Carlisle United Methodist Church

The Bridge

DEC '26 | JAN '27 | FEB '27
CARLISLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE SAINTS WHO PRECEDED US AT CUMC





As we concluded our celebration of debt retirement this past October, and particularly during our final October 11 Celebration Services, I found myself thinking that the saints who preceded us at CUMC would be very pleased with how we have continued their legacy of United Methodist ministry in Carlisle.

The initial portions of all 3 of our original church buildings - Allison, First and Grace - were built between the 1890's and 1920's. Thus they were built more than 100 years ago, and yet the issues they faced then were not so different from those we faced as our 3 congregations voted to come together and start a new church. Insufficient space and aging existing facilities were apparently the primary reasons that all 3 original congregations decided to relocate and independently build in those days.

And what a blessing that each of our 3 original churches were already paid for in full as we came along to inherit those buildings! Our predecessors, like ourselves, were determined not to kick the can down the road and pass on any debt to future generations, those future generations being US!

As we sold each of our 3 original buildings, the proceeds (totaling $2.7 million) were of course used to pay for a portion of the $15 Million that we spent to purchase land and design, furnish and build CUMC. Thus the legacy of these saints from bygone days have quite literally lived on financially to bless us as a result of their vision and generosity.

In the same way, many of us have thought about the saints we've personally known from all 3 of our churches who have passed on to glory in more recent years. Some of them were never able to see what God had in store for us through our unification, yet were faithful and generous disciples of our previous congregations. Others did experience it and were an integral part of all that happened as God brought us together. Once again, as I think of those more recent saints, their faithfulness, generosity and impact upon our lives remain a lasting part of CUMC's story, for which we are so grateful.

In 1864 William Walsham How wrote the beautiful lyrics to one of our very well known hymns entitled "For all the Saints", the first 3 verses of which fit CUMC so well as we think of the saints that have preceded us:

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia, Alleluia!
2 Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might; Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight; Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light. Alleluia, Alleluia!
3 O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia, Alleluia!

"Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine" so beautifully expresses our connection to the saints who have preceded us, and their everlasting connection to us for which we give our thanks and praise to God.

~ Jeff Barnes







SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

This fall, our church had the privilege of participating in both Mount Holly Days and the Harvest of the Arts Festival. These community events provided wonderful opportunities to connect with local families, share God's love, and build relationships with our neighbors. We were blessed to meet hundreds of community members and engage in many encouraging

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CARLISLE UMC KIDS MIN







WINTER KIDS MIN

DEC 7 - Christmas Kick Off, 2:30-5:30pm
DEC 13 - Preteen, 5-7pm
DEC 20 - Kids Worship Pancakes & Pajamas - Preteen Christmas Party, 5-7pm
DEC 27 - **No Preteen**

JAN 3 - **No Preteen**
JAN 10 - Preteen, 5-7pm
JAN 11 - Preteen, 5-7pm
JAN 17 - **No Preteen**
JAN 24 - Preteen, 5-7pm
JAN 31 - Preteen, 5-7pm

FEB 7 - Preteen Nerf Battle, 1:30-4:30pm
FEB 7 - **No Preteen**
FEB 14 - **No Preteen**
FEB 21 - Preteen, 5-7pm
FEB 27 - Grand & Me, 2-4pm
FEB 28 - Preteen, 5-7pm

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

Christina McDermott,
Kids Ministries Director
cmcdermott@carlislepaumc.org



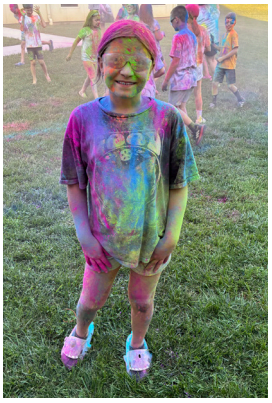
We had a very busy fall in Kids Ministry. In Kids' worship we started talking about David in the Old Testament and then jumped to the New Testament to talk about the ways Jesus cares for us. The kids are also working on learning their books of the Bible again. This fall we have been working on the New Testament, and in the new year we will start working on memorizing the books of the Old Testament. In Preteen we kicked off our year with our annual color battle. It was so much fun and of course we got very messy. In our Be Bold! Curriculum this fall we have been answering questions about how to tell others about Jesus and what to do when your family drives you crazy. We had our Late-Nighter in the beginning of November. The preteens got to spend an evening playing games at church, have a fire with s'mores and watch a movie. They had a blast!! This October we had a wonderful family worship night and celebration dinner to celebrate paying off our mortgage. We also had our Trunk or Treat. It was such a wonderful afternoon. The weather was perfect, the trunks were amazing and the crafts and games were so much fun. The food hit the spot after all the walking around. We were so glad to have our petting zoo from Double Vision Acres back and line dancing in the gym to make the afternoon even more special. We saw around 450 kids and their families. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped with our Trunk or Treat! We can't wait for next year!

