

# THE BRIDGE

JUNE '24 | JULY '24 | AUG '24  
CARLISLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## A FOND FAREWELL TO PASTOR MIRA



*Dear Pastor Mira,*

As you step into this next chapter at your new church home, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared with you over the past 13 years. You have been a beacon of strength and leadership as our Associate Pastor and then Executive Pastor, guiding us through some of the most significant milestones in our church's history. Your leadership during the merger of three churches to become Carlisle United Methodist Church was a testament to your dedication and vision. You exhibited patience and perseverance as the diverse communities were brought together into one united family.

Throughout the uncertainties of the pandemic, your unwavering faith and steadfast guidance provided

us with comfort and a sense of stability, anchoring us in hope and resilience. And amidst all these pivotal moments, you played a crucial role in the pastoral transitions and the realization of our new church facility—a dream turned into reality under your watch, solidifying our congregation's future and mission.

Your dedication to the Connect and Serve ministries, along with your embodiment of living like Jesus, has made a profound impact locally, nationally, and globally. Through your leadership, countless lives have been touched and transformed, both within our community and beyond. Your tireless efforts to connect people and spark others to serve have not only strengthened our congregation but have contributed to positive changes in the world. Your vision and passion for service,

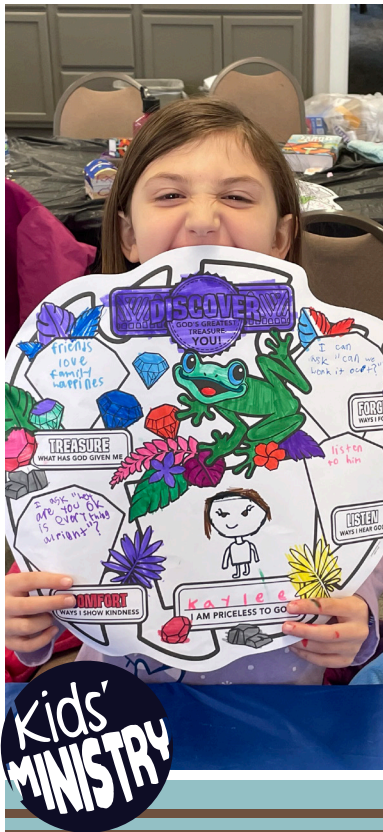
fueled by your relentless energy, have truly made a difference in the lives of many.

Your ministry in Worship and Grow has been instrumental in nurturing our spiritual growth and deepening our faith. Your insightful and inspiring sermons have touched hearts and minds, leading many to profound moments of spiritual awakening and renewal. Your commitment to helping individuals grow in their relationship with God has left an enduring mark on our congregation, encouraging a community of believers to continue their faith journey.

Amid these professional achievements, your personal journey has been equally inspiring. Becoming a mother to Grace has added a beautiful dimension to your life, one that has brought even more joy and love into our community. Your ability to balance these roles with such strength and commitment has touched us all deeply.

As you move on to lead your new congregation, we send you off with immense gratitude and heartfelt blessings. We have no doubt that your new church home is incredibly blessed to have you and Grace. You leave behind a legacy of love, leadership, and profound impact on each one of us. We are forever changed because of your presence in our lives.

*With all our love and prayers,  
Carlisle United Methodist Church  
Leadership and Congregation*



We had a fantastic spring in Kids Ministry. We continue to have a lot of fun in Kids Worship as we discover what it means to be Simply Loved by God. We have been talking about Jesus' death and resurrection in March. We also enjoyed making snack bags filled with goodies and notes to encourage our mission team. In April we learned about the Holy Spirit. We talked about what the Holy Spirit is and does. In May we will start learning about parables and how Jesus used them when he taught. Every month the kids have a memory verse and they do a wonderful job of remembering it. We had a fun Sunday in April with a puppet show from Gary Ankabrandt, Kevin Guistwite and friends. We also enjoyed a fun Sunday in May eating Pancakes in our Pajamas!

morning! A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt! Looking ahead to the summer in Preteen, we have some fun summer events planned. We are going on a day trip to Knoebels Amusement Park on June 7th from 9:30am-8pm. The cost is \$52. We will be having a Water Battle on July 14 from 5-7pm. Please come expecting to get wet. We will also be going mini-golfing on August 9 from 5-7pm. We will be meeting at the sports emporium. The cost of Mini-golf is \$15. We are also really excited for SCUBA VBS June 9 -13. Vacation Bible School will be from 5:30pm-8pm with an optional dinner at 5pm. We will have our closing program and picnic on June 14 at 5:30pm. There is still time to sign up on the church website.

