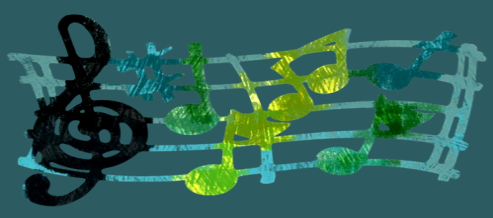
Monthly newsletter of Colonial Park United Church of Christ
May 2026
VOL.65 NO.5

The Messenger

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1 & 3— Voices of the Valley Concert
May 10—MOTHER'S DAY
May 15, 16,& 17—Susquehanna Chorale Concert
May 16—Harrisburg Association Spring Meeting
May 16 & 17—Cadence Concert
May 17—MUSIC Sunday
May 24—PENTECOST SUNDAY
May 25—MEMORIAL DAY
May 30—America 250 Patriot Marker at Shoops Cemetery
May 31—Loose Change Sunday



Geraniums for Pentecost Sunday

May 24, 2026



The Altar Guild will decorate the Sanctuary with red geraniums for Pentecost Sunday, red being the liturgical color for Pentecost. If you would like to sponsor flowers, please fill out the form below, include your remittance check (payable to CPUCC) and place in the offering plate or the church office or mail it to ATTN: Priscilla Fledderjohn, Colonial Park UCC, 5000 Devonshire Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 no later than **May 15**.
NO TELEPHONE ORDERS PLEASE!

The flowers will adorn the Sanctuary on May 24 and may be taken home following the Worship service. If you prefer, your flowers may be given to the church to be used to enhance our landscaping. Plants not removed by June 16 will be planted.

RED GERANIUMS—$12.00

In memory of _____

or

In honor of _____

Given by _____

Connecting

Message to the Conference



Siblings in Christ,

The story of the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–30) meets us at a tender intersection of grief and hope. Two disciples walk together, carrying the weight of what has been lost. Their expectations have crumbled and their future feels uncertain. But still this is exactly where the risen Christ comes to journey alongside them.

Keystone members, we, too, find ourselves on a road. We have made it through our first quarter since our 4 became one. We are living in both the promise and the pain of this new journey. I have been in small groups and quiet conversations, where there is real grief over familiar patterns, cherished identities, and ways of being church that have shaped us for so long. This lament is ok as long as we can commit and continue the journey together. Our grief is a sign of love and like the disciples, we name what has been lost because it mattered.

But the Emmaus story reminds us that loss is not the end of the journey. Jesus comes alongside the disciples even when they do not recognize him. He listens. He interprets. He walks with them. And then, at the table, in the breaking of the bread, their eyes are opened. What felt like an ending becomes a beginning.

So it is with us. Even as we grieve, Christ is present—guiding, teaching, and gently revealing a new future. Our shared mission to be people of the table is not accidental; it is deeply rooted in this resurrection story. At Emmaus, Jesus feeds spiritual hunger. In our communities, we are called to do the same—meeting both physical and spiritual need with compassion and abundance.

Our 50 Days of Easter initiative invites us to live this out in tangible ways. Each meal shared, each donation offered, each act of care becomes a sign of resurrection life. As we track and measure this impact, we are not simply counting numbers; we are bearing witness to the ways Christ is made known in the breaking of bread across our conference.

We may not yet see the full picture of what we are becoming together. The road may still feel uncertain. But Emmaus assures us that Christ is already among us—especially when we gather at the table, especially when we serve one another.

And perhaps, like those first disciples, we will come to say: "Were not our hearts burning within us?"—even here, even now, as we walk this road together.

In hope and companionship on the journey,

Rev. Dr. Nora Foust
Regional Conference Minister (2)
Keystone Conference UCC



50 Days of Easter Food Challenge

A People of the Table Mission Project for Keystone Conference's 1st Annual Meeting

The Challenge: Churches across the Conference are challenged to donate non-perishable food to a local food bank between Easter (04/05/2026) and Pentecost (05/24/2026) and to report the quantities of their donations.

Each church will report its totals (by category) via a web link, and the Conference-wide total will be revealed at the 1st Annual Meeting, June 5–7, 2026. Using categories such as canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, pasta and rice, toiletries, and more will provide an easy-to-visualize picture of the breadth of donations.

Having churches donate locally will allow you to serve the communities in which you live, work, and minister. We want to avoid hauling donations across the commonwealth to a single location when we know the need exists everywhere.

The churches of the Keystone Conference are already working hard to alleviate food insecurity in their areas beyond these donations. We ask that you report the ministries your church supports—from community gardens to meal deliveries—so we can celebrate them at the Annual Meeting.

