

THE BRIDGE

MAR 25 | APR 25 | MAY 25
CARLISLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



CARING FOR CREATION AS A LENTEN PRACTICE

Calling Carlisle, PA my new home for the last two months, I am in absolute awe of the beauty of creation all around us, from forests, to lakes, bird and wildlife. This awareness has become more prominent in my daily reflections as I prepare for the season of Lent, a time traditionally dedicated to repentance, and renewal.

This year I am personally wanting to center my Lenten focus on the responsibility as stewards of God's creation. As Methodists we are called to understand the ethical responsibility we have towards the environment, and Lent offers an opportunity to reexamine our commitment to caring for the Earth. As people of faith, we are called to live in harmony with the world around us, caring for it as a sacred trust given to us by God.

The season of Lent invites us into a period of self-examination, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, calling us to a life of simplicity, humility, and service. It is a season to reconnect with God, our communities, and the world around us. A significant part of this reflection for me is recognizing how our faith intersects with our responsibility to protect the planet.

The statement that "all creation is the

Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it," (The United Methodist Church, Social Principles), is for me not just an ethical guideline but a spiritual responsibility. The wellbeing of the Earth is intertwined with the health of humanity, and we have a responsibility to act as faithful stewards of the world that God has entrusted to us.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, emphasized stewardship in his teachings. A quote associated to him, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can," calls us to do good in every area of life and this includes how we treat the Earth.

For Wesley, responsible stewardship extended beyond personal acts of piety to include acts of mercy, thinking about how we use and care for the world around us. In the context of Lent, his words invite us to reflect on how we, as individuals and as a faith community, can contribute to the good of creation.

Throughout Scripture, the Bible repeatedly affirms that creation is good

and that human beings have a unique role in its care. Genesis 1:28 teaches that God blessed humanity and gave us the responsibility to "fill the earth and subdue it," to "have dominion over" all living things. This dominion is not about exploitation, but rather about stewardship—careful, thoughtful management of the resources and creatures God has entrusted to us.

Psalm 24:1 reminds us, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who live in it." This foundational truth calls us to recognize that the Earth is not ours to use as we wish, but rather, it belongs to God. As stewards, we are accountable for how we manage and care for creation, ensuring that we do not take more than we need and that we leave a healthy, thriving planet for future generations.

During Lent, we are called to a spirit of repentance and renewal, which extends beyond our personal lives to the way we engage with the world around us. Fasting from excess, simplifying our lives, and considering our consumption can be powerful reminders of our responsibility to protect the Earth. In a world where resource depletion, pollution, and climate change continue
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KIDS MINISTRY

Snow might be falling... and falling ... and falling, but we are thinking about spring and summer in Kids Ministry. Last week our amazing receptionists started filling the Easter eggs for the egg hunt. The first bin is done - only 13 more to go. Our Easter egg hunt would not be possible without all of the volunteers. I am always so grateful for all the ways people step up to help. If you are interested in helping with the Egg Hunt, there is a sign up form on the website or you can talk to Christina. If you are willing to donate candy to help fill all those eggs there will be a bin in the Gathering.

plies. Thank you for always supporting the kids!

LOOKING AHEAD...

Looking ahead we have a family Easter event planned for March 22nd. Join us for breakfast from 8:30am-9:30am, walk through the Easter stations with your family and then we will have a big closing activity together. April 19th is our annual Egg-citing Egg Hunt from 10am-noon! Please sign up online by April 17th. On Sunday May 11th 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.

We have also started planning for vacation bible school. We will be learning about trusting Jesus in this wild world in True North VBS June 8th-12th with our VBS closing and picnic on the 13th. The kids were so excited to get to finally hear the theme song in Kids Worship a few weeks ago. We cannot wait to see what fun things the imagination station has in store for us, what games we will get to play, what Bible stories we will learn and what we will learn in the Book of Matthew in sticky scripture. If you would like to donate towards our Vacation Bible School we have a gift registry. If you go to www.giftregistry.group.com/ and search Carlisle United Methodist Church, our gift registry for VBS will pop up. If you wish to contribute, you can choose an item we need for VBS to purchase for us or you can gift us a gift card to spend when purchasing our VBS sup-

In Preteen we are getting ready for our retreat on April 4th-6th at the Bongiorno Center. Money and forms are due for the retreat by March 16th. We will have our celebration for our 5th graders on April 27th. Fifth graders will move up to Student Ministries, and we will welcome second graders into Preteen on May 4th.



