

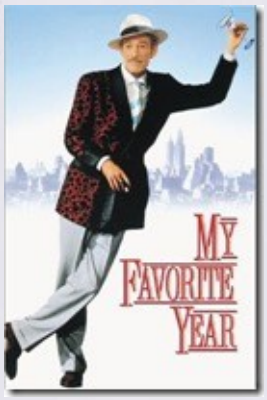
the Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
COLONIAL PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FEBRUARY 2025 – VOL.64 NO.2

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

SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH

Tyler Strange in CD High School Musical

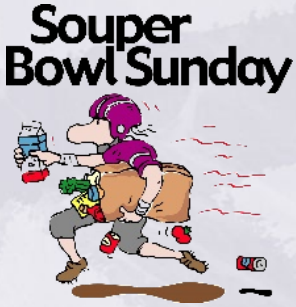


Thank you to everyone that has supported Tyler and his performances over the years. If you would like to see his final performance musical in Central Dauphin High School's 'My Favorite Year', tickets go on sale to the public on Monday, January 27th. Here is a link to buy tickets: https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=267031

Performances are:
Fri, Feb. 21st at 7pm
Sat, Feb. 22nd at 2pm and 7pm
Sun, Feb. 23rd at 2pm

There is also a **free Senior Citizen's performance** on Thursday, Feb. 20th at 4pm.

Souper Bowl of Caring

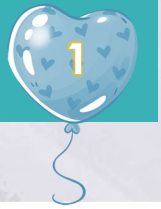


Since 1990, young people nationwide, have been leading the charge and inspiring others to accept an offering on Super Bowl Sunday that helps to end hunger in their community. 100% of the money collected is designated to the group the youth have chosen to support.
We invite you to be part of the movement by contributing to the effort. The **Souper Bowl of Caring is Sunday, February 9th.** The youth will be collecting soup cans for the Blessing Box and cash/check donations for the Manna Food Pantry in Penbrook and The Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. The kids are so excited about helping! Will you please remember to pick up cans of soup when you are shopping to make their effort successful? Please write checks out to CPUCC with "Souper Bowl" in the memo. Can you help to top the amount of $650 collected last year! Thank you for your support!!!!!





- **Feb 2nd - "Voices from the Pew" Lay Leadership Sunday**
- **Feb 9th – Souper Bowl of Caring** and **Healing Service in A.M.**
- **Feb 16th – Seminary Sunday**
- **Mar 1st—ONA Winter Gathering**
- **Mar 5th Ash Wednesday**
- **Mar 9th First Sunday of Lent Communion**





A WORD FROM PASTOR CINDY

Dear Beloved Community,
As we step into February, we are invited to join in the national observance of Black History Month—a sacred time to reflect, learn, and act upon the enduring legacy of African Americans who have shaped and continue to shape our nation. This year, I am drawn to frame our observance in the spirit of mercy, inspired by the poignant plea from Bishop Mariann Budde at the Inaugural Prayer Service: "Grant us mercy in the face of our failures, courage to reconcile, and strength to make new beginnings."

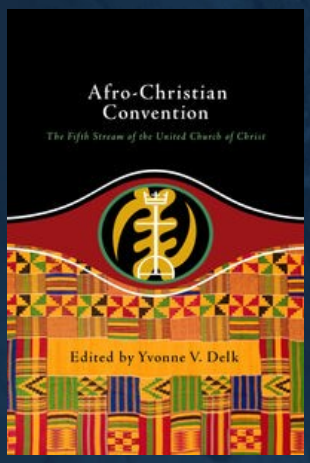
Mercy calls us to look unflinchingly at the past—to see both the profound contributions of Black Americans and the devastating harms of systemic racism. The stories of Harriet Tubman, James Baldwin, Rosa Parks, and so many others reveal lives of courage and resilience, offering us examples of what it means to live with faith and determination in the face of overwhelming injustice. Yet mercy also calls us to confront the ways we have collectively fallen short—through complicity, silence, or inaction—and to acknowledge the persistence of inequities in our communities today.

In our United Church of Christ tradition, we affirm that the work of justice is inseparable from our faith. As Micah 6:8 reminds us, we are called "to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God." Black History Month is not merely a time to remember; it is a time to act. Mercy emboldens us to reconcile where harm has been done and to commit anew to the holy work of dismantling racism and building beloved community.