Want to learn more about People of the Table? Check out the page on the Keystone Conference website: keystoneucc.org

Keystone CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

YOUTH GROUP



"Hi everyone, I'm Karie Lee — you probably know me as the girl who plays the piano after church, and now you'll also know me as the youth leader.

Most of my career, whether in the Army or in the school district, has centered on protecting people, building systems, and creating safe spaces. That's the same heart I'm bringing into youth ministry.

For me, youth group isn't about having all the answers. It's about creating a place where your kids can show up as they are, ask real questions, and figure out how faith fits into their actual lives. I care a lot about listening, supporting them, and helping them grow in ways that feel real and grounded.

But I don't want to build this program in a vacuum. I want it to reflect the needs, interests, and rhythms of the families we serve. So I'm inviting you to take a quick poll. Your input will help me shape youth group in a way that fits your kids, your schedules, and your hopes for their spiritual development.

Thank you for trusting me with your students. I'm really looking forward to partnering with you and building something meaningful together."
- *Karie*

I would like to support our **Youth** by attending your Spring concerts, recitals and games. Just let me know of the opportunities to attend and be a support to your family.
Thanks!
Karie-Lee
CPUCC Youth Leader
Karie.cpucc@gmail.com

QUICK POLL—email your answers to Karie (karie.cpucc@gmail.com) or complete it online at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCCQuickYouthSurvey

1. What night and time of the week would be the best for Youth Group to meet regularly?
   A. 7-8 PM on Thursday Nights
   B. 6-7 PM on Tuesdays Nights
   C. 7-8 PM on Wednesday Nights
   D. 6-7 PM on Thursday Nights
2. Do you have a child that participates in sports or other extracurricular activities? Yes/No
3. Is youth group through the Summer something you would be interested in? Yes/No
4. When is the best date to have a Youth Kick-off Event?
   A. Saturday, May 9, 2026
   B. Friday, May 30, 2026
   C. Saturday, June 6, 2026
   D. Sunday, June 7, 2026

Open-ended: Are there concerns that we can address that are obstacles to you or your youth participating in our upcoming program?



LET US KNOW YOUR GRADS

We will recognize graduates in our CPUCC family on **May 31**
So, please contact the church office with names, relation and future plans (if known).

There is an exciting opportunity for our local churches to celebrate the **250th Anniversary of America on July 4, 2026 in Brightbill Park.**

Get INvolved

How? **Be part of the 5th annual Independence Weekend Family Celebration.**
https://lopaxfoundation.com/independence-weekend

How can our Church participate in the Celebration?

Join other churches in the Family Carnival Midway

Host a family oriented carnival style game. *You will get tickets to hand out, you don't even have to bring prizes...or you can Help in the Midway Prize Booth*

Saturday July 4, 2026 | 10am - 1pm | Dauphin County Heroes Grove, Brightbill Park

Karie Patterson, CPUCC Youth Leader, said that she would coordinate volunteers from our congregation. Connect with Karie to let our presence be shared in our community.

Meet The Members – Kim and Eric McKinney

When Kim graduated from college in 2007, she moved to Harrisburg. Her mom just happened to be Rev. Dr. Bonita Zobeck, pastor of Colonial Park UCC so she started attending services.

If you frequented the Olive Garden near the church about 15 or 16 years ago, you might have met both Eric and Kim. They both worked there and that's how they met. After they started dating, Eric started attending CPUCC as well.

They married at our church on July 14, 2011, with Kim's mother officiating. As a special treat, the choir sang at the wedding. From that day forward, it's been unlimited breadsticks and salad for the couple. (Just kidding.)

Neither Kim nor Eric grew up in this area. Eric was raised in Stuart, Virginia and Kim grew up in Jenison, Michigan. It just so happened that both of their families moved to the Central Pennsylvania area and Kim and Eric followed them here.
One of the biggest draws for the couple's connection to CPUCC is the music.

"We both love being part of the choir. We LOVE the music," they said. "We are both involved in the church choir because music is a big part of our lives."

The couple take part in the Christmas Cantata. But that first time was the hook that kept them coming back.

"The first time we were in the choir and experiencing the Christmas Cantata was a feeling neither of us will ever forget," they said.

In November 2025, Kim and Eric felt blessed to be included with members from the CPUCC choir and friends of the choir when they were invited to travel to New York City to sing Heather Sorenson's "Solas" at Carnegie Hall.

Both agree that the sense of fellowship and togetherness of the congregation at CPUCC is a huge reason for joining. Eric is also a lay reader.

Inspiration comes from different places for everyone. For Eric, it comes from Neil DeGrass Tyson and Anthony Bourdain. Why? Because "their insatiable curiosity helps me keep my mind flexible and ready to try new things," he said.

For Kim, it's has always been her mom.
"She is an amazing example of a strong and



independent woman and showing me while growing up and now, that I can do anything I set my mind to and how to stand up for those whose voices need to be heard," Kim said.