## SUMMER PRETEEN

- JUNE 7** - Knoebel's Day Trip.
- JULY 14** - Water Battle, 5-7pm
- AUG 9** - Mini Golf, 5-7pm, cost \$15

## SUMMER KIDS AND FAMILIES EVENTS

- JUNE 9** - Dads & Donuts, 9am
- JUNE 9** - VBS, 5:30-8pm
- JUNE 10** - VBS, 5:30-8pm
- JUNE 11** - VBS, 5:30-8pm
- JUNE 12** - VBS, 5:30-8pm
- JUNE 13** - VBS, 5:30-8pm
- JUNE 14** - VBS Closing & Picnic, 5:30pm
- JUNE 16** - Pastor Mira's last Sunday
- AUG 4** - Sundaes on Sunday, 3:30-5pm
- AUG 18** - Blessing of the Backpacks during Worship

In Preteen, we continue to take a look at tough questions while exploring what it means to Be Bold in our faith. We have also had lots of fun getting to play outside again and celebrating the end of our year. We said goodbye to our 5th grade friends and welcomed new friends that will be entering 3rd grade in the fall. Preteens also had a blast on their retreat at the end of March. Our theme was Pirates and we took a look at the book of Jonah and talked about being treasured by God. It was great to see all the families that joined this spring for activities. We had a wonderful afternoon bowling in March. We also loved seeing all the kids hunt for eggs at our yearly Easter Egg Hunt. It was such a fun

On August 4 we will be having Sundaes on Sunday. This is a chance for those little ones moving up into kids worship to have ice cream with the kids worship leaders and to make new friends. It is also a great chance to have some ice cream and play some outdoor games with your church family. We will be blessing backpacks on August 18. This summer we also have a lot of kids going to summer camp. If you would be interested in contributing to the camp scholarship fund please let Christina know.



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

The first week of May the Pastors and I got the opportunity to sit down and have dinner with some of our High School Seniors and reflect on their lives as they

celebrate the milestone of Graduation. Take a look at some of what was discussed in the midst of laughter and lots of reminiscing. ~ ERIN FLEET



## Describe a time when your faith was challenged, and how did CUMC community support you through it?

Near the end of 2022 my very healthy dog died. It was very quick and a surprising death. That was the worst unexpected loss I've experienced and I am aware that people sometimes blamed God or were mad at God but I didn't really experience that until this passing. But our family continued to come to CUMC and was surrounded by people who cared for us. Also a few of the sermons hit home around these topics as God does. We felt very supported and we were getting spoken to and it was a really good thing for me and my family.

## SHARE A MOMENT YOU FELT INSPIRED OR CHALLENGED TO LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH IN A NEW WAY BECAUSE OF SOMETHING YOU EXPERIENCED

I guess I had an ahh-ha moment after being at Charlie's house and thinking about the other mission trips I've been on. I think I've become a little bit more I guess understanding as to why some people are in these circumstances. I mean sure his house was a mess but he didn't choose to do that. I'm starting to understand that being so low that addiction is the only option for some people's problems. I've learned to understand and not judge.

## WHAT'S ONE HOPE OR PRAYER YOU HAVE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR STUDENT MINISTRY OR CHURCH AS YOU TRANSITION OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL?

I would say for student ministry my prayer would be for people to continue to attend and to bring in some new people. I would want other people to have the experiences I had that student ministry changed my life and shaped my faith. As the church I would pray that the church would know that the church has always been a safe place for me. So I'd pray that it would continue to be that way for anyone who might need something like that.

