

THE BRIDGE

MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2024

CARLISLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



LENT at CUMC

Sermon Series: Jesus is _____: A study of Jesus in the Gospel of John

Who is Jesus? This enduring question is one that people ask all the time. The gospel of John gives a unique perspective on the identity of Jesus by giving us compelling and memorable images that point to the truth of who he is for us all.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 24 - Experience the drama of the events leading up to Jesus' death.

Monday, March 25-Friday, March 29 @ 7:30am:

"Reflections on Jesus' Last Week" - Celebrate Holy Week by starting each day with a 30-minute worship service including music and a short reflection by members of the congregation. Stay after for breakfast at 8:00am.

Thursday, March 28 @ 7:00pm:

Maundy Thursday Service - Remember the last supper Jesus had with his disciples and share together in Communion. This service will be a special experience around tables and our confirmation students will help lead.

John Reading Plan:

Don't take our word for it; read the Gospel of John for yourself. Part of growing as disciples is learning to listen to God speaking to us as we read the scriptures. Grab a reading plan and read your way through John to prepare for Easter and meet Jesus in new ways for yourself!

Friday, March 29 @ Noon: Good Friday Community Crosswalk - Meet at New Life Community Church for a community-wide Stations of the Cross Walk through Carlisle. Each Station of the Cross will be remembered at a different location downtown. This is a great opportunity to be together with other churches in our community and remember Jesus.

Saturday, March 30: Easter Egg Hunt, 10am-Noon at CUMC. Hunts for ages birth thru 5th grade. Register online at www.carlislepaumc.org/signup

Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday - 7am Sunrise Service in the outdoor chapel with Communion; donuts afterwards; Regular services at 8, 9:45 & 11:15am in the Worship Center.

CUMC CONNECTING IN 2023

CONNECT's goal is to be IN COMMUNITY as we connect with God, connect with one another, and connect with our community. This pillar of CUMC is comprised of 26 teams and many community groups who consistently use our facility.

CUMC Connects with God through Altar Flowers, 3 Prayer Teams and 2 email-only Prayer Teams. We Connect with each other through 13 different programs/opportunities. This includes caring ministries like Bears, LAMs, Card Ministry and Grief Books. It also includes fellowship events, Hospitality Teams, North of 60 events, Men's Corn Roast and 2 Knitting

groups. We Connect with our Community with Line Dancing, RUN CUMC, 3 nights of Pickleball, Walking Club, Softball and Volleyball games, plus Starlights for special needs adults.

Beyond all this, when the building is available, we love sharing our space for community events and programs. In 2023 we worked with 20 on-going groups and 10 occasional event/meetings. CUMC is living into the dream that we are a church in our community, for our community and ready to welcome our community into our building, campus and lives each and every day of the week.



MARCH

- 2** - Family Bowling, 1-3pm
- 3** - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 10** - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 17** - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 22-24** - Preteen Retreat
- No Preteen on the 24th
- 30** - Egg Hunt, 10am-Noon
- 31** - No Preteen

APRIL

- 7** - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 14** - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 21** - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 28** - Preteen, 5-7pm

MAY

- 5** - Kids Worship
Pancakes & Pajamas
- 5** - Preteen, 5-7pm;
2nd Grade Move-Up
- 12** - Mother's Day Tea, 9am
- 19** - Intro to the Bible with 2nd graders, 6-7pm
- 21** - Intro to the Bible with 2nd graders, 4-5pm

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

We have some new things happening in kids worship at 9:45 am. In January we launched our new preschool kids worship class. This class is for kids ages 3-5 who are in preschool and are ready for something a little more than the nursery. This class starts off in the kids' room with the big kids with activities at our tables such as a craft, blocks or a game that has to do with our lesson. Then we have a song time, memory verse with our Bible buddy of the month and a short video clip. Then our preschool class heads across the gathering to their classroom for their lesson. Our preschoolers have been having lots of fun in their new class. We are so grateful for those who have volunteered to teach our preschool class. We can use one or two more volunteers. If you are interested please let Christina know.

In February we also started using a new curriculum in the nursery. This curriculum is called Play-n-Worship and is specifically geared for kids 18-36 months. It teaches Bible lessons through play. Children will hear the same Bible story each week for a month and will have a different play activity to reinforce the Bible story. If your little one has not been to the nursery yet, I hope they will come join us for a fun and engaging lesson.