Looking ahead to the winter in Preteen we will be having a Christmas Celebration on December 20th. We will play some games, have some snacks and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Jan 29th and 30th we will be doing our peanut butter cracker fundraiser again and handing them out on Sunday Jan 31st. In February, we will have a nerf battle on the 6th from 1:30-4:30pm. Also save the dates of April 2nd-4th. We are having a Preteen retreat. Look for more details to come in the New Year.

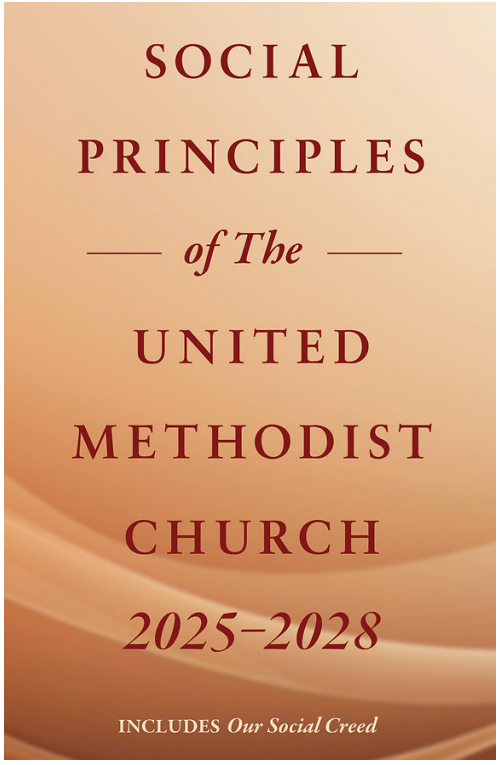
We have plans to slow things down in the winter after a very busy fall at church. On December 6th we will be having our Christmas Kick-off starting at 2:30pm. We will be talking about the Calm and Brightness of this season with some stations in the gym. We will have our program in the worship center at 3:30pm and then dinner at 4:30pm. In February on the 27th from 2-4pm we will have another "Grand and Me." This is a great time for kids and their grandparents to come and play, do crafts and have snacks at the church.

In Kids Worship on December 20th, 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 for Vacation Bible School 2027 June 6th-11th







CHRISTMAS AND THE UNITED METHODIST SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

In our fall newsletter, Jay Layman reintroduced us to the United Methodist Social Creed and its important role in shaping our faith. As we celebrate Christmas, I thought it would be interesting to look at the United Methodist Social Principles and see how they connect with the Christmas story.

The Social Principles are one way United Methodists put our faith into action. They challenge us to consider how our Christian faith affects the way we care for creation, our neighbors, our communities, our economy, and our government.

The current Social Principles are organized around four communities: **The Community of All Creation, The Economic Community, The Social Community, and The Political Community.**

When we look at the Christmas story, we can see all four themes.

The Community of All Creation

Think about the setting of the Christmas story. Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, making their way through the countryside and hills of Judea. Jesus is born in humble surroundings and placed in a manger. Shepherds are outside at night, watching over their flocks beneath the stars.

Creation is all around them. The Christmas story reminds us that God did not remain distant from the world God created. In Jesus, God entered into creation and became part of our human story.

The Economic Community

Mary and Joseph do not arrive in Bethlehem with wealth or privilege. They are ordinary people facing difficult circumstances. Jesus is born in humble surroundings, not in a palace or wealthy home.

Then there are the shepherds, working people who spend their nights in the fields caring for their flocks.

And yet these are the people God chooses to include in the story. The angels do not first announce the birth of Jesus to kings or wealthy leaders. They announce it to shepherds.