MARCH

- 2 - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 9 - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 16 - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 22 - Family Breakfast & Easter Event, 8:30-11am
- 23 - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 30 - Preteen, 5-7pm

APRIL

- 4-6 - Preteen Retreat
- 6 - NO Preteen
- 13 - Preteen, 5-7pm
- 19 - Easter Egg Hunt, 10am-Noon
- 20 - NO Preteen
- 27 - Preteen, 5-7pm

MAY

- 4 - Pancakes & PJs, during Kids Worship - Preteen Move-Up, 5-7pm
- 11 - Mother's Day Tea, 9am
- 18 - Intro to the Bible with 2nd graders, 5-6pm
- 20 - Intro to the Bible with 2nd graders, 6-7pm
- Preteen is for kids in 3rd-5th grades**

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



THE CALL THAT REMINDED ME WHY WE DO THIS

This past week, I received an unexpected phone call that took me back to the summer of 2018. The voice on the other end was a homeowner whose house we worked on that year, calling to ask for some information. He had Googled us to find the church number, but what started as a simple request quickly turned into something much more meaningful.

As we talked, he reminisced about that week—how a group of middle schoolers showed up, tools in hand and hearts wide open, ready to serve. He remembered every repair we made, every improvement to his home, and even the names of so many of our team members. But what stuck with him the most wasn't just the brand-new handicap ramp we built or the roof that we replaced. It was the joy, the energy, and the kindness of those students who not only worked on his house but also played with his granddaughter and made his home feel full of life again.

Even seven years later, he couldn't stop talking about how much that

week meant to him. And honestly, his words reminded me why we do this in the first place. Our work isn't just about repairing houses—it's about restoring hope. It's about showing up, building relationships, and leaving behind something far greater than just the physical work we do. Being the hands and feet of Jesus.

I hung up the phone feeling incredibly grateful. Sometimes, in the busyness of planning and executing projects, it's easy to forget the lasting impact we make. But God has a way of sending reminders exactly when we need them. This call was one of them.

And here's where you come in. Every church member plays a part in making these trips possible. As we prepare for another year of serving, fundraising efforts are underway, and we need your support. Whether through donations, sharing to others about our fundraisers, or simply praying for our teams, you help make life-changing moments like this possible—not just for the homeowners we serve but for the students who experience the power of

faith in action.

Thank you for every dollar given, every prayer lifted, and every ounce of encouragement you've provided over the years. These trips change lives—both for those we serve and those who go. Let's continue making an impact together!





PRAYER TEAMS

After every Sunday morning worship service, members of the Prayer Corner Team gather to pray with anyone who comes to join them. Often, worshippers come asking for healing for themselves or others. Sometimes, they come to celebrate answered prayer. The Prayer Corner team prays with these dear ones and offers to place the name and situation before the CUMC Prayer Chain, a group of more than 80

members who regularly petition God on their behalf. If you are interested in the Prayer Corner Team, please call Charles L. Reynolds, 717.713.9447. Nearly every Wednesday since July, 2012, the Bridges Prayer Team has convened to pray for our church family, its activities, and in widening circles to encompass the world. Founded as the Transition Prayer Team by Janet Keller and Katherine King, this team

has prayed through the unification of the three heritage churches with members from those three congregations, the site selection, and construction, as well as all the challenges and opportunities God has placed before CUMC. It continues to meet at 11:00 every Wednesday to lift up our pastors, staff, volunteers, and programs, and more. If you'd like more information about the Bridges Prayer Team, please contact Sharon Edwards, (302.593.6121) or Charles L. Reynolds (717.713.9447). The Peace on Earth Team -- POETs, has been active since September 2016. There are no meetings, only a POETs Prayer List issued twice a month to 32 POETs. The prayers comprise six categories: prayer for ourselves (always keep one's prayer tools sharp), prayer for those around us, for CUMC, for the Carlisle area, for our nation, and for the world. POETs pray as the spirit leads them. If you want to see a list, please email Charles L. Reynolds at papoo99@comcast.net for a copy.

