# the Messenger

Monthly newsletter of Colonial Park United Church of Christ
**October 2026** | VOL. 65 NO. 10

Worship
Sunday 9:30am

Sunday School
11:00am



## Thank you, Pastor Scott!

*You are invited to*
*Celebration & Final Sunday with Pastor Scott*
*Sunday, October 25*
*In morning worship: 9:30 a.m. with*
*reception to follow.*

**It is fitting that October is Pastor Appreciation Month.** After 18 years of faithful service to our congregation and community, Pastor Scott will be leading us in worship one final time on Sunday, **October 25**. We invite you to join us for this special morning as we gather to give thanks for Pastor Scott's ministry, to share words of appreciation, and to celebrate the many ways God has worked through him among us.

All are welcome — please come and be part of this meaningful day.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 4 - World Communion Sunday
- October 10 - Mystery at the Museum Dinner Theater
- October 18 - Crop Walk
- October 23 & 24 - Plays on Devonshire
- October 25 - Farewell Celebration for Scott and Michael
- October 31 - Trunk or Treat, 3:30pm-4:30pm
- November 1 - All Saints Day
- 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




## Family Fun @ CPUCC

**October 10**
**Mystery at the Museum**
**5:00pm - 8:00pm**

**October 16**
**Bonfire/Firepit**
**7:00pm**

**October 18**
**CROP Walk**
**1:00pm**

**October 31**
**Trunk or Treat**
**3:30pm-4:30pm**

~~**November 7**~~
~~**Chili Cook-off**~~
~~**5:00pm - 7:00pm**~~
moved to Feb

**November 14**
**Game Night**
**6:30pm**

**November 20**
**Bonfire/Firepit**
**7:00pm**

**November 22**
**Decorate for Advent**
**11:00am**

**December 5**
**Breakfast with Santa**
**9:00am-11:00am**

**cpucc.org**




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If you would like to contribute to a farewell gift for Pastor Scott, please make checks payable to CPUCC and write "Pastor Scott" in the memo line. Donations may be brought to the church office or placed in the offering on any Sunday through October 18.

If you would like to help with food for the reception, grocery gift cards are welcome and appreciated — these help us purchase the supplies needed to make the reception a warm and generous gathering.

Let us come together on October 25 to show our gratitude and to send Pastor Scott and Michael forth with our love, our prayers, and our blessing.

If you have questions, please reach out to Sue Duff, Thaddeus Sampson or Pastor Cindy. Thank You!

## *What are those symbols in the "Family Fun" bookmark?*

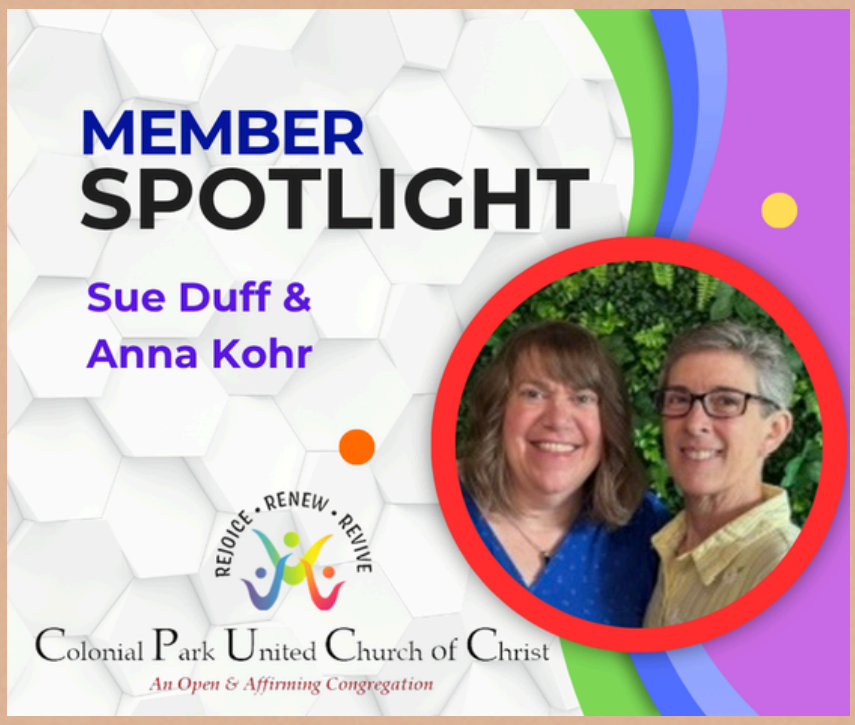
First, ALL of our family fun events and activites are fun, are for the whole family (whether you have children or not), and are open to friends. So, come and find balance, restoration and support by being together. The symbols simply serve as a quick identifier as to whether something includes a meal, is outdoors, is a service activity, or is a fun community outreach. Obviously, many activities could have multiple symbols, we just chose one to show that there is something for everybody.

