the Messenger

Monthly newsletter of Colonial Park United Church of Christ
September 2026 | VOL. 65 NO. 9

Worship—
Sunday 9:30am

Sunday School
11:00am

Fun at Hartman Center Spirit Camp



CPUCC Reps:
Back: Kai Nupponen, Erik Nupponen, Solomon Jones,s, Addison Bender
Front: Riley Nupponen, Jess Nupponen, Chase Bender, Brody Via, Cierra Bender

Hear more personal experiences in worship on September 6th!

Upcoming Events

- September 13—RALLY DAY! Communion and Pot-luck
- September 20—Sunday School Begins
- September 25—Movie Night! Disney's "Elio", 7pm
- September 27- Pet Blessing
- October 5 - World Communion Sunday
- October 10 - Mystery at the Museum Dinner Theater
- October 18 - Crop Walk
- October 23 & 24 - Plays on Devonshire
- October 31 - Trunk or Treat, 3:30pm-4:30pm
- November 1 - All Saints Day
- November 7 - Chili Cook-off
- November 14 - Game Night
- November 15 - Commitment Sunday
- November 22 - Decorate the Church for Advent/Christmas
- November 29 - First Sunday of Advent
- December 5 - Breakfast with Santa
- December 6 - Annual Congregational Meeting

Staff Updates

Thank you, Pastor Scott!



Friends, we received the news of Pastor Scott's time serving at CPUCC coming to a close. While we are happy for Scott and Michael, and we celebrate the many ways of love and support they have shared over Scott's nearly-two decades with us, we are also sad to see them go. Pastor Scott's last Sunday with us will be October 25, 2026. Scott shared his resignation publically on Sunday morning, August 23. (See his letter at https://conta.cc/4gBwRYh.) **We continue to hold them and the church in our prayers, especially during this time of transition.**

Look for more details in next month's newsletter.

Pastor Cindy's Sabbatical Proposal

CPUCC Council approved a 2027 Sabbatical for Pastor Cindy. She has been working on a unique proposal for some months. The plan is, rather than taking several months away at one time, to take a sabbatical week each month, January - November (for rest, reading and study).

Details can be found at:
https://tinyurl.com/PC-Sabbatical2027

Thank you, Karie-Lee!



Karie-Lee Patterson has served as our Youth Leader from April 1 through August 30. Karie has recently moved to southern Lancaster County. Given the distance, she felt that she was not able to remain in the Youth Leader position. Council accepted her resignation on August 17, 2026.

Our deep gratitude is extended to Karie for the leading of our youth in Sunday School, Youth Group, service projects, and fun experiences.



Fun times at Knoebel's Amusement Park this Summer!

...and Bonfires at Church!





Connect with us - @LowerPaxtonParksandRec @LowerPaxtonTWP

Worshipping

Sunday Morning Worship, 9:30a.m.

We begin September finishing our series on the Ten Commandments.

Sun, September 6, 2026 Labor Day Weekend - Exodus 20:17 (Do Not Covet) Accompanying text: Matthew 22:34-40 (The Great Commandment)



Then, starting with Rally Day, we will be using Marcia McFee/Worship Design Studio's Come to the Table. https://worshipdesignstudio.com/table

In this "Come to the Table" series, we hear the call to dine with Jesus — an invitation that means much more than a simple eating experience. It never was with Jesus. The table was the place where he fed people, and also challenged them to acts of hospitality that reflect God's way. When we say "yes" to the place at Christ's table, we accept a way of life that embraces God's definition of love, peace, grace, and joy. Let us celebrate the depth of communion to which we are called.

Sun, September 13, 2026 – Rally Day - The Table of Hospitality - Communion Sunday (Romans 12: 9-21; Matthew 16: 21-28)

Sun, September 20, 2026 - The Table of Love (Romans 13: 8-14; Matthew 18: 15-20)

Sun, September 27, 2026 - The Table of Peace (Romans 14: 1-12; Matthew 18: 21-35)
Blessing of Animals in Evening

Sun, October 4, 2026 - The Table of Joy -World Communion Sunday- (Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32)



We will once again have our annual **Blessing of the Animals on September 27 at 5:00pm.** Please feel free to bring your four-legged, furry, finned, or feathered family members to meet and greet one another and to receive a blessing.