~ *Charles Reynolds*

PACK THE PANTRY MINISTRY



In 2024, church leadership met with representatives of the Carlisle Area School District to discuss ways our church could support their pantry program for two elementary schools. These two elementary schools have a program where they keep a cart packed with food items, personal care items and undergarments for kids that come to school hungry, may be hungry waiting on assistance, and do not have access to personal care and clothing items.

CUMC was able to work with our SERVE partners to provide these two elementary schools with food items that they can hand out as needed to hungry students. CUMC committed to

underwear, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, stuffed animals, small activities, and socks. Due to their limited storage capacity, the SERVE leaders have approached our Connect and Grow small groups to provide items in smaller, targeted collections. The first collection has already been delivered to the schools. CUMC will keep an inventory of requests moving forward, so we can better anticipate the larger needs and store extras on site to quickly address these needs. In 2024, across America, almost 150,000 children experienced homelessness in a single night. This was a 33% jump from 2023. CUMC plans to grow these partnerships and help our schools and community address this ever-increasing issue. If your group would like to be involved in future collections for these elementary schools, please contact Jason Weeber at Jweeber@carlislepau-mc.org.

~ *Jason Weeber*



ICE FEST

Carlisle Ice Fest was Friday January 31 -Sunday February 2nd, CUMC had our first sculpture in the fest. Our **Live Like Jesus** sculpture was one of over 100 on display in downtown Carlisle. Twenty four church members ranging from 13 to 80 ish gave out 730 cups of hot chocolate and over 200 flyers away. Volunteers worked in groups for one hour in the cold. At times on Saturday people were lined up to receive the warm cup.

Many people asked how or why we chose LIVE LIKE JESUS for our sculpture design. It was a great conversation starter to explain that LIVE LIKE (continued on Page 11)

HARBOUR VILLAGE RESIDENTS BEGIN MOVE-INS!



The time has arrived! The first weekend in February saw the beginning of families and individuals moving into Harbour Village, CUMC's new next-door neighbor.

And if you think CUMC is happy, can you imagine how excited these families are as they move into their new homes? This has been a long process as the timeline for move-ins has been pushed back several times due to unforeseen delays, including the need for PPL Electric to help with recovery efforts after Hurricane Helene devastated Western North Carolina.

Safe Harbour, a local non-profit, put the pieces in place for the building of Harbour Village. In our local communities, Safe Harbour provides a continuum of housing and supportive services for homeless and nearly homeless individuals and families to include emergency shelter, long-term temporary housing, and permanent housing. Their programs not only provide housing, but also include individual service plans; teaching residents the values and skills they need for their future independent and self-sufficient living. This local organization coordinated the building of Harbour Village, a community of forty affordable housing units

within walking distance of the church. It includes six residential buildings and a community building. There are four one-bedroom units, 20 two-bedroom units, and 16 three-bedroom units. Four of the units are fully accessible, and one unit is designed for the hearing and visually impaired. Additionally, two units support individuals with mental health issues, and intellectual or developmental challenges. The centrally placed community building has a full kitchen, a gathering space for residents, and management and supportive services offices. There is also a pavilion and a playground.

Harbour Village's location provided a "Welcome to the Neighborhood" outreach opportunity for CUMC. Back in January 2024 initial discussions began with Safe Harbour of ways to welcome the individuals and families who would be moving into the Harbour Village units. CUMC partnered with Safe Harbour to provide a Welcome Package to the households as they move-in to their new homes. A welcome folder including a welcome card along with church, student and kids' information, and brochures for local resources are given to recipients along with a package of cleaning/laundry supplies, small vacuum, welcome mat, sofa throw, night lights/small flashlights and first aid supplies. These items were purchased and gathered through a collaboration of donations and funding to assist CUMC's new neighbors. Through funding from the Susque-

hanna Conference and Cumberland County Housing Authority CDBG grant funds, items for the Welcome Packages were purchased along with donations of antiseptic towels and hand gel from Mission Central.