How might we live out this call? It begins with listening—to voices that challenge and inspire

Continued on next page

A Study of the Afro-Christian Convention



The holy stream of African spirituality that flowed across the Atlantic Ocean, up into the tidewaters of Virginia in 1619, the same stream that overflowed into the worship and work of the United Church of Christ, is celebrated and given its long-overdue place in the canon of UCC history.

The story of the Afro-Christian Convention is the story of faith, survival, and empowerment in the hostile environment of racism. From 1892 to the 1960s, the Afro-Christian Convention was composed of 150 churches and 25,000 members, located primarily in North Carolina and Virginia.

In June 1957, when the founding/merging leaders of the new United Church of Christ processed through Cleveland, representation of the Afro-Christian Convention churches was folded into the representation of the Convention of the South—a 1950s initiative of the Congregational Christian denomination to fold Black churches of the South into a single conference.

But the spirit, worldview, worship, and impact of Afro-Christian Convention churches are not appropriately represented under the banner of the Congregational stream of UCC history, a stream informed predominantly by white perspective. The Afro-Christian Convention, born from the wellspring of independent Black churches with deep African rootedness, is rightly understood—and at last shared—as a unique stream.

Edited by Yvonne Delk, the contributors to *Afro-Christian Convention* include: Richard H. Taylor, Brenda Billips Square, Vivian M. Lucas, K. Ray Hill, Julia M. Speller, Henry T. Simmons, Iva E. Carruthers, and Yvonne V. Delk. Foreword by Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr.

Free Study Guide

For deeper engagement with the book, you can download the free study guide:
Final_5Stream_STUDY_GUIDE_web_2024-1.pdf

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us, to histories long silenced, to the Spirit stirring within. Let us seek out opportunities to educate ourselves and our children, to engage in honest conversations about race, and to advocate for policies that promote equity and justice. Mercy also invites us to examine our own hearts and practices. Are we creating spaces of welcome and belonging for all God's children? Are we amplifying the voices of those who are often unheard?

This month, I encourage each of us to take a step—whether it is reading a book by a Black author, supporting Black-owned businesses, attending a community event, or simply spending time in prayer for healing and justice. Small actions, rooted in mercy and faith, have the power to transform us and our world.

Let us approach Black History Month not as a box to check, but as a holy invitation to grow in grace, courage, and compassion. May we embrace the call to mercy, leaning into the hard but hopeful work of reconciliation and renewal. And may we trust that God is with us, guiding us toward the beloved community where justice and peace shall reign.

With hope and love,
Pastor Cindy
Senior Minister



Pastor Cindy will be away on vacation February 13-26, 2025.

Pastor Scott will be on call for pastoral emergencies during that time.

Thank you to our outstanding preachers in her absence:

February 16–Pastor Scott

February 23–Rev. Judy Strayer

We Welcome New Disciples

We received three new members on January 26, 2025

Rev. Jessica Cobb



Pictured: Jessie and her daughter, Mya

My family first learned of CPUCC when my wife and I were engaged and looking for a local minister who would officiate our wedding. We are still very grateful that Pastor Cindy graciously agreed. We have 3 beautiful elementary aged children, 3 dogs, 3 cats, and an aquarium full of fish. I'm currently working as a Drug & Alcohol Counselor and a Chaplain at a nursing home. I'm passionate about social justice and the Arts, especially making things with my hands… drawing, painting, ceramics, woodworking, etc. My children and I have attended the Charging Station and various children's events over the past year and a half, we're looking forward to getting to know more folks as we become more involved at CPUCC. ~ Jessie

Jan and Ron Johnson



Ron was born and raised in New Mexico. He attended college there and went into the Navy during the Vietnam conflict. His last duty station was a ship out of New London, Connecticut. He made a career change and became an agent with the IRS for 38 years prior to retiring.

Jan was born and raised in Connecticut. She graduated from Bay Path University. She was an at home Mom before the children started school and then began her career as a paralegal from which she retired. They met and married in New London at a church that was taken by eminent domain (just like CPUCC).

