat to the unity of the church. While there is value held in identifying that "unity does not mean uniformity," the political narratives of the day are quite different from those seen in the recent past, particularly given the rise of white Christian nationalism, a religious ideology and political movement that uses Christianity as a foundation for a hate-filled xenophobic, misogynistic, homophobic, and racist rhetoric.

White Christian nationalism itself is not new and is based on white supremacy. "The Christian nationalist movement is largely white, reflecting the long entanglement of nationalism and racism that is our collective inheritance since the earliest days of America's colonial settlement. In white nationalism this history is sanitized, removing the sins of genocide, slavery, Jim Crow laws, and all the many ways in which racism has saturated and sustained our society, thereby removing any felt need for repentance or repair." Addressing this religious ideology is a priority.

The ministry of Jesus was one that prioritized those on the margins of society. His ministry was bold and prophetic, speaking to and against the religious norms of his day, which perpetuated injustices and oppressed "the least of these." Jesus brought a message of love. When asked by his disciples about the greatest commandment, Jesus responded: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:37b-39). This is love which compels us to action.

The call to love our neighbor as ourselves begins in loving each other in the church. While not an easy task, the possibilities are yet before us to live beyond the many

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

issues which are evident and to love each other in all the rich diversity of humanity and the church. The politics of our day ought not to divide us in ways that create harm, foster hate, and hinder the ability of others to love and serve God. The love of God has the power to transcend and transform the frailties and fragilities of our human existence.

The call to love our neighbor as ourselves extends beyond the walls of the church, into our communities and into the world. Our action on behalf of those in our communities is based on love. Jesus called us to love across the great divide that is our differences. This call remains urgent today, as the church is called to be salt and light in the world.

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson
General Minister and President

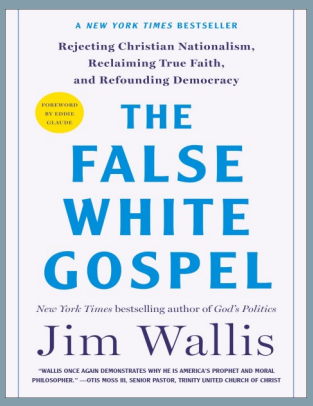
Rev. Shari Prestemon
Acting Associate General Minister

Rev. Dr. Bentley DeBardelaben-Phillips
Transitional Executive Minister

Christian nationalism is impoverished as it seeks a kingdom without a cross. It pursues a victory without mercy. It acclaims God's love of power rather than the power of God's love. We must remember that Jesus refused those who wanted to 'make him king' by force just as much as he refused to become king by calling upon '12 legions of angels'. Jesus needs no army, arms, or armored cavalry to bring about the Kingdom Of God. As such, we should resist Christian nationalism as giving a Christian facade to nakedly political, ethnocentric and impious ventures.

(N.T. Wright and Michael F. Bird)

The **Pennsylvania Council of Churches** is collaborating with communities of faith in Central Pennsylvania to learn more about the dangers of Christian Nationalism and work together to oppose this threat to both our religious communities and our democracy.



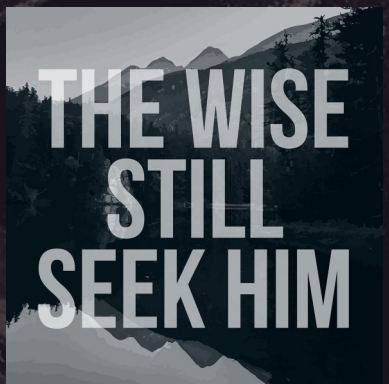
They are planning a series of gatherings beginning in 2025.
So far, the plan is to meet for an in-person gathering one evening per month, starting in February. We would talk about the book "The False White Gospel" by Jim Wallis, and how we can resist White Christian Nationalism in our families and local communities. In between in-person meetings, we'll also host Zoom gatherings for more conversation, as a way of including people who are unable to come to the in-person gatherings.

