

theMessenger

April 2026 | Monthly Newsletter of Colonial Park United Church of Christ | Vol. 65 No. 4

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



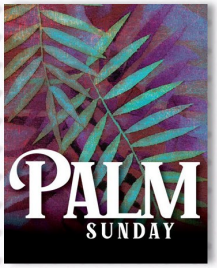
UPCOMING Events

- **March 29—April 5 HOLY WEEK walk Stations of the Cross in our Memorial Garden**
- **March 29th -Palm Sunday—Brunch and Egg Hunt following morning worship**
- **April 2nd – Maundy Thursday, service in Fellowship Hall @ 7pm**
- **April 3rd – Good Friday, Prayer Vigil in Prayer Chapel, 7am—7pm**
- **April 3rd – Good Friday, service in Sanctuary and online @ 7pm**
- **April 4th—Holy Saturday, brief prayer service and burning of prayer cards in Memorial Garden**
- **April 5th—Easter Sunday with Lancaster Brass Quintet, recital starts @ 9:10am**
- **April 12th—Holy Humor Sunday**
- **Apr 26th—Road Runner Scavenger Hunt**

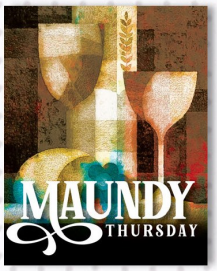
Tell me something good

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

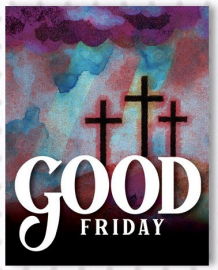




The Good News is...inspiring us to act - Mark 11:1-11
This week's subtheme intentionally places us in the crowd, inviting us to shout "Hosanna!," to throw our coats down, and to wave branches. What will the good news inspire us to do? How will the gospel move us? As we head into Holy Week, how will we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



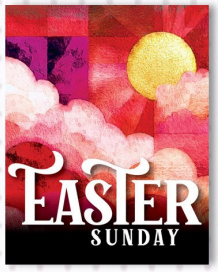
The Good News is...even Judas gets his feet washed -
John 13:1-35 Jesus doesn't define Judas by his worst act. If we put ourselves in Judas' shoes, it really is good news that nothing can separate us from God's love. We are not judged by our worst actions, which means we are called to extend grace to 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 off for our annual egg hunt!



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

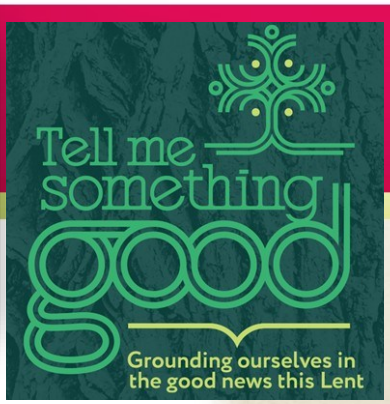


Sign up to participate in a **Prayer Vigil on Good Friday, April 3**, 7am—7pm in our Chapel. Unlike those early disciples, we stay awake, watch and pray. Sign up for a 30-minute slot outside of the Chapel.



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





Our Lenten/Easter 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

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) - **COMMUNION SUNDAY**

After Easter, we return to the Narrative Lectionary

April 12—Holy Humor Sunday – John 20:19-31
April 19—Easter 3—Acts 9:1-19a
April 26—Anniversary Sunday—Acts 16:16-34
May 3—Easter 5—Acts 17:16-31
May 10—Mother's Day—Philippians 1:1-18a
May 17—Music Sunday—Philippians 2:1-13
May 25—Pentecost Sunday—Acts 2:1-21 and Philippians 4:4-7)
COMMUNION SUNDAY



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. All singers are welcome and encouraged to join us!

Pastor's Thought—Membership

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the beautiful truths about church life is that people connect to the congregation in many different ways and at many different stages of their spiritual journey. Some people are deeply involved in leadership and ministry, while others remain connected through friendships, service opportunities, or occasional participation in worship.

As Colonial Park United Church of Christ continues to grow and adapt to the realities of church life today, Church Council has been exploring ways to better reflect these different forms of connection within our congregation. Our current Bylaws describe membership as a covenant relationship that includes participating in worship, supporting the mission of the Church and sharing in its leadership and governance.