The Charging Station

Hi friends,
After conversations with many of you, and with Pastor Scott's time at CPUCC coming to an end in October, we plan to discontinue Charging Station, our 5pm service, in its current form for the Fall.

Sunday, August 30, will be the final gathering with Pastor Scott leading.

I have asked our Worship Deacon to have the Worship Action Team pray and discern with me about what the community needs from an evening service over the coming months. (I feel that it is a value for any congregation.)

Thank you for sharing with me any of your reflections and concerns (cgaris@cpucc.org) and continuing to pray for one another and the church during this time of transition.

Peace
Pastor Cindy



Taize Services

For the months of September through December, we are planning to have a monthly evening Taizé service, as we have had people inquire about them again. These meditative services include chants, silence and times of prayer.

Tentative Schedule (5p, CPUCC Chapel)

September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20
(Dec. will be geared towards Blue Christmas)

Connecting



Too Much Thrust

A Meditation by Rev. Cameron Trimble, Aug 24, 2026
https://www.pilotingfaith.org/p/too-much-thrust?r=4r6y59

"Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished." — attributed to Lao Tzu

Years ago, I had just landed an airplane and was taxiing off the runway when another aircraft caught my eye. It was a small personal jet, sleek and beautiful, the kind of airplane that makes a pilot stop whatever she is doing and watch. It looked fast and fun and, frankly, very sexy.

The tower cleared it for takeoff. The pilot taxied onto the runway, lined up on the centerline, and advanced the throttles.

Almost immediately, I knew something was wrong.

The jet accelerated hard. As soon as the wings had enough lift, the nose jerked sharply upward. Instead of climbing steadily, it shot into the air. It got maybe three hundred feet up before it lost lift, stalled, and fell back toward the ground. It crashed into the field between the runways. Everyone aboard was killed.

Those of us who saw it just sat there in silence. I don't remember anyone saying much. Sometimes your mind can't keep up with what your eyes see, and watching a plane fall from the sky is one of those moments. Pilots train for emergencies because we know what can happen. That day, we saw the worst come true.

A few days later, I was back at the airport and asked what the investigators had learned about the accident. I was told that the owner had recently upgraded the engines and that the new engines produced substantially more power than the airplane's original configuration had been designed to handle. This was reportedly its first flight with the new engines.

I have thought about that airplane many times since. Maybe it's because so much of life right now feels overpowered.

I feel it in my own body. Some mornings, before I finish my first cup of coffee, I've already heard about a war, a political crisis, a climate disaster, three urgent emails, seventeen text messages, the latest AI breakthrough, and someone online warning that civilization will end by Thursday.

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2nd	Wayne & Bobbee Karchner	54 yrs
3rd	Pat & Henry Greenawald	71 yrs
8th	David & Rhonda Harris	47 yrs
16th	Rick & Terry Cochran	37 yrs
19th	Keith & Deb Bowman	39 yrs
21st	Brent & Donna Shultz	41 yrs
26th	Karisa & Louis Zola	28 yrs
29th	Renee & Shannon Strange	30 yrs
30th	Bob & Nancy Miller	37 yrs



Bold indicates homebound resident

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

"Too Much Thrust" (continued from previous page)

My nervous system was not built for this. Yours wasn't either. And yet we keep adding bigger engines.

People have become incredibly good at creating power. We can send information around the world in seconds. We can fly across oceans in hours. We burn in a few generations the carbon the Earth took millions of years to store. We split atoms, change genes, automate thinking, move mountains, dam rivers, and light up whole continents at night. But we rarely ask if the systems getting all this power can actually handle it.

I've spent much of my life admiring people who get things done. I like big ideas and powerful airplanes. I'm not the type to do less. If there's time for another project, I usually wonder why I haven't filled it yet. So I understand the seduction. More thrust feels like possibility. Until it doesn't.