Our preliminary schedule is:

- Thursday, Feb. 27: in-person gathering
- Monday, Mar. 10: Zoom
- Thursday, Mar. 27: in-person gathering
- Monday, Apr. 14: Zoom
- Thursday, Apr. 24: in-person gathering
- Monday, May 12: Zoom
- Thursday, May 22: in-person gathering

They are not sure yet where the in-person gatherings will be held, but expect they will rotate around to different houses of worship in the Harrisburg area.

Let Pastor Cindy know if you are interested in participating.



WORSHIPPING

Morning Worship

We return to the Narrative Lectionary

January 5 - **communion - Epiphany Sunday**—Star Words (Matthew 2)

January 12 - commissioning of our 2025 Council (Luke 3:1-22)

January 19—MLK weekend— (Luke 4:14-30)

January 26 - Receive New Members (Luke 5:1-11)

February 2 - **communion—Men's Sunday** (Luke 6:1-16)

February 9 - Healing Service (Luke 7:1-17)

Charging Station Worship

Held Sundays at 5pm, and different than our more "formal" Sunday morning worship service, The Charging Station is a perfect setting for those who are looking for a more casual, intimate worship experience. Music is upbeat and engaging. You won't find a formal sermon here, but rather will have the opportunity to be a part of "Holy Conversation," where we explore together how the Scriptures may speak to our lives. Following worship, the community experience continues with a shared meal. Keep up with activities at https://www.facebook.com/chargingstationhbg.

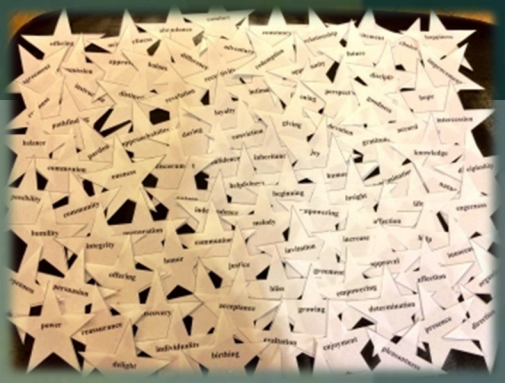


We had excellent help with decorating, and could use your help with putting away our Christmas decorations, and getting ready for the installation of new flooring. We'll UNDECK the halls on January 5, following morning worship. A lite lunch will be provided.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED TO MAKE OUR CHURCH SNOWY, BEAUTIFUL AND BRIGHT THIS ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON!



Star Words—Epiphany



Once again we will be inviting you to draw a word in morning worship on Epiphany Sunday, January 5. If you will not be physically present to do so, and wish to have a word, please come by the church office to draw your word or contact Pastor Cindy to pull a word from the basket for you.

What Are Star Words?

The use of star words, also called "star gifts," is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches for nearly a decade now. The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are written or printed on paper stars. These paper stars are then arranged, most commonly face down, on the Communion Table or in a large basket. At some point during the Epiphany service, individuals are invited to draw a word from the basket or off the Table, and to use that word as a guiding word throughout the year. Typically, participants are encouraged to trust the word they have drawn, and not to replace the word. However, we do not have a strong need to be the "star police" if an individual wants to trade. Individuals are often encouraged to place their star word somewhere they will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word.



Prompts for using the star words for daily prayer:

A. Look up the definition of your word, even if it is a word you know well. You may even look into the etymology of the word and how its meaning has changed throughout history. If you drew a non-English word, do as much research as you can into the meaning of the word in its original culture.

B. What does this word remind you of? Does it recall any memories or experiences? How might God be speaking to you through this word?

C. See if you can find your word—or a synonym—in the Bible. What scripture passages can you find? How is the word used in these passages? Are there other scripture passages that remind you of your word?