At the same time, we recognize that many people maintain a meaningful relationship with the Church even when they are not ready to make that formal covenant commitment or when life circumstances make regular participation difficult. These are among the reasons that Church Council, at its March 16, 2026 Council Meeting, approved two forms of connection within our congregation:

Active Members (Disciples)
Active Members are those who have publicly affirmed their faith and committed themselves to participating in the life, leadership, and mission of the congregation. Active Members may vote in congregational meetings and serve in elected leadership positions.

Friends of the Church
Friends of the Church are people who maintain a relationship with the congregation and participate in its life and ministries but do not hold formal membership or voting privileges. Friends remain part of our church community and are always welcome in worship, fellowship, and service.

This approach allows us to honor both the covenant commitment of membership and the many meaningful ways people stay connected to our congregation. Most importantly, this change is not about excluding anyone. Rather, it is about creating clearer and more honest ways to recognize how people participate in the life of the Church. Our hope is that this structure helps us remain a welcoming and flexible community of faith while also maintaining the covenant responsibilities that guide our shared leadership.

As always, we welcome your questions and conversation as we continue discerning how best to nurture the life of our church community.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Cindy

P.S. Please note that this change will not be finalized until the congregation approves revisions to the Church By-laws.





Gift Cards Galore

Wow! Hard to believe, but the Gift Cards Galore program has been available at CPUCC for the past ten years. This fund-raiser offers gift cards to a wide variety of stores, restaurants, movie theatres, hotels, and other venues.

This is a great way to help with your spring gifts – graduations, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and just treating yourself, and raise money for our church at the same time.

CPUCC earns between 4% and 16% of the total value of your purchase, depending on the merchant. Many of your favorite stores, restaurants, hotels, and movie theaters participate in this exciting program, including Amazon, Olive Garden, Best Western, and many, many more!

These make great gifts for any occasion or to use for yourself! Order forms are available in the office, and also via e-mail. **Orders will be accepted through noon on Sunday, April 26 for delivery in early May. Payment is due at the time of the order (checks payable to CPUCC).**

Questions can be directed to Cindy Gnech at cindygnech7@gmail.com or 717-991-4124. Thank you for your support!

DOWNLOAD ORDER FORM AT:
https://tinyurl.com/GiftCardsGalore-Spring2026

Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

I loved a recent *These Days* devotion by Jeff Light about our place in creation. He cited Psalm 139:14a: "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." He writes: "When I consider the multitude of stars in the sky or the innumerable grains of sand on a beach, I am awed by the greatness of creation. Such wonder also can lead me to feel insignificant. While we are just one being in the whole of creation, the psalmist reminds us that we are wonderfully made by our Creator, a part of God's great design (dream, if you will). Part of our vocation in life is to discern our place: how our unique gifts and talents might be employed in the work of creation and re-creation. There is no lack of need in our world for the gifts we have been given." How are you or can you use the gifts and talents God blessed you with?

~ Cindy Gnech

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.



Road Runner Scavenger Hunt

It's coming soon! 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. See flyer to the right for more details on registering.



Capital Campaign

Through the end of February 2026, our Capital Campaign Rejoice, Renew, Revive has raised $507,159.76. The next project to be funded through the Capital Campaign will be an additional camera in the sanctuary to enhance our live-streaming capabilities. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Decades Dance

The Decades Dance on Friday, March 20 **was a blast!** We enjoyed great music, dancing, snacks, and just having FUN! Thank you for supporting the Bridge to Tomorrow's most recent fund-raiser for the Building Fund! We raised over $600 while having fun!



Grocery Cards

Are you getting ready to go grocery shopping? Besides making a list and checking for coupons, do you know what else it's good to do before hitting the store? Making sure you have enough grocery gift cards for Giant, Weis or Karns! Buying these gift cards at church provides 5% of your purchase price directly to support CPUCC. Thank you for your ongoing support!





We hired a Youth Leader!
Welcome Karie Patterson!



Karie-Lee Patterson recently joined the CPUCC family. She 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.

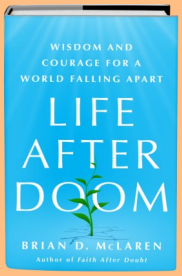
Karie-Lee is committed to living as an ambassador for Christ — walking in integrity, seeking justice and equality, and sharing God's love and grace authentically in everyday life. She officially begins April 1, 2026; however, she has already been getting to know our youth while painting walls and egg stuffing.