FOOD - besides a fun time of connection, these include a meal, and may have a cost

OUTDOORS - besides a fun time of connection with each other, these include a significant amount of time outside to connect with nature

SERVICE - besides a fun time of connection with each other, these include a focus on helping others (sometimes in the church and sometimes out in the community)

OUTREACH - besides a fun time of connection with each other, these include an intentional outreach to the broader community.
So invite...EVERYONE!




## Meet the Members – Sue Duff and Anna Kohr

Sue Duff and Anna Kohr have been members of the Colonial Park United Church of Christ since 2012.

They both have always given back to others. In fact, they met and got to know each other while working at a weekly bingo night that benefited a domestic violence shelter.

Sue and Anna both grew up in Central Pennsylvania and have been together since 2000 and had a Holy Union commitment ceremony in 2006. While that will always be their wedding anniversary they celebrate, the couple was happy to renew their vows and have their legal wedding ceremony at CPUCC in 2014, after PA began legally recognizing their marriage.

They were aware of the church from attending events. After attending a few services, they discovered a friendly and welcoming congregation. The diversity of the people as well as the worship services and the church's commitment to serving the community made the decision of making CPUCC their home very easy.

But the couple did not just join CPUCC, they quickly became part of the family with Sue and Anna donating their talents. They have been involved in many of the church activities, including the Music Festival and Breakfast with Santa for several years. They assisted with the parsonage renovation when it first housed refugee families. Anna has participated in bell choir and the mission trip.

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## October ANNIVERSARIES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2nd | Bobby & McKenna Neely | 5 years |
| 6th | Sharon & Todd Brewer | 47 years |
| | Sylvia & Dan Morra | 36 years |
| 8th | Lindsey & Dan Via | 15 years |
| | Pam & Ed Stup | 4 years |
| 11th | Dave & Jenny Gassert | 40 years |
| 13th | Joe & Meagan Mauck | 8 years |
| 18th | Richard & Joyce Covey | 40 years |
| 20th | Eric & Mariah Sanders | 8 years |
| 22nd | Lorrie & Aimee Haldeman | 4 years |
| 24th | Donna & Stephen Schwalm | 56 years |
| 25th | Patty & Jeff Sarno | 46 years |
| | Jim & Elizabeth Ishman, Jr. | 24 years |
| 31st | Deryk & Jennifer Thompson | 28 years |

## October BIRTHDAYS

*Bold indicates homebound resident*

1 Jim Ishman
2 Shannon Strange
3 Cynthia Hogeman
4 Joyce Covey
7 Barb Love
9 **Greg Huntingdon**, Chris Sanders
11 Elaine Bogar, **Marguerite Myers**
14 Ruth Karabcievschy
16 Brad Johnson
17 Janice Mountain, Shanna Stauffer, Lily Iachini
18 Lisa Collins, Kirk Hartlaub
19 Wayne Karchner, Barbara Kirk, Jeff Sarno
20 C.J. Bender, Fred Gutshall, Judy Klinger, Nancy Miller, Dave Rogers
21 Dane Merryman, Patricia Kishpaugh, Jay Zeigler
22 Sam Gilbert
23 Stephanie Seltzer, Deb Keiser
24 Pearl Mahan
28 August Reinke
29 Charlotte Kurtz
31 Susan Martin

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Sue has served on church council twice. We all can thank them for assisting with technology during worship – Anna assists with live stream and Sue handles projection. They have always enjoyed finding new ways to connect with the church!

