the Messenger

Monthly newsletter of Colonial Park United Church of Christ
September 2025
VOL. 64 NO. 9

Worship—Sunday 9:30m | **Sunday School 11:00am** | **Charging Station—5pm**



Upcoming Events

- September 5—Game Night!
- September 7—RALLY DAY!
- September 21 - UCC Sun Day
- September 27 - Music Festival
- September 28 - Pet Blessing
- October 5 - World Communion Sunday
- October 15 - 300th Anniversary Celebration of German Reformed Church
- October 19 - Crop Walk
- October 26 - Trunk or Treat

Growing

Spiritual Growth

Sunday School for all ages begins on September 14 at 11am.



CHILDREN & YOUTH

J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) – for 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 -This fall in **Crosswalkers Sunday School** (grades 1 - 5) we'll be learning the Lord's Prayer, working on mini mission projects, and will even have some time to play together with our new Nintendo Switch! The kids will have the chance to show off their new knowledge when we recite the Lord's Prayer in church during Advent.

Continued on next page



Since we have new members with young children, we are making the **Nursery available** during morning worship. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact **Liz August** at abicacoma@verizon.net or 717-805-0390





Rally Day is September 7, 2025. We are planning a *Potluck lunch with Bingo and prizes following morning worship.* ALL ARE WELCOME. *If your last name begins with a letter A to K, please bring a main dish; L to P please bring a side dish, and Q to Z, please bring a dessert.* We will need people to set up before and clean-up afterward. Please let Liz August know if you can help.

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 (Begins Sept.14th)

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)

The chapel group uses The Present Word series. This Fall we will be invited to discover and appreciate how God, through prophets and other leaders, gave help and guidance to the people of Judah so that we may come to see the hand of God in our own lives and all human affairs.

Continued on next page

Learn more about classes:

For adults:
https://tinyurl.com/CPUCCSundaySchool-Adults

For children:
https://tinyurl.com/CPUCCSundaySchool-Children

CHILDREN & YOUTH Sunday School continued...

Pathfinders: Grades 6-12

Pastor Cindy leads our Pathfinders. We have time for connecting and games, as well as videos, and a new curriculum from the Youth Cartel which looks at stories from the Bible as one over-arching story of faith.



ADULT Sunday School continued...

Parlor Group (DVD and discussion)

The Bible With and Without Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler explores how Jews and Christians read the same biblical texts differently, focusing on well-known stories such as creation, Adam and Eve, Isaiah's suffering servant, and Jonah. By examining the original Hebrew context and later interpretations from both Jewish (Tanakh) and Christian (Old Testament) perspectives, the book reveals the distinct meanings and ongoing significance of these shared scriptures for both traditions. The synopsis emphasizes that these differences, rather than similarities, are crucial for fostering mutual understanding and respectful dialogue between the two faiths.

09/14/2025	The Creation Account in Genesis
09/21/2025	Adam & Eve
09/28/2025	Isaiah's Emmanuel Prophecy
10/05/2025	Isaiah's Suffering Servant
10/12/2025	The Book of Jonah
10/19/2025	Jesus's Words on the Cross from Psalm 22

We are so grateful for all of our Sunday School teachers and helpers. Please thank them and pray for them and their students.

J.A.M.S Class teachers:

Barb Kirk
Jenny Gassert
Rhonda Harris
Sue Bay
Kristy Stauffer



Youth Pathfinders teachers and helpers:

Pastor Cindy Garis August
Lisa Miller
Tom Bay
Liz August
Kristy Stauffer

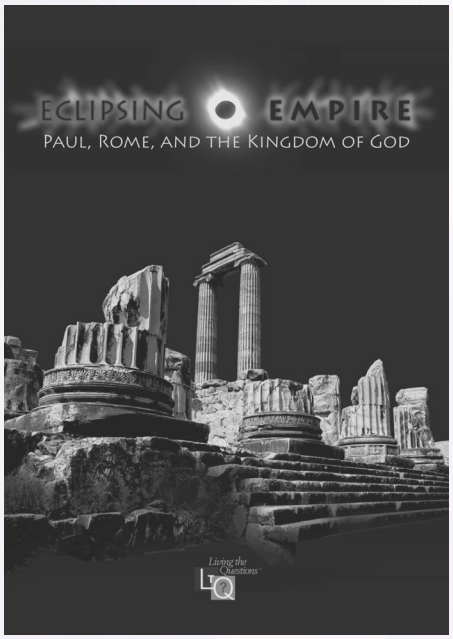
Crosswalker teachers and helpers:

Jenny Gassert
Rhonda Harris
Kristy Stauffer
Kelly Martini
Sue Bay

Adult Sunday School Leaders:

Chapel Class—Helen Ferguson
Parlor Class—Tom Feit
Library Class—Sylvia Morra and Sharon Clark

Bible Study



Open to all, Bible Study meets on **Thursdays at 2pm,** in person at the church and online.
Find zoom info at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCClinks
Find any handouts uploaded at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCChandouts

Topic: *Eclipsing Empire from Living the Questions*
The overall plan and resources for the series can be found in the handouts folder mentioned above. Please visit it and review the materials.