The Christmas story reminds us that our economic circumstances do not determine our worth to God. Every person has dignity and value—not because of what they own, what they earn, or where they stand in society, but because they are a beloved child of God.

The Social Community

The Christmas story also crosses social boundaries. Mary is a young woman whose pregnancy could have brought shame and rejection. Joseph chooses to stand with her and accept the child as part of God's plan.

The shepherds are among the first people outside the family to hear the good news. Later, visitors from far away–the Magi–come seeking the newborn King.

People from very different backgrounds are drawn together by Jesus. At the manger, we see a glimpse of the community Jesus came to create–a community where people are welcomed into God's story regardless of their status, occupation, nationality, or circumstances. Christmas reminds us that there is room for everyone in God's family.

The Political Community

The Christmas story also takes place within a world of political power. Caesar Augustus orders a census, and Joseph travels to Bethlehem because of his family connection to the city of David. Later, King Herod hears that a child has been born who is called the King of the Jews. Feeling threatened, Herod responds with violence.

There is a striking contrast. Herod represents a kingdom built on power and fear. Jesus comes proclaiming a different kind of kingdom–a kingdom of love, mercy, justice, peace, and service.

From the beginning, the Christmas story reminds us that the way of Jesus is different from the ways of worldly power.

Christmas is more than the story of a baby born in Bethlehem. Christmas is the story of God entering our world. Jesus came into the middle of our real lives–our families, communities, struggles, economic circumstances, relationships, and even our political world. That is why the Social Principles matter. They invite us to ask: How would Jesus want us to live? How do we care for God's creation? How do we treat people who have less than we do? How do we make sure our neighbors are treated with dignity?

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Happy 10th Anniversary CUMC's Homeless to Home Ministry!

Ten years ago in December 2016, the Homeless to Home ministry received the green light to forge ahead on a trial basis to assist those moving from homelessness into housing. Our church supported four households that December which included 4 adults and 8 children with gently used household goods and cleaning supplies as they moved into their homes. In 2017, the first full year of ministry, CUMC was able to assist 15 households, 18 adults and 11 children to move forward through life's challenges.

Seven years later, in November 2023, CUMC's H2H outreach was awarded a Community Development Block Grant from the Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authority. These funds allowed H2H to expand CUMC's ministry while partnering with LifeWorks at New Life Community Church. Since that time, H2H was awarded a second round of CDBG funding in December 2025 which provides the financial resources for CUMC's H2H ministry to continue assisting households moving from homelessness into a home.

The CDBG funds have permitted this CUMC ministry to lift up many more households, working hand-in-hand with LifeWorks, as these individuals and families moved from being unhoused into a home. As LifeWorks provided gently used furniture and household goods, CUMC's H2H provided a full array of cleaning supplies and personal care items; items that most of us don't even think about as we toss them into our shopping cart. For households with limited financial resources, these items are a gift beyond understanding as individuals and families prepare their homes and get settled.

Upon receipt of the first grant, to get things moving, Allen Distribution with the help of a CUMC member, graciously donated the shelving needed to stock supplies. In addition, H2H has been a recipient of donations of needed supplies that funding does not always cover. Items such as new and gently used bed linens, blankets, and bed pillows have been generously donated by groups such as CUMC's Mindful Women, a local preschool, and individuals. In addition, handmade prayer shawls have been provided to H2H families through generous donations from CUMC's Prayer Shawl Ministry. All these donations have made a difference in providing a helping hand.

As this outreach ministry expanded, three teams of volunteers helped "make it happen." These volunteers are "on call" to pack the requested items within tight timelines, so the items are packed and ready for the households within 8 days from receiving a referral. In addition, there is a dedicated volunteer who monitors the supply of items, orders supplies, and stocks the shelves to be sure items are available as requested. Referrals ebb and flow, as referrals may not be received for a couple weeks, then a flurry of referrals can be received within a week. Even so, these volunteers have stayed faithful to this ministry, as they know the importance of assisting those who are striving to move forward.

In 2026, at the end of October, Homeless to Home has assisted 78 households, which includes 103 adults and 62 children. These households include individuals and families, expectant moms, elderly, veterans, young families, infants and children, disabled individuals, immigrant families, those in recovery from substance abuse or domestic violence, etc. And just in the first week of November 2026, 5 referrals have been received to assist 6 adults and 9 kiddos. This is a reminder that there will always be neighbors who need that crucial hand-up to help in conquering their individual life struggles.