Not only do you see the McKinneys in church together, but if you happen to stop by their place during the work week, you may see them there together as well. Both primarily work from home. Kim is an auto appraiser for Nationwide and Eric works for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board in their wholesale division.

When asked why others should join the church, the couple said, "This church is an amazing friendly open church with so much love. We support each other and the surrounding community. We care about others around us, regardless of their story. This church DOES what many only say they will do."

Now for a surprise. If you are looking for a bodyguard, you might want to consider contacting Kim and Eric. They are BOTH 2nd degree black belts at the Harrisburg Kung Fu Center.



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

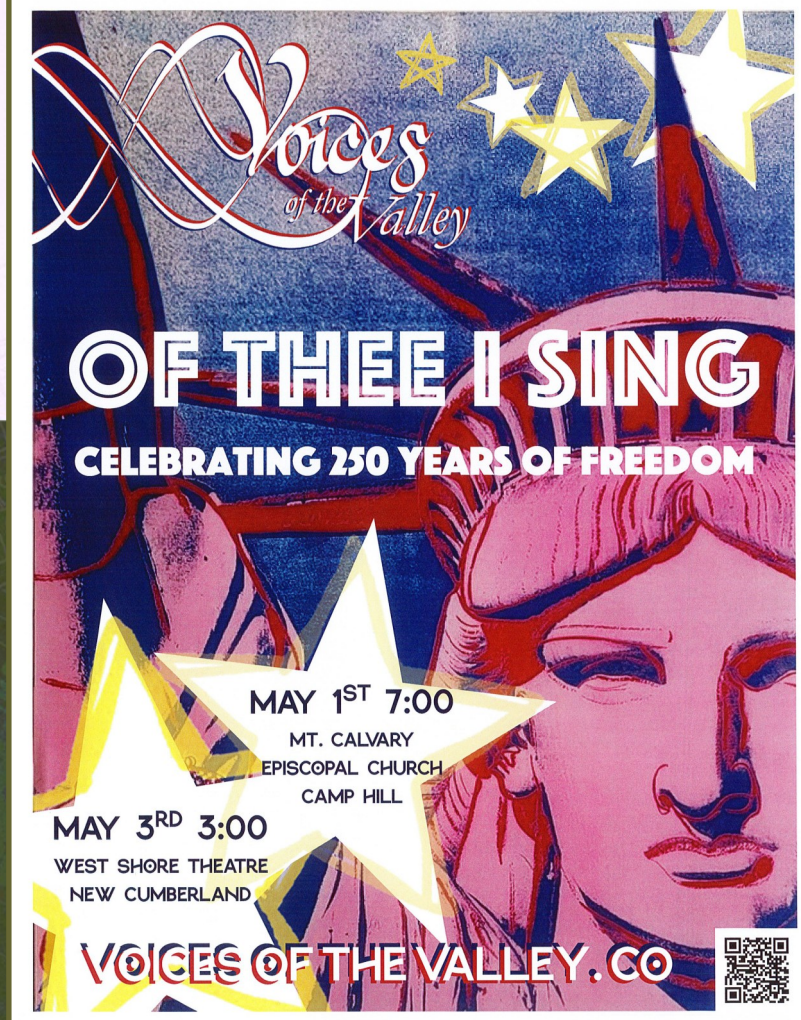
Save the Date

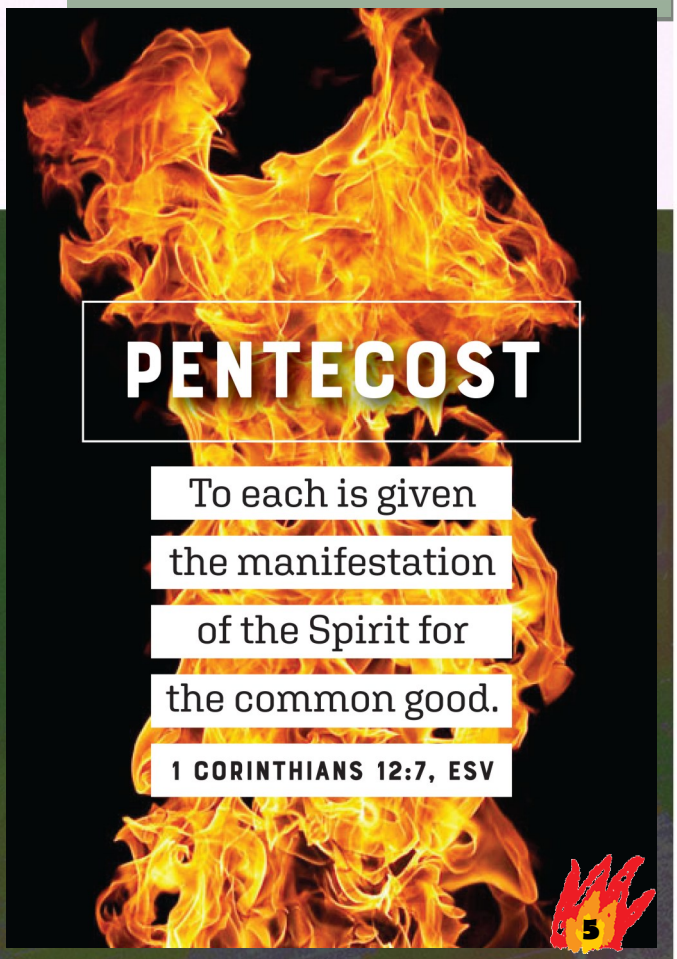
30 May 2026 2:00 PM

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)





Giving

Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

As I was thinking about our stewardship theme for the year, "Dreaming God's Dream," it made me think about the famous "I Have a Dream" speech from Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreams can and should inspire us to strive for goals that may seem unattainable, but when our dreams and God's dreams align, watch out! **Anything is possible!**

~ Cindy Gnech



Loose Change Sunday

Loose Change Sundays to support the Building Fund continue to be held every other month. Our congregation is so generous in providing the funds needed to properly care for our wonderful building. The eight Loose Change Sundays dating from the fall of 2024 through the present have raised $2,334.45, providing much needed funds for repairs and renovations to our beautiful building. The next Loose Change Sunday will be held on May 31. Thank you for your ongoing 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.

Grocery Cards

Through the first quarter of 2026, the Grocery Card Program raised $751 for CPUCC, of which $705 was contributed to the Current Expenses Fund, and $46 to Half Day Play. This is approximately $90 lower than the same point last year. We appreciate everyone's support, no matter how many or few gift cards you are buying. We appreciate your help and so many, varied ways.