We are excited to bring Karie on board! Welcome Karie!

Next Step Morsels Discussion Group



Continuing the social justice conversation. *Open to anyone.*



Our Next Step Morsels conversations 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.

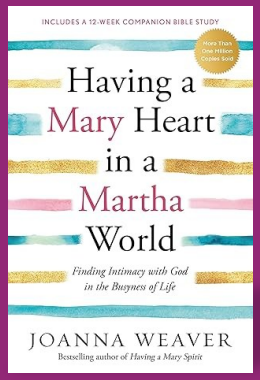
Final Gathering Dates:
Apr. 11 (Part 3),
and May 9 (Part 4).

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

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).*



Remaining Dates and Chapters/Themes
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"

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

Spiritual Springboards

Tuesday evenings @ 6:30pm via Zoom

Join us after Easter for a 6-week study of the Psalms:
"Praying the Arc from Lament to Praise"

Using video clips from The Bible Project, we will explore the Psalms as a prayer book for real life, a "new Torah" that trains us in prayer, honesty, and hope.

Dates: April 21, 28 and May 5, 12, 19 and 26

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



HC Spirit Camp is hosted at Hartman Center Campground, Milroy, PA, the former camp home of Penn Central Conference. The folks who operate the now-campground welcome us for a week each summer.

The theme for HC Spirit 2026 is **"In the Wilderness."** The camp community will be challenged to see wilderness in action not only in nature, but in our relationships, decision-making, discoveries and visions for God's future. Camp runs from **July 26 - August 1, 2026.** Keep checking in at hcspiritcamp.org for the upcoming brochure and registration links, COMING SOON!

Lutheran Camping Corporation Summer Camps: https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-camp/

Our friends at Camp Kirchenwald and Camp Nawakwa provide a variety of camping experiences throughout the summer. They offer multi-child and early registration discounts as well as their own campership. See their full schedule and register here.

Did you know that our Rudy Youth Fund helps to support children and youth attending summer

caring for GOD'S earth

ASSISTANCE FROM THE KEYSTONE CONFERENCE FOR CAMPERS

Attention Youth Campers and Families,
Please read the following information carefully, as the Conference policy for supplementing youth summer camping has changed.

For the 2026 summer season, the Keystone Conference will campership or reimburse 30% of the cost for one youth to attend one summer camping experience. If a youth attends more than one camp during the summer, only one camp will be eligible for the 30% reimbursement. Please use the application for additional camps if this creates a hardship.

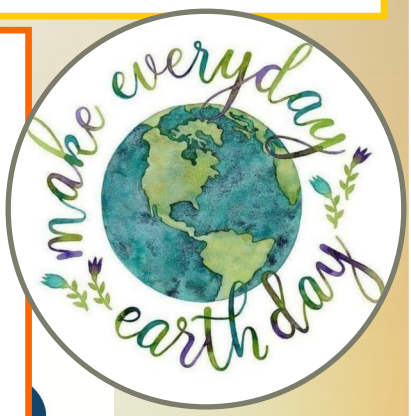
Camps Using a Coupon Code
For the following camps, please enter the coupon code at the time of registration and your 30% will be credited immediately:

Camp Kirchenwald: KEYSTONEUCC26
Camp Nawakwa: KEYSTONEUCC26
HC Spirit Camp: KEYSTONEUCC26

All Other Camps
Visit https://keystoneucc.org/outdoor-ministries/ for more options.

Creation Justice

As a Creation Justice Church, CPUCC commits to caring for our planet home. Remember that we do not use Styrofoam and we recycle where we can. We have a recycling dumpster out next to our trash dumpster. Our waste removal is by Republic Services. Be looking for posters of what all can be included.





Did you know?

Staples added new items to what they take for recycling.
https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling

Batteries
Rechargeable batteries
Single-use batteries NEW

School supplies
Backpacks & lunch bags NEW
Binders & zipper binders NEW
Crayons & colored pencils NEW
Glue sticks & bottles (empty) NEW
Pencils & pencil pouches NEW
Pens, markers & highlighters NEW
Rulers & drafting tools NEW

Even more
Bags & luggage NEW
Phone & iPhone cases
Smart watch & Apple Watch bands
SodaStream® CO2 cylinders
Tablet, iPad & eReader cases

When asked what they thought we should put on the wall, our youth came up with this idea and chose the design.