D. Write or speak aloud a prayer using your word.

CONNECTING



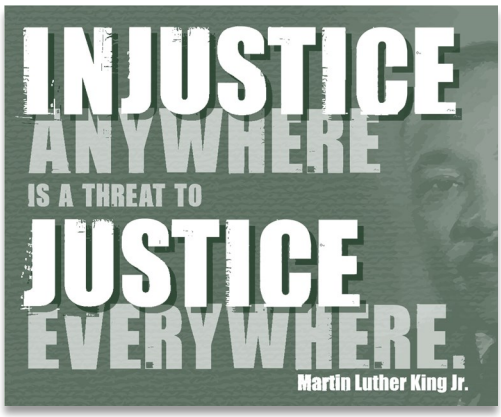
Even though it has been a difficult year for many, we have been so blessed.

We ARE a body of many, many parts...Council to Sunday School, Thrift Shoppe to Facility, Worship to Fellowship! Thank you all!
Even though tired, I know we all are supporting one another and lifting each other up, giving strength at difficult times.
In 2024, we continued to support our disciples and neighbors, near and far, by giving generously to many projects highlighted in our weekly emails and Mission Moments. Thank you for giving of your time, talent and treasure to make the lives of others a little easier. Together we imagine (and bring into being) a better world.

The Staff thanks you for your continued love, support and generosity (staff Christmas gift, individual gifts, and salary increase for 2025).
YOU make the ministry of CPUCC happen!

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

I am so blessed to know you and minister alongside of you.
May we go forward into 2025 together with courage and compassion.
Happy New Year!
Pastor Cindy





Please note that if CPUCC worship or activities are canceled due to weather (snow & ice), we will get the word out via...

- **TV—Abc27 Snow Watch**
- **Email to the congregation**
- **On our Facebook page**

Also, please note that **Half Day Play** and **Ye Olde Devonshire Thrift Shoppe** will be closed when Central Dauphin School District is closed or declares "online learning only" due to weather.

Central PA MLK DAY
1-20-25



Championing the Next Generation

MLK365

Find service opportunities at

https://www.mlk-365.org/

Meet the Members – David and Rhonda Harris

If you are a regular participant in the Sunday morning services or if you have ever attended an event at Colonial Park United Church of Christ, then you surely know David and Rhonda Harris and can appreciate how much they have dedicated themselves to the church.

The couple, who make their home in West Hanover Township, first met at a local nightclub where Rhonda knew the bandleader. Flash forward and they have just celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary! David and Rhonda are the parents of two children, Melody and Jeremy, and one grandson, all of whom live out-of-state.

David and Rhonda grew up in small towns outside of Pittsburgh and were raised by hard-working middle-class families. Rhonda sees her parents primarily as the role model for who she is today. They demonstrated the importance of taking care of family, friends, and neighbors as well as attending church. Both feel inspired by their fathers and other members of CPUCC to help others in need.

At the age of 19, Rhonda became an RN with David choosing the same career a bit later in life. Both are retired now – Rhonda from the Commonwealth of PA and David from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The couple has been very generous with their time and talents at CPUCC. David is an usher and lay reader during worship services and attends adult Sunday School. Rhonda occasionally delivers the Children's Message and teaches grades 1-5 Sunday School. The work together at the Thrift Shoppe two days a week, substitute for Meals On Wheels (David also volunteers at Downtown Daily Bread), and assist with other indoor/outdoor projects such as Christmas decorating, landscape maintenance (weeding and pruning), and planting in our No Mow/ Homegrown National Park as part of Creation Justice.

Looking back, they fondly recall watching their son, Jeremy, being baptized in the church. They look forward to the CPUCC Summer Festival – especially the music – every year.

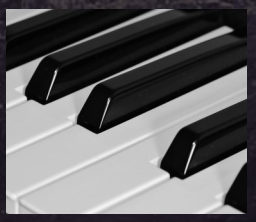
When David and Rhonda get some time for themselves, they like taking nature walks, travelling, kayaking, reading, and listening to the music of the 60s and 70s. Visiting wineries in New York and Pennsylvania was an adventure they first enjoyed when they were dating, and it is still something they like to do.