## What is one Bible verse or passage that has been particularly meaningful to you?

Exodus 14:14 "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." - I think that explains everything that needs to be understood.

## SHARE A MEMORABLE MOMENT FROM A RETREAT OR MISSION TRIP

So far without a doubt that summer's mission trip helping Charlie was by far my memory. When we were sitting in the van listening to Charlie's recorded song he shared with us. That was a really cool moment.

## Share a favorite worship song or hymn and explain why it's meaningful to you

Lay it all down- because it has a memory attached to it from the mission trip in 2019 and because it just says what we all need reminded to do.

## WHAT'S ONE THING YOU APPRECIATE MOST ABOUT THE COMMUNITY OF CUMC?

The retreats and the mission trips because we help a lot of people.

## Share a funny memory from Carlisle UMC

Libby clogging the toilet was the best on-going joke!

## WHAT'S ONE THING YOU'VE LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF SPIRITUALLY IN THE LAST YEAR?

During a recent study in student ministry I did a spiritual gifts assessment and I learned that one of my top spiritual gifts was serving. After I thought about it, it made sense, I do like to help wherever I can and jump in wherever I can.

## How has participating in Student Ministry activities helped you grow in your understanding of what it means to be a Christian?

I think it helped me grow because it helped me see that being a Christian is more than like going to church and believing in God. It's building a community with the people around you and building relationships. It's also serving in the community doing project share work.



**Still Stace (book discussion)**

Tuesdays: June 18, 25, & July 9, 7-8pm at CUMC

A memoir by Stacey Chomaik who shares her personal journey from being a teen who tries to pray the gay away to becoming happily married with 2 kids. She highlights her struggles with people in her life who tried to tell her a relationship with Jesus and being gay are not compatible. Led by Andrea Katz.

**The Enneagram: He, You, Me**

Thursdays: June 20 & 27, 6-7:30pm at CUMC

Learn about the nine styles of the Enneagram as well as relating your style with another. Led by James & Stephanie Baity.

**It's Easy to be Happy When...**

Mondays: July 8-22, 6:30-8pm at CUMC

Three-week class looking at the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians. Led by Pastor Jim VanZandt.

**Count It All Joy Stich-A-Long**

Tuesdays: July 9-23, 6-7:30pm at CUMC

Join together to meditate on what it means to "count it all joy" through the art of stitching. Led by Jen Brink.

**Myths of the Bible**

Thursdays: July 18 & 25, 6-7pm at CUMC

Explore some of the beliefs, assumptions and mistranslations in many modern English language Bibles that don't accurately match the

Hebrew or Greek original writings. Led by Michelle Williams.

**Love Letters of John**

Mondays, July 29 & Aug 5, 6:30-8pm at CUMC

Two-session study comparing the beautiful writings of John and discover their meanings in our lives. Led by Rev. Dr. Jonathan Terry.

**What are the Kids Doing?**

Wednesday, Aug 14, 6:30-8pm at CUMC

Explore what happens on Sunday morning in the Kids/Student wing of our building. Led by Carol Lemon and Sharon Edwards.

**21 Day Gratitude Challenge**

Thursdays: June 20 & 27, 6-7:30pm at CUMC

A four-week journey in practices of gratitude. Led by Pastor Jake Waybright.

**Disciple 1 - Fast Track**

Begins Sept. 15, 6-7:30pm at CUMC

24-week class on the Old & New Testament. Led by Vicki Morley and Roger Woods.

**Sign up for classes on the CUMC app or online at [carlislepaumc.org/signup](http://carlislepaumc.org/signup)**

**HOSPITALITY PAUSE**

We all know when we experience it at a business. You enter the door and all the employees say welcome to... The Hospitality pause is a purposeful break from what each person is currently doing to greet the unknown. The unknown at CUMC may be a first-time guest or a regular you haven't met yet. The 5-10 rule is a great way to practice the hospitality pause.

The 5-10 rule is how we can connect with people at 5 and 10 feet away from each of us. At

can smile, nod, and make eye contact with everyone within ten feet of us. When we use the 5-10 rule we are greeting everyone within 5 feet of us.