Delays kept pushing back the move-in date; even so, God's hands were at work with the gathering, purchasing, transporting, and storing of the needed supplies, as well as putting together a welcome folder. Loving hands and hearts packed these Welcome Packages to be ready for delivery to our new neighbors. This has been a process with many CUMC helping hands pulling together.

Church members and friends who have been busy preparing for our neighbors are eager to support the families and individuals as they settle into their new homes and our neighborhood, in ways that are comfortable for them.

And finally, the deliveries begin!

~ *Pastor Quinton De Beer*



A mom with four children graciously receives CUMC's Welcome Package. What a great feeling...a safe & affordable home!

LEGACY CORNER



The following students from Carlisle United Methodist Church received scholarships for the 2024-2025 school year: Parker Heberlig, Molly Myers,

Jayden Creech, Aaron Kearns, Precious Kampto, Holly Monoski, Sophia Morrison, Joshua Fogelsanger, Nolan Chenot, Garrett Morrison, Chapin Taylor and Elizabeth Kearns. The total in scholarships awarded to these students was \$38,518.

These scholarships were made possible by the generosity of members of our church who established Trust Funds and Endowment Funds for Scholarships. The following individuals established these funds many years

ago so that our current and future students could benefit many times over: Constance B. Gruber, Roy Hill, Dorothy Hill, Robert W. Harding, Mary Alice Lipfert and Mary Peters.

If you are considering making a legacy gift and need more information, please visit cumcpaumc.org/legacy or contact Stephanie Baity, Jay Layman or Pastor Jake Waybright from our Legacy Team.

~ *Dick Felty*

THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

In our ever-evolving world, effective communication is more vital than ever for fostering community and staying connected. At Carlisle United Methodist Church, we recognize that clear and intentional communication enhances our ability to engage with one another, share our ministries, and invite others to join us in our faith journey.

Website: Our Digital Welcome Mat

Our website serves as the cornerstone of our online presence, acting as a digital welcome mat for both members and newcomers. It's designed to provide essential information about our church, programs, services, and upcoming events. Whether you're looking for online worship, past sermon recordings, resources for spiritual growth, or details about our community outreach ministries, the website offers a wealth of information at your fingertips. We encourage you to visit regularly and share it with friends who may be seeking a church home.

Social Media: Reaching Beyond the Walls

Social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram have become invaluable tools for outreach and community engagement. Through captivating posts and heartfelt stories, we can share our church's mission, highlight special events, and celebrate the incredible work our members are doing both inside and outside the church. By following our pages and engaging with our content, you help extend our reach and create a vibrant online community that fosters connection and support.

Sunday Bulletin: The Heart of our Worship Experience

The weekly Sunday bulletin serves as a tangible reminder of our church life together. Filled with important announcements, prayer requests, and upcoming events, it ensures that everyone stays informed and connected. We encourage you to take a moment to look through it each Sunday—your participation is essential as we collectively engage in the life of our church.

Announcement Slides: Keeping Everyone in the Loop

During our services, announcement slides play a key role in visually communicating important information. These slides complement the bulletin and serve as a quick reference for all attendees. By incorporating visuals, we can ensure that even those who may miss a Sunday can stay updated on what's happening.

The Midweek Minute: Connecting Mid-Week




Every Wednesday, The Midweek Minute provides our community with a touchpoint during the week. This weekly email reaches over 500 people and includes updates, inspirational messages, and reminders about events and programs. It's a wonderful way to stay connected and engaged with our church family, even in the busyness of life.

As we continue to enhance our communication methods, we invite you to participate actively. Share your feedback, submit announcements, and engage with our content online.

Together, we can foster a vibrant community that is welcoming, informed, and inspired.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Carlisle United Methodist Church family. Let's continue to communicate openly, support one another, and grow together in faith.

Blessings, Rhonda Dyson Communications Director

-  www.carlislepaumc.org
-  [livelikeyesuscumc](https://www.instagram.com/livelikeyesuscumc)
-  [CarlisleUnitedMethodistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/CarlisleUnitedMethodistChurch)

To sign up for the Midweek Minute, go to carlislepaumc.org, scroll to the bottom. Under "Get Weekly News," click on here.