The human body has limits that no productivity system can negotiate away. Attention has limits. Families have limits. Organizations have limits. Democracies have limits to how much disruption and mistrust they can absorb before something begins to fracture.

The Earth has limits too, although we have spent the better part of two centuries behaving as though acknowledging them would represent some terrible failure of imagination.

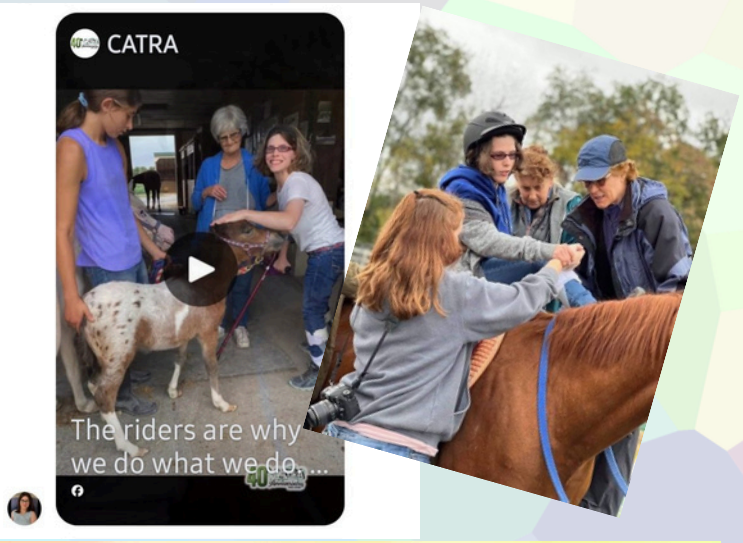
Soil takes time to regenerate. Aquifers refill at their own pace. Forests cannot

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Do you enjoy reading the Meet the Member profiles each month in The Messenger? Would you like to be profiled or know of someone who would? Please reach out and tell us. We promise it is not painful at all! Please email Rick Cochran rickcochrancpucc@gmail.com.

Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association (CATRA)



Kayla Kraft is once again participating at CATRA and is requesting our support once again for CATRA-thon:

1. Learn more about CATRA by visiting: https://catra.net/events/
2. Watch "Meet Kayla" video from CATRA at https:// www.facebook.com/share/r/1CXqKjW3f8/
3. Support Kayla's fundraising efforts for CATRA-thon (October 17) by stopping by the church office, talking with Kayla in church, or by visiting her fundraising page: https://fundrazr.com/82l9he?ref=fb_bCiUj8_ab_8DQR55w78A48DQR55w78A4

Attention everyone if you want to help me reach my goal before October 9th you will not only be helping children and adults with various special needs and disabilities you will also benefit making sure that the farm in Grantville Pa sticks around for many more years to come in addition you will be able to help make sure that the animals on the farm are being well cared for so that they can continue to provide equine therapy services to many people in our community and your donation will really make a huge impact on people's lives for many years to come so if you are looking for a great charity to donate to please kindly consider donating to the catrathon today so that you can help riders and volunteers continue to follow their dreams and continue their journey of horseback riding therapy thank you so very much and any donations of any amount will be greatly appreciated thank you so much.

"Too Much Thrust" (continued from previous page)

be clear-cut indefinitely. The atmosphere can absorb only so much carbon without changing the climate. None of this is ideological. It is simply how living systems work.

I've started wondering whether one of the great mistakes of our age is confusing power with capacity. They aren't the same thing. The engines can generate the thrust. That doesn't mean the airframe can carry it. Technology can deliver unlimited information. That doesn't mean a human mind can meaningfully absorb it. An economy can extract resources faster. That doesn't mean an ecosystem can replenish them. An organization can demand more. That doesn't mean the people inside it can continue giving more without consequence. AI can accelerate enormous amounts of human activity. That doesn't mean we have developed the ethical, social, political or psychological capacity to live wisely with that acceleration.

Somewhere in the middle of all this, I keep returning to Sabbath. Sometimes I hear people speak of Sabbath as another wellness technique we should adopt because studies show rested people are 14 percent more productive on Monday. God save us from making Sabbath productive. That is not the kind of Sabbath I am speaking of.