Pastor Cindy had the opportunity to participate in a global conversation using the materials from this program in the Spring/ Summer. She is excited to be able to dive deeper and have conversations with folks from CPUCC.

The program has been around for a while, but part of the lens we will bring to the table, as we read and reflect on Paul's teachings and strategies, will be to be mindful of any "Strategies for Resistance" that come to mind for today — especially in relation to political and religious systems we interact with. Consider how Paul's countercultural approach to power, empire, and justice inspire us to think critically about resistance in our own time.

Tentative Plan

Session	**Meeting Date**
1-Empire	September 18
2-Jesus	September 25
No Session on October 2	
3-Paul's Mission	October 9
4-Paul's Character	October 16
5-Paul's Vocation	October 23
6-Cities	October 30
7-Paul's Letters	November 6
8-Paul's Ethics	November 13
9-Paul's Theology	November 20 - ***ONLINE ONLY***
No Session on November 27 - Happy Thanksgiving!	
10-Paul's Eschatology	December 4
11-Icons	December 11
12-Eclipse	December 18

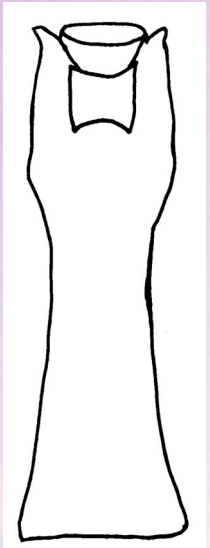


Don't forget preschool registrations are open for 3– and 4-year-olds.

Learn more at:

https://cpucc.org/half-day-play-preschool.html

Contact Linda Bender, Director, at 717-805-6391 for additional information.



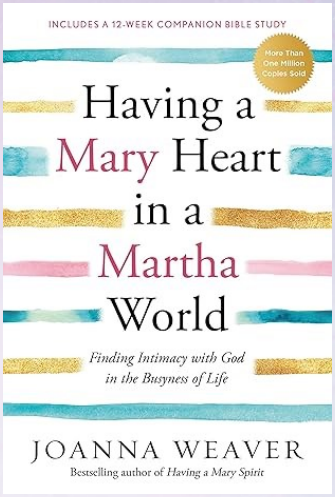
Women's Spirituality Group (WSG)

WSG meets on the **2nd Monday of the month** (with a few exceptions), **in person** in the church Parlor, 6:30pm—8:30pm.

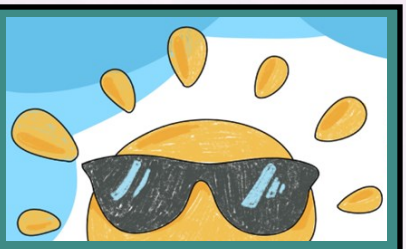
Learn more at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCChandouts

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

Typical Evening Schedule:
6:30-7:00pm Check in/Connect with one another
7:00-7:30pm Personal retreat time/Prayer Exercise
7:30-7:45pm Share (optional) what surfaced during personal time
7:45-8:30pm Discuss topic/book



Summer of Celebration at CPUCC



Over the summer, we celebrated all our volunteers at CPUCC. I know you got tired of the reading of names and handing out certificates, but hopefully you see how that is a wonderful blessing! Over the summer, **we gave out 297 certificates to 121 individuals!** Our ministry at CPUCC certainly does not take place only by our staff members.
Thank you all! ~ *Pastor Cindy*

Dates and Chapters/Themes

September 8 - Intro & "Tale of Two Sisters" (ch.1)

October 13 - "Lord, don't you care?" (Ch. 2)

November 10 - "The Diagnosis" (ch. 3) and "The Cure" (ch. 4)

December 8 - "Living Room Intimacy" (ch. 5)

January - **no WSG**

February 9 - "Kitchen Service" (ch. 6)

March 9 - "The Better Part" (ch. 7) and "Lessons from Lazarus" (ch. 8)

April 13 - "Martha's Teachable Heart" (ch. 9) and "Mary's Extravagant Love" (ch. 10)

May 11 - "Balancing Work and Worship" (ch. 11) and conclusion "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World"

Spiritual Springboards

*Open to all, Spiritual Springboards dives deeper into faith in the company of others. We meet online on **Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm on Zoom.***

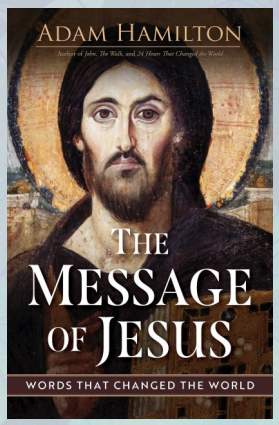
Find zoom info at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCClinks
Find any handouts uploaded at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCChandouts

Dates and Themes

Sept 9—The Kingdom of God Has Come Near
Sept 16—The World's Most Important Sermon
Sept 23—Jesus Spoke to Them in Parables
Sept 30—Who Do YOU Say that I Am?
Oct 7—Final Words
Oct 14—The Resurrection and the Life

We will begin this fall using Adam Hamilton's *The Message of Jesus*

A fresh encounter with the words of Jesus.