Rejoice, Renew, Revive Capital Campaign

Through the end of March 2026, our Capital Campaign *Rejoice, Renew, Revive* has raised **$507,649.59**. Currently, the Capital Campaign is funding an additional camera in the sanctuary to enhance our live-streaming capabilities as well as cameras for security upgrades. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Putting the FUN in fundraiser

Recently, we have had multiple **fun**draisers, **thanks to our Bridge to Tomorrow team.** These have been everything from *dining out* together (P.J. Whelihams) to *dancing* together (some pics in last month's newsletter) to, most recently, our *Road Runner Scavenger Hunt* (see pics on next page).

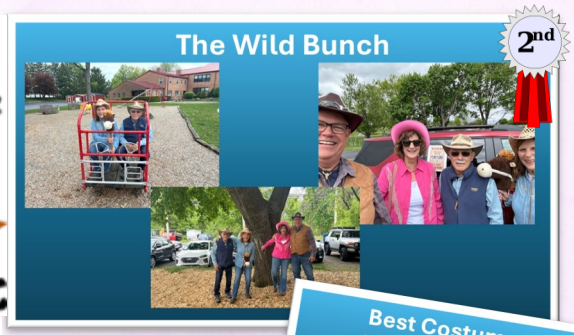
The Decades Dance on Friday, March 20 was a blast! We enjoyed great music, dancing, snacks, and just having FUN! And the icing on the cake was raising $631.00 for the Building Fund! Thank you to the organizers and all the participants.

The Road Runner Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, April 26 was a lot of fun for all involved. Seven teams competed for bragging rights (and trophies!) by answering the most questions right during the driving scavenger hunt while also adhering to mileage and time requirements. Fun prizes were also awarded for the Best Team name, Best Team Photo, Best Team Costume, and Best Decorated Car. Subs, snacks, sodas, and baked goods were enjoyed by all. We raised $353.00 for the church Building Fund. Thank you to everyone who planned and supported this fun fund-raiser!





Pictures





















Did you know that CPUCC has a church softball team?

We are a part of the Penbrook-Progress Church Softball League. Feel free to come out and cheer on the team. If you are interested in more information or in joining the team, please contact **Kevin Krause** at paulorion@comcast.net



Penbrook-Progress Church Softball League
13th Annual Golf Outing • • Four Person Scramble

Friday, May 29th 2026

Rich Valley Golf - 227 Rich Valley Rd, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Registration / Check-in: Noon •• **Tee-off:** 1:30 •• **Cost:** $75/player
Hole Sponsorship: $100 (Includes sign with your Logo)

Includes 18-holes of Golf, Riding cart, Driving Range,
Dinner and chance to win various prizes!

