

THE BRIDGE

DEC '23 | JAN '24 | FEB '24
CARLISLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



MOVING FORWARD INTO GOD'S PLANS FOR CUMC

God is good, and the congregation at CUMC is amazing. Our recent Capital Campaign 3 exceeded all predictions and expectations by the experts. Apparently they don't know the generosity and servant hearts of this church family. As of Sunday, November 5, a total of 160 households had committed \$2,325,704 to help pay off our remaining debt, and \$192,394.54 had already been given by 83 households. This included \$914.22 from the children and teens of CUMC. These numbers continue to grow as additional people join in, so we are excited to see where we end up in 3 years!

This third and final capital campaign to pay down the remaining debt for our church campus focused on our spiritual journey throughout this process, rather than emphasizing dollars. We each tried to examine what God was asking of us, as we prayed the prayer, "Lord, what do you want to do through me?" The tremendous response to the campaign showed that many took this prayer to heart and followed God's leading. Let's continue that prayer throughout the next 3 years and beyond.

With the theme of "Forward" for the capital cam-

paign, we are intentionally looking forward to the next 10 years and beyond, to where God will lead this church, and how we can reach more people to know the love of Jesus. We are dreaming of the ministries we may begin, and the people we haven't yet met, who will benefit from what God is doing though us. The possibilities are exciting, and paying off the remaining debt of \$2.7 will allow us to accomplish all that God is asking of us.

Thank you to everyone who helped with Capital Campaign 3, and to all who have participated so far. For those who wish to become a part of this journey, it's never too late. Just speak with one of the pastors or Sue or Jeff Barnes, or pick up a CC3 envelope at the information center or the church office. At any time in the next 3 years you are welcome to contribute a gift or make a commitment to CC3. Every dollar counts, and brings us closer to freedom from debt, so we can follow God FORWARD into the future he has planned for CUMC.

We are proud and honored to be a part of such a generous and amazing church!

~ Sue & Jeff Barnes

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?



July 12 Pastor Jake and Pastor Mira joined others from our community in the groundbreaking of Harbour Village. This new extension of Safe Harbour will provide 40-50 new units for low-income neighbors. They hope to move

in residents in 2024.

On November 9 they attended groundbreaking for the newest neighbors, 80 units in a senior living community. It will be 60 licensed as personal care and 20 apartments providing memory support. They hope to be open in early 2025.

In November it was also reported in the Sentinel that four additional apartment buildings will be added next door, replacing and earlier planned medical office building
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DECEMBER

- 3** - Christmas Kick-Off, 2-5:30pm
- No Preteen
- 10** - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 17** - Pancakes & Pajamas in Kids Worship
- Preteen Christmas Party, 5-7pm
- 24** - No Preteen
- 31** - No Preteen

JANUARY

- 7** - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 13** - Kids Family event
Breakfast & Movie, 8:30am
- 14** - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 21** - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 28** - Preteen, 5-7pm

FEBRUARY

- 4** - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 10** - Preteen Nerf Battle, 1-4pm
- 11** - No Preteen
- 18** - No Preteen
- 25** - Preteen, 5-7pm

Kids Worship
EVERY Sunday for
K-5th grade in the Kids
Room during the 9:45 &
11:15am services

We had a great fall in Kids Ministry. In Kids Worship we have been working on memorizing the names of the 12 disciples and the older kids have been practicing saying the Lord's Prayer. I am so proud of how hard they work each week. In Preteen we kicked off our year with lots of rainy Sundays but finally managed to have our color battle. It was super messy but super fun. In our Be Bold! curriculum this fall we have been answering questions about forgiveness and God's grace. We also had our Halloween bash and are getting ready for our Late-Nighter. It was great to see all the families that joined us during our family activities this fall. We had a fun afternoon at our farm day. The rain cleared out and we were able to do lots of fishing and enjoy hayrides at the Loudon Brother's farm. Thank you to the Loudons for hosting us! We also enjoyed being out in the community this Halloween and passed out 710 goodie bags and glow sticks in 5 different neighborhoods. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the farm day and the light the night trick or treat stops!