"We enjoy the mix of traditional and contemporary music, as well as the relatable sermons," they said. "We have experienced the leadership of both Pastor Bonita and Pastor Cindy and found both of their sermons to be engaging and informative."

When asked about a favorite memory or experience at CPUCC, they said they have had so many fun and meaningful experiences in worship, fellowship, and service. One of the highlights was when the congregation voted to become an open and affirming church.

Sue and Anna have had many pets over the years including seven dogs and three cats. Currently they are the parents of one dog named Harley. He is the smallest dog they have had, but he has a BIG personality! The couple also love to travel to the Outer Banks, and they have visited most of the New England states.

"Others should join the church and get active to be part of a community that has become like a family to us," Sue and Anna said. "There are so many opportunities to get involved no matter what your interests."

Sue and Anna's personalities and gifts light up all our lives.

## Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association (CATRA)




Kayla Kraft is once again participating at CATRA and is requesting our support once again for CATRA-thon. Donations needed by Oct. 12 for CATRA-thon 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






INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

October 12, 2026

## Indigenous Peoples Day and Land Acknowledgement

On Indigenous Peoples Day, we pause to honor the original stewards of this land and to remember that their stories, cultures, and wisdom continue to shape our shared life. One way we commit to this remembrance is through a Land Acknowledgment —an intentional statement that recognizes the Indigenous people who lived, worked, and cared for this place long before us.

Such acknowledgements are not only about the past; they call us to deeper awareness, gratitude, and responsibility in the present, as we seek right relationship with our neighbors and with the earth itself.

On December 7, 2025, our congregation approved a Land Acknowledgement Statement for CPUCC.
Learn more by visiting
https://cpucc.org/open-and-affirming-covenant/



***I would like to thank*** *again all those who continue to donate magazines to UPMC Front Street. We are probably the largest contributor at the hospital. Volunteer Services could not sustain this important mission without help from organizations like us. They are vital in helping patients deal with being in the hospital and trying to get through each day. (Which can be long when one is stuck in a bed all day long!)*
*If you are not familiar with this ministry, there are drop off boxes in both the Narthex (outside of the Sanctuary and also in the Fellowship Hall. (look for sparkly red boxes)*
*Our community of faith is known far and wide in the Susquehanna Valley. We are grateful for each one of you being a minister to enhance all that we stand for.*

*Blessings,*
*Ron Johnson*



## Enjoy Musicals?

Tyler Strange will be in the musical ***Come From Away*** at Susquehanna University. The show dates are October 8th-11th and tickets can be purchased here: https://susqu.universitytickets.com

Come From Away *is based on the true story of when the isolated community of Gander, Newfoundland played host to the world. What started as an average day in a small town turned into an international sleep-over when 38 planes, carrying thousands of people from across the globe, were diverted to Gander's air strip on September 11, 2001. Undaunted by culture clashes and language barriers, the people of Gander cheered up the stranded travelers with music, an open bar and the recognition that we're all part of a global family.* -Broadway.com

Harrisburg Association
Fall Meeting
October 11, 2026



## 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

# Worshipping

## Sunday Morning Worship, 9:30a.m.

Our "Come to the Table" series finishes on World Communion Sunday: Sun, October 4, 2026 - The Table of Joy (Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32)

THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE

**"There Our Hearts Will Be"**
**2026 Stewardship Series**

There Our Hearts Will Be invites congregations into a season of deep spiritual alignment—an honest, hopeful exploration of how our practices, priorities, and resources reveal what truly claims our hearts. Rooted in Jesus' teaching from Matthew 6, this theme reframes stewardship not as performance or obligation, but as the quiet, courageous work of placing everything we have in God's care.