COMM STATS

WEBSITE

- Average Weekly Users: 345
- Top Day of Week by Users: Sunday, followed by Wednesday
- New users in 2025: Over 1,500
- Countries Users Come From: USA, followed by Ireland, Canada, & Switzerland
- Top Cities Users Come From: Carlisle, Mechanicsburg, Boston, New York, Ashburn, & Harrisburg
- Month over Month Growth of Users: 803
- Top Pages: Homepage, Online Worship, Events, About CUMC, & Connect

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook (in the last 28 days):
 - 910 followers
 - 16,094 views: 361 content interactions and over 50 link clicks
 - 12 new followers
- Instagram
 - 54 followers

MIDWEEK MINUTE

- 582 recipients, 61% open rate (national average is 43%)
- 5 new contacts in the last 30 days
- Top cities: Carlisle, PA; Ashburn, VA; Mount Laurel, NJ

LUNCH BUNCH



March 21, 11:30 am, Super Buffet. This group meets for lunch, laughter, and fellowship. The restaurants visited are handicapped accessible and have adequate off-street parking. Reserve a spot (or 2) by calling Jane Lerch, 717-258-6864, in advance so seating can be arranged. Friends are welcome.

CARLISLE UMC EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND



The Emergency Assistance Fund began as HOT Grace in 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.

More persons are finding their way to CUMC for assistance. In 2024, the EAF conducted 51 interviews (some persons applied more than once) and assisted church members and others with more than \$3600 in Giant Gift Cards and cash donations. The Giant Gift Cards 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. We screen applicants for eligibility for other assistance, such

as Project SHARE, Samaritan Fellowship, or the Todd Baird Lindsey Devlin Foundation for persons over 55 years old. 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. Donations gratefully accepted.

~ Charles L. Reynolds
717.713.9447

RETIRED CLERGY RECONNECT

What is the plural for a group of Pastors? Is it perhaps a "Holy Huddle"?

A warm gathering of retired clergy from Carlisle United Methodist Church (CUMC) recently took place at the Hamilton Restaurant in Carlisle. The group came together to enjoy good food, particularly the beloved hotchee dogs, well some of them, while reminiscing about their days in the ministry and reconnecting with one another.

For many of the retired pastors, these moments of fellowship are a cherished way to stay connected with their shared history and the bonds they formed through years of serving their congregation. The conversation flowed free-



ly, filled with stories of church life, the challenges and joys of past ministries, and plenty of laughter.

Gathering together was a remind-

er that, even in retirement, the connections forged in ministry remain a source of strength and joy. The afternoon was filled with not just memories, but a shared sense of purpose and community that continues to thrive long after the pulpit is no longer the center of their lives.

The hotchee dogs might have been the main attraction, but it was the fellowship and the shared history that truly made the day special. Here's to many more gatherings, filled with stories, laughter, and of course, a few good jokes.

~ Pastor Quinton De Beer



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2025

Kathy Charette, Chair; Michelle Williams - Finance/Vice Chair; Jeff Barnes - Facilities; Carol Lemon - Leadership Development/Task Force Projects; Stephanie Baity - Giving; Megan Wardle - Pillar Ministry/Grow Students & Kids; Kerm Leitner - Pillar Ministry/Connect & Little Lights/LC Secretary; Sharon Edwards - Personnel 1/Pastors and Policy; and Barb Druck - Personnel 2/Staff



2024 SERVE RECAP

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.

▶ **164** CUMC Serve Ministry Volunteers
\$8,596
 donated to SERVE programs through 2024 Alternative Gifts

▶ **116** Campaign for Kindness Volunteers
\$7,705
 donated through 2024 SERVE Kids gifts

IN CARLISLE, CUMC FOCUSES ON...

SERVE - HOUSING

• **Blessed to Serve (BTS)** - Assists with simple home projects that improve the quality of life for seniors and low-income families who need an extra hand or in coordination w/Todd Baird Lindsay Foundation.

- Completed projects included small repairs. Replaced door closure, painted porch ceiling and post and removed trees and branches from a yard because of a storm.