Youth Pizza & Painting Party

We had a wonderful time on March 15th painting our youth mural in the lower level hallway, outside of the Youth Room. While we are not quite finished, and I don't have pictures of everyone, I wanted to thank all of our helpers:

Pathfinders (Youth): Alexis, McKenna, Kai, and Solly (who was not present for painting, but helped the weeks before to prepare)

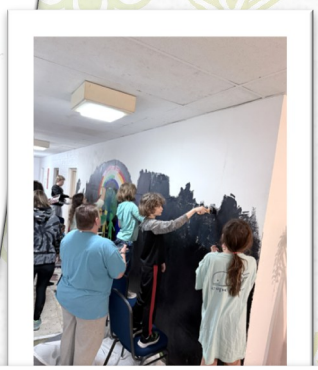
Crosswalkers (Elementary): Riley, Wes, Grace, Jack, Lizzie, and Brody

Adult Helpers: Linda, Karie, Kristy, Shanna, Kelly, Shea and Joe

YOU ROCK!

Thank you all!
Pastor Cindy













We hired a New Sexton!

Welcome Joe Shatto!

Many of you have already met Joe. He began March 1st. Joe comes to us with a host of work experiences from hotel, landscaping, and fast food. Joe lives near the church, and has even been on hand for security and assistance at our recent Decades Dance. He enjoys helping out and has done a fine job with the long list of needs for our large facility. Joe wants to see the church grow and is excited to do his part in putting our best foot forward in the community. Welcome, Joe! We are glad you are here!

Food Pantry

For the month of April, we are requesting canned vegetables, rice, ramen noodles, cake, cookie, or brownie mixes, and soap 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.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone that donated items during February & March for Gather the Spirit for Justice's Toiletry closet. They were most appreciative for all of our donations.

Also thanks to your generosity we collected $730 for the Church World Service Blanket fund.

April 26th is our next "Bounty of Blessings" Sunday, please bring one non-perishable item or toiletry item to keep our Blessing Box inventory stocked.



THE GIVING TREE
"TAKE ONE, GIVE ONE"

This month, we will be collecting:
Hygiene Kits for Church World Service

Please take a bag from the tree and purchase the items listed, or take a tag to donate money toward the cost of shipping the kits. The approximate cost of completing a kit is $15 and the cost to ship each kit is $2. Make your check payable to CPUCC with "CWS Hygiene Kits" on the memo line.
Church World Service distributes these kits domestically and internationally to people that have been forced to leave their homes abruptly because of emergencies and may not have time to pack up the things they use on a daily basis, like soap or toothbrushes. After a few days without these items, they definitely miss them. These hygiene kits offer a refreshing boost for someone when supplies are hard to come by.
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.

RISEN JESUS,
as spring blossoms
around me,
MAY YOUR LOVE
BLOSSOM IN ME,
that I might share its
fragrance and brilliance
WITH OTHERS.

Loose Change Sunday

Loose Change Sundays to support the Building Fund continue to be held every odd month (March 29, then next one in May). Our congregation is so generous in providing the funds needed to properly care for our wonderful building. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Connecting

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





AMERICA 250

In 1967, the Rev. Dr. Elias H. Philips, Pastor Emeritus, Colonial Park United Church of Christ wrote, "It is not easy to reconstruct the history of an old church. Sources are sketchy and few. There is, however, a well authenticated record that as early as 1771 there were sufficient settlers in this area, German and Scotch, to enlist the interests of itinerary missionaries. Shoop's, Schupp's Reformed Congregation was organized in 1783."

Many of those early settlers were buried in a graveyard beside the first log church located on the north side of Jonestown Road. When the German Reformed and German Lutheran congregations worked together to build a new church on the south side of Jonestown Road, the graveyard remained.

In 1958, the old graveyard was taken by Eminent Domaine and the early settlers who helped found this congregation were buried together in a mass grave in Shoop's Cemetery. Those who worshiped together were also Patriots of the American Revolution.

The DAR and the SAR identified 18 Patriots, who contributed to American freedom, buried in Shoop's Cemetery. At least two, George Hain and John Parthemore, were members of the German Reformed Church that would become Colonial Park UCC.