**Upcoming Schedule**

Sun, **October 11**, 2026 **Laity Sunday** - Jess Nupponen bringing the morning message. (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 - Turning Toward the Light: Generosity, Intimacy, and Trust)

Sun, **October 18**, 2026 - Pastor Scott preaching (Deuteronomy 6:1-9 - The Centrality of Love)

Sun, **October 25**, 2026 **Pastor Scott's last day** (Proverbs 3:1-12 - Living One's Best Life)

Sun, **November 1**, 2026 - **All Saints Day** (Communion Sunday; Mark 8:27-38 - Hidden Treasure, Open Cross)

Sun, **November 8**, 2026 **Healing Service** (John 14:1-14 - Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled)

Sun, **November 15**, 2026 **Commitment/Covenant Sunday** (1 Corinthians 2:1-16 - Open Hearts, Open Hands)

Sun, **November 22**, 2026 Hanging of the Greens after worship ( 2 Corinthians 4:5-12 - Subversive Stewardship)

Joyful Sanctuary
*Colonial Park United Church of Christ*

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

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. **Submissions must be given by October 31st**. Questions?: please contact Art Titzel, Patricia Kishpaugh, or Sylvia Morra.



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

# Giving

GENEROSITY

## It's the 3rd Tuesday...it must be Perkins

Our second Perkins Fund-raiser will be held on **Tuesday, October 20** at 7833 Linglestown Road. Our first Perkins fund-raiser on September 15 officially raised $86.80, but the owner has generously increased the payment to CPUCC up to $150.00. On the 3rd Tuesday of EVERY month, 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. Following our day, CPUCC will receive a check for 20% of the total placed in 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. **A group will be having lunch that day at noon, if you want to join in.** If you have any questions about how this works, please contact Cindy Gnech at 717-991-4124. Hope to see you at Perkins on October 20, at noon or whenever you can make it!

## Dreaming God's Dream

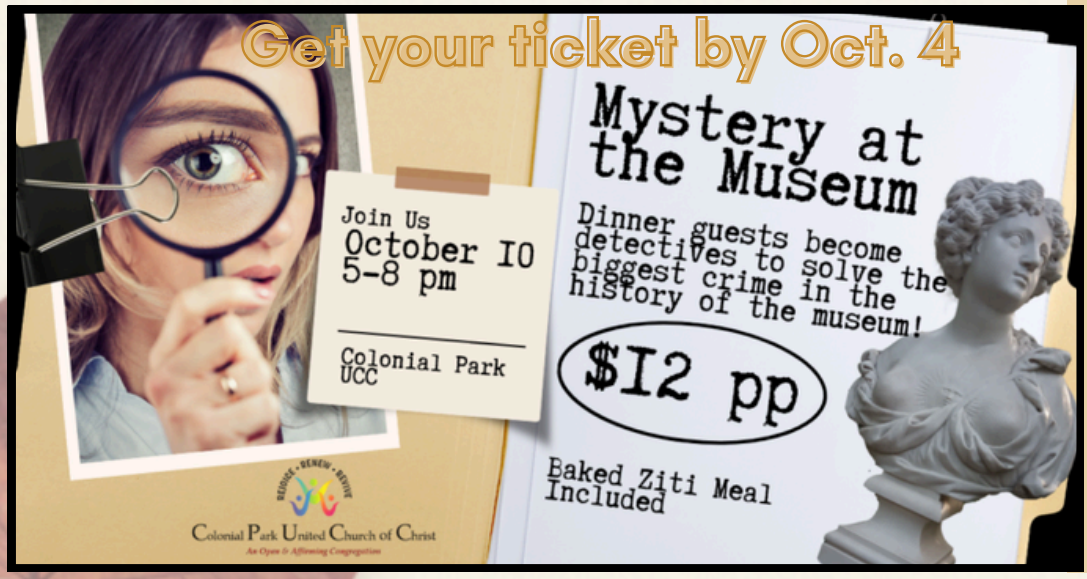
NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

I recently found a These Days devotional by Jill Duffield that I kept from several years ago because I liked how she talked about contentment. The Bible verse was 1 Timothy 6:6, which reads: "Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment."