• **Domestic Violence Services (DVS)** - Provides a monthly lunch to those staying in a shelter and participating in classes.

- 262 meals prepared, delivered, and served; assembled and provided 14 Easter Baskets for kids and 18 Mother's Day bags for moms.

- June and October Pop-Ups - congregation assembled 472 ChapStick containers and 200 Healthcare Kits for DVS services during Domestic Violence Month.

• **Fruitbelt Farmworks** - A ministry with Adams County seasonal farmworkers to share fellowship and love through meals, worship, and warm clothing.

- 5 visits. Served 163 migrant workers with a meal, gloves, ball caps, winter clothing, blankets, boots, and shoes.

• **Homelessness to Home** - A partnership with Cumberland County Housing Authority to provide personal care and cleaning supplies to those moving into their first home after homelessness.

- 237 adults and children were provided with cleaning and personal care items (continued on page 9)

IN CARLISLE, CUMC FOCUSES ON...

SERVE - HUNGER

• **Emergency Assistance** - Funds available to support emergency needs that cannot be met in an appropriate time or way through community agencies.

\$3,089 given in gift cards and support to those in crisis for gas and food.

We prayed with them and for them.

• **Project SHARE**

- Volunteers serve at Project SHARE weekly.

- Assembling 22 SHARE Boxes. This team helped to pack food for ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) for families living on the edge. Boxes include protein, vegetables, spices, and recipes to make dinner at home.

- Interviewing prospective clients to determine whether they meet the financial limitations for certain services.

- Checking in clients, shelf stockers, grocery baggers, cart handlers and assisting with limited mobility individuals shopping during Choice Distribution and the Farmstand.

- Four Pop-Ups - congregation assembled 1,167 spice cups for distribution at Project SHARE.

- Gave financially to Souper Bowl of Caring (\$1,803 + cases of canned soup), Holiday Dinners (\$5,140 + cases of stuffing mix and yams), \$1,092 to purchase eggs, \$1,268 for Beef Stew and 433 jars of peanut butter.

- Three additional volunteers signed up to assemble SHARE Boxes in 2025.

• **Salvation Army** - My Brother's Table provides 2 hot meals each day to those in need in our community that are facing food insecurity. We serve dinner monthly on Tuesdays.

- Served 916 hot meals in 2024, prayed with them and for them.

- October Pop-Up - congregation assembled and handed out 75 Blessing Bags for those in need.

- A new team of 5 volunteers is starting in 2025 to provide a hot lunch meal quarterly.

(Serve...continued from page 8)

to help individuals and families as they settle into their new home.

- Some of the families were moving from Community CARES Shelter, recovery programs, domestic violence, chronic homelessness, emergency custody, and new parents with no home.

- Assembled 40 welcome baskets with cleaning and personal care items awaiting delivery for our new neighbors moving into Harbour Village. First baskets have been delivered.

• **Refugees** - Supporting families resettling in Carlisle through the work of Church World Services.

- Five families supported, 10 adults and 10 kids, through donations of full houses of furniture and household goods, helping with paying medical bills and rent, transportation to appointments, learning to drive, and ESL and school enrollment. We also hosted the Friendsgiving Fundraiser at CUMC.

• **Samaritan Fellowship** - A ministry that helps those, who through no fault of their own, have exhausted every available means for providing adequate shelter, food, clothing, utilities, medical care, furniture, short-term shelter, and other emergency services in the Greater Carlisle area.

- Provided meeting space each Saturday for volunteers to interview 586 clients for financial assistance and/or other resources during 2024.

- Provided \$2,000 in financial support.

IN CARLISLE, CUMC FOCUSES ON...

SERVE - KIDS

• **Angel Tree** - At Christmas CUMC becomes angels and joins Cumberland County Children and Youth Services, Salvation Army, and LeTort Elementary School to help struggling families feel the joy of Christmas.

- Supported 163 kids with gifts.

• **Carlisle 4 Kids** - A community partnership (30+ partners) provide back-to-school supplies for kids in need. CUMC organizes registration of all the families, serves at the registration tables on the day of the event and provides a monetary donation for Project SHARE to purchase school supplies for the annual August event.

- 1,044 kids got backpacks, school supplies and personal care items to start school.