Looking ahead to the winter in Preteen we will be having a Christmas Celebration on December 17. We will play some games, have some snacks and celebrate the birth of Jesus. On February 4, we will celebrate Valentine's Day in Preteen and will talk about God's unconditional love. In February, we will have a nerf battle on the 10th from 1-4pm. Also save the dates of March 22nd-24, for a Preteen retreat. Look for more details coming in the New Year. We have some fun family events planned for the winter. On December 3, we will be having our Christmas Kick-off. Everyone is invited to join us for an afternoon of Christmas Caroling in the community. We break up into different groups, visiting our LAMS and places in the community from 2-4pm. At 5pm we will have a short program, sing some songs, and light our Christmas tree. On January 13, we will have our family breakfast and a movie. In Kids Worship on December 17, we will be having our annual Pancakes and Pajamas. Kids can come in their PJs to Kids Worship at 9:45 and 11:15am. We will have pancakes with a toppings bar. Gary, Kevin and friends will also be there to do a puppet show for us.

SAVE THE DATE
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024
JUNE 9-14

If you would be interested in helping in Kids Ministry, please talk to Christina.



REFLECTIONS FROM FALL RETREATS

What God has been up to this fall in the lives of our Students:

This fall we were blessed to be able to take 2 different times to let different students RETREAT from the real world for the purpose of learning more about God, bonding with other Christians and filling our souls with laughter. See what happened because of your generosity and our amazing volunteer team!

Check out what these students had to say after their retreats this fall.

I learned that only God can label who I am.

I learned that after every bad mistake or thing that you do God still loves you.

My favorite part was riding horses and going on the huge slide in the barn.

I learned that bonding with people and meeting new people isn't that hard.

My favorite part was Laser Tag and bonding.

My favorite part of the trip was making new friends and seeing everyone so happy.



4 STUDENTS made a commitment to follow Jesus for the first time on our trip to Teen Quest

9 OTHER STUDENTS recommitted their lives to Jesus on our trip to Teen Quest



EVERY STUDENT committed to their NEXT Step: many of their next steps were a more consistent prayer life, regular daily Bible reading and some had to do with relationships that need work.



LOST IN MY OWN HOME

I have a habit of losing things in my own home. My car keys and wallet are right there at the top of the list. Just this past week I ran a few errands I had been putting off. Later in the day I remembered something else I wanted to get at the store and, as I got ready to leave the house, couldn't find my wallet. Thinking I must have lost it at the last place I had shopped I made the drive back to that store and it was nowhere to be found. I returned home to search the house one more time and there it was sitting on the couch. It must have fallen out of my coat pocket. I celebrated! What once was lost—in my own home—had been found.

This experience reminded me of a parable Jesus taught as written in Luke's gospel.

"What woman, if she owns ten silver coins and loses one of them, won't light a lamp and sweep the house, searching her home carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost coin.'" In the same way, I tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life." Luke 15:8-10 CEB She lost her coin. Not outside. Not at the market. Not near the well. But in her own home. That the loss sparked such worry and work may tell us something about the woman's economic status. She needed it and it was gone.

It got me thinking about people who may feel lost in the church. Not those on the "outside" but those who are already IN the church. They might be IN the church looking for meaning and a sense of purpose that they fear deep inside has been lost. They come looking for a community of love and kindness they once had but through circumstances beyond their control OR because of their control, lost. They come looking for a God they used to know but now seems to be a complete stranger. The once vibrant faith to which they held so tightly has seemed to disappear. They're here among us, lost in the church, seeking to

find what is missing.

I can relate to this. Maybe you can too. I've been IN the church all my life and there have been times when I've felt lost.

Illnesses, age, transitions in life, global crises, morphing viruses, political unrest, wars, financial insecurities, mounting losses of every kind. These things can cover our spirits like a heavy cloud. We can't make it just disappear even when we're in the church (and I don't mean just the building).

Someone once observed that Christianity is really one beggar telling another beggar where to find food. Keeping with the theme of my newsletter article here—Christianity is just one lost person telling another lost person where to find hope, love, faith—GOD!.

I think the key to understanding this is remembering that we are not alone. We don't have to figure it all out or find our own way by ourselves. God has gifted us with others! More than that, God shows up for us in others!