For a person to feel a part of the congregation, both David and Rhonda recommend becoming engaged by volunteering and participating in activities such as worship services, Sunday School, or any of the ministries of the church. Rhonda doesn't hesitate to recommend helping at the Thrift Shoppe. "There is always something anyone can do, even if you are having physical issues," she said.

Their hard work and strong sense of giving back are their ways of worshipping God and serving others as Jesus did.

Do you have a passion for helping others and possess basic piano playing skills?



If your answer is yes, Thornwald Home and Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home have the perfect volunteer opportunity for you!

Volunteers play a vital role in the ministry of UCC Homes. They serve in a variety of ways that make life more enjoyable and pleasant for those we serve…the residents! **Thornwald Home and Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home are seeking a Volunteer Pianist** to provide accompaniment once a month for the weekly worship services. Services are held at Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home on Wednesdays at 2pm and at Thornwald Home on Thursdays at 2pm. The volunteer pianist plays hymns during the service and other music of their choosing for a short periods prior and after the worship service.

Please contact Rev. Fa Lane, Chaplain, at (717) 249-4118. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of this opportunity to add value not only to your own life but also to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bold indicates homebound resident

2	Asher Reinke
3	Sandy Spedding,
6	Cormac Hunter, Pat Greenawald
8	Peggy Kreiser
10	Pam Barndt, Jim Reinke
11	Betty Todoroff
12	Priscilla Fledderjohn, Steve Burkholder, Aimee Haldeman
13	Olivia Mountain, Avery Orth, **Peg Reda**, Amanda Rogers, Donna Schwalm
15	Antonio Castellano
18	Ayla Hunter
19	Erik Nupponen, Diane Rabold
20	Meghan Rhoads, Zach Weaver
21	Tom Feit
22	Kathryn Marcus
23	Albert Hilliard, Jr
24	Lois Hafer, Robert Hilbert, Linda Mauck
25	Sharon Clark, Carrie Wilson, Isabella Stefanelli
26	Cathy Porter
28	Carrie Schwalm
29	Robert Orth
30	Kathi Blose, Marlene Myers

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January

17	Michele & Bill Robison	16 Years
18	Kim & Pasquale Castellano	25 years

2025 Council (Approved)

Will be commissioned on January 12

Position	***Member***
President	Thaddeus Sampson
Vice President	Sharon Clark
Community Connections Deacon	
Family Connections Deacon	Sue Duff
Service Deacon	Sue Graft
Spiritual Growth Deacon	Liz August
Worship Deacon	Patricia Kishpaugh
Budget Steward	Shawn Stauffer
Facility Steward	Tom Feit
Generosity Steward	Cindy Gnech
Human Resources Steward	Deb Magliette
Youth Representative	Kai Nupponen

DELEGATES

Organization	**Primary**	**Alternate**
Christian Churches United	Pam Barndt	Dennis Snyder
	Janice Mountain	Tom Bay
Harrisburg Association	Natalie Lubold	Larry Porter
	Bethany Sweger	Cathy Porter
Penn Central Conference	David Harris	Jim Richardson
	Rhonda Harris	Jane Richardson
UCC Homes	Sam Gilbert	Jim Reinke
	Linda Gilbert	Sue Reinke

INVESTMENT TEAM

Member	**Three-Year Term**
Larry Porter	2023-2025
Jim Richardson	2024-2026
Liz August	2025-2027

Life's most persistent and urgent question is,

"What are you doing for others?"

-Martin Luther King Jr.

GIVING

Grocery Cards

It's New Year's resolution time – how about making buying grocery gift cards for Giant, Weis and Karns for ALL your shopping at these stores one of your resolutions? And it's really easy to make this resolution a reality (unlike many other resolutions!). Just stop at the table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings before or after church, or in the office weekdays. Let's make 2025 our best year ever! Thank you for your support!

In Recognition

Do you want to recognize an important person in your life, living or deceased, and say "thank you" to God for them while at the same time furthering CPUCC's ministry and mission? For each $15 sponsorship, a notice will be placed in that week's bulletin. You can sign up and pay for dates on-line or dates can be reserved and paid for by contacting the church office.