- Congregation donated \$2,714 towards the purchase of supplies.

• **LeTort Elementary** - CUMC partners with teachers to provide support to read with kids, help with math, copies for teachers and teacher appreciation throughout the year.

- Provided support for 250 elementary school kids each week.

- Congregation donated \$1,700 in September for classroom supplies and \$1,500 in appreciation gift cards for teachers, purchased books for the book swap and provided in-service breakfast/lunch.

• **Safe Harbour** - provides a full continuum of housing and supportive services - ranging from short- and long-term temporary shelters to permanent residence - designed to create a connection between the shelter and independent living in the community.

- Congregation collected 24 sheet sets, 15 containers of laundry detergent, 17 boxes dryer sheets, and 71 pillows.

- Congregation donated \$1,431 to purchase beds for the new emergency shelter housing.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Haiti - Partnering with Mellier Elem. School & local Preschool to support teachers' salaries, rebuilding of classrooms and lunch for kids.

- Congregation donations: paid the salaries of 1 School Director and 6 Teachers supporting 96 students; Paid the salary of 5 cooks and cleaning ladies to prepare and serve 166 kids during the summer feeding program; and helped support a family of 6 immigrants from Haiti resettle in the US.

Mission Central - Mission warehouse that supports humanitarian goods and logistical services to different ministries and agencies locally, nationally, and internationally.

- Three visits: Helped by verifying the assembly of 380 care kits, bagged 200 pair of shoes and 20 boxes of clothing for distribution, assembled 587 hygiene kits; Congregation collected/donated 413 Handi-Wipes for cleanup buckets; and Congregation donated supplies for 37 UMCOR Cleanup buckets in support of cleanup for the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Volunteers in Mission (VIM) - Partnering with Carolina Rebuilding Ministry, two teams served in Plymouth, NC providing low-income homeowners with accessibility upgrades and repairs to restore hope and rebuild lives.

- March - Plymouth, NC - 12 volunteers

- October - Plymouth, NC - 11 volunteers

• **Shining Lights** - connecting with the teachers and children of Little Lights Learning Center by participating in classrooms monthly and special events such as Trick-or-Treat, Christmas program/parties, Trike-A-Thon, etc.

- Supported 60-100 kids' reading weekly in the classrooms, Chapel time, grad. & Christmas programs, and family events.

- Muffins in the Morning and Donuts with Grownups saw over 75 Little Lights families for a craft and morning treats.

• **Supportive Partnerships for Youth (SPY)** - helps ensure all children, regardless of household income, have an opportunity to grow and thrive, both academically and personally, and find success in the classroom and beyond.

- Provided kitchen space and 14 volunteers to help with the prep/assembly of 3,780 meals for kids in the summer at-risk program.

OTHER SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

Community CARES - Serving and strengthening the community by providing emergency shelter, resources, and supportive services to individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

- Prepared and delivered a dinner meal for 50 people living in the Community CARES shelter and 45 Blessing Bags.

First Responders - Those that protect public safety and wellbeing, even when it means putting themselves at risk to protect and defend others.

- Prepared and delivered 165 lunch meals to 11 first responder sites to thank those that serve.



2024 CONNECT RECAP

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 28 teams and many community groups who consistently use our facility.

CONNECTing with God

- **Altar Flowers** pick up and prepare flowers for worship as ordered.
- **Prayer Team: Bridges** weekly prayer team for needs of the church and people of the church. 8 Team members meet online/in-person weekly.
- **Prayer Team: Prayer Corner** available each week for prayer after each worship service.
- **Prayer Team: POETS** praying for Peace on Earth is an email group of 32 sent to the group twice per month.
- **Prayer Team: Email** averages 92 people receiving prayer requests from members & friends.

