Monthly newsletter of
Colonial Park United
Church of Christ
July 2026
VOL. 65 NO. 7

the Messenger





Saturday July 4, 2026 | 10am - 1pm |

Dauphin County Heroes Grove, Brightbill Park

Karie Patterson, CPUCC Youth Leader, is coordinating volunteers from our congregation. Connect with Karie to let our presence be shared in our community.

She is looking for help in 2 crews:

8:30am-11:00am Crew 1—Set up & Carnival

11:00am-1:30pm Crew 2– Carnival & Clean Up

She is also looking for a 10x10 EZ-up tent to borrow. Able to help out?

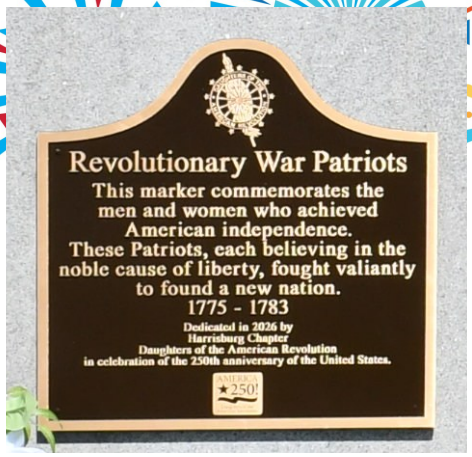
Contact Karie: Karie.cpucc@gmail.com
cell: (814) 779-5622 (voice/text)

BE THE LIGHT This Summer

Upcoming EVENTS

- **July 1-4—Thrift Shoppe Closed for Holiday**
- **July 2 & 3—Church Offices Closed**
- **July 4—Independence Day Family Celebration @ Heroes Grove**
- **July 11—Council Mini-Retreat**
- **July 18—Knoebels Family Day!**
- **July 23—Pride Prayer Vigil @ Italian Lake**
- **July 25 @ 10:00 am—Harrisburg Pride Parade with Harrisburg Pride Festival following (11a-6p)**
- **August 29—Music Festival**
- **September 7—Labor Day**
- **September 13—RALLY DAY!**

CONNECTING



On a very windy May 30, 2026, over 50 people gathered to remember the local patriots of the Revolutionary War. The congregation of Colonial Park UCC was founded more than two centuries ago, beginning in a building located on the grounds of the present Shoop's Cemetery. The founders of our congregation also contributed to American Independence. Present at the dedication of the special marker were members of our congregation who are direct descendants of these patriots, including **Donna Reichard** who did a lot of the historical digging and verification work. Eighteen patriots were identified, seventeen of whom are buried in the Shoop's Cemetery off of Route 22. Honored in the program were: 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.



Donna Reichard (left) helped to unveil marker; Pastor Cindy (right) offered opening and closing prayers.

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



KNOEBELS

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

391 Knoebels Blvd, Route 487 Elysburg, PA 17824

Ready for a fun day at an amusement park?

Karie Patterson and our youth are inviting the church and friends to join together for a fun day at Knoebels on Saturday, July 18. Please contact Karie ASAP if you are interested in participating in this fun event!

JOIN THE YOUTH GROUP

Contact **Karie-Lee Patterson, Youth Leader**

Karie.cpucc@gmail.com cell: (814) 779-5622 (voice/text)

Youth Calendar:

Youth Group Facebook:

SUMMER CAMP

HC SPIRIT 2026

HC Spirit Camp

Registration is now open for **HC Spirit Camp**, 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 camp community can share their treasured memories while making new ones with young and new campers, and experience and celebrate the new mission and growth of the property.

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.

Website and registration can be found at https://hcspiritcamp.org/



https://centralpapride.org/

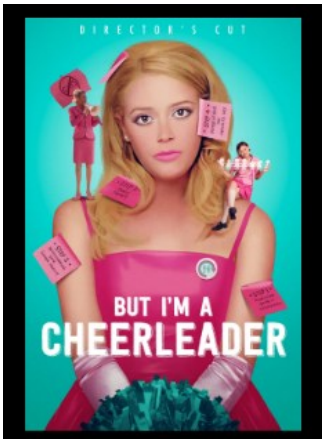
PRIDE FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL PA

July 25 @ 10:00 am
Pride Parade

July 25
11:00 am - 6:00 pm
Pride Festival of Central PA
Soldiers Grove
400 Commonwealth Avenue, Harrisburg

Film Festival
July 21—7:00pm

See details at https://centralpapride.org/susquehanna-lgbt-film-festival/



But I'm a Cheerleader is a whimsically edgy comedy follows teenager Megan (Natasha Lyonne), whose suburban existence filled with friends, cheerleading, and all-American fun is upended when her straight-laced parents suspect she may be a lesbian.

