the Messenger

Tell me something good

Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
COLONIAL PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH 2026 – VOL.65 NO.3

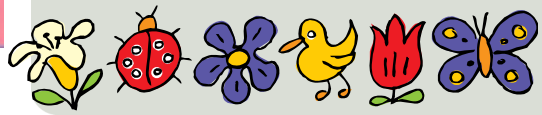
Worship—Sunday 9:30m | Sunday School—11am | Charging Station—5pm





UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 1st—"Voices from the Pew" Laity Sunday
- March 6th—World Day of Prayer
- March 7th—Keystone Conference ONA Gathering
- March 8th—Daylight Savings Time Begins, Turn Clocks ahead an hour
- March 20th—Decades Dance
- March 26th—Dine Out at PJ Whelihan's
- March 29th—Palm Sunday Pot-luck Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt
- April 2nd—Maundy Thursday
- April 3rd—Good Friday
- April 5th—Easter Sunday



CONNECTING



Welcome New Members!

On February 15, we welcomed **eight new members** into the life of Colonial Park United Church of Christ. Each brings a unique story of faith, vocation, advocacy, curiosity, and courage. From journalism to engineering, military service to ministry, social justice to environmental care, their journeys enrich our shared life. We are grateful for the ways God continues to knit together a community rooted in inclusion, compassion, and hope.

(Note: Due to space limitations, Pastor Cindy edited these bios for the newsletter. You can read each person's original, full submission at **https://tinyurl.com/New2CPUCC-Feb2026)**

REVS. CATHY & JIM STENTZEL



Cathy Stentzel has had a lifetime shaped by faith, study, and ministry. Raised in the Presbyterian Church, she majored in Religious Studies and later served in mission work in Japan, interfaith advocacy with the Children's Defense Fund, and pastoral ministry in Ohio, where she was ordained in 1997. Cathy and her husband Jim previously served as co-pastors and have lived in communities across the country before settling in Harrisburg. She brings a deep love for the church, interfaith relationships, and lifelong spiritual exploration to her new church home.

Jim Stentzel joined CPUCC on February 15, bringing with him a lifetime of ministry and service. Ordained as a Methodist deacon in 1968, Jim later served as a missionary in Japan and was approved for full elder's orders. In 1974, he made the courageous decision to refuse elder's ordination in protest of the Methodist Church's refusal at the time to ordain LGBTQ+ persons — a conviction that eventually led him to the United Church of Christ. Jim's faith journey has long been rooted in justice, integrity, and inclusion, values he is grateful to continue living out at CPUCC.

(We share this bio in memorium—sadly, James H Stentzel (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) passed away on February 23, 2026 at the age of 82. Jim suffered a severe stroke approximately a week after joining the church. Jim was so, so happy the day he joined CPUCC, finding a feeling of "coming home" to a faith family of inclusion.)

WE WELCOME NEW DISCIPLES (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)



HOPE STEPHAN

Joining CPUCC, Hope Stephan returns to her UCC roots after being confirmed at First United Church of Christ in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania. She recently retired from a nearly 45-year career in journalism, including work with newspapers across Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, and most recently with Advance Publications, curating digital news content for PennLive and other platforms. Hope also taught expository writing and journalism as an adjunct professor for many years. She lives in Hampden Township with her very spoiled Siamese cat, Theo. Her interests include needlework, reading, creative writing, drawing, and travel.



MARGARET DEAVERS



Margaret Deavers, originally from Louisiana, now calls Harrisburg home with her wife, Lynn, and their beloved fur babies. As an environmental engineer, Margaret is passionate about caring for creation and finding practical ways to protect the world around us. She is grateful for this congregation and the opportunity to grow in faith within such a supportive church family.



KARIE-LEE PATTERSON

Karie-Lee Patterson is grateful to call this church home. After serving 14½ years in the U.S. Army, she now works as an Assistant Director of Transportation for a local school district while completing her Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership and Development through CSU Global. Karie-Lee is committed to living as an ambassador for Christ — walking in integrity, seeking justice and equality, and sharing God's love and grace authentically in everyday life. She is excited to grow in faith and community at Colonial Park.

3 Words & more...

Pastor Cindy always asks new disciples to give 3 words that describe CPUCC—what they found here. Here is a word cloud of some of the words shared by February's group of new members. What a great place to be!