I mean the older, stranger idea. The idea that we stop. For one day, we don't improve anything. Don't produce. Don't harvest. Don't prove your worth. Let the field sit there. Let your neighbor sit there. Let the animal sit there. Let yourself sit there. The world will continue without your assistance.

That is a fairly radical theological claim. Sabbath places a limit inside the structure of life and calls the limit holy.

Maybe that's what we've forgotten. We often see limits as insults. When we hit a boundary, we quickly start inventing ways to get past it. Sometimes, that drive leads to medicine, art, exploration, and amazing progress. Sometimes it produces an airplane with engines too powerful for its frame. Wisdom lies somewhere in knowing the difference.

A good pilot doesn't resent the limitations of an airplane. She learns them intimately. Every aircraft has what pilots call a flight envelope: the range of speed, altitude, weight, load and maneuver within which that particular airplane can safely fly. Knowing the envelope doesn't diminish the freedom of flight. It makes flight possible.

I wonder what our flight envelope is, not only as a species, although we urgently need to ask that question. I mean yours.

What can your body actually carry?
How much information can your mind absorb before knowing more stops making you wiser?
How many people can you care for well?
How much grief can you metabolize before you need rest?
How much work is enough?
How much money is enough?
How fast do you actually want your life to go?



"ELIO" SEPT.26 7:00PM

"You are not alone"

Join us for Movie Night on Saturday evening, September 26, at 7pm, in the church Fellowship Hall.
Bring comfy chairs, blankets, etc.

Is there life out there?
Bring your favorite
****space helmet,***
****picture of space,***
****story of "life out there"***



Image from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elio_(film)

I don't know the answers to those questions. I'm not sure there is one answer that applies to everyone. But I have become increasingly suspicious of any culture that answers all of them with more.

More isn't inherently wrong. Neither is power. Neither is ambition. Thrust is what gets an airplane into the sky.

But the point was never to climb as fast as possible.

The point was to fly.

We are in this together,
Cameron

Growing



Rally Day - September 13

Rally Day/Homecoming is September 13, 2026. We are planning a Potluck lunch following morning worship. There will also be a craft and games for all ages, including prizes!
ALL ARE WELCOME.

For potluck: **If your last name begins with a letter A to K, please bring a main dish; L to P please bring a side dish, and Q to Z, please bring a dessert.**



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



Teachers & Helpers

Liz August, *Spiritual Growth Deacon*
Rev. Cindy Garis August
Sue Bay
Tom Bay
Tom Feit
Jenny Gassert
Rhonda Harris
Barbara Kirk
Kelly Martini
Lisa Miller
Sylvia Morra
Kristy Stauffer

Sunday School for all ages begins on September 20 at 11am.

Children & Youth



J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) – for toddlers to Kindergarten Walkers through Kindergarten are welcome for stories, crafts, a snack, and lots of play time in the preschool room next to the Library. Preferred if a parent can stay with young children.

Crosswalkers (grades 1-5) - Our elementary-aged children have fun doing crafts, playing games, hearing Bible stories, and experiencing God's love for them. This class meets in the Lower Level of the church.

Pathfinders (grades 6-12) - This Fall, Pastor Cindy will be leading our youth. We will be using "Tell Me About the Bible" from Illustrated Ministry. We have time for connection, games, videos, and more as we engage with fresh perspectives on faith and leadership

Adults

All are welcome! Adult Sunday School is not divided by age or family group. Different classes have different styles and topics.

LibraryClass (discussion-oriented)

The Wired Word (Begins Sept.20th)
Lessons are crafted from current news stories. News is inevitable--whether it be good or bad. What better way to extract hope from the news than by juxtaposing Bible verses as tools to ponder and navigate our daily walk in Christian faith.
Led by Sylvia Morra.

Parlor Group (DVD and discussion)

"Called – Hearing and Responding to God's Voice." by Susan Robb. (Begins Sept 27th)
Series Synopsis: Throughout the Bible, God interrupts the lives of ordinary men and women, calling and empowering them to lives of service they never could have imagined on their own! Discover how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on your life through the stories of ordinary people found in the Bible. Called will examine the lives of the Abraham, Samuel, Esther and Mary Magdalene, Jonah, and the beloved disciple. The same God that called these unlikely characters calls you, too, to bring hope and transformation to the world. Class led by Tom Feit.