More than 3 billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many actually know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said.

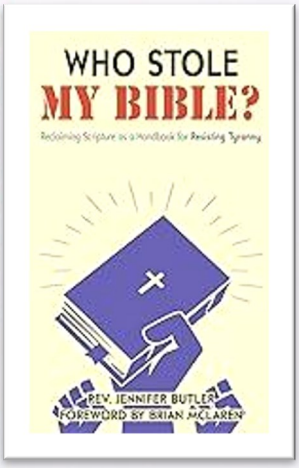
In this six-week study, pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. The book will explore Jesus's preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the "I am" sayings in John, and more. Jesus's message is not only life-changing, but world-changing. Join Adam Hamilton in studying *The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World.*

Next Step Morsels Discussion Group

Our hope through these times is for CPUCC to read together and:

- Journey through the book in manageable reflections.
- Ground discussions in Scripture, personal narrative, and communal action.
- Encourage active, compassionate engagement with justice and faith.

Fall 2025



We will be discussing *Who Stole My Bible?: Reclaiming Scripture as a Handbook for Resisting Tyranny* by Rev. Jennifer Butler

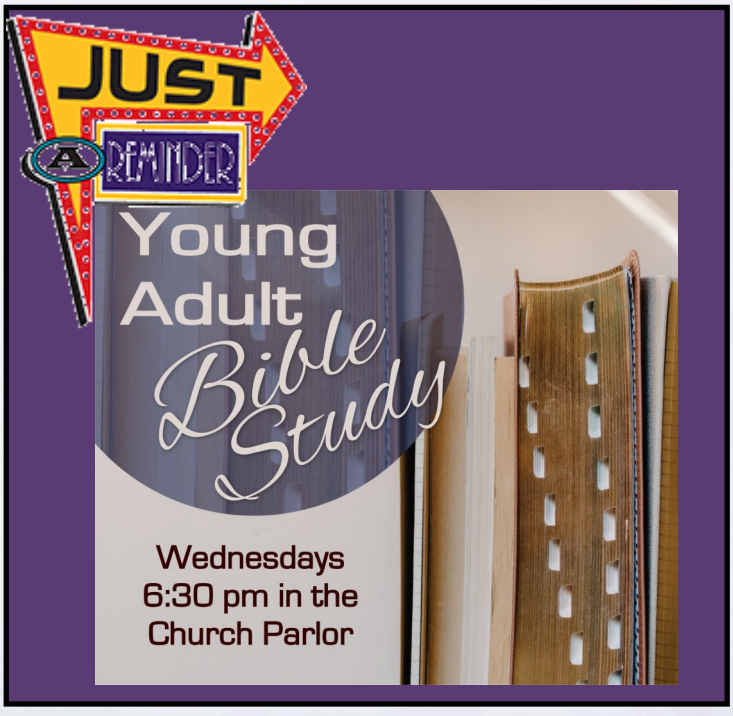
Book Overview

Who Stole My Bible? invites readers to reclaim Scripture as a "handbook for resisting tyranny," showing how biblical narratives—from Genesis to Revelation—offer guidance in confronting oppression and injustice. Each chapter interweaves scriptural interpretation, personal storytelling, and contemporary examples of faith communities resisting authoritarianism and white Christian nationalism.

Learn more about Rev. Butler, the book and the discussion group at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCChandouts

Meeting Dates and Chapters

Saturday, September 13—Introduction & Chapters 1-3
Saturday, October 11—Chapters 4-6
Saturday, November 8—Chapters 7-9 & Wrap Up





Open to anyone, our Next Step Morsels conversations will take place the **2nd Saturday of the Fall months, at 10am in person in the church library and online (zoom).** We had some good discussions at the summer Pastries with the Pastor and Pastor Cindy looks forward to continuing the conversation.

Learn more about our times together and find any handouts at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCChandouts

Find zoom info at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCClinks

You are welcome to simply show up, but because of sharing specific communications and possibly recording our sessions, Pastor Cindy is asking for your to sign up for the Next Step Morsels discussion group (you don't have to be able to attend every session to be involved in the ongoing discussion.)

Sign Up at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCC-Morsels25

Giving

GENEROSITY



Friday Fun with Friends & Tacos

The time is coming again in November for **Friday Fun with Friends and Tacos.** The Bridge To Tomorrow Team has already begun planning for this second annual event. Because of so many of you, this was a very successful fundraiser to benefit our Building Fund. Last year, we enjoyed a meal of tacos together and we had a silent auction featuring different people's talents, skills and gifts. Our congregation and others were so generous in putting so many things up for auction: cooking, adventures, experiences, homemade items, vegetables and fruits, baked goods, and so much more. There were so many who purchased these, and all of it connected us a little bit more; all of it supported our building. Please consider donating some skill; talent; item; adventure for the auction. We all have gifts, and skills and items that can help build connection, while supporting the Building Fund. If you are interested, let the creativity flow. Please contact Cindy Gnech (cindygnech7@gmail.com) or Patricia Kishpaugh (sunonthewater@mailfence.com) if you are interested in participating or volunteering for the event. Please know whatever gift, talent or item you have will be well received. We are glad to help you brainstorm.