WE WELCOME NEW DISCIPLES (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)



SHELBY SHOOP

Shelby Shoop currently lives in Enola. Originally connected to Incarnation UCC in Newport, she shares that it was "the inclusiveness of the language and imagery, and the warmth of my welcome" that drew her to Colonial Park. Shelby spent two decades with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence in legal training and has worked in a variety of public service and nonprofit roles, including the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and local healthcare organizations. She holds a Master's Degree from George Washington University and volunteers with Loving Care Cat Rescue — where she was happily adopted by her gray tabby, Smudge. She enjoys folk concerts, vintage jewelry, thrift shops, and libraries.

MARY NANCARROW AND CYNTHIA SWANSON



Mary Nancarrow is a central Pennsylvania native. She came out as a lesbian in college and became active in LGBTQ+ and women's rights advocacy in the 1970s and '80s. Mary spent most of her professional life with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, the state's anti-discrimination agency. She met her partner, Cynthia Swanson, during her 18 years of service on the Womyn's Chorus board. In retirement, Mary enjoys birdwatching, travel, and volunteering at Manna Food Pantry and Wildwood Park.

Cynthia Swanson lives in Susquehanna Township with her partner of 22 years, Mary Nancarrow. Originally from Colorado, she came to Pennsylvania in the early 1980s to join a counseling practice and recently retired from a long career in social work and human services. One of her favorite roles was serving as a Family Savings Account Coordinator, helping lower-paid individuals reach their dreams. Cynthia also spent more than 30 years as a YMCA lifeguard, retiring at age 71. She first connected with CPUCC while serving as board president of the Central PA Womyn's Chorus (now Cadence).

A Blessing for Our New Members

Gracious God,
We give thanks for Cynthia, Mary, Shelby, Margaret, Jim, Cathy, Karie, and Hope — for the journeys that brought them here and for the gifts they bring to our shared life.

Bless their questions and their convictions, their wisdom and their wonder.
May this church be a place where their faith deepens, their voices are valued, and their lives are woven fully into this beloved community.

And may we, together, continue becoming a church that reflects your expansive love. Amen.

REJOICE • RENEW • REVIVE

Colonial Park United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

February 23, 2026

Dear CPUCC Disciples:

We are writing to provide an update about the church's current financial situation. At the end of December, our bank balance was less than $2,000, which is very low, and definitely a concern. **However, we want to acknowledge, and thank you, because contributions for January 2026 are slightly higher than the contributions in the same time period in 2025.** Unfortunately, there is still-reason for concern.

During past years, expenses have exceeded income. This is not sustainable. For example, expenses exceeded income by $26,485.42 in 2025. In 2024, expenses exceeded income by $ 24,901.18. Currently, the 2026 Budget is indicating a deficit of $5,837.08.

Your elected church leadership, the 12 deacons and stewards comprising Church Council, have been diligent in monitoring costs, pinching pennies, and stretching dollars. However, cost cutting can only go so far in resolving this situation. We are well past cutting out any "fat" from our budget, if we ever did have any! Further, we know you are aware of the increase in costs of various expenses, particularly heating and most recently, snow removal!

Some people may be affronted by this message, believing that "the church talks too much about money." However, without sufficient funds, we would not-have pastors, musicians, office staff, or building cleaning staff. We could not offer worship, have space from which to operate, or provide a resource to our community. In essence, we -cannot be the church we are called to be without the funds needed to operate.

Therefore, is it possible for you to increase your financial contributions to the church? Are there activities that you could limit, such as eating out, streaming services, or travel, in order to strengthen your funding for CPUCC? Please consider where your contributions to the church fall within your budget, and feel free to contact one of us should you have any questions regarding church finances.

Your prayerful consideration of this request is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your ongoing support of our ministry and mission: financial, time, and prayers.

With gratitude and hope,

Thaddeus Sampson, President Larry Porter, Treasurer



Participation in the Assessment Process for Pastor Cindy

Members of the congregation and staff are invited to participate in the 2025 Assessment Process for Pastor Cindy. If you choose to provide input, please place your signed comments in the Church mailbox of Thaddeus Sampson, Council President. You may also email your thoughts to him at thadsampson@comcast.net. An assessment form has been emailed to you that you can use, or you can write your own narrative. **All information is to be received by Thaddeus no later than March 8, 2026.** Members of the Senior Pastor Assessment Team appointed by Church Council at its meeting of February 16, 2026, are the following: Jessica Burkholder, Kevin Howard, Barbara Kirk, Debbie Magliette (Human Resources Steward), Thaddeus Sampson (Council President), and Cindy Shannon.

From Parish Resource Center

Relationships and Politics:

Today, politics are everywhere - in our phones, on our TVs, and in our conversations. It can be difficult to watch the news and have conversations with friends or family about these topics. It can feel increasingly more difficult to manage your emotions and your responses to these things. In this workshop, Dr. Lesley Huff will explore how politics impact our relationships, while addressing the importance of emotional regulation and practicing responding to conflict with calmness and empathy. This is part one in a two part discussion - the second part, Skills for Disagreeing Better, will be held on March 23, 2026.