Looking ahead we have some fun fam-

ily events planned for the spring. Join us on March 2 for Family Bowling at Midway Bowl from 1-3pm. The cost is \$35 per family. This includes pizza and drinks. Please sign up by February 25 in the app or on the church website. On March 30 we will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt from 10am till Noon. Look for more information about that in the upcoming weeks. On Sunday May 12 at 9am we will celebrate Mother's Day with a tea for kids and their moms and/or grandmas. We hope you will join us in the kids' room. Coming up in the spring in Preteen, we are all super excited about our retreat at the Bongiorno Conference Center on March 22-24. We will have our celebration for our 5th graders on April 21 and a fun Sunday on April 28. Fifth graders will move up to Student Ministries, and we will welcome second graders into Preteen on May 5. Planning is already underway for SCU-BA Vacation Bible School, happening this June 9- 14. This year we have set up a gift registry for the things we will need for VBS. If you would like to donate towards VBS go to gift registry.group.com and search Carlisle United Methodist Church. There you can help us purchase our supplies. Thank you for your prayers and support of Kids' Ministry at CUMC.

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



NERF NIGHT RECAP

Recently, we hosted a Middle School Nerf Night that brought together 29 energetic middle schoolers for an evening filled with laughter, fun, competition and a reminder that church is community.

Our dedicated team of volunteers worked diligently to create an environment where every participant felt secure and free to enjoy the night's festivities. The sound of laughter echoed through the halls as middle schoolers engaged in various Nerf games that promoted teamwork, strategy, and good-natured competition. The event not only provided an outlet for physical activity but also fostered a sense of community among the participants.

Nerf Night is not just about foam darts and friendly competition; it's an opportunity to create a safe and inclusive environment where young minds can experience the love of Jesus through fellowship and shared activities. Amidst the dart-filled excitement, a powerful message was woven into the fabric of Nerf Night – the message of love and community inspired by the teachings of Jesus.

At CUMC, our vision is to strive to Live Like Jesus and invite all to become disciples. Nerf Night was a microcosm of this mission in action, demonstrating that faith is not confined to Sunday but extends to every aspect of our lives, even a fun-filled evening of Nerf battles. As we reflect on Nerf Night, we celebrate the bonds formed, and the spirit of togetherness that defines our community. As a student ministry, we are committed to creating spaces where our students can experience joy, make lasting connections, and, most importantly, learn to love like Jesus in every aspect of their lives.

ADULT GROW

COMING IN MARCH

A Spirituality of Aging: Spirited Living for the Second Half of Life **Tuesdays, March 5-26, 6:30-8:00pm at CUMC**

In the earlier stages of life, we are naturally and rightly focused on establishing our identity in the world—climbing, achieving, and performing. But these concerns will not serve us well as we grow older and begin to embark on a deeper journey of life, one that involves challenges, mistakes, loss of control, and suffering that shocks us out of our prior comfort zone. Eventually, we need to embrace ourselves and our life's tasks in a different and more life-giving way. This four-week conversation will invite us to consider various themes of aging spirituality that will help us find a new way of being in the world and a deeper relationship with God and others. Led by Rev. Gary Shockley, Spiritual Director, Artist and Aging disciple of Jesus.

SIGN UP FOR ADULT GROW CLASSES
ON THE CUMC APP or ONLINE AT
WWW.CARLISLEPAUMC.ORG/SIGNUP

To Know Thyself - Spiritual Gifting Class
Wednesdays, March 6-20, 6:00-7:30pm at CUMC
Ever wondered what unique spiritual gift God has given you for service in the church and wider community? This class will help you discover those gifts and explore meaningful opportunities to use them as a disciple of Jesus. If you already know your gifts this will help you explore them further. If you don't know your gifts a link to a survey/test will be sent to you after you register for the class. Led by Sue Baxter, Adult Grow Leader and Tom Kaden, Co-founder of Someone To Tell It To.

COMING IN APRIL

Explore CUMC: Membership Class
Sundays, April 14-May 5, 9:30-10:45am at CUMC
Learn the structure, DNA and how we live out our mission and vision to Live Like Jesus at Carlisle UMC. This class is for everyone who desires to become a member of the church OR are simply interested in learning more about CUMC, its leaders and other people who are newer to the church. Materials will be provided at the first session. Led by Pastor Mira and other staff/leaders of the church.