In the parable, Jesus mentions the woman's friends. They're kind of in the background of the story while she sweeps and searches. Who knows, they may have been on their hands and knees alongside the woman scouring the floors and looking under the furniture for the lost coin. They have may have been there consoling her in her grief. They might have even offered to give her one of their coins. We don't know. But we do know that she calls her friends and neighbors and they are there for her. They join in the celebration. What was lost has been found. I imagine the next time one of them loses something she'll be there for them. That's how it works when one of us is lost in the church. We are always better together!

Feeling lost right now? At CUMC we are here for you! Our Adult Grow ministries are all about helping you find your way toward greater spiritual growth and vitality. Whatever you've lost we want to help you find again. And when you do, let's party! Visit our church website for more information. ~ **Rev. Gary Shockley**



SHINING LIGHTS

By now, hopefully, you have noticed that in planning our new church facility a huge amount of space is devoted to our children – from six week-old babies in the Little Lights Learning Center to eighteen year-olds in our Student Ministry area. All kinds of activities and programs have been planned, organized and developed to teach our children about Jesus and the many ways that our children can strive to Live Like Jesus. It would be easy to conclude that our children are the sole benefactors of so much space in our building dedicated to them. That conclusion would be wrong.

As a Shining Light I can personally attest that volunteering to read to the Hippos, drive a van on field trips and help the teachers at Little Lights has affected me in a very positive way. I am a very optimistic person and usually upbeat about everything. One recent summer day, however, I was in a horrible mood as I entered church to get something in the choir room. Our daycare children were on their way to chapel.



*Pictured: Pastors Jake and Mira at the groundbreaking for The Residence at Carlisle, our new neighbor with 60 personal care and 18 memory care units.
Pastors Jake and Mira at the groundbreaking for Harbour Village on July 12, 2023.*

(Neighbor...cont'd from pg 1)

While still working through the permits and approvals, if approved, each apartment building will have 12 2-3 bedrooms apartments.

There are also already working on 250 apartment/townhouses next door as well in the back part of the property.

Jesus said the greatest commandment was "Love God" and the second, "Love Your Neighbor." As the homes of our new neighbors are being constructed let us start now to be in prayer for the families, singles, and seniors who will be moving in next door.

Most of them smiled and many called out my name. Several hugged me and more high fived! Whatever was bugging me totally disappeared!

At the next Leadership Council meeting, I shared that my being around children keeps me young at heart and feeling far younger than my actual age of 76. Getting connected with CUMC's children is a two-way street for everybody involved.

~ Kerm Leitner

SERVE

At Christmas we received the greatest gift of all when Jesus was born over 2000 years ago. Today in keeping with the free, unexpected gift, many of us choose to bless others because we have been blessed. This season CUMC will be joining with other congregations and our community to:

- Provide Holiday Meals with Project SHARE to over 800 families in our community. Collecting at CUMC through Thanksgiving for \$25 per turkey or \$50 for entire meal for 4. Throughout December donations can still be made for holiday meals at Project SHARE or via their website.
- Blessed Kids with our Angel Tree. This year CUMC will support kids through Salvation Army and Children and Youth Services by being angels to around 100 kids on Christmas morning. Pick a tag from the tree and return it by Dec 3rd to bless families in Carlisle this season.
- Alternative Gifts help support our SERVE partners and ministries with gifts ranging from \$1 to \$25 that will touch lives here in Carlisle and beyond. See the list in the box on page 6. Submit (continued on page 6)



MEMORIAL INTERMENT GARDEN

Last year, CUMC volunteers completed our Walk of Faith project that allows our church members to commemorate their loved ones with an engraving. This year, we will finish a Memorial Interment Garden for the church. The garden will allow our members interment of a loved one's ashes on the church grounds. The ashes can be poured in a hole previously prepared by CUMC staff during a funeral service, but also weeks, months, or years later. No urns, containers, or permanent objects are buried and no record of the exact burial site is kept. A donation is requested to help maintain and care for the space for generations to come.

While no markers are provided in the garden to draw

attention to any individual burial, the requested donation will include a brick in our Walk of Faith for an engraved commemoration. A larger paver can be requested for the Walk of Faith with an additional donation. There are permanent benches provided at the garden for loved ones to sit and reflect with easy and quick access from the road. When the garden is completed, a brochure with additional information will be available to members.

The church would like to extend special thanks to Rick Washinger and Mike Landis for leading the project and to the family of Jim Boytim who donated the funds to construct the garden in his memory.