Dr. Lesley Huff holds a Doctorate of Psychology with a specialization in Family and Marriage Therapy. She is a licensed psychologist and a certified teacher of Mindful Self-Compassion. She leads the Change Through Compassion program at the Samaritan Center and routinely facilitates trainings on boundaries for those in ministry. She also serves as an associate professor in the student counseling center at Millersville University.

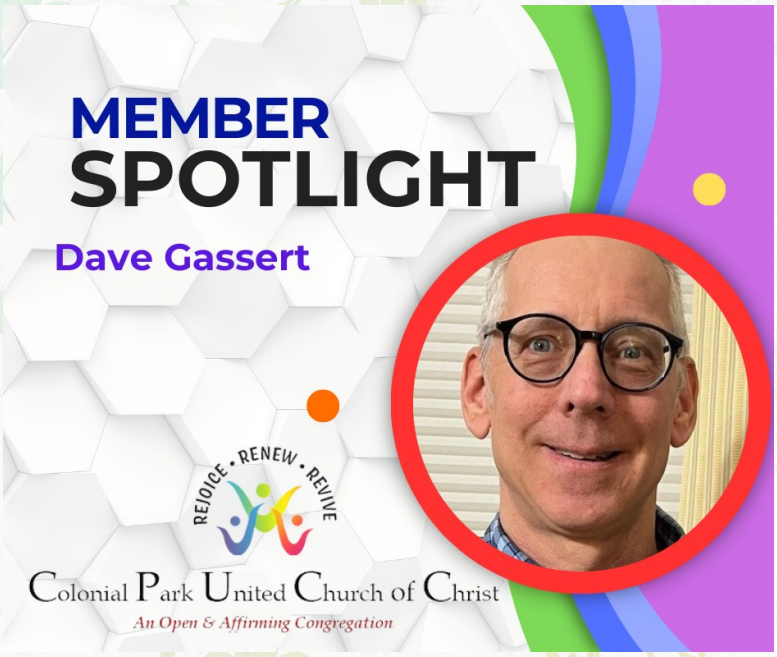
March 5 from 7-8:30 pm

via Zoom

free



Member Profile - Dave Gassert



After graduating from college in 1983, Dave Gassert moved to the Harrisburg area to start his first job. He didn't know many people in the area.

Dave's mother contacted CPUCC member Pat Greenawald – the Gasserts and Greenawald had attended the same high school. That was all the motivation that Pat needed to start calling Dave every week to ask if he wanted to go to CPUCC on Sunday. Since he was looking for things to do on the weekends and he was tired of watching the Philadelphia Eagles lose repeatedly, he went down the "slippery slope" of first attending intermittently, then attending often, to eventually becoming a member on March 3, 1985. Pat had done the job!
Dave had grown up in Berks County. Throughout high school and college, his biggest "hobby" was being an athlete.

"I was always terrible at organized sports," Dave said. "But I did manage to be a Division 1A swimmer in college. I have enjoyed doing various runs, triathlons, and open water swims with friends ever since. Those activities keep one healthy and humble."

Dave worked hard and earned a degree in engineering and became a registered engineer. Along the way, he met and married his wife, Jenny. She had also grown up in Berks County. The Gasserts are the parents of a daughter, Maggie, who lives nearby in the Mechanicsburg area with her husband, Jake. The family treasures the memories they have made together.

He hopes to start gradually winding down to retirement soon after practicing geotechnical engineering and construction quality review services for more than 42 years.

When asked about what he likes about attending services at CPUCC, Dave said how much he enjoys seeing all the familiar faces and catching up with friends. He also appreciates hearing a good sermon and reflecting on it.

But he just doesn't attend the church. Dave Gassert is part of the fabric of CPUCC. He is a lay reader, and attends the Library Sunday School class. He has served on the church council and is currently on the Bridge to Tomorrow committee. Dave also assists other committees with various tasks.

"Everything I have done seems a little different than what I have done before, and I like the variety," he said. "It always feels good to know you have made some sort of contribution, no matter how small."

Dave says it is hard to pick a special memory from his time at CPUCC because there are so many. But he fondly remembers summer picnics with the Sunday School class, the mission trips to West Virginia and Tennessee. He feels that the teams have really made significant differences in the lives of those they helped. Admiring the dedication of all the people who do so much for CPUCC and never quit helping, Dave feels inspired.