As H2H's Tenth Anniversary is marked, it is important to remember that it's not the supplies given that makes the difference. Knowing others care provides the hope to keep moving forward to better days.

A BIG thanks goes out to CUMC leadership, members, and friends for the support provided to this outreach ministry throughout the past ten years. Thanks for helping to make a difference in our community and surrounding areas! We will continue to strive to "Live Like Jesus" as we lift up our neighbors!

~ Cindy Kunst

A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE - LEAVING A LEGACY

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. JOAN BOYTIM

As a young girl growing up in the congregation of Allison United Methodist Church, I was fortunate to forge relationships with a number of individuals that exemplified what I believe it means to be a Christian. Sunday School teachers, choir directors, youth group leaders, pastors, and mentors – these were the people I looked up to and who helped me grow in my faith and as an active member of our congregation. For years they cheered me on as I sang or performed with the children's and youth choirs or as a soloist; they supported and led me through my confirmation; they celebrated as I graduated, got married, had kids… and many of them eventually became friends, as I sang with them in the choir, served with them at Allison, and worked alongside them to help build what we now have together at CUMC.

One of the most influential of those individuals in my life was Mrs. Joan Boytim. She saw me as a young girl in the children's choir and suggested that I may want to take voice lessons with her. I did so, and like so many other students that she taught over her incredible lifetime of teaching, I learned a million lessons that far surpassed learning notes on a page or how to use my diaphragm. The greatest lesson of all: seeing how she and her beloved Jim lived lives of service and love in the name of Jesus.

Mrs. Boytim most certainly gave while she was here on this Earth, and I was a grateful recipient of that giving, as was our entire congregation. But she also thought beyond her own time in how she might continue to bless and serve the congregation and community that she loved and helped build over her lifetime. She (unsurprisingly, if you knew her) was



thoughtful in how she might also leave a legacy – a gift for the future – even after she had passed on from her earthly life.

As many of you may know, Mrs. Boytim bequeathed twelve percent (12%) of her estate to CUMC (with additional gifts going to many other deserving charities and programs, many of which are Serve partners to CUMC). The generous gift from her estate was designated to four different areas of CUMC: the Spring Garden Campus Fund, the Local Mission Support Fund, the State and National Missions Fund, and the Haiti Mission Support Fund. Her thoughtful and prayerful decision to give to the future will now help to maintain the very campus that my kids and future generations will use for years to come. It was also just recently used for a huge makeover project of the Domestic Violence Services shelter where up to 10 families live, including new furniture, new flooring in the common areas, new play equipment for kids inside and out, new bedding, repair of walls, painting - and CUMC put all the families currently living there in hotels for the 4 days the work was completed. Thirty (30!!) volunteers participated, but the $10,000 in funding all came from Mrs. Boytim's gift. Her support has now extended beyond the giving she did in life, which is – undoubtedly – a legacy worth remembering and celebrating not only by all of us that knew her when she was here, but by so many that will benefit from what she left behind. What a blessing – a blessing to us, to our Church, and to her indelible memory.

There is such incredible power and generosity in making a future gift to the Church that leaves a legacy beyond your lifetime - no matter how large, every gift makes a difference. If you would like to talk to someone about how you might consider leaving a legacy gift, you can always talk with the pastors or a member of the Give team.

~ Kate Deringer Sallie



THANK YOU

As I pass the baton to Jeff Harpel to serve as the Leadership Council Chair at the end of 2026, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank our Pastors, staff and congregation for their unwavering commitment to continuously building a community rooted in love, compassion, and grace. The servant leadership of

(Continued on Page 6)



The holidays are here, and there's A LOT happening at Carlisle UMC! From Christmas worship services and special events to opportunities to give, serve, and celebrate, you'll want to stay in the loop.

Be sure to check our website, Facebook page, emails, and church announcements for all the latest happenings. And don't forget to visit our Christmas page for all the holiday details:

www.carlislepaumc.org/christmas

But it's not all dates, times, and announcements! We'll also be sharing fun photos, festive moments, holiday happenings, and plenty of Christmas cheer along the way.

So follow along, check in often, and stay connected! Because nobody wants to be the one saying, "Wait... when did THAT happen?!"