In a panic, they send her to True Directions, a "rehabilitation" camp run by the strict and prudish Mary (Cathy Moriarty), to mount an intervention led by counselor Mike (RuPaul Charles). Megan dutifully follows the program until she develops feelings for another camper in this timeless, satirical romantic comedy about self-acceptance and love. Costarring Michelle Williams, Clea DuVall, and Julie Delpy.





MEET THE MEMBERS—Janice Mountain

The UCC has always been a part of Janice Mountain's life.

She was baptized at her father's home church, St. Paul's (Verdilla) UCC in Snyder County and grew up in Colonial Park UCC. In fact, Janice was in Jim Morris' first confirmation class during his ministry here, and he married her and her husband, Brian, at CPUCC as well. "I really appreciate Pastor Cindy's sermons and feel that her messages reach everyone in relation to something happening in their lives," she said.

Janice also loves the blend of traditional hymns with contemporary worship music.

But she doesn't just come for Sunday services. She is very active in the church as well having volunteered in the church nursery, and assisted with Central PA Food Bank, Manna Food Pantry, and Gather the Spirit for Justice Saturday breakfast. Janice has taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, served on Church Council, and helped at Devonshire Fair.

Currently she is a member of the Service team helping Deacon Sue Graft with the Blessing Box, the Giving Tree, and collection drives for various organizations.

"I love that our church does so many things for people outside the walls of our church," Janice said. "I am one of our church's member representatives to Christian Churches United and I sell grocery cards once a month."

Looking back, Janice recalls so many wonderful memories over her many years at CPUCC. But probably the top of her list is raising her two children, Emily and Libby, in this church.

"I am so happy that they learned from their church family, and wonderful Sunday School teachers that God's love and grace are for EVERYONE," she recalls. "Seeing them sing in cherub choir and participating in many activities are precious memories."

After completing a two-year business school, Janice went to work at AMP, Inc and worked in the Payroll and Business Analysis departments for nearly 10 years before she had her first child. I stayed home for several years before taking a part time position at the Penn Central Conference Office of the UCC. After 18 years there Janice left in 2018 and has worked since as a substitute administrative assistant for Central Dauphin School District.

Her inspiration comes from people that remain positive and firmly grounded in their faith during challenging times in life or difficult health circumstances. She aspires to be more trusting in God's plan and keep her focus on the many blessings in her life.

When she is not volunteering with CPUCC, Janice enjoys walking her third child – her dog, Frankie. She also likes to bake, garden, play pickleball, read, watch sports, and work on trivia and word games.

But the best part is spending time with Brian, Emily and her husband Matt, and Libby and their wife Caty – especially her two grandsons Henry and Alden.
Oh, and relaxing with a great cup of coffee and a sweet treat!
Thank you, Janice for all that you do.

Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

I don't know about you, but I LOVE singing hymns of praise and worship. And while I enjoy many types of Christian music, I have a particular soft spot for the older hymns I grew up singing. Recently at one of our community ministry's quarterly hymn sings at Kindred Place (thank you Ron and Anthony! Pastor Scott had a conflict although he usually plays the piano for these events), I was struck by the lyrics in the third verse of "Faith of Our Fathers." It says: "We will love both friend and foe in all our strife." That sounds like even when we have disagreements, we need to remember that we are ALL God's beloved children and act accordingly, caring and loving each other, and remembering we have more in common than we have differences. I think that would be dreaming God's dream, and living it out!