"The many people at CPUCC understand what things in life are important, and what can lead to a fulfilling life," he said. "Being around those people helps me grow, and it could help others grow too."

Dave thanks all those who do what they do, and do it, expecting nothing in return.
We at CPUCC also are thankful to Dave Gassert for all he has done as well.

Fun Fact: Did you know that Dave's sister recently retired as a pastor at several UCC churches?





2	Roni Laub,
4	Jill Shannon, Michele Robison
5	Walter Kraft
6	Rick Cochran
7	Barry Jones
8	Suzanne Rowe, Dianne Moran, Lorrie Haldeman
9	Sylvia Aucker, Anna Kohr
10	Stephen Schwalm, Elizabeth Martini
13	Lauren Stefanelli
14	Fran Whitehurst, Roman Sanders
16	Deryk Thompson, Patrick Sanders
17	Bret Fledderjohn
20	Bethany Sweger, Joe Tertel
21	Matt Weaver
22	Faye Mertus
25	Patricia Spiegel, Lindsey Via, Art Titzel
26	Natalie Lubold
27	Barb Butari, Declan Fledderjohn, Marshall Miller
29	Janet Johnson
30	Patti Feit, Susan Bay



20	Dane & Wendy Merryman	44 years
21	Robert & Sandra Spedding	56 years
24	David & Sarah Reinke	11 years
28	Jeffrey & Sherry Sanders	39 years





Yes, we still have a church softball team—it is combined with another church. Contact Kevin Krause if interested: 717-914-7156



SERVING

THE GIVING TREE

"TAKE ONE, GIVE ONE"

This month, we will be collecting items for

Gather the Spirit for Justice - Toiletry Team

Items most needed are: **Dishwashing soap (Dawn, Palmolive, etc.), laundry pods, large bars of soap, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, wipes, tissues, toilet paper, warm hats, gloves, and socks.**

Every Saturday morning the Toiletries Team offers up to two toiletry items each to the 140+ friends that attend the free breakfast at First Church of the Brethren on Hummel Street in Harrisburg.

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

Harrisburg Food Pantry

For the month of March, we are requesting peanut butter, jelly, cereal, oatmeal and canned tuna or chicken for the Harrisburg Area Food Pantry. You may place items in the grocery cart.

The 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.



Thank You for Giving

Thank you to everyone that donated during February for **Church World Service Blankets.**

Also thanks to everyone that donated money on **Souper Bowl of Caring** for the Manna Food Pantry at Penbrook UCC. You filled our pots with over $770



News from the Thrift Shoppe

The Thrift Shop was closed for three weeks due to the weather. It opened up on a limited basis on February 11. All the regular customers were waiting for the opening and they showed up in droves that first day. There was so much camaraderie among shoppers and workers.

We are having a $5 a bag sale for all the clothing in the large shed. We have great winter coats and if anyone knows someone who needs a winter coat, we would be happy to give one (or two) to them.

Donations continue to roll in for which we are thankful. **We ask that donations be made only when the Shop is open.** Many people do not abide by that rule and leave things outside any time. It makes it difficult to get into the Activity Room sometimes because of all the stuff piled at the door.

We are very happy for the warming weather. Who would have guessed that "warming weather" would be 30 degrees? We have so many lovely comforters, quilts and blankets, there is no reason for anyone to be cold! Great sweaters and jackets are available. Stop and have fun visiting with us!



Ye Olde Devonshire Thrift Shoppe

Hours:

Wednesdays,

Fridays,

Saturdays

10:00am—2:00pm



One Great Hour of Sharing

On **March 8th** we will receive an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. This is a special mission of the UCC that carries God's message of love and hope to people in **138 countries**.
The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Creation Justice—Gray Wolves and the ESA

The gray wolf is an icon of wilderness, captivating imaginations, inspiring stories and folklore. At one point, they inhabited 66% of the lower 48 states. However, they were nearly hunted to extinction prior to being placed under Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections in 1978. Since then their numbers have rebounded in the Great Lakes, Northern Rockies, Colorado, California and the Pacific Northwest thanks to the dedicated work of conservationists. Nevertheless, due to habitat fragmentation and loss gray wolves only cover about 10% of their historic range. The population was deemed stable in 2019 and was delisted by the Trump Administration in 2020. However, this decision was invalidated by a federal judge in 2022.