They have two grown children and two grand dogs. They recently relocated from Connecticut to be close to one of their children (Jeff) who lives in New Cumberland. They were active members in a federated church (UCC and UMC) for 42 years. They chose CPUCC because it is ONA, just like the church they left.



generosity

THANK YOU!
Loose Change Sunday (January 26) raised $325.66 for the Building Fund! At least a few people came to church with jars or baggies full of coins! We'll be doing it again the last Sunday in March. So save your pennies!



Grocery Cards

In 2024, the grocery card program provided $3,679 in income to our church general fund and $160 to the Half Day Play pre-school program. This was our best year since 2021! It's easy to support this important church fund-raiser – just stop by the table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning or in the church office during the week to purchase gift cards for Giant, Weis and Karns, in denominations ranging from $5.00 to $100.00. Five percent of your total purchase supports CPUCC when you buy gift cards at church, or that five percent can go to the store – it's your choice! Thank you to everyone who regularly or periodically purchases gift cards – together we raise significant funds to support our ministry and mission.

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 $472,006.97 through the end of December, which represents 98% of the total amount pledged. Your gifts 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 the near future.

IMAGINE TOGETHER

In a recent These Days devotional, Rev. Nona Holy wrote about 1 Corinthians 12:6-7, which says: "There are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." Her devotional reads as follows: "In writing to the Christians in Corinth, Paul confirms that God's Spirit shines on everyone. In the varieties of people and skills and interests, the Spirit manifests a variety of gifts for the common good. Paul's message aimed to affirm these differences and unite people in the Corinthian church. Differences can easily divide people as they value one gift or deed above others. Instead, their gifts should be attributed to God's Spirit as a blessing on their community that are activated for the good of the whole. This message is for today's church as well. God chooses and inspires each person in our uniqueness to live into our gifts in ways that strengthen the whole community of faith. What gifts do you recognize in yourself? How does God's Spirit inspire you to celebrate and use your gifts for the common good?" I would add, How can you imagine using your God-given talents to serve our church and our community? Together we can both imagine and accomplish much!

Service

Harrisburg Area Food Pantry

For the month of February, we are requesting **peanut butter, jelly, canned stew, chili, or soup, crackers, and toothpaste** for the Harrisburg Area Food Pantry. You may place items in the grocery cart.

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.

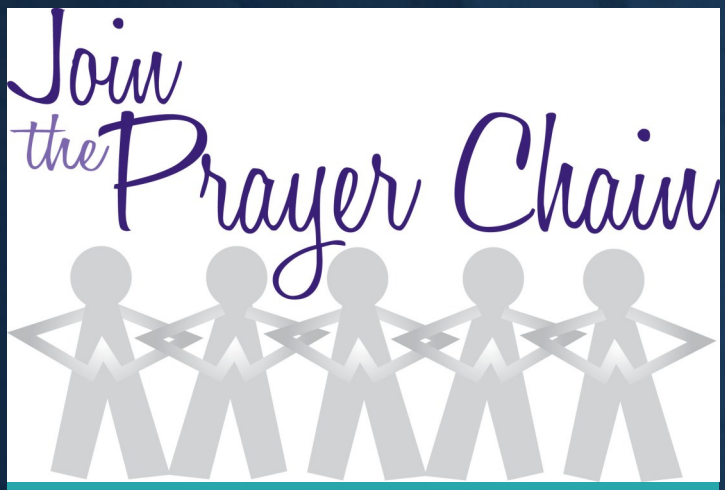
TAKE a tag from the GIVING TREE, GIVE an item on the tag, and place your purchase on the tree or in the containers under the tree.

THANK YOU!



Meals on Wheels

If you are looking for a wonderful service opportunity, delivering Meals on Wheels periodically is a great option. We are looking for substitutes who are able to spend a morning delivering meals to seniors and those with disabilities in our community. Periodically our regular Monday, Wednesday, and Friday drivers are unable to deliver because of medical situations, appointments, or travel, so substitutes fill in to cover the routes on those days. Training is happily provided! If you are interested in becoming a Meals on Wheels substitute, please contact Cindy Gnech at cindygnech7@gmail.com or 717-991-4124. Thank you!



Prayer Chain

Do you believe in the power of prayer? If so, we need you as part of the CPUCC prayer chain, to pray for CPUCC disciples as well as their family and friends during times of illness, injury, sorrow, and other challenging times. Prayer chain members receive e-mail notifications of prayer requests and are asked to pray for the individuals whose names and needs are shared. It's easy to become involved. Just contact Cindy Gnech at 717-991-4124 or cindygnech7@gmail.com to sign up.