Animate Faith - Begins September 10

Animate: Faith — A Gathering for Young Adults
Thursday evenings, 6:30–8:00 pm, in person at CPUCC, beginning September 10

What do we actually mean when we say God? Why bother with religion, or church, or the Bible at all? Animate: Faith takes seven big questions of Christian faith and opens them up for honest conversation—no assumed answers, no prerequisites. Each week pairs a short video from a leading voice in the church (Brian McLaren, Nadia Bolz-Weber, and others) with time to talk, push back, and wonder together. A journal is provided for each participant—yours to write in, doodle in, and keep. Come as you are, come with your questions, and come even if you're not sure what you believe. That's rather the point.



More Years Behind Us: Living with Eyes Wide Open
Let's Talk About Death (So We Can Talk About Life)

There are questions we don't often make space for.
What happens when we begin to sense there are more years behind us than ahead? How do we live with the reality that people we love are dying—or have died? What does it mean to make meaning, to keep living fully? (Unfortunately, many of us have these questions and no one around us wants to talk about them.)
This fall, you are invited into a small, guided conversation circle to gently and honestly explore these questions together. This is not a class, and not a support group in the clinical sense. It is a space for listening, reflecting, and sharing—at your own pace, and always with the freedom to simply listen.
Led by Pastor Cindy
🕊️ Thursdays, 11:30 am–1:00 pm (bring your lunch)
📅 Six weeks: September 24 – October 29
📍 Colonial Park UCC
Our conversations conclude just before All Saints Sunday, November 1, when we remember together those who have gone before us.
To create a space where everyone can be heard, participation is limited to 6–8 people. If there is strong interest, additional circles may be offered. Sign up by contacting Pastor Cindy.



Don't forget preschool registrations are open for 3– and 4-year-olds.
Learn more at: https://cpucc.org/half-day-play-preschool.html

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

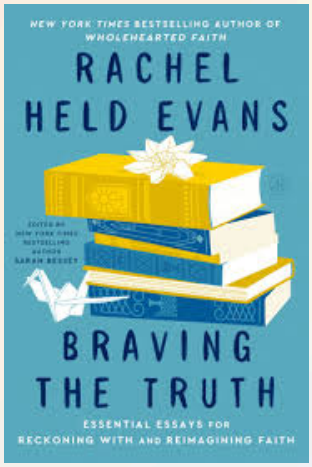


Women's Spirituality Group (WSG) - Begins September 14

WSG meets on the **2nd Monday of the month**, **in person** inthe church Parlor,6:30pm—8:30pm.
Learn more at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCChandouts
Open to all women, who identify as a woman, and who are non-binary and comfortable with feminine language and discussing issues from a female perspective. Please let Pastor Cindy know if you would like to participate but need a ride.

Typical Evening Schedule:

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

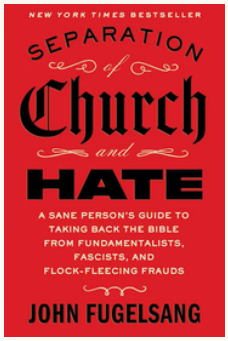


The Women's Spirituality group will spend the 2026–2027 program year with *Braving the Truth*, the new national bestseller collecting the essential essays of Rachel Held Evans — one of the most trusted voices of a generation of questioning Christians. Meeting second Mondays, the group will take one thematic section each month, exploring doubt and faith, the church, Scripture, gender and sexuality, and justice, closing in May with Rachel's signature blessing: "Go forth, woman of valor." All women of the congregation and community are welcome; talk with Pastor Cindy if you need help getting the book.