Gary Shockley, Adult GROW Director | gshockley@carlislepaumc.org

A SMALL ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS



Each Saturday morning, a small army of volunteers from 11 churches meets in the Gathering with people who are experiencing emergency financial needs. Some are facing eviction after a job loss or illness; some are unable to afford repairs to aging vehicles; some have lost work hours and cannot afford to fill their gas tanks to travel to work. What is common is that these are people living on the

financial edge where a loss of income, however small, pushes them into a spiral that is hard to stop. Teams of volunteers interview anywhere from 6 to 24 clients. Client documents are shared. A decision board comes to a consensus on whether Samaritan Fellowship can help by paying bills, or if the client should be referred to another agency better suited to meet their needs. Whatever the decision, clients leave with a list of resources to draw on in the future, copies of devotionals, and the prayers of our members. Currently there are 10 active Stewards from CUMC. Any of us would be happy to share more about how your prayers, gifts, and CUMC's facilities benefit those in need. Every single week.

~ Cheryl Hale

HOW CUMC SERVED IN 2023



The SERVE rhythm of life fulfills Christ's mandate to love one another, help those in need, and make new disciples. We believe our faith must be accompanied by our actions. Working together, we can make an impact and truly build bridges in our community by sharing the love of Jesus Christ through community partnerships.

In 2023 SERVE had 17 partners and piloted a new program with Domestic Violence Services. In total CUMC adults and students reached 8249 people as we were God's hands and feet in Carlisle and beyond. We counted 536 volunteers that provided services through 6 teams in Carlisle supporting those with housing instability; 3 programs that provide food for hungry neighbors; and 5 programs with kids. We continued our partnership with Mellier School in Haiti, the NOMADS program nationally, Mission Cen-

tral sending items nationally and internationally and 2 adult and 2 student Volunteer in Mission Teams in 2023.

Through Special Sunday offerings, support of our Serve programs, and mission trips CUMC gave \$149,735!!! Through the hours served, the funds given, and leadership of our Serve and Student Ministry teams; lives were changed because of how we live like Jesus...in Carlisle and beyond. Thank you to all who served, who gave, and who prayed. May God continue to use us in the year ahead.

2024 CUMC SERVE PARTNERSHIPS

Housing/Homelessness

- Domestic Violence Services, New Life Community Church, Cumberland County Housing Authority, Church World Service

Hunger

- Samaritan Fellowship, Fruitbelt Farmworkers Ministry, Project SHARE, Salvation Army

Kids

- Little Lights Learning Center, LeTort Elementary School, United Way

Nationally/Internationally

- Mellier School Haiti, Living Waters Ministry Haiti, Mission Central, Volunteers in Mission

HOMELESS TO HOME



WOW...a \$45,000 Community Development Block Grant for CUMC to assist those moving from homelessness into a home! Beyond awesome! CUMC's Homeless to Home outreach, also referred to as H2H, received this grant through the Cumberland County Housing

Authority, thanks to Pastor Mira's grant writing. These funds will allow CUMC to assist many more families moving from homelessness into housing each year, which is beyond cool!

With this grant CUMC has partnered with New Life Community Church, (NLC), so together, we can assist more households through case managers' referrals. As the majority of clients do not have the basics as they move into housing, New Life's Lifestyles ministry provides gently used/new household goods and/or

furniture along with CUMC's H2H providing personal care and cleaning supplies. With CUMC's partnership with New Life Community Church, households will receive what is needed to make a house a home, as individuals and families move from homelessness into housing. In addition, NLC has generously provided a large storage space for the increased amount of household and cleaning items that need to be purchased in bulk and stocked. What an incredible way for CUMC to make a difference in our community, as we partner with another community church!

There are a lot of moving parts as we coordinate our outreaches with processes and procedures being put in place for a smooth expansion of the H2H outreach. H2H's partnership with New Life Community's Lifestyles outreach went LIVE on November 13, 2023. As H2H begins receiving an increased number of referrals, we will be shaking out any bugs and glitches in the system, (continued on page 6)

SERVING WITH PROJECT SHARE

In 2023, CUMC helped to package 409 SHARE boxes that were distributed to 111 different families. We together filled over 400 spice packets that have been distributed during Your Choice Distribution which serves 600 families monthly.

Eggs are a staple to many families. Currently a dozen eggs are being distributed every other week at Farmstand to 436 families. Through our Alternative Gifts donation at Christmas they can supplement with a week's worth of eggs to fill that gap on the off week. On Feb 11th we did "Souper Bowl of Caring" providing canned soup and cash to support Project SHARE and help feed hungry neighbors.

During Lent we will have two special collections.



CUMC will join with other UMCs in the Harrisburg area to collect peanut butter (almond butter, etc). Our goal is 333 jars of peanut butter – to match our address. Between Ash Wednesday (Feb 14) and Palm Sunday

(March 24) peanut butters will be collected at the Serve area in the Gathering.