REJOICE • RENEW • REVIVE

Rejoice, Renew, Revive Capital Campaign

Our Capital Campaign *Rejoice, Renew, Revive* has now raised $477,288.29 through July 2025. Virtually everything that has been donated has already been spent on various project to repair, maintain and/or improve our amazing church home. There is a current available balance of $12,555.56. Thank you for all of your support!

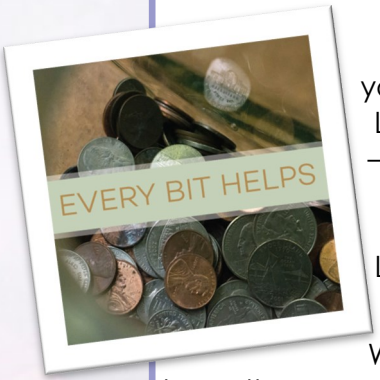
Grocery Cards

As you are doing back to school or other fall shopping, remember that Giant, Weis and Karns gift cards can support your church at the same time, and also make great gifts for college students or others. **Five percent of your purchase of gift cards from these stores supports the ministry and mission of CPUCC.** Gift cards are available in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings, or in the church office during the week. 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.

Loose Change Sunday



Our next Loose Change Sunday will be held **the last Sunday of September, the 28th**. "Foldin' money" is also gratefully accepted! Thank you for your support of the last Loose Change Sunday in July – your generosity provided an additional $261.20 for the Building Fund. To date, five Loose Change Sundays have raised $1,352.24.

WOW! That is terrific! Let's keep the momentum going! Thank you for all your donations!

Parlor Renovation Update

BREAKING NEWS – PARLOR RENOVATION OFFICIALLY HAPPENING! Yes, it is true. Approximately thirty years since the last renovation of the well-used and much-beloved Church Parlor, a major renovation is underway. This busy room has been used for a myriad of purposes, including Sunday School, Bible Study, meetings, funeral receptions, bridal and baby showers, parties, and many, many other events. In order to continue being able to serve its purpose as one of our building's hubs of church fellowship, learning, and service, a complete overhaul is being planned.

This project is expected to cost approximately $23,000, which will include painting the room, new furniture, flooring, curtains, shades, and lighting. The project is being kickstarted by a generous donation of $10,000 from the Viola Bretz family. To raise the additional $13,000 needed, congregational support is vital.

A list of the various items to be purchased, with an estimated cost can be found in the church office or sent to you upon request. Sponsorship of any of these items by members of the congregation would be awesome! For example, you may choose to donate the funds to purchase one of the chairs, or a table for the room. Alternatively, a contribution in any amount is greatly appreciated. Checks can be made payable to CPUCC, with "Parlor Renovation" in the memo line. If sponsoring a specific item, please note that also in the check memo line.

The Parlor Renovation Team has been working diligently over the past six weeks to develop a plan for this work, and the Team will continue through the implementation phase. Thank you to the members of this Team for all their work: Thaddeus Sampson (chair), Kathi Blose, Tom Feit, Connie Herman, Ruth Karabcievschy, Cathy Porter, Larry Porter, Jessica Reitenbach, Michael Shafer, and Pastor Scott Siciliano. The Team and Church Council are hoping to have this project completed for a November dedication.

Thank you so much for your support of this important project. It cannot happen without you! Please ensure the redesigned and refreshed Parlor is able to meet our needs for the next few decades and give generously.

Learn more and see the approved Parlor Renovation Plan at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCC-ParlorReno2025

Our New Addition!

We wish to thank the family of Jan Blumenthal-Eng for the purchase of a stone bench in our Memorial Garden. The bench was given in Jan's memory and was dedicated on Saturday, August 23, 2025. Jan joined CPUCC in 2015 and died in 2021. Stop by to see the bench and to find some rest in this peaceful place.





Imagine Together

I really enjoy the These Days devotional book, and find many inspiring devotional readings there. A recent devotion at the beginning of August was based on scripture verses from Ecclesiastes chapters 1 and 2. Devotional author Rev. Joshua T. Andrzejewski said the following: "In today's selection, we see that all earthly pursuits ultimately amount to nothing: we all die, and everything we worked for passes to someone else. Here is the germ of the idea that Jesus will cultivate into his proverb in Luke: don't let earthly pursuits define your life. Building up a bank account, amassing power, growing in fame: none of these qualify as treasures in heaven. They are meaningless the moment we die. Building up relationships, sharing wisdom, growing in generosity: these are treasures that outlast our brief lives and build God's kingdom." Imagine together what the world could look like if everyone focused on these eternal treasures rather than pursuing the accumulation of money, power and fame.