This is what she said: "Contentment can be elusive in a culture that tells us we always need more. We often compare ourselves to others and, in that assessment, feel as if we are less than or lacking. But this passage reminds us to focus not on what we think is missing in our lives but rather on all that God has so generously provided. 'If we have food and clothing, be content with these,' the writer of 1 Timothy admonishes believers. Know what is enough and be content. Such a stance frees our energy from striving for things that do not truly satisfy and frees us to pursue godliness, righteousness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

Imagine what Christians might do if they turned aside consumerism and leaned into growing in faith, lavishly sharing love rather than building bigger barns. If we trust God to provide and are content, we could pursue godliness and, in turn, increase in contentment." Can't you just feel that God would be smiling on every person who feels contentment and has no need for striving for more material goods?

~ Cindy Gnech




Tickets are now available every Sunday morning in the narthex before and after worship for the Mystery at the Museum dinner theatre on October 10. Teams of 4-5 people will have the opportunity to play detective for the night, solving a museum heist through skits, questioning suspects, and solving puzzles. Tickets are only $12.00 per person for a delicious meal of baked ziti, salad, and bread, and will benefit the church Building Fund. A bake sale will be available for dessert, and a 50/50 raffle will also be held. So come out for a great evening of good food, fun, and laughter. Tickets must be purchased by Sunday, October 4 and will NOT be available at the door so that the team can plan accordingly.
Thank you for your 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.

## Rejoice, Renew, Revive Capital Campaign

Through the end of August 2026, our Capital Campaign *Rejoice, Renew, Revive* has raised $511,066.74. 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!

Boscov's FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS IN-STORE & ONLINE

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.



## Chili Cook-off

The chili cook-off originally scheduled for November 7 is **being moved to February**. You'll have lots of time to perfect your recipe until then!

Donations of your delicious **baked goods are needed** for the bake sale at the Mystery of the Museum fund-raiser on Saturday, October 10. Please bring donations to church no later than 3 p.m. the day before. Thank you so much to our wonderful bakers!

## Grocery Cards

Are you buying pumpkins or Halloween candy yet? 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.

## Church Council

Church leaders for the 2027 Council are being sought! *Is God calling you to this important role?* If you have any interest in serving CPUCC in this capacity, please contact a member of the Nominating Team for more information: Sharon Clark, Sue Duff, or Cindy Gnech. Thank you!

## Clergy Appreciation Month

October is Clergy Appreciation Month! And **October 11 is Clergy Appreciation Day**, when we will have cards available to be signed to thank Pastor Cindy and Pastor Scott for their dedicated service to God at CPUCC. We are so blessed to have these outstanding pastors leading us. Please take a moment this month and share your appreciation with them.

# Serving

Next special collection day:
October 25







## 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 October, we are requesting **noodles of any kind, shelf-stable microwavable meals or soup/pasta cups, canned fruit, and applesauce for the Harrisburg Area Food Pantry.** You may place items in the grocery cart.