~ Rhonda Dyson

WELCOME 2027 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



2027 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Chair: Jeff Harpel; Finance: Hilton Wood;
Facilities: Mike Perkey; Give: Kathy Charette;
Pillar 1: Kerm Leitner; Pillar 2: Stacy Centi;
Personnel 1: Roger Woods; Personnel 2: Deb Johnston;
Leadership Development; Megan Wardle



MEET OUR NEW FACILITIES MANAGER, JD DYSON

Please join us in welcoming John JD Dyson as our new Facilities Manager! John brings a new set of hands, a willingness to jump in, and, most importantly, a lifetime of experience! (And if you know his wife, Rhonda, you know he's probably already well-trained in handling a few unexpected situations!)

John is stepping into an important role, helping keep our church building running smoothly, looking its best, and making sure everything is in tip-top shape. From the little things to the big projects, he'll be the guy helping keep things together.

So, when you see John around the building, be sure to say hello, introduce yourself, and give him a warm welcome. We're excited to have him on board and look forward to all he'll bring to our church family!

Email: facilities@carlislepaumc.org

Welcome, JD!
We're glad you're here!

UPCOMING LAMS BIRTHDAYS

Help us celebrate our LAMs! Send a birthday card or a little note to let them know they are remembered and celebrated. A small gesture can make a big difference!

DECEMBER
8 - Beulah Lippert
29 - Mary Peters

JANUARY
9 - Jim Morrison
12 - Paul Smith
15 - Dale Shaeffer

FEBRUARY
9 - Earl Keller

(Social...continued from Page 3)

How do we build communities where everyone has a place?

The Social Principles are part of our effort to LIVE LIKE JESUS—to take the love, grace, mercy, justice, and hope we see in Christ and carry them into the world around us.

The Christmas story begins with a child in Bethlehem, but it doesn't end there. Jesus came into our world calling us to live differently. And Jesus sends us into the world with hope.

May the hope born in Bethlehem fill our hearts this Christmas—and inspire us to share Christ's love with the world. (More information about our social principles can be found at:

https://www.cokesbury.com/Social-Principles-of-The-United-Methodist-Church-2025-2028-2?srsltid=AfmBOoobnqDwO1A3ReRDb6XzQpKVVTCnZGeTypTmzm-TdwfvcNKJRoaN)

~ Sharon Edwards

(Thank You...continued from Page 5)

each of you is a testament to the transformative power of faith and community, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a small part of it.

Your contributions—through your time, talents, prayers, or financial gifts—have made a difference! I have seen the impact and heard the stories of your involvement in our ministries over the past three years, and I am grateful for the way you have lifted up CUMC's mission and vision.

Thank you for trusting me with this leadership role and for standing beside me in moments of challenge and celebration. Your commitment to God's work and to our shared mission has been a blessing to me and to our entire congregation.

As we look ahead, dream bigger and broader and continue to build a solid foundation together. I pray that we will continue to grow in faith, service, and unity, and that God will bless our efforts for the Kingdom.

~ Kathy Charette



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

CUMC has been offering assistance to persons and families in need for almost twenty years through the Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF). We are a small augmentation to Samaritan Fellowship available on Thursday mornings. Somehow people find out about us and ask for assistance with gas, food, motels and other large cost needs. After interviewing the applicant, EAF assists as it is able with Giant Gift cards and occasionally funds paid to motels to keep a family until it can apply to Community CARES or Samaritan Fellowship. The EAF also provides advice on other organizations that may assist. At the end of each interview, we pray with the applicant and offer information on our church services. Through October 2026, the EAF has served 70 applicants and provided nearly $7000. You can help by regularly praying for the EAF and supporting it through the annual Alternative Gifts program. If you are interested in more, please get in touch with Charles L. Reynolds at papoo99@comcast.net or 717.713.9447.

~ Charles L. Reynolds



SHARING GOD'S LOVE, ONE MEAL AT A TIME!

The Hospitality Team is made up of nearly 40 wonderful individuals who share a love for serving others through cooking, baking, fellowship, and a generous helping of hospitality! This group generously gives of their time and talents to help make CUMC a warm and welcoming place for our congregation and the surrounding community.

From providing Sunday morning coffee, beverages, and treats to creating a welcoming atmosphere for Food & Friends, funeral meals, Holy Week breakfasts, Vacation Bible School, and other special church events, this team is always ready to lend a helping hand. They also step in to support other CUMC gatherings and ministries whenever food, fellowship, and a little extra love are needed.