Wolves are apex predators and considered a keystone species playing a key role in keeping ecosystems in balance, somewhat similar to sharks in the ocean. According to environmental advocacy groups, true recovery of the species requires more than just current population numbers. It depends on long-term resilience rooted in a science-based national recovery plan. Unfortunately, a bill seeking to delist the gray wolf from the ESA was introduced and passed in the House of Representatives in December, 2025. It not only removes ESA protection across the lower 48 states but prohibits the bill from being subject to judicial review which would be devastating to recovery, placing the management of wolves back in the hands of individual states without any federal oversight and impervious to legal challenge regardless of scientific evidence. If the bill clears the Senate and is signed by the President, it would become law. You can be an advocate for maintaining ESA protection by contacting your U.S. Senators, urging them to vote against the corresponding bill currently in the Senate—S.1306.





Gift of the Heart

On **March 22nd** we will be handing out Ziploc bags to assemble Gift of the Heart Hygiene Kits for Church World Service. Each bag will contain a list of supplies to be placed in the bag. If you would prefer t give a monetary donation, please make your check payable to CPUCC with "CWS Hygiene kits" on the memo line.

We will be collecting monetary and kit donations thru April. CWS distributes these kits domestically and internationally to people that have been forced to leave their homes abruptly because of emergencies and they may not have time to pack the things they use on a daily basis like soap or toothbrushes. After a few days without these items, they definitely miss them. Your hygiene kits offer a refreshing daily boost for someone when supplies are hard to come by.

If you've never had the experience of seeing a live wolf, I would suggest visiting **The Wolf Sanctuary of PA situated on 80 acres located in Lititz,** Lancaster County. Guided tours are offered by reservation providing a unique experience to learn about wolves, their history and habitats. The sanctuary also hosts special events throughout the year.

~ David Harris

WORSHIPPING



Our Lenten Series...

"Tell Me Something Good" (sanctifiedart.org)

If we're being honest, we can easily distort or sanitize Jesus' teachings. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it's not necessarily comfortable. We often describe Jesus' ministry as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground."[1] Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots, back to what grounds us: loving our neighbor, caring for the vulnerable, pursuing justice and mercy, and resting in God's unending grace.

The good news is extravagant, untamed, illogical, and persistent. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed that flourishes rapidly into a tree to shelter the birds. It smells like expensive perfume poured from an alabaster jar and like crumbling bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like children laughing and like stones dropped to the ground instead of violently thrown. It feels like feet washed with tender care. The good news is alive in the world.

Come find out!

THE Charging Station

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. Keep up with activities at https://www.facebook.com/chargingstationhbg.

Remaining Lent/Easter Themes and Schedule:

March 1 – Second Sunday in Lent – **"The Good News is… great love for God and neighbor"** (Luke 7:36-50 and Matthew 25:35-40)

March 8 – Third Sunday in Lent – **"The Good News is… together the impossible is possible"** (Mark 6:32-44 and Ephesians 3:20-21)

March 15 – Fourth Sunday in Lent – **"The Good News is… protection and care for the vulnerable"** (Matthew 19:13-15 and Deuteronomy 24:17-22)

March 22 – Fifth Sunday in Lent – **"The Good News is… rooted in justice, mercy and faithfulness"** (John 8:2-11 and Matthew 23:23)

March 29 – Palm Sunday – **"The Good News is… inspiring us to act"** (Mark 11:1-11)

April 2- Maundy Thursday – **"The Good News is… even Judas gets his feet washed"** (John 13:1-35)

April 3 – Good Friday – **"The Good News is … revealed through non-violence"** (Luke 22:47-53; 23:33-38, 44-46)

April 5 – Easter Sunday – **"The Good News is… alive in the world"** (Matthew 28:1-10)



Easter Flowers



If you would like to sponsor flowers to be placed in our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please fill out the form below and return it with remittance payable to CPUCC to the church office.

Orders must be placed by March 22, 2026
NO Telephone Orders, Please

The flowers will be in the Sanctuary on ***Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026*** *and may be taken home following the service.*

Easter Flowers

How many? (price per pot, not per bloom) :

_____ Daffodils, 6" pot, $12.00/pot

_____ Tulips, 6 blooms/6"pot, assorted colors, $12.00/pot

_____ Lilies, 5-6 blooms/6" pot, $16.00/pot

Who?

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given By: _____



If you are interested in joining the choir for our tradition of singing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah on Easter morning, we will begin rehearsing the piece on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:15 in the choir room, BEGINNING THE WED. BEFORE PALM SUNDAY. All singers are welcome and encouraged to join us!