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.





Church World Service Blankets

This month we receive donations for Church World Service Blankets. The cost of one blanket is $10, please make your check payable to CPUCC with "Blankets" on the memo line.

Half Day Play Preschool

The mission of Half Day Play Preschool is to provide an experience promoting group interaction, parent involvement, creativity, and independence via a learning-through-play approach.

Registrations for the 2025-2026 school year are now being accepted. To enroll, a child must be three years old by September 1, 2025.

Learn more at **https://cpucc.org/half-day-play-preschool/**

Lancaster THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Seminary Sunday

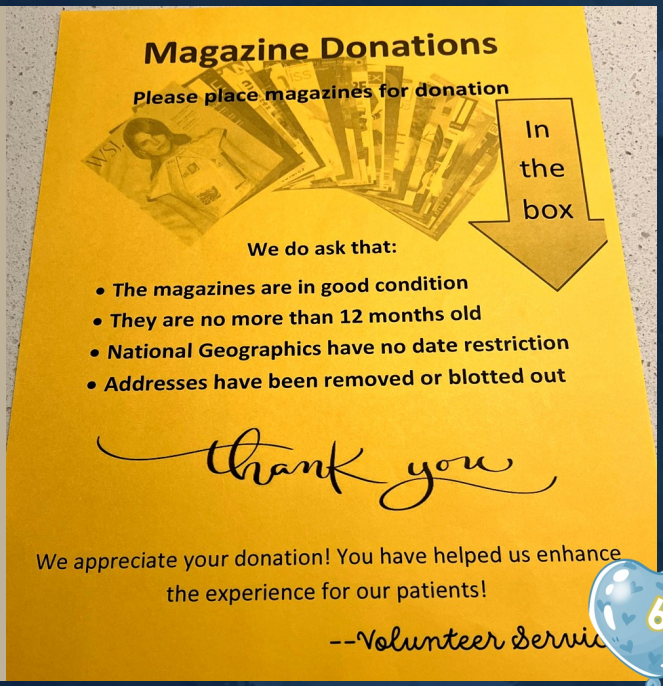
February 16th is Seminary Sunday. Donations will benefit the Horace Sills Scholarship Fund at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Please make checks payable to CPUCC with Sills Scholarship on the memo line.

Learn about this year's recipient: https://tinyurl.com/CPUCC-Sills2024

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 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!



connections

OPEN AND AFFIRMING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
...IA MINISTRY TEAM
...N CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Message to the Conference

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." (Proverbs 16:3)

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Let me begin by sharing a word of thanks to all of you who have held me in prayer during and after my spinal surgery in December. I appreciate deeply the cards, flowers, emails, and phone calls. Thank you - I felt your prayer sustain me and that is priceless. I thank God for you.

We are now two weeks into the consequential year of 2025. Consequential not only because of upcoming political events or current climate-related natural disasters. This year will be consequential for us, as the Penn Central Conference, because it will be our final year as an independent organization.

Penn Central was born from the dream of the new United Church of Christ. The denominational planners tasked with 'what to do with Pennsylvania' settled on four Conferences and the plan was accepted. Members gathered at an organizational meeting at Colonial Park in September of 1962 where they chose leadership and formed a Board of Directors. Our first Annual Meeting was held June 13-15th, 1963. At the time we had 286 churches and over 75,000 members. We now stand at 168 churches and under 28,000 members. But in this consequential year we will become part of something larger – a new Keystone Conference, and the four Pennsylvania Conference will be (re)joined into one body. That process is both daunting and exhilarating.

What we will focus on this year as priorities:

1. Planning for a celebratory and meaningful annual gathering (for PCC only) June 13-14th to recognize and give thanks for who we have been and all we have accomplished as a Conference. It will be 62 years to the day from our initial Annual Meeting! We will soon be seeking volunteers to help with this important event.
2. Establishing an infrastructure for search and call that

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SAVE THE DATE

Open and Affirming Ministry Team Winter Gathering
Saturday, March 1, 2025

THEME – PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR ONE ANOTHER

Lancaster Theological Seminary
555 West James Street
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

The planning committee comprising of members from all four PA conferences are planning a day of speakers and workshops around the common theme of supporting one another. Breakfast items and Lunch will be provided.