Spiritual Springboards - Begins September 22

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

Open to all, Spiritual Springboards dives deeper intofaith in the company of others.We meet online on Zoom



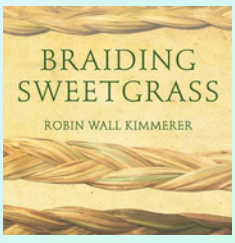
***Separation of Church and Hate: Reclaiming Jesus from the Culture Wars* - Tuesdays on Zoom, 6:30–7:45 p.m. (occasionally to 8:00) September 22 – November 10, 2026**

Series Description: What happens when the name of Jesus gets used to bless things Jesus never taught? This fall, Spiritual Springboards takes up John Fugelsang's New York Times bestseller *Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-Fleecing Frauds* (Simon & Schuster, 2025). Fugelsang — comedian, broadcaster, and the son of a former nun and a former Franciscan brother — walks through the arguments we hear every day about immigration, poverty, gender, sexuality, guns, and who counts as a "real" Christian, and holds each one up against what Scripture actually says. He's funny, he's irreverent, and he's dead serious about love, mercy, and welcoming the stranger.

Each week we'll watch a short video clip (15 minutes or less) and spend the rest of the evening in conversation. Reading the book is warmly encouraged but never required — the clips will carry each evening, and readers will simply bring extra to the table. Come every week or drop in when you can. All questions, doubts, and perspectives are welcome.

CPUCC JUSTICE TALKS - Begins October 5

Justice Talks begins in October with a year-long community read of *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The book explores gratitude, reciprocity, and right relationship with creation, and it connects naturally with our congregation's creation care and justice commitments.



The group will meet the first Monday of each month, October 2026 through June 2027, in a hybrid format (in person and Zoom), working through one section of the book at a time. Each session pairs Kimmerer's writing with scripture, open discussion, and a simple practice for the month. Participants do not need to keep pace with the reading to attend, and the format is designed so that sessions can be lay-facilitated when needed.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Music Festival!
Some of you asked "Where can I get one of those T-shirts? You should be able to order your size and have it shipped ro your house from here:
https://www.bonfire.com/colonial-park-united-church-of-christ/



GENEROSITY

Giving

Perkins Building Fund Fund-Raiser

The Bridge to Tomorrow team is excited to share the news about a new fund-raiser, in conjunction with the **Perkins Restaurant located at 7833 Linglestown Road**.
On the *3rd Tuesday of EVERY month (starting with September 15*), Perkins will feature three local non-profits and ALL guests get to choose which organization will receive a donation from their purchase. So, members of CPUCC and others can all enjoy a delicious meal (breakfast, lunch, or dinner – from 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.) and 20% of the purchase will be donated to CPUCC's Building Fund (applicable only to full-priced purchases – discounted or coupon-based purchases are not eligible). The server will provide the guest with a card which includes the check total and other details, and the guest drops that card into the donation box of their choice. The next day, CPUCC will receive a check for 20% of the total placed in our box. Thank you to Patricia Kishpaugh and Susan Martin for assembling and decorating our box! And there are additional benefits too! There will be a weekly giveaway for a FREE dinner for two from Perkins, AND a FREE gift card for services from Mr. Handyman. If you have any questions about how this works, please contact Cindy Gnech at 717-991-4124. Hope to see you at Perkins on September 15!

Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

While on my recent trip to Alaska, I stopped to talk to a native Alaskan who explained the process of making yarn from the shaggy hair of a mountain goat. I noticed she had a sign at her table listing the Southeast Traditional Tribal Values for the Tlingit and Haida peoples, approved at a 2004 Elders Forum. The words spoke to me (especially the one on patience), so I paused to take a picture of the sign – at which point she said, "I'll be right back." She returned with a printed sign that I could take home for myself. I would like to share with you the list of Tribal Values from that sign: "discipline and obedience to the traditions of our ancestors; respect for self, elders and others; respect for nature and property; patience; pride in family, clan, and traditions is found in love, loyalty and generosity; be strong in mind, body and spirit; humor; hold each other up; listen well and with respect; speak with care; we are stewards of the air, land and sea; reverence for our Creator; live in peace and harmony; be strong and have courage."