Capital Campaign

Although our Capital Campaign *Rejoice, Renew, Revive* has officially wrapped up its three-year term, It's never too late to support it! Donations continue to be happily accepted, and are still definitely needed for additional building and organ renovations and repairs. Thank you for your contributions totaling $470,899.89 through the end of November, which have made possible many important projects to repair, maintain, and improve our beautiful facility. The current project focus is painting and new flooring, which is expected to be completed in January.

Pledge Update

Thank you to everyone who has pledged to support the mission and ministry of CPUCC in 2025!

As of mid-December,
57 people/families have pledged $209, 760.00



Imagine Together

Our wonderful series about Advent in Narnia beautifully illustrates our 2025 stewardship theme to "Imagine Together." At the beginning of The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, the four Pevensie children find themselves in a land "where it is always winter but never Christmas." It is a time and place of bleakness and despair. Unfortunately, we can all relate to that, with most people having some experiences in their lives of despair, discouragement, and sadness. But Jesus gives us the hope that the children in the book found in Aslan – a springtime of renewal and joy. No matter what winter of our lives we may be in, we can imagine together a better time of peace and comfort. It will become real through Jesus!



Ye Olde Devonshire Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is closed for the month of January.
All the "stuff" from the Activity Room had to be moved to make room for the new flooring. A POD is sitting in the back parking lot to hold the "stuff." **The Shop will reopen on February 5th.**

We have been battling wind and freezing weather. As you know, so much of what we do is outside - so perhaps closing for the month of January is a good idea. If and when we get the long anticipated shed, we will be able to operate more under cover. We are still waiting for the permit from Lower Paxton Township. It has been two years since we applied for the permit. They say patience is a virtue but the longer we wait the less virtuous we are becoming! The amazing donations continue to pour in. We are so grateful for them. **No donations will be accepted from December 21st until February 5th because there will be no place to sort and price during January.**

We made several donations to programs this past month. We donated to Breakfast with Santa. A program run for mentally disabled adults called The Jeremy Project was the recipient of a cash donation and items from the shop they could use in their program. Towels for dogs and cats were collected and more white shirts and single bed sheets were collected for Bethesda Mission. Help is always appreciated.
Call Pat Spiegel, our scheduler,
at 717-695-2999 or
Helen Ferguson
at 717-421-3026.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



BECOME PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Consider CPUCC Your Faith Community?

We will receive new members on January 26th. Pastor Cindy will hold "membership classes" the two Sundays prior: January 12 & 19 @1pm.

Please let her know ASAP if you are interested.

Thank you for the opportunity to "practice what we preach."

This was an email I received from Cindy Hogeman. When I inquired what she was referring to, Cindy pointed me to an article recently posted by PA Interfaith Power & Light "The Woman Behind the Native Tree Meadow at Colonial Park United Church of Christ."

https://paipl.us/2024-12-16-the-woman-behind-the-native-tree-meadow-at-colonial-park-united-church-of-christ/

It is a great article, but really my thanks goes to Cindy and our Green Team who live their faith through their love of creation every day.

Cindy and our meadow can always use extra helping hands, so, if plants and the healing of the world interest you, get involved.

Peace, *Pastor Cindy*

SERVING

Harrisburg Food Pantry

For the month of January, we are requesting canned chicken or tuna, mac & cheese, rice, noodles, cake or cookie mix, deodorant and shampoo for the Harrisburg Area Food Pantry. You may place items in the grocery cart.

Blessing Box

Please continue to donate items for our Blessing Box. These donations directly benefit our local neighbors. You may place items directly in the Blessing Box anytime or in the Alcove, we have also placed a basket in the Narthex to receive donations.

The generosity of this church is absolutely wonderful.



Because of you…

- ⇒ We were able to provide Kindred Place with gift cards to Giant and Weis for $345.
- ⇒ Thirty-five students from Hoffman Homes will receive Christmas gifts because of your generosity.
- ⇒ Bethesda Mission Community Center received 200 packets of gravy because of you.
- ⇒ The Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry received 143 bags of cookies to hand out to the truck drivers who are away from home during this Holiday season.