The pause is best used if it is short. A quick hello, welcome, introducing yourself is all it takes, nothing fancy. These quick interactions give guests the opportunity to ask questions or walk away. Their choice. Remember this is your established church, you feel comfortable while the guest did a big thing; they walked in the door.

The part of the 5-10 rule with the longest impacting is remembering. Remembering the names of the people you meet. Some people take notes so they remember the names. Make sure you read your notes.

I was told recently 5-10 is work, that it doesn't feel natural. For many it does come naturally, and the rest of us practice. I believe if we purposefully pause to welcome guests, we are attempting to live like Jesus.

~ **ANDREA KATZ**



# 10 CUBED

## THURSDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST FUNDRAISING EVENT

Twelve years ago, a member of the Thursday Men's Breakfast Group, Dr. Jim Boytim, shared a fundraising inspiration with our small group. His idea was that 10 men would meet 10 times a year and contribute \$10.00 at each meeting. At the end of the year the group would have \$1000 to donate to a local organization. Jim called his idea "10 Cubed". Though Dr. Boytim is no longer with us, Thursday Men's Breakfast has continued to honor him through an

annual fundraising event to keep alive his vision of a "10 Cubed" fund. Dr. Boytim was passionate about helping people in need in our community. He was active in many organizations that did just that. Over the years Thursday Men's Breakfast Group has donated funds to many local organizations in the greater Carlisle area.

Each year a beneficiary is decided upon by the members of the group. Since 2019, the group has unani-

mously voted to support programs that assist families in need at Letort Elementary School.

\$10 in today's economy doesn't seem to go a long way. However, when you CUBE \$10... multiply it by 10 and then by 10 again... I'll let you do the math. Beyond the obvious product, the value of the act is cubed... kindness x generosity x blessings... a "multiple effect" impact in our world for Jesus Christ.

~ RICH CHARETTE

# THE BEARS



The Bear group, part of our CONNECT pillar, consists of Church members who have a medical problem and are unable to attend Church on a regular basis, but hope to eventually return to the services. I was asked to call each Bear at least once a month. During the call we talk about the medical problem, if each person wants to, what each has been doing, his/her family, activities he/she might have attended, future doctor visits, if each is receiving bulletins, newsletters, etc. from

Church and even sometimes football. Some of the Bears I had known from Allison and Grace and some were strangers to me.

Each Bear is unique and I have enjoyed each one who was assigned to me. I have made some new friends and hope to be able to meet each in person. After each call, I send a report to our pastors so they know what's happening with our members.

As of May 1 2024 Gloria Taylor and I have 12 Bears that we keep in touch with, pray with, and care for them while they are healing. This is one of the ways we care for one another at CUMC and find both we and our Bears are blessed through this ministry.

~ MARY FETROW

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR HIRING PROCESS & UPDATE

The search for a new associate pastor is a lot more than just advertising and hoping for the best. We are hiring for a theological and cultural fit in addition to competence in the job responsibilities required of a pastor. It is a strategic and significant decision, as this person is going to be shaping our leadership culture for years to come. It is not just the past and the present to consider, it is also the future.

A number of carefully considered steps have led us to where we are today. The Leadership Council (LC) approved a job description and qualifications for this new role. Advertisements were posted (continued on page 7)

# CARLISLE UMC EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND



The Emergency Assistance Fund began as HOT Grace around 2009 as a Grace UMC complement to Samaritan Fellowship. HOT stood for Homeless Outreach Team, a term disgusting to some but embraced by many more. Over its sixteen years, the EAF assisted church members and strangers, averaging about four per month, and donating about \$1500 per year. Since CUMC moved to the Spring Garden Campus, the number of persons seeking help has dropped to about two per month. But with inflation, our average donation is greater. EAF donates on your behalf \$25 and \$40 Giant Gift Cards, which can pay for

gasoline, a meal, and food. We greet applicants, listen, evaluate, advise, give, and pray with them. Many of the needs are greater than our abilities, so we advise about other assistance available. CUMC produces a brochure covering important services in our area. Pick one up at Info Central. We also interview walk-ins between services on Sunday. If you are interested in joining the EAF team, please talk to one of the Pastors or to me. And please give to the EAF by Alternative Gifts.