~ Cindy Gnech

Panera Fundraiser

On July 16th, the Bridge to Tomorrow is hosting a fundraiser at Panera, located at the Paxton Towne Center between 4 and 8 PM. Panera will donate 30% of your check to support our Building Fund. Just by purchasing a meal, we help with repairs and maintenance for our church building. What a time for good food, fun, family, friends and fundraising! Please put it on your calendar. Flyers will be available at the church at the beginning of the month.



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.

Rejoice, Renew, Revive Capital Campaign

Through the end of May 2026, our Capital Campaign *Rejoice, Renew, Revive* has raised $509,184.25. So many beneficial repairs and improvements have already been completed through your generosity to the Capital Campaign. Next projects are currently being evaluated. Thank you for your ongoing support!

GROCERY CARDS

Did someone say road trip? Before heading off on vacation, don't forget to buy your Giant, Weis and Karns gift cards to pick up snacks, sunscreen, and other essentials for your trip. Gift cards are available in Fellowship Hall every Sunday before and after worship, and in the office weekdays. Thank you for your support of this long-time CPUCC fund-raiser!



Loose Change Sunday

Our next Loose Change Sunday will be held the last Sunday of July, the 26th. "Foldin' money" is also gratefully accepted!



We're raising dough!

COLONIAL PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

30% OF NET SALES WILL BE DONATED*

July 16, 2026
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
5125 Jonestown Road, Harrisburg, PA

Use code FUND4U at panerabread.com, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-cafe.

Online orders placed all day at your event cafe will count toward your total sales.

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe to ensure your organization gets a portion of the net sales.

Panera FUNDRAISING

*20% fundraiser: Up to 20% of net sales from your designated and registered fundraising event will be donated to your approved organization. Minimum sales of $100 on the specified date, time and location required to receive 20% donation. 25% fundraiser: Up to 25% of net sales from your designated and registered fundraising event will be donated to your approved organization. Minimum sales of $150 on the specified date, time and location required to receive 25% donation. General terms: Details on percentage of net sales to be donated and the minimum sales requirement will be provided during the event registration process. Fundraising events available only at participating US bakery-cafes. Fundraising event details and available dates and times for fundraising events will vary by bakery-cafe. Gift card purchases, catering orders, and orders placed on third party delivery sites are excluded and will not count towards the total net sales from your designated fundraising event. This offer will be void if flyer is distributed in or near the participating bakery-cafe on the night of the event. Fundraising events may be cancelled without notice due to abuse, error, fraud, computer error, electronic or technical malfunctions, or other unforeseen or unintended circumstances. Other restrictions may apply. For more information on how our fundraising events work, please visit: https://fundraising.panerabread.com/faq.

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SAVE THE DATE!
MusicFest—Aug.29

Seeking Support

Plans are underway for the CPUCC Music Festival. Mark your calendars for August 29!

The committee has decided that instead of food trucks this year, the kitchen crew will prepare treats for the festival. But we need your help.

Congregation members can help by donating either cash or Karns gift cards to be used to purchase what is needed for the event. Just a reminder – you can pick up Karns gift cards in the Fellowship Hall before and after Sunday services. Look for the container outside the sanctuary to place your donation.

Thank you for all your support and we look forward to dancing and singing along with you on August 29.

Take the Stage

Are you a budding musician? Maybe you play the guitar, harmonica, or sing. If so, you NEED a stage!

The CPUCC Music Festival is coming up on August 29. There will be bands, but the festival committee is seeking out members to be the opening acts. Who knows, there could be a talent scout there and you'll be discovered!

If you are interested in participating, please contact Rick Cochran at rickcochrancpucc@gmail.com.

SERVING

Harrisburg Area Food Pantry

For the month of July, we are requesting canned fruit, or fruit and/or applesauce cups, macaroni & cheese, canned pasta like Spagettios, or Chef Boyardee, and deodorant 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. **During the summer months, please keep in mind that certain items will melt such as chocolate, peanut butter, etc.**

Giving TREE

THE GIVING TREE
"TAKE ONE, GIVE ONE"
This month, we will be collecting:
BOOKS for the FOOSE READING PROGRAM

Our church started this program 30+ years ago to provide books for the students at Foose Elementary School in the Harrisburg School District. Volunteers, assigned to a classroom, visit that classroom 5 times a year to read out loud to the students and to give each student a book. For each visit, bags are packed with age-appropriate books for the students to choose. Each classroom has an average of 25 students and each bag holds about 40 books. As you can see, many books are needed! There are bookmarks hanging on the GIVING TREE.