Because of you, many more people experienced more peace, joy, love and hope this holiday season!



THE GIVING TREE

"TAKE ONE, GIVE ONE"

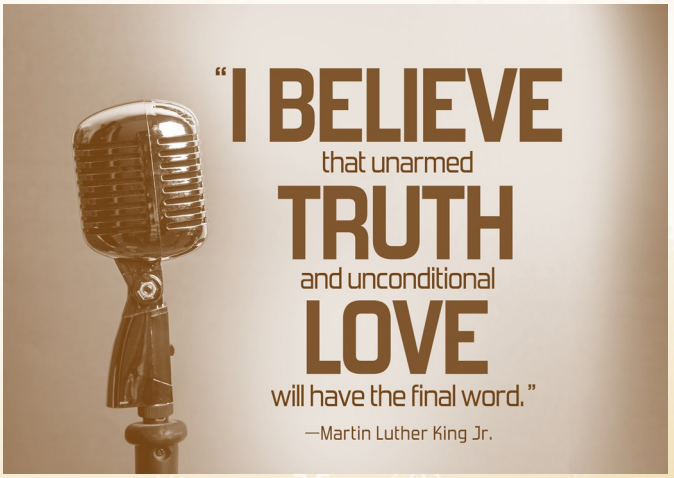
For the winter months, we will be collecting items for

CPUCC Blessing Box & Light of Christ Ministries

Items needed are: hats, beanies, mittens, scarves, socks and hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, and soap. We will be sharing these donations between our Blessing Box and Light of Christ Ministries (who serve Keystone Corrections Work Release Program), and other local service organizations.

TAKE a tag from the GIVING TREE, GIVE an item on the tag, and place your purchase on the tree or in the containers under the tree.

THANK YOU!





Cookie Packing





Pancakes with Santa





GATHER THE GUITARS

For Gather the Spirit

for Justice

3:00 PM to 6:30 PM, Sunday, January 14, 2024
Abby Bar at Appalachian Brewing Co
50 N Cameron St, Harrisburg



Rigo Giorgini



Matt Jameson



Vince Rollins

Tickets on Sale Now for $25
Scan QR Code to Purchase

Gather the Spirit supports programing that provides a sense of hope and dignity while strengthening the community on Allison Hill

Need tickets or information call 717-330-2532
CHECK OUT OUR SILENT AUCTION TOO!



Live Nativity

Serving Your Church

Thank you to all who serve the church faithfully.

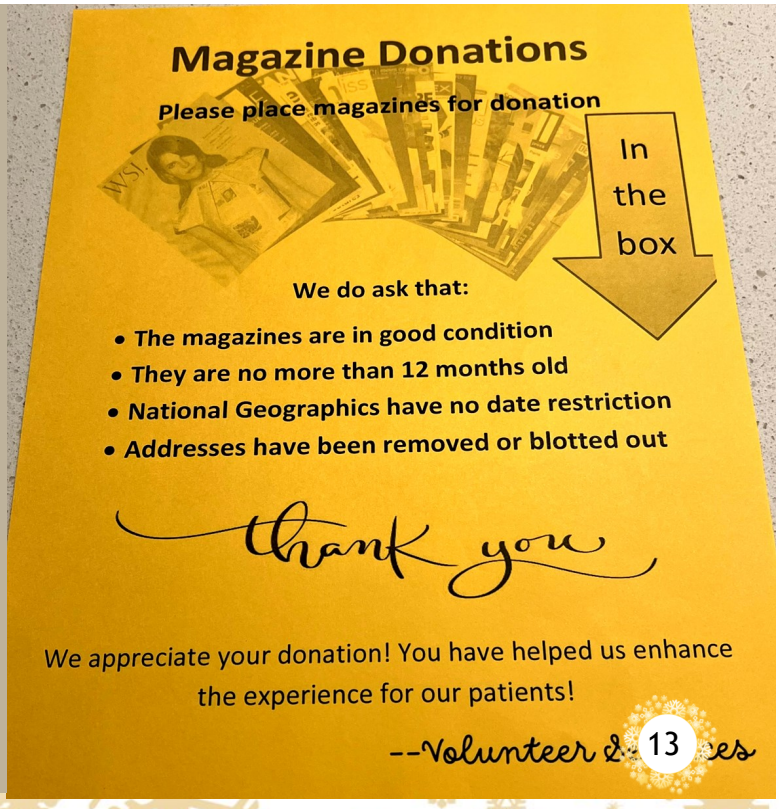
To fill in any of the open slots go to ttsu.me/serving or call the church office