Aids for Your Lenten Journey

sanctifiedart.org



Devotional Booklet

This devotional offers commentary, poetry, visual art, hymns, and reflection prompts for the whole season of Lent. We encourage you to walk through these weekly readings at your own pace throughout the season, following the rhythm that works best for you. The devotional features biblical commentary by guest writers, Rev. Dr. Brian Blount and Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail, as well as art and reflections by our guest artists, Rev. Nicolette Faison, Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell, and Rev. T. Denise Anderson. Find an online copy of the devotional at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCC-Lent2026devo

Daily Devotional Cards



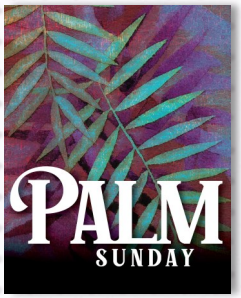
Beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing through the first few days of Eastertide, we invite you to use these daily devotional cards to ground yourself in good news this Lent. Each daily card contains a prompt, a "good news mantra," and a prayer. You might place the stack of cards by your bed to read first thing in the morning or right before you sleep at night. Display the prayers that resonate with you the most.

Great Discussions during Lent

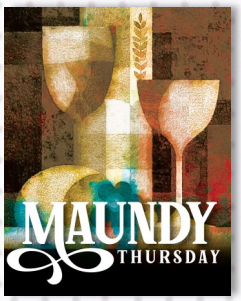
Four times over the 40 days of Lent, Pastor Cindy invites you to join in a discussion of "where you see good news" as we explore *Tell Me Something Good*. We will use the times normally slated for Spiritual Springboards (Tuesdays at 6:30p.m. on Zoom) to have further exploration of our Lenten theme. We will draw on prompts from the devotional booklet and cards.
Even if you might not normally participate in these times on a regular basis, consider joining us for conversations for the weeks of Lent.
Conversations take place Tuesdays, March 3, March 10, March 17, and March 24.

Tell me something good

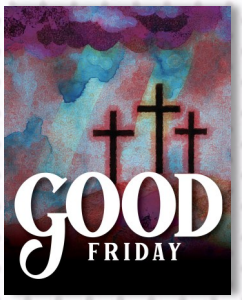
HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



The Good News is...inspiring us to act - Mark 11:1-11
This week's subtheme intentionally places us in the crowd, inviting us to shout "Hosanna!," to throw our coats down, and to wave branches. What will the good news inspire us to do? How will the gospel move us? As we head into Holy Week, how will we put Jesus' teachings into practice?
Join us for our Palm Sunday Pot-luck Brunch at 11am!



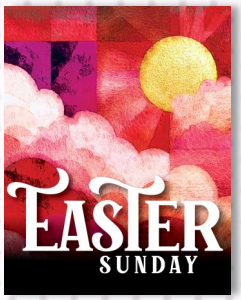
The Good News is...even Judas gets his feet washed -
John 13:1-35 Jesus doesn't define Judas by his worst act. If we put ourselves in Judas' shoes, it really is good news that nothing can separate us from God's love. We are not judged by our worst actions, which means we are called to extend grace to others too. The good news is that God's radical, unstoppable love extends to all people—even to those who wrong us, even to us on our worst days. **We will be having our Maundy Thursday Service (April 2) in our Fellowship Hall at 7:00p.m.**



The Good News is...revealed through nonviolence
Luke 22:47-53; Luke 23:33-38, 44-46 Jesus is stripped of all decency and humanity, yet his actions reveal the good news of a peaceful God. Meanwhile, the actions of others around him—the betrayals, the mocking, the derision, the mob mentality, and the violence—reveal who we are at our worst. who wrong us, even to us on our worst days. **We will be having our Good Friday Tenebrae Service (April 3) in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm. This service will be live-streamed. The service of Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadows," has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Tenebrae is a prolonged moving meditation on Christ's suffering.**



Holy Saturday—*10am, April 4*—Pastor Cindy will once again have a short service and burning of our prayer cards from the year, Saturday morning at 10am in the Memorial Garden.



The Good News is...alive in the world—Matthew 28:1-10
Death cannot stop the good news. It is alive, unbound, and wild in the world. As we celebrate the good news of Easter, let us also go out seeking Christ in the faces of neighbors and strangers, and in the good works that are alive in this world.
Join us for the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026, at 9:30am. We celebrate Holy Communion, welcome the Lancaster Brass Quintet to celebrate with us, and the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus!"



Palm Sunday Brunch—March 29— after our brunch our children will head to our lower level for an egg hunt **WITH FLASHLIGHTS!**



Walk the **Stations of the Cross** in our Memorial Garden during Holy Week (March 29—April 5)!



Sign up to participate in a **Prayer Vigil on Good Friday, April 3**, 7am—7pm in our Chapel. Unlike those early disciples, we stay awake, watch and pray. Sign up for a 30-minute slot outside of the Chapel.