~ **Jason Weeber**

GRIFFITH LEGACY FELLOWSHIP

Imagine the surprise almost ten years ago when Pastor Jim Van-Zandt opened an envelope from a law firm which contained a check for one million dollars from John Griffith's estate and was the first of two such payments to CUMC. John Griffith had worked away from Carlisle for many years before he returned and attended Grace UMC. To honor his example of being a cheerful giver, our church named the Griffith Legacy Fellowship after him.

Others in our church family have also decided to join John Griffith and make a legacy gift to the church by naming CUMC in their wills. Those who do decide to name CUMC in their wills become a member of the Griffith Legacy Fellowship.

One of these John Griffith Legacy Fellowship members is Joan Boytim who has been attending Allison and CUMC for many years and singing in the church choirs until last year. She has always supported her church financially, and this will continue beyond her life because of her legacy gift.

If you would like to join Joan and others, The Griffith Legacy Fellowship brochure is available at the Welcome Center and online. It contains much very useful information. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Baity of our Legacy Team, myself or one of our pastors.

~ **Kerm Leitner**

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(Serve...continued from page 5)
an Order Form by Dec 24 so your gifts can be shared before the year ends. Honor cards available through the Church Office or Welcome Desk for loved ones.

- \$1 - dozen eggs for families at Project SHARE
- \$3 - a meal for neighbors with Salvation Army
- \$3 - a hot lunch for a child in Mellier, Haiti
- \$5 - a book for LeTort Elementary
- \$10 - paper products for refugees
- \$10 - disaster supplies with Volunteers in Mission
- \$10 - assists 3 people with Mission Central
- \$15 - pack of toilet paper with Homeless to Home
- \$15 - Little Lights Daycare teacher gift with Shining Lights
- \$20 - blanket for farmworkers with Fruitbelt Farmworkers
- \$20 - assist a person in crisis with Samaritan Fellowship
- \$25 - towards food/gas with Emergency Assistance
- \$25 - 1 basket for kids/moms with Domestic Violence Services

LOVING OUR LAMs



Shirley Nickle serving Home Communion to her LAM Doris Seitz.

Doris Seitz is a gracious, loving member of CUMC who now resides at Forest Park Nursing Home. She is one of CUMC's LAMs (Limited Activity Members). Recently I joined her shepherd, Shirley Nickle, as we shared a visit and Home Communion.

In the 10 years since we united our three congregations, CUMC has loved and cared for a total of 141 LAMs. We are grateful for the many shepherds over the years who have given their love and their time to stay CONNECTed with God's precious LAMs. Today we have 24 LAMs, either at home or in care facilities. A LAM is a CUMC member who would be present in worship if they could, but they are simply no longer able. To CONNECT with their church, they have loving shepherds who visit, call, or send cards. Some shepherds are willing to take their relationship to an even more meaningful level and share Home Communion with their LAMs. Shirley Nickle has done just that.

With a little encouragement, Shirley realized she was perfectly capable of sharing the communion ele-



Love and Happy 90th Birthday flowers for LAM Doris Seitz from shepherd Shirley Nickle.

ments that had been placed on the altar and blessed by the pastors. Shirley has known her LAM, Doris, since they were in the same Sunday School class years ago. Presented with the idea of Shirley taking over as Home Communion server, when Janet Keller was no longer able after many years, Doris's response was "Oh good!" She and Shirley are closer now than they have ever been.

We had the table set with communion elements, a CUMC stuffed lamb, and flowers, when another resident came by and declared, "It's a party!" Yes, it IS a party when we celebrate Christ's love and all he has done for us, especially when we share that love by CONNECTing with those who have given so many years of their lives serving him.

Shirley also shares an experience she had when a cousin who was in poor health asked for communion. Fay was neither awake nor alert during the next

several attempted visits. Shirley asked for God's help. On the next visit Fay was alert, talkative, able to receive communion, and ready to enjoy a warm and fulfilling time with her cousin, basking in God's love. Fay simply said God came to her and told her to be awake because Shirley was coming to bring her communion! Fay died just four days later, knowing she was loved.

If you know of a church member who will not likely be getting out to services in person, please let the pastors or Joanne Reynolds know. Also, if you would like to know more about CONNECTing as a shepherd with one of our LAMs, please see me or call me at 717-258-1949.