1/5/2025 Communion	1/12/2025	1/19/2025	1/26/2025
Acolyte ☐ sign up	Acolyte ☐ sign up	Acolyte ☐ sign up	Acolyte ☐ sign up
Lay Reader Cathy Porter	Lay Reader Elizabeth August	Lay Reader Thaddeus Sampson	Lay Reader Cindy Shannon
Greeter by F.Hall Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Greeter by F.Hall Natalie Lubold	Greeter by F.Hall ☐ sign up	Greeter by F.Hall ☐ sign up
Usher Pam Barndt	Usher ☐ sign up	Usher Elizabeth August	Usher ☐ sign up
Usher Elizabeth August	Usher ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up
Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up

Collecting Your Used Magazines

Ron Johnson is a Patient Advocate Volunteer at UPMC Harrisburg. The Coordinator for Volunteer Services (Shonda Chapman) asked him if we at CPUCC would be willing to donate magazines to UPMC Harrisburg (Front Street). They give them out to patients. There are 409 rooms so you can count the potential need!

Look for the drop-off box at the church this new year. See the poster to the right (and at the box) that gives instructions on what is appropriate to donate. Ron will be our contact person and take donations to the volunteer services office. Join in on this win-win!



GROWING



During the program year, Sunday School for all ages at 11:00am Learn more about classes:
For adults: https://tinyurl.com/CPUCCSundaySchool-Adults
For children: https://tinyurl.com/CPUCCSundaySchool-Children

CHILDREN & YOUTH

J.A.M. (Jesus and Me): Toddlers to Kindergarten
Walkers through Kindergarten are welcome for stories, crafts, a snack, and lots of play time in the preschool room next to the Library. Preferred if a parent can stay with young children.

Crosswalkers
Our students in Grades 1-5 meet downstairs beside the Youth Room. They have a story time lesson, some arts & crafts, and a snack. We have several teachers dedicated to working with the class. For more information, please contact Jenny Gassert at 717 602 9065.

Pathfinders: Grades 6-12
Pastor Cindy leads our Pathfinders. We are using curriculum from the United Church of Christ called Faith Practices. Using distinctive practices of faith -- such as "Keeping Sabbath" or "Playing and Living Joyfully" -- Faith Practices is a set of versatile, all-encompassing resources designed to revolutionize the way congregations equip their members for lives of faith.

Trouble Finding Something on the Website?

We have a new website and some items got moved around.

If you are looking for…	Look Under…
"Where's the Link?"	**Resources**
the Calendar	**Events**
the Livestream	**Worship**

ADULTS

Library Class (discussion-oriented)
The Christmas Letters: Celebrating Advent with those who told the story first
Magrey deVega invites us to explore some of the letters in the New Testament, the Epistles, to hear about the miracle of Christ's birth from those who first told the story. Roman's, I John, Philippians, and Colossians contain the earliest attempts by the church to understand and celebrate the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Dec 8 Good News:Looking Back to Look Ahead, Dec 15 Love Incarnate: The Word of Life Revealed, Dec 22 Fully Human: Joy in Humility, Dec 29–No class January 5 Fully Divine: Peace through Christ
The Wired Word (January12-March 2)
Lessons are crafted from current news stories. News is inevitable--whether it be good or bad. What better way to extract hope from the news than by juxtaposing Bible verses as tools to ponder and navigate our daily walk in Christian faith.