AMERICA 250! Daughters of the American Revolution — DAR HARRISBURG CHAPTER, NSDAR

Dedication of an
America 250! Patriot Marker
Honoring Revolutionary War Patriots
Buried at Shoops Cemetery
Lower Paxton Twp., Dauphin Co., PA

Save the Date
30 May 2026 2:00 PM

The congregation of Colonial Park UCC was founded more than two centuries ago. The founders of our congregation also contributed to American Independence. Eighteen Patriots have been identified and will be honored in a program at Shoop's Cemetery. We are looking for descendants of these Patriots. **Jacob Beider, Peter Bobb, Casper Byerly, John Diefenbaugh, Anna Catherine Diefenbaugh, Emanuel Duey, Johannes Fackler, Johann Wendel Fackler, Jacob Farling, Michael Felty, George Hain, Johan Parthemore, Johan Adam Philippi, John Jacob Poorman, John Shoop, George Shoop, Stophel/Christopher Shoop, Bernard Schupp.**

If you have information or are interested in learning more, please contact Donna Reichard (donareich54@gmail.com)



Registration is now open for the second annual Shalom Summit: Disciples Pursuing Racially Just Neighborhoods, happening on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren.

Speakers and authors Dominique Gilliard, Isaac Villegas, & Sheila Wise Rowe will address this year's theme of Prophetic Resistance through topics of racial reconciliation, immigrant justice, and healing racial trauma.

- Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026
- Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (registration 8-9)
- Cost: $20 (includes continental breakfast)
- Location: Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren, 219 Hummel Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104

Learn more and register: https://thejourneyharrisburg.org/shalom-summit/

Member Profile - Ruth Karabcievschy



"CPUCC is a warm and welcoming place filled with wonderful people you should get to know." Those are the words of CPUCC member Ruth Karabcievschy when asked about her thoughts on the church.

Ruth grew up in the 4th Evangelical & Reformed church (later 4th United Church of Christ). Her father's family were longtime members of that church. She was baptized and confirmed at that church.

After graduating from John Harris High School, Ruth went to study at Penn State. Like many young people, she did not participate in any organized religion for many years.

"Much later I realized something was missing in my life. I've heard it called a God-shaped hole," Ruth explained. "I spent a few years in a very conservative church with many wonderful people only to realize that it was not the place for me. So, I went looking for a new spiritual home."

Her first stop on her search was Colonial Park United Church of Christ. She never looked any further. It was the message, the music, and the members that made it feel just right and Ruth officially became a member on January 25, 2009.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Penn State, Ruth went on to get her master's degree in human resources management from St. Francis University. Early in her career, she was the Director of Social Services for the statewide headquarters office of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind. She also served as the Human Resources Manager for Cowles Magazines and then as Vice President of Human Resources for The Boyds Collection, LTD – yes, think Boyds Bears!

After leaving Boyds, Ruth became a consultant helping terminated employees prepare for their search for their next position. She is now happily retired.

On a trip to Ocean City, NJ, Ruth met her future husband, Vladimir, through mutual friends. They have now been married for more than 50 years. The couple live in a restored 1842 farmhouse that they just found out will be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In her words, Ruth is not as active in the church as she was prior to COVID as well as several knee surgeries and physical therapy, but you wouldn't know it. She has served several terms on the Council as a Spiritual Deacon. She also takes all the new members' photos and has since the program's origin. Most recently, Ruth was actively involved in the Parlor renovation.
"I enjoyed the whole process," she said. "Especially the interaction with the team and the shopping, of course!"

The years at CPUCC have made so many good memories for Ruth – all involving interacting with other members. Some examples are the Devonshire Fair and assisting with pricing the jewelry, the Women's Spirituality program, the Prayer Share Triplets, and the Parlor renovation.

Outside of church, Ruth loves to exercise (select exercises, that is) – Zumba, Pilates, Pilates Reformer in groups of people who laugh, enjoy each other's company and share tips or about everything. She also loves to travel when life permits and she enjoys reading and "taking pictures of small things in nature – flower buds, birds, patterns in the sand, a fern or flower in unexpected place."

When ask about her inspirations, she said, "I have been fortunate to have met and been inspired by many outstanding individuals, too many to mention individually – immediate family, extended family, high school and college friends, bosses, and coworkers as well as exceptional women at CPUCC."