During Holy Week breakfasts, the Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Sunday we will be collecting cash to help provide a week of eggs. 450 dozen eggs = \$450.

Thank you for being a church who helps feed our hungry neighbors; and praying for all the ministry and support of Project SHARE to all in Carlisle area.

~ Tina Rusnak

CARD MINISTRY AT CUMC

The Card Ministry Team at CUMC is a group of volunteers who send cards out monthly to our LAMS (Limited Activity Members). It's a way to CONNECT with members of our church family who are homebound or who have difficulty and are unable to get to church for worship or other special events. We want them to know they remain an important part of our church family. In 2023 the team sent 201 cards out to our LAMS throughout the year. Each time a card or note is sent it's making that LAM know that their CUMC family is thinking of them and even though we may not be able to see them in person we are showing them that they are loved, are important to us and are in our thoughts and prayers. If you would like to volunteer and CONNECT with our LAMS as part of the Card Ministry Team please contact Heidi Heberlig via email at office@carlislepaumc.org or by calling the church office at 717.249.1512. We would love to have more people be part of the team. You can also help by making cards or donating cards that the team can use. Please drop the cards off at the church office indicating they're for the Card Ministry Team.

~ Heidi Heberlig

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch meets the third Friday of the month at various restaurants. All restaurants selected are handicap accessible. We do ask people to make reservations with Jane Lerch so seating can be arranged. The next three months are as follows:

March 15 - Super Buffet in Carlisle; April 19 - Brothers Restaurant (north of Dillsburg); May 17 - restaurant to be announced (near Adams Co)

(Homeless...continued from page 5)

so it will be easy to scale up with volunteers.

Many thanks go to a crew of people that have/are helping with this transition and expanded outreach. A shout out to Chris Matangos, a CUMC member, who was able to obtain shelving units from his employer, Allen Distribution. This donation allows CUMC to stretch our dollars further and assist more households. Thanks, Chris!

More shout-outs for those who assisted in moving H2H's current supplies to our new location and to volunteers who helped with transporting shelving, unpacking and shelving supplies, taking inventory, helping with processes and procedures, and volunteering to fulfill requests. The volunteers are too numerous to mention all by name, though many willingly put their hands up to help when asked. A BIG thanks to all!

Please pray that H2H's transition to a larger outreach goes smoothly, though more importantly, please pray for the people, individuals and families who are moving into housing, which solves one of life's big challenges. May they have bright, new opportunities ahead of them. CUMC is making a difference way beyond our church's walls! Once again, we give thanks to all who help CUMC bless others in our community.

~ Art & Cindy Kunst

THINGS I HAVE LEARNED AS A FINANCE VOLUNTEER

Many people at CUMC know me as a choir singer, a big bass bell ringer, and a Men's Quartet member, but may not know that I am also a finance volunteer. I do not have a professional financial background but have always found it interesting, so I have served



in several ways over many years. I began as a member of an offering counting team at the former Allison UMC. As the churches prepared to merge, we realized that each church had a different system of procedures for the counting, documenting, and depositing of offerings. Under the leadership of our current financial secretary, David Price, I was part of a group that discussed the best way to move forward. I was briefly a member of the Stewardship committee, then became a member of our current Finance Team.

Running a very large church like CUMC is a complex task. When we think of the church budget it is easy to think of the big- ticket items like salaries, benefits, heating, and "keeping the lights on." These items are obvious, but there are many other expenses that are significant but "fly beneath the radar." Our connectional expenses to support the world-wide outreach of the United Methodist Church, and property/casualty insurance are two of these.

My newest volunteer assignment is what we call "Second Set of Eyes on the Visa Account." This is another of numerous safeguards the church has in place to make sure that our offerings are used wisely. Most – but not all – of the program leaders have a church Visa card with a set limit. They use the card for supplies as needed within their budget, with a pastor's approval needed for larger purchases. Receipts must be submitted to

document each purchase. At the end of the month our bookkeeper, Kevin Stafford, has the major task of going through the Visa bill and matching the receipts with the charges. At some later date I randomly pull a month's Visa file and go through the charges

and receipts to see if they are logical.