Please look for additional information in early February.



FROM THE PARISH RESOURCE CENTER
Showing Your Church's Impact: Creating an Impact Report
Thursday February 13, 2025
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
$13 for members/ $26 for non-members
This workshop is virtual via Zoom.
Presenters: Alexis Fuller-Wright
and Elizabeth Harness
LEARN MORE:
https://connectprc.org/events/creating-an-impact-report/



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will serve the entire commonwealth. We are working with Penn Northeast and Penn West who already have volunteer infrastructures in place to see how to "up-size" such a program.

3. Gathering Association presidents/moderators to begin cross-Conference discussions regarding what will be expected from Associations moving forward. If you are an Association President, please keep an eye out for doodle polls and meeting dates.

4. Finalize decisions related to logistics such as future office space location, territories for Regional Conference Ministers, data storage and website, and the like.

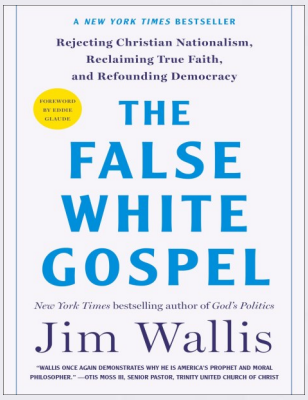
5. Financial conversations and decisions as we consider what must happen for there to be a combination (over time) of our financial resources.

You will be appraised of all these decisions as they happen, and your staff promises full transparency. Further, the Keystone Working Group meets this Friday for its final in-person working meeting. Thanks go out to them again for their excellent work! The KWG will remain a touchstone as we move through the spring, and the new Keystone Board of Directors will take over its Governance role directly following Synod in July.

This is a time of many moving parts and a confusion of meetings. Your staff will send out regular updates so we can all be on the same page. If you have a question, PLEASE ASK. We need your engagement as we move forward!

In peace and hope,

Carrie
Rev. Dr. Carrie Call
Conference Minister
Penn Central Conference



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.

CPUCC members Brenda Eckert, Judy Strayer, and Ron Johnson hope to join in the conversation.
Interested? Contact Rev. Allyssa Boyer at allyssaboyer@outlook.com.



February Birthdays

Bold indicates homebound resident

1 Rob Herman, Kristy Stauffer
2 Jennifer Thompson
4 Keith Bowman, Maggie Gassert
10 Cassidy Bender, Linda Randby
12 **Carol Goldberg**, Riley Nupponen, Joslyn Leaman
14 Dennis Snyder
16 Giles Light, Jr.
18 Dennis Bender, Judy Strayer
19 Carol Bartoski, Zachary Zeigler
20 Derek Bowman
22 Susanne Bishop
23 John Butari
24 Mark Karchner
25 Kim DeHart, Mary Jones
26 Roger Hix, Logan Weaver
27 Pat Cimorelli, Abigail Karchner
28 Rosemary Mirocco, Thomas O. Potts

February Anniversaries

Feb. 14	Donna & Robert Reichard	33 yrs
	Dianne & Robert Hilbert	16 yrs



Rhonda Harris Shares a Mission Moment

Ye Olde Devonshire Thrift Shoppe is a replacement of the annual Devonshire Fair which had a long Mission history for this church.

I have two stories that I would like to share with you. There was a woman that came to the shop looking for Christmas gifts for her grandchildren who live with her. Her husband had just lost his job and she was saying she did not think they were going to have much of a Christmas this year. She really was debating about what she could afford, even though some of the items were priced at 25 cents. She was considering small figures for the kids to have something to give them. I quietly said to her, "pick what you want, it will be free, it will be my gift to you". I later paid for the items. We got her a little tree, ornaments, lights, figures, and a few games. She expressed her gratitude and left with tears in her eyes.

The other story is about the Nupponen family. One day the family showed up to help. I may not have showed it, but I was thrilled. I enjoyed them being there. Riley was great with the money box and Kai was great at helping people find items and just talking to them. They probably don't realize how much I appreciated them.