SERVICE

Serving

The Giving Tree

CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

In September, the focus of the Giving Tree will change to collecting for the CROP HUNGER WALK.

CROP HUNGER WALKS are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service. They are organized by local churches/groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. The first official CROP HUNGER WALK was held in York County, PA in 1970.

TAKE an envelope from the Giving Tree. GIVE a donation, placing it in the envelope. Place your envelope in the container in the church office or mail it to the church at 5000 Devonshire Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109.

Kathy Neely, our long-time office manager, who died from ALS in April 2023, was passionate about the CROP WALK. You can donate, walk, or do both in her honor/memory. **THE KATHY NEELY CPUCC CROP WALK will take place on October 19th.** More details to follow.

THANK YOU for considering this worthy cause and THANK YOU for your continued generosity to the Giving Tree.

Harrisburg Food Pantry

For the month of September, we are requesting **canned tuna or chicken, canned fruit, toothpaste, and soap** (liquid or bar) 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 Ye Olde Devonshire Thrift Shoppe



The Thrift Shop continues to be a very busy place. The wonderful donations and the faithful shoppers continue to roll in every day the shop is open. The Shop workers are having a hard time pricing and placing all the stuff. We have been filling every nook and cranny with donations - but it seems for every ten items sold, twenty more items get donated. If you haven't visited the shop lately, stop in and be surprised.

In the past few weeks the Thrift Shop has made donations to the Music Festival, Vickie's Angels, Downtown Daily Bread, Healing God's Call to End Gun Violence, Humane Society of Harrisburg, and we were most pleased to be able to replace the commercial mixer at Hartman Center.

Denny Bender continues to make runs with our excesses to Community Aid weekly. Recently CPUCC received a check from Community Aid for $2,441.29 for our donations.

A representative from the Janus School, a school for people with severe autism, contacted Helen Ferguson. She was looking for a placement for some of their clients to help them deal with the public and learn work related skills. Another organization who deals with people with disabilities is also looking for work experience for their clients. We are most anxious to allow these people to help in any way. Recently a boy scout needed volunteer hours for a badge he was working on. He proved to be a very hard worker.

The set up and tear down crew works from about 9:30 to 10:00am and from 1:30 to 2:15 pm. What a great crew they are! Our regular staff of workers have been taking vacations and we often find ourselves with not enough workers to staff the shop completely. If anyone finds that they are willing to help for one hour or more, please let Helen Ferguson know (717-421-3026) or just show up!



We Care, We Share, Books for Foose

October will be our first visit to Foose School to read to the kids and take them books to keep. Foose School has 24 classrooms for students in grades Kindergarten to fifth grade. So far 10 volunteers have signed up to read to the kids. As you can see, many more volunteers are needed if we are going to visit every classroom. If you are considering volunteering for this program,. let Helen Ferguson know ASAP. She can be reached at 717-421-3026 or fergh9@msn.com. Thank you!

PEACE + JUSTICE IN PA

October 21st, 2025
12:00pm - 1:00pm
Streamed Live from
Mukund S. Kulkarni Theatre



Join us for a statewide event in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, the state's premier advocate in fostering equal opportunity on October 21, 2025 at 12:00 PM.

"Peace and Justice in PA" is part of PennLive's "live journalism" event series and will examine PA's current state of affairs around diversity, equity and inclusion. In particular, we'll provide a look at efforts to counter extremism and hate groups in our state and how to support the people and organizations that are leading the response.



Keynote Speaker
Sarah Towle

AUTHOR OF "CROSSING THE LINE FINDING AMERICA IN THE BORDERLANDS."

Sarah Towle is an educator, researcher, and author; a human rights defender, nature lover, and choral soprano. She resides in an ephemeral borderlands, buffeted and buoyed by a diversity of languages, cultures, landscapes, and creeds. She has taught English language literacy, cross-cultural communication, conflict resolution skills, and the writing craft for three decades on four continents across the age span in myriad class contexts, including under the trees in refugee settings.



Chad Dion Lassiter, MSW

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISION

Chad Dion Lassiter is a nationally recognized expert on American race relations who has worked on issues of race, peace, and poverty across the U.S., Africa, Canada, Haiti, Israel, and Norway. Frequently featured in media for his insights, he was appointed in April 2023 by President Biden to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunities for Black Americans.



Moderator
Joyce Davis

OPINION AND OUTREACH EDITOR, PA MEDIA GROUP

Joyce M. Davis is an award-winning journalist, author, and international affairs commentator who serves as Opinion Editor for PennLive and The Patriot-News, and President & CEO of the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg. With a distinguished career at NPR, Knight Ridder, and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, she has reported globally and held senior editorial roles. Davis has received four honorary doctorates, authored two books, and spoken at institutions like the UN and West Point.