To register text/call Scott Campbell - 717-574-9695 or Kevin Krause 717-914-7156

All costs are due at time of registration. Registration deadline is 5/20.
Checks should be made payable to '**Penbrook-Progress Church Softball League**'

Thank you!

Worshipping

Eastertide Series

Still Rising

Resurrection isn't just something that happened—it's something that is still happening.
In the church, we talk about resurrection like it's a moment—something that happened long ago on Easter morning. But **what if resurrection is not just a moment...what if it's a movement?**
In the weeks after Easter, we follow the early church as they discover that the empty tomb doesn't end the story—it begins it.
Lives are changed.
Chains are broken.
Boundaries are stretched.
Communities are formed.
Love takes shape.
And the Spirit breathes new life into everything.

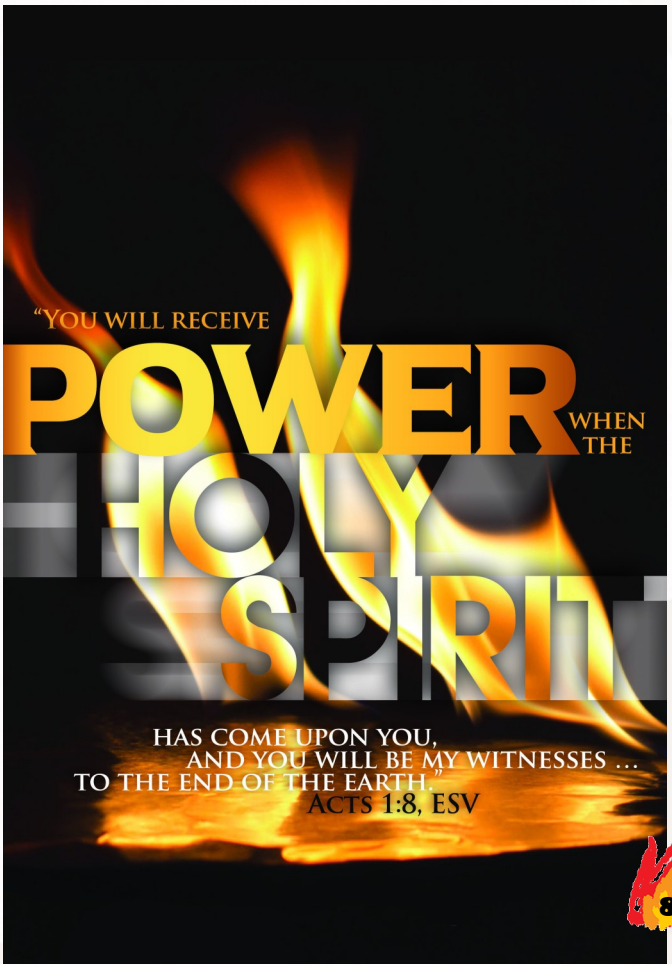


Upcoming Morning Worship Schedule

May 3, 2026 Acts 17:16-31
May 10, 2026 - Mother's Day Philippians 1:1- 18a
May 17, 2026 - Music Sunday Phil 2:1-13
May 24, 2026 - Pentecost Sunday – Communion Sunday (Acts 2)

Begin a series on Ruth and Esther

May 31, 2026 *Recognizing graduates* -Ruth 1:1-22 (Loss and Loyalty) Accompanying text: Matthew 5:3-9 (The Beatitudes)
June 7, 2026 *Pastor Scott preaching* -Ruth 2:1-23 (Gleaning and Hope) Accompanying text: Luke 6:36-38 (Give and It Will Be Given)
June 14, 2026 *Rev. Roben Roof preaching* -Ruth 3:1-18 (Daring to Act) Accompanying text: Matthew 7:7-8 (Ask and You Will Receive)
June 21, 2026 Healing Service -Ruth 4:1-22 (New Life) Accompanying text: Luke 1:46-55 (Mary Praises God)
June 28, 2026 Esther 4:1-17 (For a Moment Like This) Accompanying text: Luke 9:23-24 (Call to Discipleship)



Growing

Sunday School continues through May 17th for children, youth, and adults. We will take a break over the summer (Memorial Day—Labor Day) and resume after Rally Day (September 13)

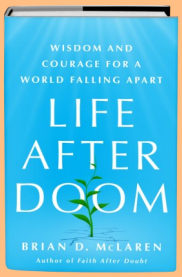
Thank you to all our teachers and participants for a great year!



Next Step Morsels Discussion Group



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

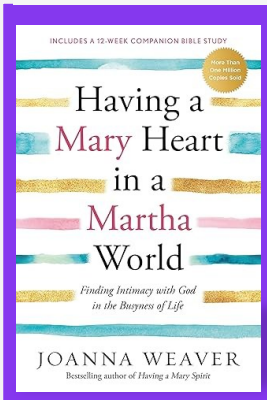


Our Next Step Morsels conversations took place the ***2nd Saturday of the Spring months, at 10am in person in the church Parlor and online (zoom).***

We have been discussing *Life After Doom* by Brian McLaren.