~ **CHARLES L. REYNOLDS**  
**717.713.9447**

## WE ARE HONORED TO SERVE...

CUMC launched a pilot project in April 2023 and renewed it for 2024 to support individuals receiving services at the Cumberland/Perry Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter in Carlisle with a hot lunch once a month during the support group meeting.

CUMC quickly got 15 volunteers for this project and this group immediately wanted to do more to bless, support and nurture these women and children in transition. Easter baskets for the children and Mother's Day tote bags for the mothers were overflowing with toys, goodies and cards of encouragement in 2023 and 2024.

CUMC added this project to the list of Alternative Gifts that could be selected for Christmas giving in December 2023. These gifts totaled \$650.00 and the funds were split evenly between the two projects - baskets and bags. These funds purchased the main gift

for the children including glow in the dark footballs for the boys, jewelry making kits for the girls and play mats with lots of surprises for the babies and toddlers. The mothers received Gold Bond hand cream, gel socks and manicure kits. CUMC volunteers contributed all the extra goodies and candy to expand the packages.

We formed a new partnership in 2024 with the LeTorte Quilt Guild to provide handmade tote bags for mothers. These fabric bags were colorful, fun and functional to serve both as the packaging for these gifts but also for use on a regular basis as a purse or carry-all.

We are honored to serve these most vulnerable members of our community as they move forward to heal their trauma through prayers, good food, gifts, love and support. We also continue to offer prayers in remembrance for the local victims who have perished because of

violence and their families of which there were four more in 2022, the last year that statistics are currently available.

~ **MARY SEATON**  
& **SANDY GALLAGHER**

## LUNCH BUNCH SAVE THE DATES

The Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Friday at 11:30am at different restaurants. It is open to all ages including friends & family. All restaurants are handicapped accessible & have off-street parking. In June we are going to the Three Pines in Mt Holly Springs, In July we will be going to Inn 94 outside of New Oxford & August is yet to be determined. If you have questions contact Jane Lerch, 717.258.6864.



# SERVING LETORT ELEMENTARY

Laughter, pencils, erasers, glue, scissors, paint, books, kickballs, ipads, discussions, questions, answers, music, lunch, and friendship - what do these things have in common? They are all part of the week day life at Letort Elementary School. Imagine being a part of these activities and helping to have an impact on over 200 students at the school : listening to their stories of adventures in and out of school; helping them as they read; spelling a word for them as they write; encouraging them to keep trying on difficult tasks; giving them a smile and a hug while getting one in return. These are just some of the experiences

the 14 volunteers from CUMC have each day they are in the classrooms at the school. Assisting teachers and students is just one part of the nine-year CUMC Serve partnership with the school. During the 2023-24 school year, the church has contributed the following: gift cards to the teachers for supplies; gift cards to the entire staff to use for personal items; a large donation by the Thursdays men’s group used for the purchase of gift cards that are given to Letort families who have special personal needs; breakfast for the teachers and staff; lunch for the teachers during parent/teacher conferences; books for the weekly

Book Swap; shoes for 12 students as part of the Christmas gift tag tree; monthly notes of support to each teacher and staff member; treat bags for Teacher Appreciation Week. CUMC will continue to support Letort Elementary School during the 2024-25 school year in as many ways as possible. In doing so, we continue to “Live like Jesus” and spread his blessings to the community. If you are interested in joining the ranks of the volunteers who enjoy being a part of this ministry, please contact Jane Boley at [jboley@carlislepaumc.org](mailto:jboley@carlislepaumc.org) .

~ JANE BOLEY

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(Associate...continued from page 5) in publications viewed by candidates describing the opportunity here as well as the qualifications. Pastors shared the opportunity among their networks. There were fifty-three inquiries and twenty-three resumes received from as close as Carlisle and from around the world. As resumes were received, Kathy Charette screened them to ensure the qualifications were met. A team consisting of Kathy Charette, Cheryl Hale, Deb Johnston, Jim Vanzandt and Carol Lemon reviewed and prayerfully considered the twenty-three qualifying applicants. Nine were selected for Zoom interviews with Kathy Charette and Cheryl Hale.