Register for Livestream Here

Presented by

pennsylvania HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

PENNLIVE PA Patriot-News

Blue Jeans Banquet

We Are CCU | United in Love

Registration is LIVE! Christian Churches United (CCU)'s Annual Fundraising event will invite us to roll up our sleeves in working together to create the hope that echoes throughout our community when we unite in love! Reception begins at Cooper Student Center at **5:40pm** with live music, food, and a Silent Auction. We look forward to an evening of connecting with one another and offering hope and love to those in our community experiencing homelessness, poverty and incarceration.

https://www.ccuhbg.org/news-events/event.html/event/2025/10/03/blue-jeans-banquet/530150



Create Raffle Baskets for Festival

We are looking for some gift baskets to raffle off at our Music Festival (Sept 27). If you are not able to donate a basket, how about offering some gift cards or other items to go in baskets?
Contact Pam Barndt by phone or email:
Phone number 717 991 4735,
Email, pamelabarndt137@gmail.com,

Grab some friends and get creative!



Our September 27 Festival will be awesome!
Be sure to spread the word!
*** Kids' Zone * Fire Truck * Police * Basket Raffles ***
*** 50/50 * Mumma's Eats and Treats Food Truck ***
And MUSIC!...

11am-12pm Lower Paxton Variety Band
12:30pm-1:30pm Janie Womack and Jody Echterling
2pm-3pm Blue River Soul (Karen Meeks)

Pray for great weather! Come for a great time!
https://tinyurl.com/CPUCC-2025Festival

Connecting





Thank you to all of our Mission Trip participants who served in Tennessee at the beginning of August. See all pictures at

https://tinyurl.com/CPUCC-MissionTrip2025



Bring your favorite games and snacks on Friday, September 5th @ 7pm @ CPUCC.

Enjoy a relaxing, fun time connecting with friends from church.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2nd	Wayne & Bobbee Karchner	53 yrs
3rd	Pat & Henry Greenawald	70yrs
8th	David & Rhonda Harris	46 yrs
16th	Rick & Terry Cochran	36 yrs
19th	Keith & Deb Bowman	38 yrs
21st	Brent & Donna Shultz	40 yrs
26th	Karisa & Louis Zola	27 yrs
29th	Renee & Shannon Strange	29 yrs
30th	Bob & Nancy Miller	36 yrs

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bold indicates homebound resident

1 Alish Gutshall
3 Connie Herman
4 Lindsay Allen
5 Larry Miller, Yvonne Grages
8 Aisling Gutshall
9 Beth Washic
11 Chase Bender
12 Carrie Criley, Henry Greenawald
18 Aiden Criley, Roben Roof
19 Aimee Schwartz, Kevin Howard
21 Riley Fledderjohn
22 Catherine Vollbrecht
23 Barrett Rhoads
24 Jane Richardson
27 Tim Waros
29 Diane Leonard, McKenna Rhoads
30 Elinor Wagner



Meet The Member – Kayla Kraft

It's the smile that draws you in. Then once you get to know her, you realize what a strong and determined woman Kayla Kraft really is.

Kayla may have entered the world as a preemie weighing only two pounds, six ounces, but it was her family who inspired her to push forward.

Kayla has cerebral palsy due to a lack of oxygen flow to the brain at birth. With the love and support of her grandmother, mother, and aunt she is thriving.

"Growing up I had many struggles, but my family was always there for me and helped in any way they could," Kayla recalls. "My family kept me involved in many activities through the years which kept me very social."

She first started attending CPUCC with her grandmother, Karen Kraft. The services, people, and the accessibility of the worship screen kept bringing her back. Kayla officially became a CPUCC member in August 2019.

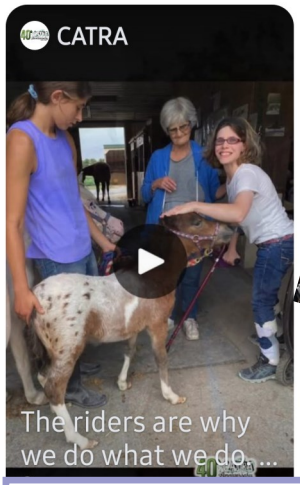
It wasn't long before Kayla was drawn to something else – the choir.

"I also am inspired by Pastor Scott because he teaches me to be a better singer and soloist," Kayla said. "He also teaches me not to be nervous by doing exercises before we sing."

Besides being a member of the choir Kayla enjoys helping with the annual Music Festival and especially Trunk or Treat.

Continued on next page...

Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association (CATRA)





1. Learn more about CATRA and their 40th anniversary by visiting https://catra.net/events/
2. Watch "Meet Kayla" video from CATRA at https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1CXqKjW3f8/
3. Support Kayla's fundraising efforts for CATRA-thon (October 18) by stopping by the church office, talking with Kayla in church, or by visiting her fundraising page: https://tinyurl.com/Kayla-CATRA2025

"Not only will your donations come in handy when caring for the animals down at Catra but it will ensure that Catra remains to serve individuals with disabilities like myself and others long term. This year's Catrathon will be super special because they will be celebrating 40 years of service to the community. So please donate because I only have until October 10th to take donations and to reach my goal. Thank you so much in advance." ~ Kayla

Meet The Member continued...

"It is one of my favorite activities because I get to hand out candy to all the trick or treaters and also get to decorate our trunk with Halloween decorations," she said. "It's cool to see how everyone decorates."