We will be **Flowering the Cross on Easter Sunday** morning. Bring your clipped flowers to symbolize new life on Resurrection Sunday!

GIVING

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

Through the end of January, 2026, our Capital Campaign *Rejoice, Renew, Revive* has raised $506,674.93. The next project to be funded through the Capital Campaign will be security cameras for the church, both inside and outside. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Grocery Cards

Do you want a super easy way to support our church financially? Just buy grocery cards for Giant, Weis or Karns on Sunday mornings or in the office weekdays. Five percent of your total purchase supports the church - $5.00 on a $100.00 purchase. You are the only one who can decide who gets that 5% - the church or the store. Thank you for picking your church!

Road Runner Scavenger Hunt



Save the date! This exciting NEW event, the Road Runner Scavenger Hunt, is being planned for **Sunday, April 26.** Teams will travel to various locations by following clues, and then answering a question about that location. Cash prizes of $50, $25 and $10 will be awarded for the top three finishers based on mileage, time, and answers to the clues, and some fun prizes will be awarded as well. Registration will be $25.00 per vehicle, so start assembling your team now. Following the scavenger hunt, an awards program and light dinner will be provided for $5.00 per person for a sub, snack, cookie, and drink. Watch for more information on how to register coming soon!



Loose Change Sunday

We missed our January Loose Change Sunday due to the big snowstorm, so we're hoping you'll have LOTS of loose change saved up for the next Loose Change Sunday on March 29. Coins, bills, and checks are all accepted, for the benefit of the church Building Fund.

Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

A quote from Mother Teresa that I read recently struck a chord with me. It was as follows: "Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity; it is about love. Charity and love are the same—with charity you give love, so **don't just give money but reach out your hand instead.**" Jesus taught us to help our neighbors, and that EVERYONE is our neighbor. Imagine the smile on God's face when we share God's love and kindness by reaching out to help our neighbors, in ways both big and small. How can you do that today?

~ Cindy Gnech



Decades Dance

It's coming soon! The Decades Dance will be held on **Friday, March 20 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.** Tickets will be available in the narthex March 1, 8, and 15. Tickets include the dance as well as hot dogs, snacks and drinks, and are only $10.00 per person, $15.00 per couple, and $25.00 for a family. Come out for a fun evening of music, dancing, and tasty treats, all to support the church Building Fund. Feel free to dress from your favorite decade, although that's not a requirement. Tell your friends! Hope to see you there!



GROWING

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



Palm Sunday Brunch Potluck
March 29

Following the Palm Sunday Morning Worship, we will hold a potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall. For the lunch, if possible, please bring contributions based on last names as follows:

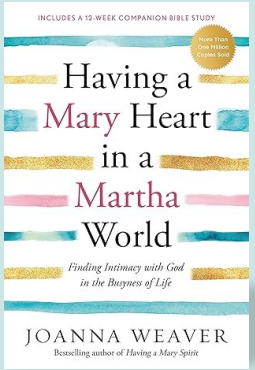
A-F	**Drinks**
G-M	**Side dishes**
N-S	**Main Dishes**
T-Z	**Desserts**

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

For our prayer time, participants are encouraged to sign up and share about or have exercises pertaining to a woman in Scripture or a female ancient mystic or saint.

In our discussion time we will use the book ***Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*** by Joanna Weaver (*there is a study guide in the back of the book to help our conversation times*).



Dates and Chapters/Themes

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);

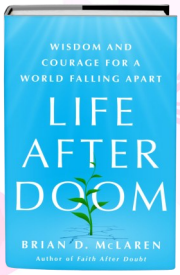
May 11 - "Balancing Work and Worship" (ch. 11) and conclusion "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World"

Next Step Morsels Discussion Group

NEXT STEP MORSELS

Continuing the social justice conversation. *Open to anyone, Learn more about our times together and find any handouts at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCChandouts. Find zoom info at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCClinks.*

Our Next Step Morsels conversations will take place the ***2nd Saturday of the Spring months, at 10am in person in the church Parlor and online (zoom).***



In 2026, we will be discussing Life After Doom by Brian McLaren.

For the last quarter-century, author and activist Brian D. McLaren has been writing at the intersection of religious faith and contemporary culture. In Life After Doom, he engages with the catastrophic failure of both our religious and political leaders to address the dominant realities of our time: ecological overshoot, economic injustice, and the increasing likelihood of civilizational collapse. McLaren defines doom as the "un-peaceful, uneasy, unwanted feeling" that "we humans have made a mess of our civilization and our planet, and not enough of us seem to care enough to change deeply enough or quickly enough to save ourselves."
Blending insights from philosophers, poets, scientists, and theologians, Life After Doom explores the complexity of hope, the necessity of grief, and the need for new ways of thinking, becoming, and belonging in turbulent times. If you want to help yourself, your family, and the communities to which you belong to find courage and resilience for the deeply challenging times that are upon us — this is the book you need right now.