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Upon completion of those interviews, five candidates remained. A decision was made to employ Chemistry Staffing, a company that helps churches determine whether a candidate is a healthy, long-term fit. There are five components to their process: Theology, Church Culture/DNA, Personality, Skill and Abilities, and Chemistry. As this is being written, the results of the Final Fit Analysis have been received and candidates are slated for interviews with Pastor Jake, Pastor Jim VanZandt, and LC Chair Michelle Williams. The final step will be on site (or zoom, depending on the applicant’s location) interviews with CUMC ministry leaders, LC and pastors.

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While we wait for the Lord to make clear the next associate pastor at CUMC, we have been praying and asking for the Lord’s hand to be upon the hiring process. While we may not know the identity of our new associate pastor, He does. Our search for an associate pastor is being done with prayerfully informed wisdom and decision-making. We would like to thank everyone that has and continues to pray for us and our new associate pastor and the volunteers and staff who have assisted the team along the way. We will keep the congregation updated as soon as we have more information.

# SAFETY & SECURITY UPDATE

Church safety and security has become an increasingly important topic in recent years, as congregations look to protect people and assets from potential threats. Implementing and maintaining church safety and security policies and procedures is essential for fostering a secure environment and ensuring the well-being of those who attend services, Little Lights, events, classes, and outside groups. The approach—trust in God and be prepared—balances the faithful with the practical and provides a wise middle ground for congregations.

Our Facilities Manager, Jason Weeber, has been attending quarterly seminars on House of Worship safety and security. These seminars include safety and security for our people, building and grounds, indoor and outdoor events, making yourself appear as a hard target and more. Through these seminars we developed a community partnership with the local and state police. These community partnerships provided the opportunity for a training session by the state police for our staff, walkthroughs of our building and grounds for familiarization, a copy of the building blueprints are on file with the local and state police should they need them during an emergency, and we are scheduled for a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment. You may also see state troopers driving through our parking lot on Sunday mornings and when we have larger events to provide a law enforcement presence. During staff meetings this year, the staff will select one emergency

listed in the CUMC Emergency Response Guide (ERC) to review and discuss responsibilities. In April, Jason Weeber attended The Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security Domestic Terrorism and Violent Extremism Briefing for community and faith-based organizations.

We can all do things to help ourselves, our families, and others feel more safe and secure at church. Safety and security are the responsibility of all of us! Here are some things that you can do.

- Know where the exits in the church are located so you can easily exit during an emergency and guide others.
- Say "Hello" and introduce yourself to those you have not met before. This connects and welcomes visitors and helps us remain aware of others visiting services and events.
- Keep an eye out for unattended children and help them return to their parents or leader.
- See something, say something to a staff member.
- Volunteer leaders should review the CUMC ERC guidelines posted in the room they are using so they know how to lead and help others during an emergency.
- Know where the AEDs and fire extinguishers are located.
- Take a CPR class.

For questions about church safety and security, please contact Jason Weeber, Facilities Manager or Jeff Barnes, Leadership Council Facilities Representative.

~ **JASON WEEBER,**  
**KATHY CHARETTE,**  
**JEFF BARNES, & ERIC SANDS**



## WORSHIP TIMES

### 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 a variety of traditional hymns, songs from "The Faith We Sing."

\*8am & 9:45am services are live streamed to [carlislepaumc.org/worshipexperience](http://carlislepaumc.org/worshipexperience)



333 S Spring Garden Street  
Carlisle, PA  
717.249.1512 • [carlislepaumc.org](http://carlislepaumc.org)

**Rev. Jake Waybright**  
**Vision Pastor**  
[jwaybright@carlislepaumc.org](mailto:jwaybright@carlislepaumc.org)

• **Rev. Mira Hewlett**  
• **Executive Pastor**  
• [mhewlett@carlislepaumc.org](mailto:mhewlett@carlislepaumc.org)