Ruth Karabcievschy has also inspired many people over the years with her kind words and encouraging spirit. We are all fortunate to have her as part of the CPUCC family.

News from the Thrift Shoppe



The Thrift Shop was closed several days during February and March due to the weather. Many days we had to open just the inside part due to rainy weather. But — When we are open, the customers return! We have recently received many wonderful donations from families who have lost members of their family. If anyone is planning to furnish an apartment for the first time, we have everything you need for the kitchen - pots, pans, silverware, appliances, etc. Need a new bedspread or just a warm comforter? We have plenty of those. We recently held a $5 a bag sale for the clothing in the large shed. Now we are holding a $5 a bag sale for children's clothes - and do we have great children's clothes!

Ye Olde Devonshire Thrift Shoppe Hours: Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays 10:00am—2:00pm

The Shop will be closed April 1,3, and 4 for the Easter Holiday.

So far this year we have donated $500 to Impact Ministries, $5000 to CPUCC, $200 to Manna Food Pantry, $300 to the Softball Team, $500 to Gather the Spirit for Justice, and $500 to One Great Hour of Sharing.

We can always use additional help. Want to help sort books ? Ready to carry priced items to their spot? Want to socialize with customers? Want to receive donated items in the garage? There are so many things you could do and have fun doing it! The Shop is open Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 to 2. Set up begins at 9:30 when help is really needed! Show up any time we are open and we will find something for you to do!





The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

What you need:



- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe

What you do:

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5–6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

April BIRTHDAYS

Bold indicates homebound resident

1 Hope Stephan
3 Laura Grafov (Reichard), Zach Longenecker
4 Dana Booker, Dianne Hilbert
6 Xavier Booker
11 Karen Hartlaub
12 Eric Sanders, **Linda Yoder**
14 Nancy Wylam
15 Kelsey O'Brien
18 Kai Nupponen
21 Eric McKinney
25 Joan Lewis, Forrest Graeff
26 Pam Stup, **William Mensch**, Connie Spangenberg
27 Larry Porter
28 Richie Mauck
29 Susan Graft, William Dempster
30 Shelby Shoop

April ANNIVERSARIES

April 7	*Lois & Tom Schwartz*	53 years
April 25	*Janice & Brian Mountain*	39 years



Sunday, April 12th at 6:00 PM
at Beth El Temple

The Freedom Seder is an interfaith event that commemorates the journey from slavery to freedom for Jews in ancient Egypt and for African Americans in the United States. We celebrate these emancipations while acknowledging the forms of hatred and oppression that persist today and committing to work against them together. We will sing, perform Passover rituals, and share a meal as we explore how we can **stand together with our neighbors.**

The cost to attend is **$25 per person and $15 per teen (includes dinner)**

Join us for interfaith discussion about accepting, understanding, and uplifting our neighbors in these difficult times. After the Passover Seder rituals, participants at each table will be invited to share the ways that our communities are experiencing discrimination and oppression, and suggest ways we can better support one another. These courageous conversations will help us to build stronger and more resilient communities for the days ahead.

Register at: https://forms.gle/vFYPrPY28KM91LUH6

RSVP by April 3. If you have any questions or problems registering, contact A my at amy@bethelhbg.org or call 717-232-0556.



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

04/02/2026 Maundy Thursday	04/03/2026 Good Friday	04/05/2026 Easter Sunday (Communion)	04/12/2026	04/19/2026	04/26/2026
Lay Reader Sharon Clark	Lay Reader Liz August	Lay Reader Lucy Glorius	Lay Reader David Harris	Lay Reader Tom Bay	Lay Reader Liz August
Usher ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up	Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up	Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up	Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up	Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up
		Usher ☐ sign up	Usher Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Usher ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up
		Usher ☐ sign up	Usher Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Usher ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up
		Nursery Sue Bay	Nursery Jenny Gassert	Nursery Rhonda Harris	Nursery Sue Bay
		Nursery Liz August	Nursery Liz August	Nursery Liz August	Nursery Kristy Stauffer
		Sound Tech ☐ sign up	Sound Tech ☐ sign up	Sound Tech ☐ sign up	Sound Tech ☐ sign up
			Children's Message Cathy Porter	Children's Message ☐ sign up	Children's Message ☐ sign up



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.



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