Giving TREE

## The Giving Tree

CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

The two (2) foci of the Giving Tree:
**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 a**bout 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. We will meet at the church at 1:00 for our walk around the church, Sheffield Court, Friendship Center, Heroes Grove, Brightbill Park and then return to the church. Everyone is welcome to join in.**

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



## FREE MUSICAL OFFERING

## "HARVEST HOME CONCERT"

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026
3:00-4:00 PM

**HISTORIC PEACE CHURCH**
**LOCATED AT ST. JOHN'S & TRINDLE ROAD NEAR CAMP HILL**

featuring

Norma Swain, Director, organ/piano

**Harvest hymn singalong**

Parking available across from venue
Donations at door for Peace Church
Information:717-571-5189
www.wednesdayclub.org
Facebook.com/wedsclub

# Creation Justice
# Data Centers

Across the country, massive facilities called data centers are being constructed, filled with thousands of computers that process billions of artificial intelligence (AI) requests all day, every day. When a user inputs a prompt into a generative AI tool such as Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot or Open AI's ChatGPT, that request goes to a server located in one of those data centers. Powerful computer processors then generate the text, images, or videos requested and send the data to your phone or computer.

Although the benefits and convenience of having information available literally at our fingertips cannot be denied, there exists a number of significant downsides. Most notably are: energy consumption, water consumption and air pollution.
he U.S. Data Center Energy Usage Report revealed electricity consumed by data centers in the U.S. increased from 1.9 percent in 2018 to 4.4 percent in 2023. The same report found that water consumption in the U.S. by data centers increased from 21.2 billion liters in 2013 to 66 billion liters in 2023; another report estimated that a single data center could consume up to 5 million gallons of water per day, roughly equivalent to the daily use of a town of 50,000 residents.

Given that many data centers are powered by electricity from fossil fuel-powered plants and use diesel backup generators, health costs, eg., asthma and other cardiopulmonary diseases are likely to increase due to an increase in air pollution, not to mention the contribution to climate change.

Other negative effects of data centers include noise and light pollution which could have consequences for wildlife being unable to carry out necessary functions that they normally would. Given that there are nearly 4,000 existing data centers in the U.S. with another 3,000 planned or in development and with the ever increasing use of AI and other digital services, it is easy to realize their impact.

Also, like so many polluting industries in the past, they are more likely to be built disproportionately in low-income, rural, minority communities. Consequently, it should not be surprising that seven in ten Americans (70%) say they don't want a data center near their home. Obviously, there is a need for more control and regulation of data centers.

A number of things communities should demand from data center developers include: water resource protections, transparency and community oversight to include no NDAs (nondisclosure agreements), electricity from 100% renewable sources, limits on noise & health/safety practices, no diesel backup generators, electricity ratepayer protections. These criteria can be addressed by community ordinances and partnership models.

Although other models for community action exist, PennFuture, a major advocacy organization in Pennsylvania, has developed a Model Data Center Ordinance as a comprehensive template that municipalities can proactively adopt to regulate data center development in a responsible and sustainable way; the ordinance can be found on its website, pennfuture.org.

If tech companies continue to insist that data centers be treated as essential to our national infrastructure and economy, they must prioritize the needs and perspectives of the communities in which they operate.

~ David Harris







Caregiver Support

## Tax Volunteer Recruitment

Greeters and tax preparer volunteers are needed to offer free tax preparation to help working families receive the federal and state tax credits they are eligible for. The service is offered through the Money in Your Pocket (MIYP) program, a community partnership led by the United Way of the Capital Region that is committed to the economic stability of local families. Since the program began, more than 82,500 federal returns have been filed, bringing more than $88.7 million back into the community. And the program has saved participants approximately $16.5 million in tax preparation fees. No previous experience is required and training is provided. Both tax preparers and greeters are needed (greeters do not do any tax preparation but welcome and register taxpayers.) Scheduling is flexible with daytime, evening and Saturday opportunities available at sites throughout Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties. **For those interested in learning more, weekly virtual information sessions will be held throughout the fall. For more information, contact Cindy Gnech or Heidi Neuhaus at 717.724.4055 or by e-mail at hneuhaus@uwcr.org.**