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OUR GENEROSITY AGAINST THE UNCERTAINTY IN HAITI

"Haiti's uncertainty stems from ongoing gang control, political paralysis, and a severe humanitarian shortfall. (UN News)"

"Scripture calls us to trust God's sovereignty, seek His wisdom, and live with a generous, contented heart even when the future is unclear." (Bible Hub)

Over the past 2 years, generous donations from our congregation have helped with supporting school canteen, paying teacher salaries, supporting the summer feeding program at Living Water Missions, building new classrooms at the Mellier School, and giving employment opportunities to construction workers, cooks and other supporting staff at the school.

Principal Fritz and the teachers continue to strengthen academics and add to social events at the Mellier School. During the 2025/2026 school year, programs included celebrating Native American Culture, Christmas, and Valentines Day. Students participated in a soccer match against another local school and finished the year with a swim/beach day.

The 2026/2027 school started October 5th. CUMC recently contributed $10,000 to convert a very well-built chicken house into four additional classrooms that will house a preschool and technology lab.

This past summer Living Water Missions served three thousand meals as part of their Summer Feeding Program.

Giving generously in the face of uncertainty reflects our trust in God.

CUMC support for the Mellier School and Living Water Missions despite the uncertainty in Haiti affirms our commitment to extend our generosity beyond the walls of CUMC without the expectation of anything in return.

~ Rich Charette



CUMC WALKING CLUB

The CUMC Walking Club will conclude its sixth season on December 15, with a luncheon at the home of Connie and Kerm Leitner. One of CUMC's many CONNECT groups, it was formed shortly after the church reopened following the Covid closure. We believed that walking outdoors was a safe way to meet new folks and get reacquainted with others we had not seen during the closure. Walking on Wednesday mornings at 9am from late March until mid-December, since its inception, the club has logged almost 600 miles walking along popular local trails and around downtown Carlisle. Occasionally due to inclement weather, we walk inside our building. We usually walk 2 to 3 three miles after we pray and then chat along the way. It's healthy and good for your heart and soul. If you are not currently a member and would like to join us in 2027, please contact Kerm Leitner at kermleitner@comcast.net or 717.386.2066.

~ Kerm Leitner

(One Meal...continued from Page 7)
But Hospitality is about so much more than preparing and serving food. It's about making people feel welcome, offering comfort during difficult times, celebrating special moments, building friendships, and sharing God's love through simple acts of kindness. The members of this team truly enjoy serving alongside one another and connecting with the people they serve.

We would love to welcome you to the Hospitality Team! Whether you enjoy cooking, baking, setting up, serving, or simply making others feel at home, there is a place for you. It's a wonderful opportunity to share your gifts, meet new friends, and be part of something meaningful. If you feel called to serve in this way, we would love to hear from you!

~ Stephanie Cornwall



(Sharing...continued from Page 1)
conversations. These events reminded us of the importance of being visible in our community and creating opportunities for families to experience the welcoming spirit of our church.

Throughout the events, our booth was filled with activity and smiles. Children enjoyed apple-themed crafts, face painting, and temporary tattoos, while families stopped by to learn more about our church and ministries. One of the highlights was giving away nearly 500 mini Jesuses, a simple but meaningful reminder of Christ's love and presence in our lives.

We are especially grateful for the incredible volunteers who made these outreach efforts such a success. Members of our congregation generously gave their time and talents, and we were delighted to have volunteers from our Little Lights Daycare join us as well. Their enthusiasm, kindness, and servant hearts helped create a warm and inviting atmosphere for everyone who visited.

Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, volunteered their time, prayed for these events, and supported our outreach efforts. Through your participation, seeds were planted, connections were made, and God's love was shared with our community in a tangible way.

We look forward to continuing to serve and connect with our neighbors in the months ahead as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ wherever He leads us.

The excitement doesn't end here! Mark your calendars now for Ice Fest February 5-7 when we'll once again have the opportunity to engage with our community, welcome new faces, and share God's love through fellowship and outreach. We hope to see many familiar and new faces volunteering alongside us for this special event.

~ Karli Wood



Rev. Jake Waybright
Lead Pastor
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Quinton De Beer
Associate Pastor
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