TAKE a bookmark, GIVE a new or gently used paperback book, put the bookmark in the book, placing the book on the tree or in the containers under the tree.

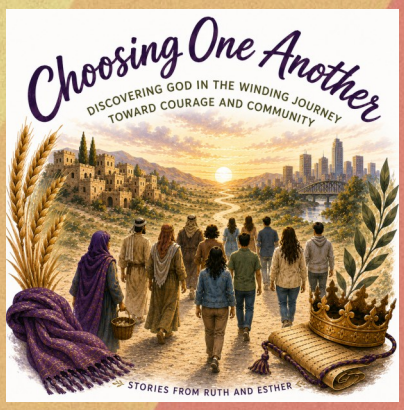
BOOK SUGGESTIONS:

Primary picture books are good for the lower grades, Foose is Kindergarten thru 5th grade. The most requested are: Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Junie B. Jones, Rainbow Fish, Little Critters, Amelia Bedelia, Dinosaur books, Princess books, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Arthur, Dr. Seuss, Disney, If You Give a Mouse A…, Graphic Novels, Harry Potter, Marvel Characters

PAPERBACK BOOKS ARE PREFERRED

Thank you to everyone that donated items for the Bethesda Mission Men's Shelter. We received many items that they had requested. Special shout out to Kevin Howard who organized the collection of large print bibles, and thank you to the Thrift Shoppe for the $200 donation.

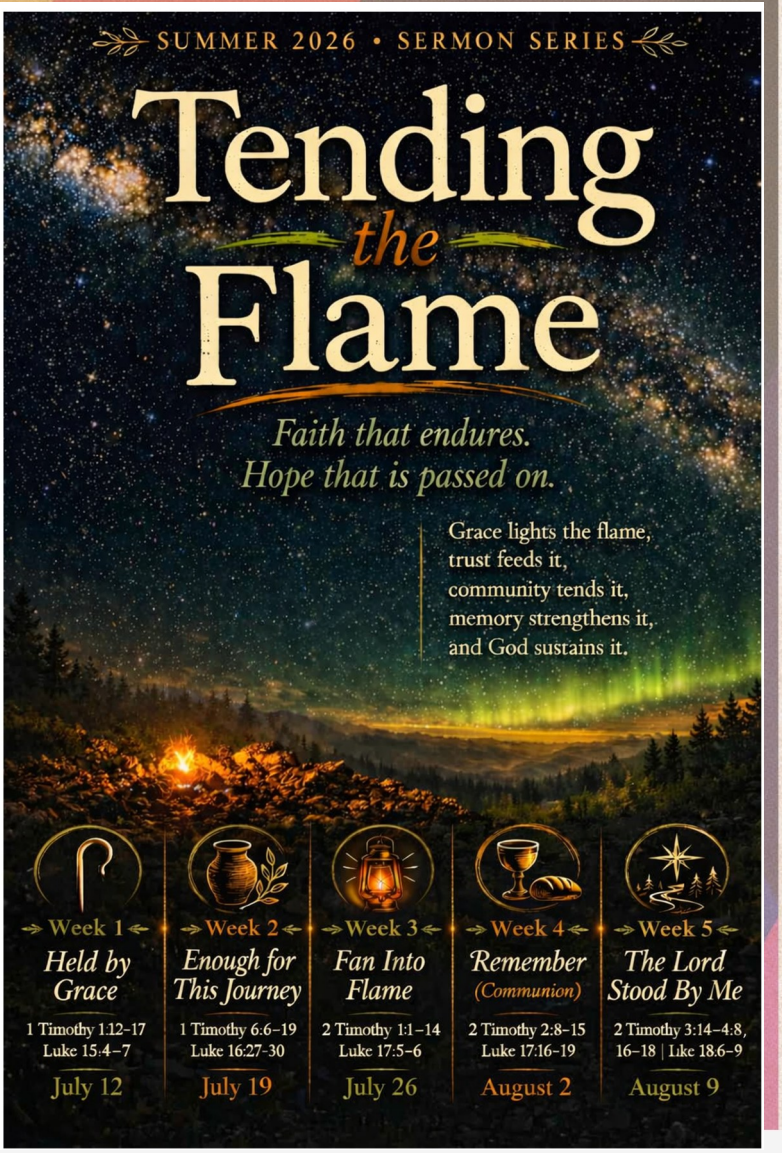
WORSHIPPING



Early in July, we finish our "Choosing One Another" series (based on the stories of Ruth and Esther)