## Lay Support Ministry

Do you like receiving mail? Or, more precisely, do you like receiving mail that isn't a bill or a solicitation of some sort? Most people find that receiving a postcard, note, or card from a friend in the mail lifts their spirits and brightens their day. Would you like to do this for someone in our church, particularly those who are homebound, ill, grieving, or dealing with other challenging situations? Lay support ministry volunteers send a card or note or make a phone call approximately once every three-four months. To learn more about participation in this important ministry, please contact Cindy Gnech at 717-991-4124 or cindygnech7@gmail.com

*More baked goods needed... your delicious baked goods are also needed for the bake sale at Plays on Devonshire, October 23 and 24. Please bring donations to church no later than 3 p.m. on Friday, 10/23. Thank you so much to all our dedicated bakers!*

## Caregiver Support Group

Did you know we have a group that meets online to simply offer one another support and understanding when caring for members of their family? We know that it can be exhausting and thankless sometimes, and we know that sometimes we just need someone who understands and can listen to our frustrations. If you are interested in participating in the group, chat with Pastor Cindy to make sure you get the Zoom information and any schedule changes. The group typically meets the 4th Thursday of the month; however, note the changes in the upcoming months with holidays.

Upcoming Schedule

October 22
November 19
December 17

# The Ye Olde Devonshire Thrift Shoppe



September 22 was the 4th anniversary of the Thrift Shop! It has been a quick 4 years! So many donations, so many workers, so many shoppers! We love them all!

The Thrift Shop is having a **$5 A Bag Sale** on clothing and shoes in the large shed to move out the summer clothing to make room for Fall and Winter things.

We are also having a **$1 A Bag Sale on books**. Be sure to check out the books for your winter time reading.

Donations made from the Thrift Shop during the month of September were made to CATRA-$500, Crop Walk-$500, NutraPacks-$500, CPUCC-$5000. and The Center for Industrial Training- $500. This Center sends three or four intellectually challenged individuals with their trainer to help in any way they can every Friday.




*Our greatest need is for people to help with set up and closing*. Tables need to be set up and things need to be carried out to put on the tables. These are heavy items and "man-power" is desperately needed at 9:00am and then again at 1:30pm. This is a plea for help! The few men who do so much work for the Shop are not available every day. If you find you are available anytime - just show up !




## WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR OUR COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT!

**Join us on October 31st for Trunk or Treat!**

Help us welcome the community by decorating your car trunk, offering goodies (maybe even games). Vehicles should be in the front parking lot at Colonial Park UCC around 3:00pm. We are inviting dressed up trick-or-treaters to come from 3:30pm—4:30pm. Rain or Shine. Inside if raining.

- Decorated "trunks" are encouraged.
- Costumes are optional.
- Consider offering candy and/or other items, like simple school supplies, fidget toys, etc.
- Maybe you even want to have a simple game—corn hole, ring toss, etc.
- Sign up for a space for your vehicle in the church office or https://tinyurl.com/CPUCC-Trunk26-SignUp
- There is a box in the office for donations of candy.
- Share the Facebook Page: https://tinyurl.com/CPUCC-Trunk2026
- Share a flyer about the event: https://tinyurl.com/CPUCC-Trunk26-Flyer

TRUNK or TREAT

# Growing

## 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*
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.

Sunday School for all ages at 11am.

Learn more about classes:
For adults:
https://tinyurl.com/CPUCCSundaySchool-Adults
For children:
https://tinyurl.com/CPUCCSundaySchool-Children

## Crosswalkers Mission Project

The Crosswalker's Sunday school class will be participating in the Homeless Remembrance Blanket Project. As part of this mission, the class will be collecting small items to fill two backpacks with some of the basic necessities a person might need if they find themselves experiencing homelessness.

If you would like to support this project, please place your donation in the decorated collection box in the Narthex by October 25th.

Because the backpacks are only 10" x 14", please choose small, practical items such as: Toiletries, Socks, First-aid items, hats, snacks, and other small necessities. Items not used for the backpacks will go to the Blessing Box.

The Crosswalkers class will also be making "No-Sew Tie Blankets" to donate to the project next year.