This list speaks to me because it reflects so many of the values that I believe in as a Christian. However, it seems impossible for any one person, much less a whole tribe of peoples, to follow these values consistently. (Patience is definitely a problem for me!) Yet that did not stop the tribal Elders from dreaming big for their peoples and re-committing to a worthwhile way of life for all. Likewise, there is nothing to stop us from dreaming big for ourselves, our "tribe," our church, or our world, as we strive to improve our relationships with each other and with nature. Certainly our Creator continues to hold hope for all, dreaming big for the potential of each child of God.

~ Sharon Clark

Save the Dates – Upcoming Events!



On **October 10**, a **Mystery at the Museum** dinner and mystery will be held to benefit the church Building Fund. Think about your team of 4-5 people now. Tickets are $12.00 per person for a delicious meal of baked ziti, salad, and bread, and will be available in late September and early October in the narthex before and after worship. A bake sale will be available for dessert. So come out for a great evening of good food, fun, and laughter.

On **October 21**, we will again be participating in the **Boscov's Friends Helping Friends** shopping day. For a $5.00 donation, each shopper receives 25% off Boscov's lowest sale prices both in-store and online. Tickets will be available for sale every Sunday in October.



On **November 7**, a **Chili Cook-off** will be held to benefit the church Building Fund. Earn your bragging rights for the best chili around by planning to enter your specialty! More info coming soon!



Loose Change Sunday

Our 11th Loose Change Sunday will be held on Sunday, **September 27**, to benefit the church Building Fund. Our generous congregation has donated $2,930.39 for the Building Fund through this activity in the past two years. Thank you SO much! Keep saving your loose change, or your $1s, $5s, $10s, or $20s! All donations are gratefully appreciated.

Rejoice, Renew, Revive Capital Campaign

Through the end of July 2026, our Capital Campaign Rejoice, Renew, Revive has raised $510,596.91. Many beneficial repairs and improvements have already been completed through your generosity to the Capital Campaign, most recently a new camera for the sanctuary live streaming. 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

Are you back to school shopping? Or just getting ready for fall? The grocery card program can help! We have Giant, Karns, and Weis gift cards available in denominations from $5.00 to $100.00. The church makes 5% of the face value of every gift card, so the benefits can add up quickly when more people participate. If you have questions, or want to purchase, stop at the table in Fellowship Hall before or after worship every Sunday or in the office weekdays.

Serving



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.

Harrisburg Food Pantry

For the month of September, we are requesting **canned tuna or chicken, peanut butter & jelly, and feminine hygiene products** for the Harrisburg Area Food Pantry. You may place items in the grocery cart.

The Giving Tree

In September, the focus of the Giving Tree will change to collecting for the **CROP HUNGER WALK** and **Dish Soap for the Toiletry Closet at Gather the Spirit for Justice**, (Dawn, Ajax, Palmolive, etc.)

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

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

Kathy Neely, our long-time office manager, who died from ALS in April 2023, was passionate about the CROP WALK. You can donate, walk, or do both in her honor/memory. **THE KATHY NEELY CPUCC CROP WALK will take place on October 18th.** More details to follow.

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

The Ye Olde Devonshire Thrift Shoppe



The Thrift Shop has survived the hottest summer on record! The helpers keep showing up even when they would prefer to be in a swimming pool or swim in the ocean. The shoppers are not afraid of extreme heat. We have regular shoppers who show up almost every day we are open. The "Shoe Guy" is a man who buys lots of shoes to send back to Africa. He also buys other things to ship. He has purchased sewing machines, luggage, cameras, and clothing. He arrives before we are officially open so he can scavenge through the newly donated items.

We have gotten many vintage items such as depression glass, hammered aluminum serving dishes, old tin cans, banks, etc. Recently someone donated their baseball card collection. Need a Barbie Doll? We just got about 50 Barbie Dolls and their outfits. Need some old 45 rpm records? We got "em. Come and see what you can find!

Salems Closet contacted us because they needed to resupply their "Closet" with bedding for the homeless. They came to the Shop and took all our blankets, comforters and sheets. Thankfully those items are donated almost every day so we were able to restock our inventory quickly.