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Did you know that our Rudy Youth Fund helps to support children and youth attending summer camp? Talk with Pastor Cindy and register with our partners at Lutheran Camp Corporation https://www.lutherancamping.org/upcoming-events/

Also:

Use code PENNCENTRAL2025 for a 50% campership from Outdoor Ministries on summer camps.



IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER…

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 website—cpucc.org
- 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.

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Here are some reasons why you should get involved with this endeavor:

- You are serving God by serving our community;
- The thrift shop recycles goods thereby salvaging usable products and reducing landfill;
- Contributes financially to other ministries in the community (a list is available upon request);
- Provides affordable goods for those with lesser financial resources;
- Can provide an opportunity to pray for others;
- Creates a welcoming, Christian venue for socialization for those experiencing isolation and loneliness;
- Promotes camaraderie among volunteers and with those who visit;
- Creates an opportunity to personally invite others to attend our church worship services; and ,as I have stated,
- Provides a substantial contribution to our church budget which allows us to remain an active religious community.

If you cannot help with the thrift shop, please consider some other way of contributing to the life and financial health of this church, such as: increasing your tithing (if you can), volunteering to usher, teaching or assisting with Sunday School, weeding, lay reader, or the children's message, to name a few.

I am asking you to give some of your time to this worthy Mission. We have a place for everyone. You can sit and place merchandise in bags, help check out purchased items, sit and talk to people, sort donated items, or open and close the shop. We will guide and assist you. We need you. We cannot continue this without you! Give us one day a week or one, two or four hours a week or month or once a quarter or whatever suits you. Just show-up (there is always something to do)!

The thrift shop is open normally 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. If interested in helping out, you may call Helen Ferguson at (717) 566-2142 or (717) 421-3026 (cell). Again, I want to emphasize what a valuable service this is to our community, one Mission providing multiple blessings. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this Mission. Thank you.



Member Spotlight – Sarah Hackenberg

In 2021, Sarah Hackenberg moved back to her home state of Pennsylvania. Once she was settled in, she started to look for a church to attend. Several friends suggested that she should check out Colonial Park United Church of Christ.

"On my first visit, I was greeted by welcoming faces and beautiful music," she said. "Both of which kept me coming back." She was hooked.

So much so, that she quickly joined the choir and she also rings with the bell choir. "I love our weekly choir practices!" Sarah said with a smile. "We have so much fun singing together, plus there's always a lot of joking and laughter."

Sarah was raised in a small town in Union County called New Berlin. It is located about an hour north of Harrisburg. After she graduated from college, she lived in Salzburg, Austria for two years. The first year was after receiving a Rotary scholarship. However, when the year was over, she just wasn't quite ready to return, so Sarah extended her stay for another year. "The experience was life changing as I made friends from multiple countries, realized that my 'normal' was not everyone's 'normal,'" she explained. "I loved soaking up the incredible art, history, food, and culture of so many European countries."

Upon returning to the States, Sarah spent most of her adult life in New York – in NYC and the beautiful Catskill Mountains. But she is now happy to share her Harrisburg home with her German Shepherd, Bianca. After 20 years working as a school librarian, Sarah recently founded her own business, Grace In Cycles. She provides services as a professional organizer. "My first big decluttering job was when I downsized my own four-bedroom home to just the possessions that would fit in a camper!" she said.

Now she uses her skills to help others declutter, downsize, organize and optimize their space. She understands that everyone's time and energy flows in cycles, and sometimes a helping hand is needed. "I work to be intentional, and I fill my home only with things I love," she said. Much of the inspiration that motivated Sarah came from her parents. They both chose to change career paths in mid-life. They also taught her by prioritizing the building of a community. Sarahs says that they are both wonderful examples of how the best living involves change and growth.

When she's not singing in the choir of helping others, Sarah enjoys spending time travelling, reading, gardening, and hunting for treasures in flea markets and antique malls. Sarah explained that the story of how she became the person she is today is a long one, but she would say that it boils down to remaining curious and open to the world around her, to rejoicing in her friends and family, to spreading love as best she can, and remembering that she has choices in this "one wild and precious life," to quote American poet Mary Oliver.

That sounds like music to our ears.

From Penn Central Conference:

Heather Kimmel, General Counsel for the United Church of Christ has sent the following message:

I have received many inquiries in the past 3 days regarding what churches should do if ICE shows up. Here is the advice I have been giving.