Our Final Gathering Date will be in person only, a mini-retreat on May 9, 2026 (10am-2pm). Lunch is included. We will discuss parts 3 and 4 in the book, and our next steps.

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



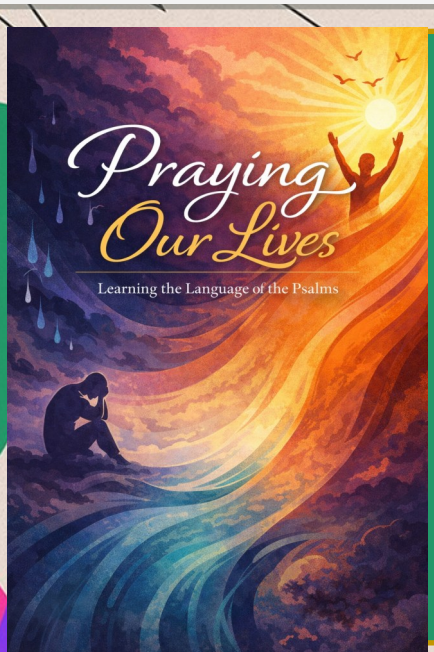
Women's Spirituality Group (WSG)

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

In our discussion time, we have been using 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

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



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.

Remaining Session Dates: 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.

Bible Quiz

While in Jerusalem for Pentecost, people from many faraway lands miraculously heard the disciples preaching in their own native languages. Which of the following modern-day places was/were represented?

A. Egypt
B. Libya
C. Crete
D. Rome
E. All of the above
F. A, B and D

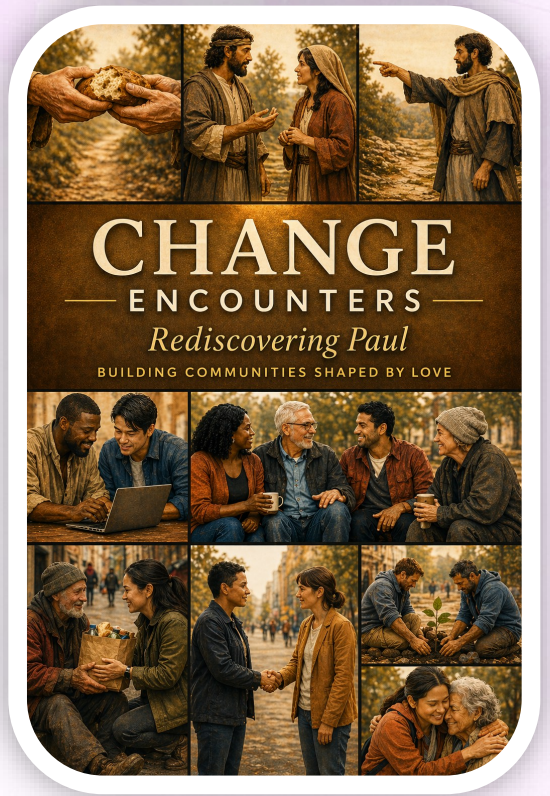


Answer: E (See Acts 2:9-11.)



No Sunday School over the Summer?
Wait! There's More!

Pastor Cindy plans to lead a Summer Sunday Study (11am):



Change Encounters: Rediscovering Paul

Building communities shaped by love

This summer, we're taking a fresh look at one of the most influential—and often misunderstood—figures in the Christian tradition: the Apostle Paul.

Through short videos, Scripture, and open conversation, we'll explore how Paul's life and letters invite us into change—within ourselves, in our communities, and in the world around us.

Each week, we'll consider a different kind of "change encounter"—moments that challenge assumptions, expand our understanding, and call us into deeper love. No prior knowledge needed. Come for one week or all eight. All are welcome.

June 28—A Change Encounter with PAUL
July 5—A Change Encounter with EMPIRE
July 12—A Change Encounter WITHIN
July 19—A Change Encounter with COMMUNITY
July 26—NO SESSION
August 2—A Change Encounter with DIFFERENCE
August 9—A Change Encounter with SCRIPTURE
August 16—A Change Encounter with LOVE
August 23—A Change Encounter with HOPE



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:
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 camperships.

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/

Bible Quiz

Which follower of Jesus preached to the crowds after receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost?

A. John
B. Peter
C. Mary Magdalene
D. Paul



Answer: B (See Acts 2:14ff.)

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.

LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP PARKS&RECREATION

SATURDAY GARDEN CHATS

10:00-11:00am

EVERYONE WELCOME
BRING YOUR QUESTIONS



2026 SCHEDULE

Hosted By: Steve Tambolas

The Master Gardener Program of PennState Extension

Garden Chats Kick-off
Municipal Building Room A | March 7th
A panel of Master Gardeners will speak on a few topics & offer giveaways.

April Showers Bring May(be) Flowers
Kings Crossing | April 11th

Best Lawn & Weed Control Practices and Pruning Dos & Don'ts
Kohl | May 2nd

Foraging Safety Tips and Native Plants
Brightbill | June 12th
at Campfire Cinema 6:00pm

Garden Q&A and All Things Roses
Centennial Acres | July 11th

Planning Fall Gardens and All Things Compost
Koons | Aug. 1st

Fall Planting and Fall Lawn Care
Stray Winds | Sept. 12th

Drying Herbs & Flowers, Final Prep for Fall & Winter
George | Oct. 3rd at Fall Fest 11:00am

Register:
bit.ly/MGChats

lowerpaxton-pa.gov | @lowerpaxtonparksandrec

SUMMER CAMP

AGES 6-12

LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP PARKS&RECREATION

MON-FRI
JUNE 15 - AUGUST 7
8:00AM - 1:00PM



Registration: opens Monday, April 20
Weekly Fees: $60 Resident, $75 NonResident
Locations: Brightbill, Centennial Acres, Kohl, & Koons
Bonus week at Brightbill location only August 10 - 14

Register:
bit.ly/LPsummercamp

717-657-5600 | lowerpaxton-pa.gov | @lowerpaxtonparksandrec

Thank you for working on our building and grounds!



WE APPRECIATE YOU!

You may be aware of some of the changes around our building and grounds, but we want to officially say THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU, **Cindy Hogeman, David & Rhonda Harris, Priscilla Fledderjohn, Denny Bender** and **Steve Burkholder** (along with Joe Shatto) for the work of taking out bushes and weeds, as well as downed trees, and putting in new native plants and a new shed ramp.. Thank you also to **Tom Feit, Steve Burkholder, Ed Stup, Kevin Krause and Joe Shatto** for beginning the installation of our new security system and cameras. Looks great! We couldn't do it without you all! Your work is endless but is not unnoticed. Thank you!
(Pastor Cindy apologizes if she missed naming anyone who helps out)



Serving

Strengthen the Church

For the month of May, we will collect the Strengthen the Church Offering (the denomination suggests receiving it on Pentecost Sunday). **This offering supports congregations and initiatives that help us live into the United Church of Christ's "big tent" vision. God wants our congregations and our whole Christian movement to be a "big tent" where ALL are genuinely welcomed. Funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and renewal initiatives in existing congregations. Our conference and the national ministries work together to use these funds for projects that matter now and for the future of our movement. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is Still Speaking".**



Thank you to everyone that donated Church World Service Hygiene Kits and money towards shipping costs. We will have a total amount for next month's newsletter.

Harrisburg Area Food Pantry

For the month of May, 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.

Giving TREE

THE GIVING TREE
"TAKE ONE, GIVE ONE"

This month, we will be collecting:

Items for Bethesda Mission Men's Shelter

When a person enters Bethesda Men's Mission, they are pointed to Jesus. They are encouraged to enter into a life transforming relationship with Him that will affect every aspect of their life. We believe that the answer for the men here at the mission is more than just obtaining income and housing. Our goal is to see true *Life Recovery* in all aspects of their lives.

When a person comes to Bethesda, they first complete an assessment, and then are connected to a Life Coach who uses it to identify areas in which the guest needs help. Together they develop goals to address these areas.

Examples of areas a guest may work on with their Life Coach are: Addictions, Mental Health, Medical & Dental issues, Life Skills, Housing, Employment, Veteran Services, Christian Spiritual Guidance.

Some of the items needed are: White t-shirts, shaving cream, razors, shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, large-print Bibles.

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



May BIRTHDAYS

Bold indicates homebound resident

1 Barbara Gruber
2 Eleanor Mauck
5 Alexis Stauffer
6 Kim Castellano
7 Eric Gutshall
9 Kelsey Kurtz
10 Madison Gutshall
14 Ken Eng, Corey Schwalm
17 Karisa Zola
18 Cynthia Swanson, Nora McPhilemy
20 Linda Gilbert
21 Christopher Gnech
25 Marsha Krause, Jared Spiegel
26 Cierra Bender
27 Jeff Mertus
30 Angelina Castellano

May ANNIVERSARIES

10 Eric & Erris Gutshall 23 years
13 Faye & Jeff Mertus 37 years
18 Bret & Mary Jane Fledderjohn 24 years
19 Debbie Magliette & Rosemary Mirocco 14 years
20 Sue Duff & Anna Kohr 20 years
20 Sue & Dave Bishop 59 years
22 Diane & Mike Leonard 44 years
25 John & Barb Butari 46 years
29 Lauren & Justin Stefanelli 16 years
29 Holly & Fred Hughes 33 years
29 Margaret Deavers & Lynn Wellman 4 years
31 Barry & Mary Jones 57 years



Interested in a community mural project?