Gathering Dates: Mar. 14, Apr. 11, and May 9





GOT SPRING MUSICALS & CONCERTS?

Pastor Cindy knows that some of you are involved in school musical or concerts...or even sports.

She loves to get out and support you by attending shows, recitals, games, etc.

Just get her a calendar/ schedule and she will try to get there.

Thanks.



JOLLY JINGLERS PRACTICE BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 1

We enjoyed our Jolly Jinglers sharing in worship for our special Christmas pageant on December 14.

They did a fabulous job and received rave reviews!

Pastor Scott says that practice for the Spring season will begin Sunday, March 1, in the choir room at 11:40am (the last part of Sunday School.)

All interested participants welcome!



YOUTH PAINTING A MURAL DOWNSTAIRS

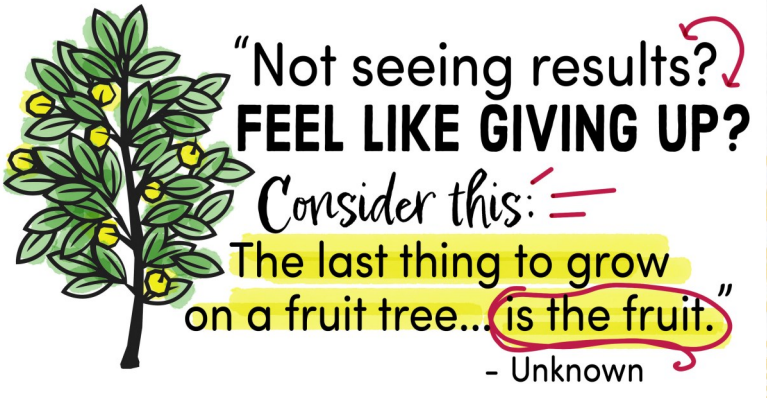
We are finally getting to painting the mural in the hallway downstairs.

Pastor Cindy is planning to do so, March 8, March 15, and March 22—during and AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL (like 12p-130p).

Pastor Cindy will plan to order in pizza or subs for whoever can stay and help.

Please let her know if you are available any of those specific days.







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 2026-2027 school year are now being accepted. To enroll, a child must be three years old by September 1, 2026.

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

The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

Learn more about all of the events being offered at: https://www.lutherancamping.org/upcoming-events/



Summer Camp Open House—at Camps Nawakwa and Kirchenwald in March and April.
Learn more about Summer Camp.



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/



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



03/01/2026 2nd Sunday of Lent - Voices from the Pew Laity Sunday	03/08/2026 3rd Sunday of Lent	03/15/2026 4th Sunday of Lent	03/22/2026 5th Sunday of Lent	03/29/2026--Palm Sunday
Lay Reader Eric McKinney	Lay Reader Dave Gassert	Lay Reader Theo Rudy	Lay Reader Liz August	Lay Reader Fran Whitehurst
Liturgist Art Titzel	Greeter by F.Hall Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Greeter by F.Hall Natalie Lubold	Greeter by F.Hall Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Greeter by F.Hall ☐ sign up
Morning Message Ron Johnson	Usher Thaddeus Sampson	Usher Thaddeus Sampson	Usher ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up
Greeter by F.Hall Pamela Barndt	Usher Liz August	Usher ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up
Usher Kevin Howard	Nursery Jenny Gassert	Nursery Sue Bay	Nursery Rhonda Harris	Nursery Jenny Gassert
Usher Sylvia Morra	Nursery Dave Gassert	Nursery Liz August	Nursery Kristy Stauffer	Nursery Dave Gassert
Nursery Rhonda Harris	Sound Tech ☐ sign up	Sound Tech ☐ sign up	Sound Tech ☐ sign up	Sound Tech ☐ sign up
Nursery Kelly Martini	Children's Message Liz August	Children's Message ☐ sign up	Children's Message ☐ sign up	Children's Message Liz August
Children's Message Thaddeus Sampson	Video Streaming Live ☐ sign up	Video Streaming Live ☐ sign up	Video Streaming Live ☐ sign up	Video Streaming Live ☐ sign up

March 8

Spring Forward

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



LOOKING FOR READERS

Participate in Lent in a special way. We have special children's bulletins to go along with our "Tell Me Something Good" series.

AND, Pastor Cindy is looking for some special readers during morning worship. Let her know if you are interested in helping out!





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