A graduate of the Class of Cedar Cliff High School Class of 2012, Kayla continued to build her confidence with a few jobs including being a teacher's assistant at a daycare before landing her current position at Home Goods – a job she loves!

Family is very important to Kayla. She loves spending quality time with her mom, Shelley, grandfather Walter, her Aunt Kim, and her brother and sister Myla and Anthony. Also, she enjoys horseback therapy riding, doing activities on her iPad, and traveling.

"My mom and aunt inspire me to be a better person and to always be kind and courteous to others and help as much as I can." she said.

In addition to instilling strength and independence, Kayla's grandmother, Karen, helped to teach her the right way of God. That's brought back to her when she listens to Pastor Cindy's sermons and when she is working with Pastor Scott in the choir.

When asked why she feels others should join CPUCC, Kayla explains that by joining and being active, it creates unity among the church and its members. Teamwork makes everything function better and things run much more smoothly. Plus, "the congregation is nice to everyone and very joyful!"

While others may inspire Kayla, her friendliness, determination, and again – that smile – inspire so many others.



We will once again have our annual **Blessing of the Animals on September 28 at 5:00pm.** Please feel free to bring your four-legged, furry, finned, or feathered family members to meet and greet one another and to receive a blessing.

Upcoming Outdoor Ministry Events

Adult Study Retreat at Nawakwa
September 9-11
We're excited to partner with Kindling Faith and have the opportunity to engage with one of the book's authors—Anne Lamott—on September 11!

Party with a Purpose Fundraiser at Kirchenwald
September 27, 2025 , 5pm
Enjoy Oktoberfest-style fun with live music, auctions, BBQ, and community fellowship—all to support our camping ministry.

Capture the Flag Spectacular at Kirchenwald
October 5, 2025 @ 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

October Harvest Festival at The Wittel Farm
October 18, 2025
@ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa
October 19, 2025
@ 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald
October 26, 2025
@ 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Check out all event details at https://www.lutherancamping.org/upcoming-events/

Worship Sunday Morning 9:30am & Sunday Evening (Charging Station) 5:00pm

Worshipping

September 7, 2025– RALLY DAY—Communion Sunday
Creation – Start at the Beginning (Genesis 1:1-2:4 Creation by the word; light, life; It was good;
John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, all things were made through him)

Sun, September 14, 2025 Abraham – The Story Continues
(Genesis 21:1-3, 22:1-14 God keeps his word to give Abraham and Sarah a son in their old age. Abraham is told to sacrifice his beloved son, but God provides the lamb;
John 1:29 Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world)

Sun, September 21, 2025 UCC SUN DAY
Theme: "Bringing Climate Hope to Sun Day."

Sun, September 28, 2025 Exodus—A Story of Deliverance
Pastor Scott preaching (Exodus 2:23-25, 3:1-15, 4:10-17 God reveals that his name is ""I Am."" Moses is a reluctant messenger, but God uses him to deliver Israel; John 8:58; Jesus said, ""Truly I say to you, before Abraham was, I Am"")

Sun, October 5, 2025 World Communion Sunday
Our Story in the Wilderness (Exodus 16:1-18; People complain and God provides manna. To live by manna is to live by faith in what God gives; John 6:51; Jesus is the living bread that came down from heaven; the bread he gives is his flesh)

Special Services to Get On Your Calendars!

September 28 – 2pm – The Service of Installation for Rev. Donna Hughes at Penbrook UCC. Pastor Cindy has been invited to speak.

September 28 – 5pm – Annual Blessing of the Animals at CPUCC - We will once again have our annual Blessing of the Animals on September 28 at 5:00pm. Please feel free to bring your four-legged, furry, finned, or feathered family members to meet and greet one another and to receive a blessing.

October 15, 6:30pm at CPUCC – Festival of Celebration for the 300th Anniversary of the German Reformed Church in America. (register at https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/hvqg9jv or by contacting the Conference office.)

November 15, 2pm at CPUCC - final Conference worship as Penn Central Conference, cake and fellowship following the worship service

Wednesday, November 26 – Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service. CPUCC has been asked by the Harrisburg Interreligious Forum to host their Thanksgiving Eve Service.

The Charging Station

Upcoming Plans for The Charging Station (CS)
the 5pm Evening Service at Colonial Park United Church of Christ

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
We try to hold monthly Community Service Sundays. We are following the Narrative Lectionary as is the morning service. Learn more below.

September Schedule:

Sun, September 7, 2025
Creation – Start at the Beginning

Sun, September 14, 2025
Abraham – The Story Continues

Sun, September 21, 2025
Community Service Sunday – UCC Sun Day
This will be a day to celebrate the gift and power of clean energy while standing up to the profiteers, polluters, and potentates who threaten our health and future. Our theme for this day is "Bringing Climate Hope to Sun Day." Registered congregations (of which CPUCC is) will be provided with advocacy cards for members to write messages to their Congress members.