- Churches should make a plan NOW as to how to respond to ICE at the church.
- The plan must include training of workers/ volunteers who are likely to be at the church, and must include an analysis of the church's private and public areas.
- It should also include some practice at role-playing, because saying "no" to big guys dressed in police gear is hard.
- ICE cannot go into the private areas of a church without a judicial warrant (different from administrative warrant). No one is required to talk to ICE.
- Churches should hire a local immigrant advocacy group to do a training on how to respond to ICE. I would start with contacting the local ACLU office if the church cannot identify a suitable organization.
- Churches should identify an immigration attorney NOW who can be called by workers/ volunteers if ICE shows up.

This document may be helpful to begin. National Immigration Law Center: What To Do If Immigration Comes To Your Workplace

grow

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

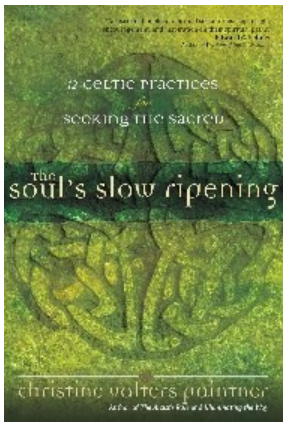
CHILDREN & YOUTH

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.

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

Following up on last year's theme of *Practicing* by Kathleen Escobar, this year, we will work through Christine Valters Paintner's ***The Soul's Slow Ripening: 12 Celtic Practices for Seeking the Sacred***
February 10 - Ch. 7; March 10 - Chs. 8 & 9; April—No Gathering. Enjoy Holy Week! May 12 - Chs. 10 & 11; June

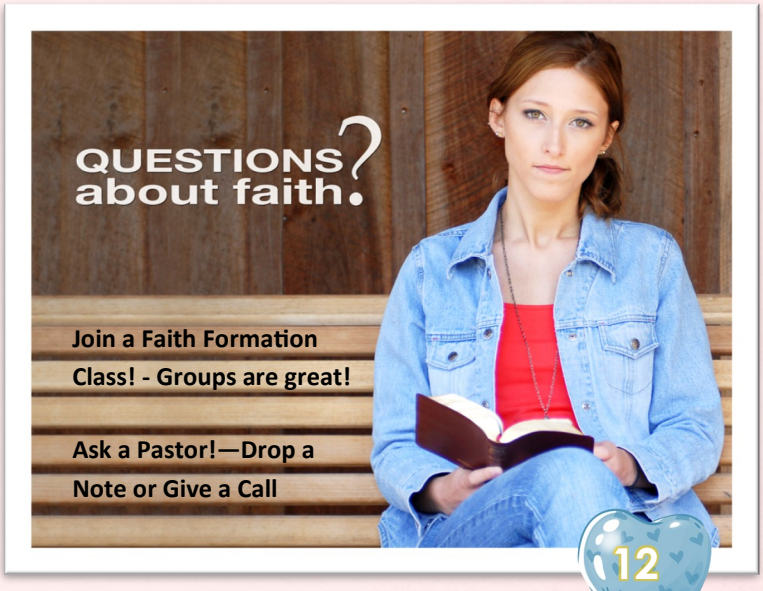
ADULTS

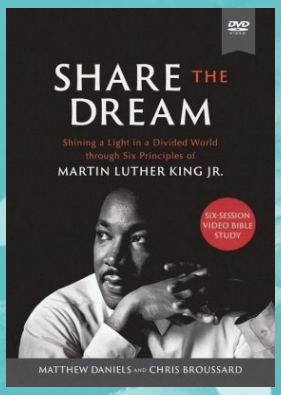
All are welcome! Adult Sunday School is not divided by age or family group. Different classes have different styles and topics.

Library Class (discussion-oriented)
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.





Spiritual Springboards, Tuesday Night Discussions, 6:30pm - On Zoom

Open to all, Spiritual Springboards dives deeper into faith in the company of others.
Find zoom info at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCClinks
Find any handouts uploaded at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCChandouts

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.