July 5, 2026, Esther 7:1-10, 9:1-2, 20-22, 29-32 (From Sadness to Joy) Accompanying text: Luke 1:68 -72 (God Saves Israel) – COMMUNION SUNDAY

The rest of the summer will include worship with 1 & 2 Timothy (5 weeks) and the Ten Commandments (4 weeks).



GROWING



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pastor Cindy plans to lead a Summer Sunday Study (11am), in Church Parlor:

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.

Revised Schedule

July 5—A Change Encounter with PAUL
July 12—A Change Encounter with EMPIRE
July 19—A Change Encounter WITHIN
July 26—NO SESSION
August 2—A Change Encounter with COMMUNITY
August 9—A Change Encounter with DIFFERENCE
August 16—A Change Encounter with SCRIPTURE
August 23—A Change Encounter with LOVE
August 30—A Change Encounter with HOPE

JULY anniversaries

7	Jillian & Robert Orth	14 years
	Joslyn & Mike Leaman	8 years
8	Dan & Stacy Iachini	3 years
13	Tracy & Jorge Hunter	13 years
14	Kim & Eric McKinney	15 years
	Theo Rudy & Susan Quigley	6 years
16	Corey & Carrie Schwalm	15 years
17	Jim & Sue Reinke	50 years
	Larry & Cathy Porter	5 years
20	Kevin & Marsha Krause	26 years
25	Calvin & Carrie Criley	28 years
26	Ron & Jan Johnson	51 years



We are taking a break from our regular programming over the summer. No Sunday School, No Choir Practices, No Bible Study, No Women's Spirituality Group, No Spiritual Springboards.

Enjoy your Summer Break! See you when we start up again in the Fall!



Pastor Cindy will be away on vacation July 25—August 1, 2026. Pastor Scott will be on call for pastoral emergencies.

JULY birthdays

Bold indicates homebound resident

1	Shea Feit, David Harris, Carol Mouzon
3	Jeff Karchner, Jan Sleek
4	Addison Bender, Mary Nancarrow
6	Laura Holmgrain
7	Terry Cochran
8	Sue Duff, Dan Iachini
12	Sharon Brewer, Bayley Ishman, Mike Webb, Camilla Iachini
13	Roy Blose, Jenny Gassert
14	Dixie College
15	Brent Shultz
17	Debbie Magliette
19	Owen Criley
22	Edward Vollbrecht
23	Jessica Nupponen, Jeff Sanders, Kevin Shannon
25	Karen Cebra, Karen Meeks
26	Anna Iachini
27	Janet Hoffman, Olivia Miller, Hudson Schwalm
29	Jane Graeff
31	Jessica Burkholder

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

07/05/2026 (Communion)	07/12/2026	07/19/2026	07/26/2026
Lay Reader Larry Porter	Lay Reader Fran Whitehurst	Lay Reader Patricia Kishpaugh	Lay Reader Dave Gassert
Greeter by F. Hall Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up	Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up	Liturgist Cindy Shannon
Usher ☐ sign up	Usher Thaddeus Sampson	Usher Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up
Usher ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up	Usher Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Usher ☐ sign up
Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up
Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up
Sound Tech ☐ sign up	Sound Tech ☐ sign up	Sound Tech ☐ sign up	Nursery ☐ sign up
Children's Message ☐ sign up	Children's Message ☐ sign up	Children's Message ☐ sign up	Sound Tech ☐ sign up



Ye Olde Devonshire Thrift Shoppe

Hours: Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays

10:00am—2:00pm

Note: The Thrift Shoppe will be closed July 1-4 for the Independence Day Holiday!

Colonial Park
United Church of Christ

5000 Devonshire Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109
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An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the Keystone Conference, UCC

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