Chapel Group (presentation-style, Bible Study)
Democracy is the law of the land in the US. Our founders rejected singular sovereign leadership as human monarchies tended toward authoritarian and oppression. We will explore the kingship that God authors and Jesus embodies.

Parlor Group (DVD and discussion)
*Finishing the series...***Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith** by Adam Hamilton. Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God.

Bible Study Bible Study meets on Zoom and in person (in the church Parlor) on Thursdays at 2pm

REMEMBER: Handouts can be found at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCChandouts. Zoom link can be found at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCClinks.

Philippians | "Listen Up!" Bible Study (Weidmann)



Do you like friendly work environments? I do. Do you like working together with others towards a worthy and meaningful goal? I do. Philippians not only encourages all that; it assumes and relies upon a foundation of genuine community. Its language and structure promote deep collegiality and cooperation. Not coincidentally, it is considered by many to be Paul's friendliest letter.

Do you like learning about a hero or being connected with someone who never says never? I do. As you read, discuss, and study Philippians, you may discover that Paul's strength of spirit brings to mind people from your own life who have endured great difficulty. Paul's perseverance might remind you of modern faith leaders—people like Dorothy Day, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Who would you name?

Do you care about the spread of the gospel; about the good news of Christ active in your life, in the community, and throughout the world; about God's love evident among individuals and whole communities working together? If you answered "yes" to any or all of these questions, then Philippians is for you

Jan 16 - Lesson 1 Sharing in the Gospel Philippians 1:1–14

Jan 23 - Lesson 2 Striving Side by Side Philippians 1:15–30

Jan 30 - Lesson 3 Let This Same Mind Be Among You Philippians 2:1–11

Feb 6 - Lesson 4 For God Is at Work Among You Philippians 2:12–30

Feb 13 - Lesson 5 Let Us Hold Fast to What We Have Attained Philippians 3:1–21

Feb 20 - Lesson 6 Keep on Doing Philippians 4:1–23

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP (WSG)

*WSG meets on the **2nd Monday of the month** (with a few exceptions), in person in the church Parlor, 6:30pm—8:30pm. Find any handouts uploaded at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCChandouts*

Please let Pastor Cindy know if you would like to participate but need a ride.

Open to all women, who identify as a woman, and who are non-binary and comfortable with feminine language and discussing issues from a female perspective.

We are working through Christine Valters Paintner's ***The Soul's Slow Ripening: 12 Celtic Practices for Seeking the Sacred***

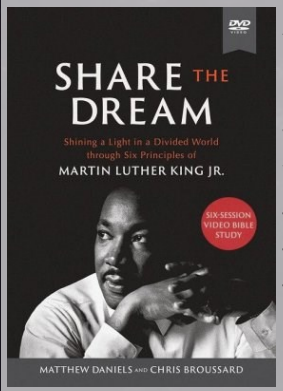
January 13 - Chs. 5 & 6; February 10 - Ch. 7; March 10 - Chs. 8 & 9; April—No Gathering. Enjoy Holy Week! May 12 - Chs. 10 & 11; June 9 - Ch. 12 and Conclusion

Learn more at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCChandouts

Spiritual Springboards (video clip & discussion, Tuesday Nights, 6:30pm - **On Zoom**)

Share the Dream (DVD Series): Shining a Light in a Divided World Through Six Principles of Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Chris Broussard, Matthew Daniels



Share the Dream is a six-session video Bible study based on the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. You will look at six biblical principles that shaped Dr. King's life and motivated him to speak on behalf of African Americans in the Civil Rights Movement: love, conscience, freedom, justice, perseverance, and hope. The best way to Share the Dream is to follow in Dr. King's footsteps and embrace his vision.

Jan 14 - Session 1 - Love
Jan 21 - Session 2 - Conscience
Jan 28 - Session 3 - Justice
Feb 4 - Session 4 - Freedom
Feb 11 - Session 5 - Perseverance
Feb 18 - Session 6 – Hope

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January