Visit https://liftinglove.org/common-ground-together-human/

LiFT UCC (Lancaster) and the Keystone Conference Invitation
Your congregation's participation is key to replicating and growing the project. By hosting installations, sharing stories, and mobilizing volunteers, you help create visible acts of compassion in your community. We offer guidance, resources, and support to ensure your success.
Visit link above to learn more.

UPCOMING WIDER CHURCH EVENTS:

⇒ Spring Meeting of the Harrisburg Association – May 16, 2026 @ St. Peters UCC 1289 South Crossroads Lykens, PA 17048
⇒ Annual Meeting (1st of the official Keystone Conference) – June 5-7, 2026 @ Millersville University

Christian Churches United

United in Love Conference
Saturday, May 16, 2026 at Camp Hill United Methodist Church, 417 S. 22nd St, Camp Hill, PA
To learn more, visit www.ccuhbg.org

UCC Homes

UCC Homes Helping Hands Luncheon and Auction

Attention friends of UCC Homes! You can now preview the full online catalog of the amazing auction items for our **30th Anniversary Helping Hands event**, benefiting the Benevolent Endowment Trust Fund of UCC Homes.

If you love to bid on fabulous auction items, we invite you to participate in our Helping Hands online auction, which opens on April 27th and closes on May 9th at 6:00pm.

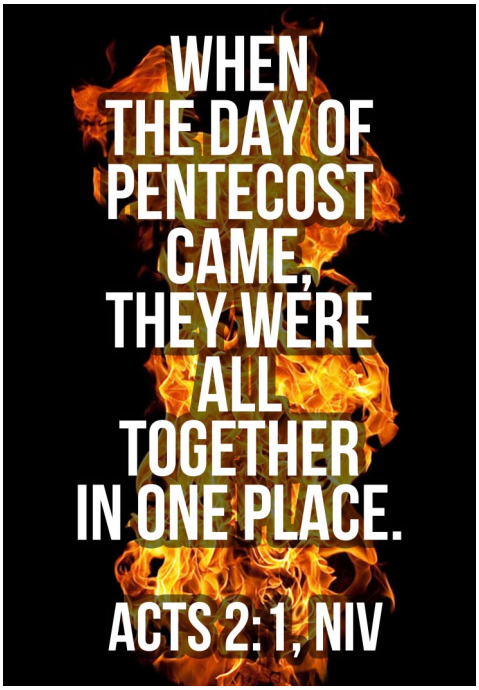
Looking for a fun event in May? We'd love to have you join us for the in-person 30th Anniversary Helping Hands event celebration on May 9th at 11:30am at the beautiful Hershey Country Club.

Learn more: https://events.readysetauction.com/unitedchurchchristhomes/helpinghands26

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

05/03/2026	05/10/2026 (Mother's Day)	05/17/2026 (Music Sunday)	05/24/2026 Pentecost (Communion)	05/31/2026
Lay Reader Art Titzel	Lay Reader Sylvia Morra	Lay Reader Jane Richardson	Lay Reader Elizabeth August	Lay Reader Larry Porter
Greeter by F. Hall Kevin Howard	Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up	Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up	Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up	Greeter by F. Hall Jessica and Steve Burkholder
Usher Thaddeus Sampson	Usher Elizabeth August	Usher Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Usher Kevin Howard	Usher Elizabeth August
Usher ☐ sign up	Usher Thaddeus Sampson	Usher Liz August	Usher ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up
Nursery Kelly Martini	Nursery Dave Gassert	Nursery Jenny Gassert	Nursery Sue Bay	Nursery Rhonda Harris
Nursery Barb Kirk	Nursery Rhonda Harris	Nursery Dave Gassert	Nursery Kristy Stauffer	Nursery Barb Kirk
Sound Tech John Butari	Sound Tech Carrie Criley	Sound Tech John Butari	Sound Tech Carrie Criley	Sound Tech John Butari
Children's Message ☐ sign up	Children's Message ☐ sign up	Children's Message ☐ sign up	Collect Money (Council) ☐ sign up	Children's Message ☐ sign up





Colonial Park
United Church of Christ
5000 Devonshire Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109
717-545-3782 cpucc.org

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the Keystone Conference, UCC

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youtube.com/colonialparkunitedchurchofchrist

WEBSITE cpucc.org



Pentecost Sunday is May 24



May 10

Happy Mother's Day

to all who have loved us!