The church received a check in the amount of $1802.02 from Community Aid for the donations we make to them for things we cannot use at the Thrift Shop and for items placed in the collection box on our church property. Denny Bender delivers our donations to Community Aid every week. Donations this month were made to the Music Festival -$500, Gather the Spirit for Justice -$500, and The Ronald McDonald House - $500.

A few new helpers have shown up and we appreciate their work. Anytime you want to help, just show up and we will find something for you to do. Set up and tear down times , 9:30 to 10;00 and 1:45 to 2:15 are times when we could use help carrying things .. We set up tables outside every day we are open and need to carry things outside to put on those tables.

Shorts, capris and swim suits will soon give way to sweaters, sweatshirts and long sleeve tops. Come and join the fun !

The Keystone Connection
and the Wider Church

September is National Preparedness Month.

Join United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries, Insurance Board, Pension Boards, and Cornerstone Fund, on September 8, 2026 at 3:00PM for a collaborative Preparedness Month kickoff webinar. Through an interactive mock disaster scenario, participants will explore practical strategies for how churches can effectively care for congregants, support clergy, safeguard facilities, and serve their communities when disasters strike.

This webinar will help church leaders better prepare for emergencies, understand disaster response as a practical expression of loving our neighbors, and gain a clearer understanding of the resources available throughout the response and recovery process. By learning how our ministries work together before, during, and after a disaster, participants will be better equipped to mobilize support quickly, strengthen resilience, and faithfully navigate future challenges.

Register:
https://ucc.zoom.us/webinar/register/8817855303173/WN_L4xU9JsEQ3yqm55aDDXkoA#/registration

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Emotional and Spiritual Care Team

The Emotional and Spiritual Care Team has just re-launched their recruitment process, and we are accepting new applications of those who might be interested in serving on our team.

The United Church of Christ's Emotional and Spiritual Care Team is a program of Disaster Ministries focused on providing support to spiritual caregivers serving at the local church, association, and conference levels, as they provide pastoral care to their impacted communities. We welcome trained pastoral care providers, parish nurses, counselors, chaplains, clergy, and others feeling the call to disaster emotional and spiritual care to apply for this volunteer position. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and will be accepted until Friday, October 16th.

To apply visit: https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/101871-United-Church-Of-Christ

Joyful Sanctuary
Colonial Park United Church of Christ

Did you hear? CPUCC is having another CPUCC-original Advent?

To that end, on Sunday, September 13, at the Rally Day luncheon, the Worship Action Team will have a table to share information about the Advent Devotional and recruit volunteers to contribute their time and talents.

We are looking for people to submit poems, artwork, reflections, hymns, or other contributions that align with their talents and the theme of each Advent week.

Please consider contributing to the Advent Devotional by directing people to the table at Rally Day. In addition, if you are interested, or know someone who may be, in helping create the devotional, please let Art Titzel, Patricia Kishpaugh, or Sylvia Morra know.



NATIONAL HISPANIC Heritage Month
SEPTEMBER 15 — October 15

National GRAND PARENTS Day
Sept. 13

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

09/06/2026	09/13/2026 (Rally Day & Communion)	09/20/2026	09/27/2026
Acolyte ☐ sign up	Acolyte ☐ sign up	Acolyte ☐ sign up	Acolyte ☐ sign up
Lay Reader Priscilla E Fledderjohn	Lay Reader Eric McKinney	Lay Reader Sylvia Morra	Lay Reader Patricia Kishpaugh
Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up	Greeter by F. Hall Jessica and Steve Burkholder	Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up	Greeter by F. Hall Jessica and Steve Burkholder
Usher ☐ sign up	Usher Thaddeus Sampson	Usher Elizabeth August	Usher Elizabeth August
Usher Thaddeus Sampson	Usher ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up	Usher ☐ sign up
Sound Tech ☐ sign up	Sound Tech ☐ sign up	Sound Tech ☐ sign up	Sound Tech ☐ sign up
Children's Message ☐ sign up	Children's Message ☐ sign up	Children's Message ☐ sign up	Children's Message ☐ sign up





Colonial Park
United Church of Christ
CPUCC

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