Sun, September 28, 2025
Annual Blessing of the Animals, 5pm
NO Charging Station

See all of the Fall Happenings for CS at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCC-CS-Fall2025

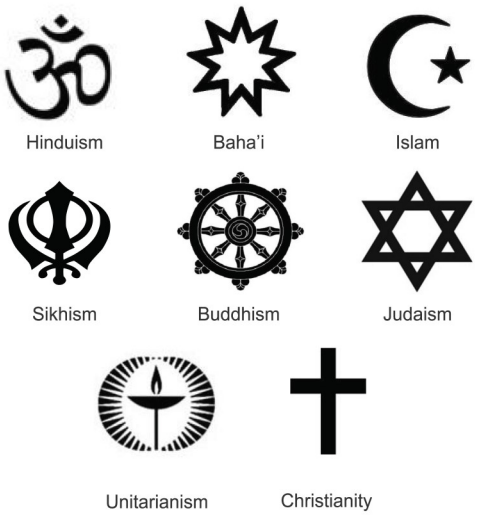
What are words that you would use to describe Charging Station?



Harmony Walk

Celebrating Unity in our Diversity, Rain or Shine

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 3pm



The event is held in conjunction with the United Nations International Day of Peace

Harmony Walk, a celebration of cooperation among religions in the Harrisburg area, starts at the entrance to Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church & ends at Hadee Mosque. The walk brings together people of many faiths in harmony and peace. The Harmony Walk route includes Jewish, Christian, and Islamic houses of worship. At the library entrance, walkers will be greeted by faith leaders listed on the right. At each stop, a leader will speak of the value of cooperation and harmony among religions.

People of **all** religions, and those of no specific faith **are invited**. Parking is available at Goodwin Memorial and at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. **In case of rain, the program will be held at Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church, in the Family Life Center.** [Behind the church, across the alley]. **A light early dinner will be provided by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, at the end of the walk.** For additional information, please contact Rev. Cynthia Mara at interfaithcenter@juno.com or Behzad Zandieh at bzandieh@hotmail.com

Harmony Walk Route

Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church
2447 Green St.

Madeline L Olewine Library - 2410 N 3rd St.
Baha'i, Sikh, Buddhist, Hindu, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

St Paul's Episcopal Church
248 Seneca St.

Temple Ohev Sholom 2345 N. Front St.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (Hadee Mosque)
245 Division St.

The Harmony Walk is sponsored by

- The InterReligious Forum of Greater Harrisburg
- The Interfaith Center of Greater Harrisburg



- September 21 - UCC Sun Day
- September 27 - Music Festival
- September 28 - Pet Blessing
- October 5 - World Communion Sunday
- October 15 - 300th Anniversary Celebration of German Reformed Church @ CPUCC
- October 19 - Crop Walk
- October 26 - Trunk or Treat
- November 2 - All Saints Sunday AND Daylight Savings Time Ends (clocks fall back 1 hour)
- November 7 & 8 "Plays on Devonshire"
- November 9 - Stewardship Commitment Sunday
- November 15 - Final worship Celebration for Penn Central Conference @ CPUCC
- November 21 - Fun with Friends Taco Night and Auction
- November 23 - Hanging of the Greens - Decorate the Church for Christmas
- November 26 - Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve service @ CPUCC
- December 6 - Breakfast with Santa
- December 7 - Congregational Meeting
- December 13 - Lower Paxton Christkindlmarkt Live Nativity
- December 14 - Blue Christmas, 5pm
- December 14 - Christmas Cantata
- December 24 - Christmas Eve

Grandparents Day Sept 7

Serving Your Church



Sept. 22

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

9/7/2025-Rally Day	9/14/2025	9/21/2025	9/28/2025
Acolyte ☐ sign up	Acolyte ☐ sign up	Acolyte ☐ sign up	Acolyte ☐ sign up
Lay Reader Eric McKinney	Lay Reader Sylvia Morra	Lay Reader David Harris	Lay Reader Fran Whitehurst
Greeter by F.Hall ☐ sign up	Greeter by F.Hall Natalie Lubold	Greeter by F.Hall Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Greeter by F.Hall ☐ sign up
Usher Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Usher Elizabeth August	Usher Thaddeus Sampson	Usher ☐ sign up
Usher Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Usher Thaddeus Sampson	Usher ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up
Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up
Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up



You make our Music Festival GREAT!

- Pick up **flyers** in the Narthex and share the word! Post everywhere you visit!
- Share on your **social** media: https://tinyurl.com/CPUCC-2025Festival
- Make a monetary **donation** to cover expenses (bands, ads, etc.)
- Donate **baked goods** to sell! Like baking? Can be breads, cookies, pies, cakes, brownies...whatever you please! Just make sure it is dropped off at the church on Friday, September 26. (Please do not cut or separate into bags.)

Colonial Park
United Church of Christ
5000 Devonshire Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109
717-545-3782 cpucc.org
An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the Penn Central Conference, UCC

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Harrisburg, PA
Permit No. 595

Return Service Requested

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youtube.com/colonialparkunitedchurchofchrist

WEBSITE
cpucc.org