For more information about the Homeless Remembrance Blanket Project, please visit memorialblanket.org or call Jenny Gassert 717-602-9065

Thank you for helping the Crosswalkers class make a difference in the lives of those in need!



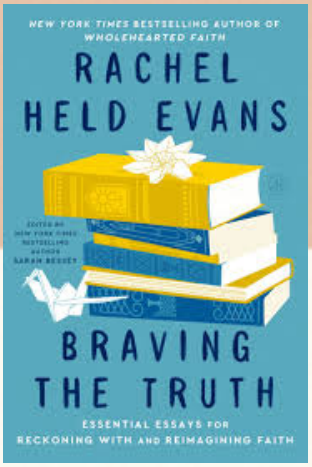
## Women's Spirituality Group (WSG)

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

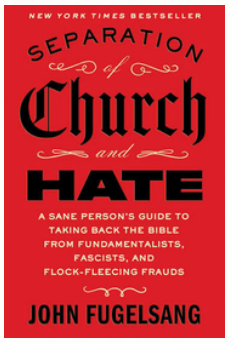



The Women's Spirituality group will spend the 2026–2027 program year with *Braving the Truth*, the new national bestseller collecting the essential essays of Rachel Held Evans — one of the most trusted voices of a generation of questioning Christians. Meeting second Mondays, the group will take one thematic 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

*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*

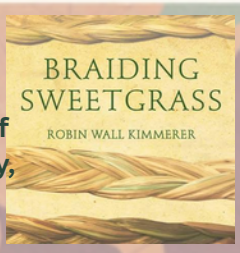



*Separation of Church and Hate: Reclaiming Jesus from the Culture Wars* - Tuesdays on Zoom, 6:30–7:45 p.m. (occasionally to 8:00) September 22 – November 10, 2026

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.**

# What's up with the Director of Music Search?

• Council approved hiring a full-time Director of Music and Principal Organist and Pianist.

**See Vacancy Announcement at https://tinyurl.com/CPUCC-MusicVacancy**

• We are actively seeking a new Director of Music as Pastor Scott prepares to leave at the end of October.

• You can see many of the place that we have shared in Pastor Cindy's September Council Report.

• Feel free to share the word! Also, feel free to share suggestions.

• We have a search team established: Thaddeus Sampson, Jessica Nupponen, Ron Johnson, Debbie Magliette, and Pastor Cindy. Feel free to share your ideas with any of the members of the team.

• We have established a schedule of substitute organists and pianists for each Sunday service during the transition. Right now we have covered November and December.

• We will keep the congregation informed as the search continues and plans develop.

NATIONAL HISPANIC Heritage Month
SEPTEMBER 15 – October 15

# 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

| 10/4/2026 (Communion) | 10/11/2026 (Laity Sunday) | 10/18/2026 | 10/25/2026 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acolyte ☐ sign up | Liturgist Thaddeus Sampson | Acolyte ☐ sign up | Acolyte ☐ sign up |
| Lay Reader Cathy Porter | Acolyte ☐ sign up | Lay Reader Jim Richardson | Lay Reader Elizabeth August |
| Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up | Lay Reader Liz August | Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up | Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up |
| Usher ☐ sign up | Greeter by F. Hall ☐ sign up | Usher ☐ sign up | Usher Jessica and Steve Burkholder |
| Usher ☐ sign up | Usher Jessica and Steve Burkholder | Usher ☐ sign up | Usher Jessica and Steve Burkholder |
| Sound Tech ☐ sign up | Usher Jessica and Steve Burkholder | Sound Tech ☐ sign up | Sound Tech ☐ sign up |
| Children's Message ☐ sign up | Sound Tech ☐ sign up | Children's Message Elizabeth August | Children's Message ☐ sign up |




During this time, we are looking for congregation members who would like to share their musical gifts in worship through anthems, offertories, and other special music. If you are able to sing or play, and would like to help out, please contact Pastor Cindy.

# 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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## STAYING CONNECTED

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