Schedule

Because Pastor Cindy plans to be away the end of February, we are going to plan on combining two of the shorter videos (Freedom and Perseverance)
February 4 - Sessions 4 & 5 - Freedom and Perseverance
February 11 - Session 6 - Hope



Bible Study, Thursdays, 2:00pm – In Person in the Church Parlor and On Zoom

Find zoom info at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCClinks
Find any handouts uploaded at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCChandouts

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

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

Schedule:

February 6 - Philippians, Chapter 4 - Lesson 6





Be on the lookout for our Lenten devotional book and devotional cards. Rather than have a mid-week Lenten gathering, Pastor Cindy will use the times normally slated for Spiritual Springboards (Tuesdays at 7p.m. on Zoom) and Bible Study (Thursdays at 2p.m.) to have further exploration of these materials and our Lenten theme.

Even if you might not normally participate in these times on a regular basis, consider joining use for the weeks of Lent.

Find an online copy of the devotional at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCC-Lenten2025devo

worship





We hope you will join us for our upcoming Lenten season. Our Worship Team selected the series **"Everything in Between"** from A Sanctified Art (sanctifiedart.org):

This year, we're letting the Gospel of Luke guide us through Lent. As we studied these scriptures, we were struck by how Jesus' ministry disrupted the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. Jesus intentionally pointed out cultural and political extremes to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God. When we study these stories in their historical and cultural context, we see how they mirror the divisions many of us experience in our families, churches, and communities today. Our theme, "Everything In Between," invites us to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. You will see that each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like "faith & works" or "rest & growth," or "grief & hope." We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We find that these dichotomies are false. We might begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. ***We might find that God is present in between.*** This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.

Lent/Easter Themes and Schedule:

Ash Wednesday—March 5— **"Intention & Action"** (Luke 9:51-62)

First Sunday of Lent—March 9— **"Stranger & Neighbor"** (Luke 10:25-37) - Communion Sunday

Second Sunday of Lent—March 16— **"Faith & Works"** (Luke 10:38-42)

Third Sunday of Lent—March 23— **"Rest & Growth"** (Luke 13:6-9)

Fourth Sunday of Lent—March 30— **"Lost & Found"** (Luke 15:1-7)

Fifth Sunday of Lent—April 6— **"Righteousness & Mercy"** (Luke 19:1-10)

Palm Sunday—April 13— **"Shouting & Silence"** (Luke 19:29-40)

Maundy Thursday—April 17— **"Power & Humility"** (Luke 22:1-27)

Good Friday—April 18— **"Acceptance & Resistance"** (Luke 23:32-49)

Easter Sunday—April 20— **"Grief & Hope"** (Luke 24:1-12)

Morning Worship *(journeying with the Gospel of Luke)*

- February 2 - **communion— "Voices from the Pew" Lay Leadership Sunday** (Luke 6:1-16)
- February 9 - Healing Service (Luke 7:1-17)
- February 16 – Luke 7:18-35
- February 23 – Luke 7:46-50
- March 2 – Transfiguration Sunday (Luke 9:28-45)
- March 5 – **Ash Wednesday** (Luke 9:51-62)
- March 9 – **communion - First Sunday of Lent** – (Luke 10:25-42)

THE Charging Station

Held Sundays at 5pm in the Chapel, the Charging Station is different than our more "formal" Sunday morning worship service and is a perfect setting for those who are looking for a more casual, intimate worship experience. Keep up with activities at https://www.facebook.com/chargingstationhbg.

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

2/2/2025 Voices From The Pew Laity Sunday	2/9/2025	2/16/2025	2/23/2025
Acolyte ☐ sign up	Acolyte ☐ sign up	Acolyte ☐ sign up	Acolyte ☐ sign up
Lay Reader Thomas Bay	Lay Reader Sylvia Morra	Lay Reader Jane Richardson	Lay Reader Eric McKinney
Greeter by F.Hall Natalie Lubold	Greeter by F.Hall ☐ sign up	Greeter by F.Hall ☐ sign up	Greeter by F.Hall ☐ sign up
Liturgist Larry Porter	Usher Liz August	Usher Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Usher Cindy Gnech
Usher David Harris	Usher Pamela Barndt	Usher Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Usher ☐ sign up
Usher Thaddeus Sampson	Nursery ☐ sign up	Liturgist Sharon Clark	Liturgist Thaddeus Sampson
Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up
Nursery ☐ sign up	Children's Message ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up
	Sound Tech	Children's Message	Children's Message





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