This Visa task has taught me new things about the costs of keeping the church running smoothly. I had never thought much about subscription costs of software, technology, media, and license fees. Besides the usual software and computer needs of each office there is a complex software system that ties together the financial aspects of the church including bookkeeping, bill paying, giving statements, and financial reporting. Rhonda uses graphics software to generate fabulous brochures, signs, and flyers. There is an office copier contract, and AV, Zoom, and other technology needs. It costs money to stream our services. Did you know there is a licensing fee to cover the songs in our streamed services?

Then there are purchases of Grow materials, pastor resources, kids and youth food and supplies, state inspection and van repairs, gasoline for the mowers, and HEPA filters. These are a sample of some of the things that the church uses its Visa card for. Uhhh Did I mention copier paper?

Thank you for your giving which supports the obvious and not so obvious expenses of CUMC. And please consider being a volunteer in an area of the church that interests you or try something new. There are plenty of opportunities to serve and to help make a difference!

~ John Houpt

LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH

CUMC is a Lighthouse church, one of nine currently in the conference who have a committee to support and engage with United Methodists in their area whose previous church has disaffiliated. A Lighthouse church is one that has chosen to be loyal to the United Methodist church while also believing all are welcome. A Lighthouse committee has been formed at CUMC and is active. The committee has completed training provided by the Susquehanna Conference for Lighthouse churches. We have had families worshipping with us who are from disaffiliated churches, I have been asked by members to identify them so they can welcome them. I believe that is not necessary, disaffiliation is a painful experience and people need to share their story only if they

want to. I hear every week from first time church goers that we are a welcoming church. We need to simply continue doing what we do.

The Lighthouse committee does need the congregation's support with a new project. We are offering to meet people in our area from disaffiliated United Methodist Churches for coffee and a chat. We know that losing their church is painful and a genuine loss. Do you know anyone who is from a disaffiliated church and not currently worshipping anywhere? We would like to connect and help them find a church that is right for them if they are interested. Or maybe they simply want to chat about their experience. Please introduce us and join us for coffee too. ~ Andrea Katz

CUMC WALKING CLUB



While all of CUMC's ministries provide opportunities for its participants to enhance their minds, hearts and

souls, the Walking Club does all of that plus provides a researched based activity that can lower your blood pressure, reduce the risk of chronic diseases and make your mind sharper. Founded in 2021 as we were re-opening the doors due to COVID, the Walking Club will begin its fourth season on March 20 if Punxsutawney Phil correctly predicted an early spring. Our present roster consists of members from our three former churches, new members of CUMC and attendees of

all three service.

We walk on Wednesday mornings starting at 9am – sometimes starting at CUMC but often off campus. We have about 15 different walks/trails that we follow usually going two to three miles. The club begins each walk using the updated prayer list from Sunday's service and prays for those on the list, our pastors and our church's many ministries. Our final walk in December ends with a brunch prepared by Connie at our home. The pace of each walk varies depending upon the walkers who are participating on any given Wednesday.

We are always looking for new members. One can walk as often as one wants. If you have any questions or want to become a member, please contact me at kermleitner@comcast.net. ~ Kerm Leitner

2024 CUMC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Meet the CUMC Leadership Council for 2024:

Michelle Williams, Chair: Leads LC meetings, ensures clear communication between council, pastors, staff, and congregation, handles official correspondence, and maintains focus on CUMC's mission and vision.

Tom Kaden, Leadership Development and Nominations: Acts as Lay Leader, nominates leadership positions, leads in developing new leaders, and uplifts laity roles within the church.

Eric Sands, Finance: Manages financial oversight, chairs finance meetings, prepares annual budgets, and ensures adherence to financial policies and procedures.

Kerm Leitner, GIVE: Promotes giving, collaborates with GIVE teams on strategy, thanks donors, and shares financial reports.

Jeff Barnes, Facilities: Coordinates with the Facilities Manager, oversees maintenance projects, ensures cemetery care, and manages safety and maintenance schedules.

Kathy Charette, Personnel 1 – Pastors and Policies: Handles pastoral reviews, policy updates, and coordinates Pastor Appreciation events.

Cheryl Hale, Personnel 2 – Staff: Manages staff hiring, performance reviews, and liaisons between staff, pastors, and leadership.

Sharon Edwards, Pillar/Ministry Leader: Sets goals for church ministries, communicates successes, and encourages volunteer participation.

Carol Lemon, Task Force: Leads task force planning and execution, ensures effective resource management, and aligns activities with CUMC's mission and vision.

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

jwaybright@carlislepaumc.org

Rev. Mira Hewlett
Executive Pastor

mhewlett@carlislepaumc.org

333 S Spring Garden Street
Carlisle, PA
717.249.1512 • carlislepaumc.org