Blessings from the shepherds and CUMC's faithful flock!

~ Joanne Reynolds, joanne.reynolds@comcast.net

NORTH OF 60

North of 60 meets the 1st Wednesday of the month. We usually meet at 1:30 unless another time is more appropriate.

The programs planned are December: Mt Asbury; January: board games of your choice; February: Bingo. Register at Info Central. Include your phone number since it is winter; we will call if the weather is bad. Do you have an idea for a program or are willing to share your talent for a program? If so, contact Deb Snouffer or Jane Lerch.

LUNCH BUNCH

Like to eat out but don't want to do it alone? Join the Lunch Bunch the third Friday of the month at 11:30. The restaurants we visit all are handicapped accessible & have adequate off-street parking. We do ask you to reserve a spot (or 2) by calling Jane Lerch in advance so seating can be arranged. Friends are welcome. In December we will be visiting Hickory Ridge, January the Walnut Bottom Diner & February has not been decided. Watch the Midweek newsletter & the bulletin for more info.



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Sunday, December 24

9:30am Contemporary

11:00am Traditional with Communion

Silent Night Worship

Tuesday, December 19, 6pm

Holidays can be difficult for those who are grieving, but you don't have to experience that alone. Join with others and invite a friend for a quiet service of grace and healing. In person in the Chapel and online. Childcare provided.

Christmas Eve Morning

Sunday, December 24

Our Sunday morning schedule will change to 2 services on Christmas Eve: 9:30am Contemporary, 11am Traditional with Communion.

Christmas Eve Evening

Candlelight Christmas Eve services will be: **4:30pm Family** - singing by our kid's choirs, extended kids chat, traditional carols, and lots of energy!

7:00pm Contemporary - music led by our praise band. Traditional carols and new Christmas favorites.

9:00pm Traditional - beautiful music by our combined choir, carols, and traditional liturgy.

Childcare provided at 4:30 and 7pm. Livestream at 4:30, 7, and 9pm. Invite a friend and join us for a service that will give you new perspective on Christmas as we look at the meaning of Christmas through "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Spiritual gifts are one of the topics discussed during the Explore class for new members. I enjoy learning about the members and their spiritual gifts and sharing my spiritual gifts and how I use them.

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12 4-7 *"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."*

There are twenty spiritual gifts Paul describes, and when the Explore Class members list, most of all the twenty are listed. The variety shows diversity in church. When we use our gifts, we are then the correct fit for a task. It is fun to witness the ah ha moments when members of the class realize that the things they are good at are their spiritual gifts.

My Spiritual Gifts are helping, compassion and faith which I learned from doing many Spiritual gift inventories throughout my life. My spiritual gifts have been the same since I was in the youth group. Other people may see changes in their gifts during different seasons of their lives. I always

wondered how I live out helping as Barbara and Dan R. Dick explain *"helping assist others to accomplish the work of God."* I prayed for a job where I could use my spiritual gifts and that is when I learned about the Welcoming Coordinator position here at CUMC. I find immense joy in this position and know I do because it is a gift from God. I learned that when we live out our spiritual gifts, we can do things we did not think possible. This is especially true for me and my gift of compassion. I have believed since I was in my twenties that I am called to walk beside people and their families when they experience a crisis. But I have always been wimpy and squeamish, when my spiritual gift of compassion placed me as a chaplain in a trauma center, I had the skills to see the unimageable. I am not saying it never gets difficult, but God took my wimpy away. God makes it possible for me to use my gifts. I have a feeling of peace that I am where I am meant to be.

You may find yourself not feeling completely fulfilled. This may be because you are not fully using your gifts. If you are interested in taking a spiritual gift inventory and discussing the results, please reach out to me.

~ Andrea Katz

SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:00am - Traditional

Worship in the Worship Center with traditional hymns and traditional UMC liturgy.

9:45am - Contemporary

Worship in the Worship Center led by our Praise Band using contemporary music.

11:15am - Relaxed

Traditional

Worship in the Worship Center with traditional hymns, and songs from "The Faith We Sing."

*8am & 9:45am services are live streamed to carlislepaumc.org/worshipexperience

Rev. Jake Waybright
Vision Pastor

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Rev. Mira Hewlett
Executive Pastor

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