CONNECTing with Community

- **LGQTB+ Gonna Go Through this Together** meets monthly with 6-8 people to learn how they can support and walk beside each other.
- **Line Dancing** meets monthly with 7-12 attending.
- **Pickleball** meets three evenings a week: Mon & Wed for advanced players: 17-25 people and Fridays for 20-35 people for beginners.
- **Run CUMC** averages 3-6 runners. They participated in several races as individuals with runners and walkers from CUMC.
- **Softball team** included 10 CUMC players and 2 coaches. They added a fall exhibition game this year.
- **Starlights Program** for ages 12+ with special needs playing basketball, softball, bocce ball, bowling, pickleball and some crafts. Participation ranges from 15-27 players based on the activity, 2 volunteer leads, an adult with each participant and coaches.
- **Walking Club** averages 7-14 weekly walkers for 10 months of the year.

CONNECTing with One Another

- **BEARS** 9-13 people are cared for with calls and cards monthly while "in hibernation" and unable to worship in person by 2 volunteers.
- **Believers in Action (BIA)** advocates for justice and awareness of being God's beloved children averaging 8-12 people. This year this group hosted The Underground Railroad Documentary and the authors of Cousins at CUMC; both events had 125 - 175 in attendance from CUMC and the community; organized a tour of Two Centuries of

African American Art at the Trout Gallery of Dickinson College; volunteered at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities College Workforce Fair and Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope in State College.

- **Card Ministry** sends on average 26 cards per month to our LAMs.
- **Greeters/Welcoming Desk** welcome everyone on Sundays with 2-5 people serving at each service.
- **Grief Books** shared with 19 families
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(Caring...continued from Page 1)

to be pressing challenges, Lent offers an opportunity for us to reflect on how our actions and lifestyle choices impact creation.

The awareness of environmental justice, climate change, deforestation, and pollution disproportionately affect the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized communities. These groups often bear the brunt of environmental degradation while contributing the least to the causes of these issues. As the Church we are called to not only care for creation but also advocate for policies that protect the most vulnerable populations who suffer the worst impacts of environmental harm.

I align with the statement that climate change is not just an environmental issue; it is a justice issue, and as people of faith, we are called to care for the Earth not only out of reverence for God's creation but also out of a commitment to justice for all of God's people.

This Lent I want to extend an invitation to consider how our consumption patterns and lifestyles can contribute to in-

justice, and to take steps toward more sustainable living. It is a time to pray for the world, to seek personal transformation, and to make commitments that will positively impact creation.

I will work to reduce my use of single use plastic, bottles, plates, spoons, shopping bags, knives and forks.

Let this Lenten season be a time of transformation—not only for our hearts but for the world around us. Through intentional acts of care for creation, a renewed spirit of justice, and faithful stewardship, we can honor God's command to care for the Earth.

"Some people, in order to discover God, read books. But there is a great book: the very appearance of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Note it. Read it. God, whom you want to discover, never wrote that book with ink. Instead He set before your eyes the things that He had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that?" St. Augustine (354-430)

~ Pastor Quinton De Beer



JOE BRO'S - MEN'S BREAKFAST GATHERING

I have spent the bulk of my professional career working in the realm of social services. I have learned a great deal about how a lack of community and belonging impact one's mental health. Jason Weeber's learned a lot about how working all the time, even if it is something you love doing, does not always build meaningful relationships. Together Jason and I wanted to start a low commitment "young" men's group, to help build a strong and supportive community of men at CUMC. Over the past few years CUMC has attempted to start a young men's group, and while nothing has had lasting success, each attempt has been a learning experience and led up to the current opportunity. We have named it Joe Bro's, coined by Pastor Jake during a

Sermon on being like Joseph, Jesus's earthly father.

For Jason, this community of men is best summarized in Psalm 113:1, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" and Proverbs 13:20, "Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm." For me, it is more about helping others to be the best version of themselves in all facets of life.

Joe Bro's is a come-as-you-are, no commitment gathering of men 20 or older with ties to CUMC. We do not have a curriculum, there is no required reading, no homework. All you need to participate is a willingness to interact with other men at the Moonlight Diner (1400 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle,

PA) at 7am on the third Saturday of every month.

Jason and I would like to extend an invitation to YOU! It does not matter if you have things figured out, if you are broken, if you are lost, or somewhere in between, come join us. As Pastor Quinton shared the words of Angus Buchan, a potato farming Evangelist, he heard that changed his life in September 2008, while sitting in a dusty field with 300,000 other men, "Come closer, I want to meet with you. Come closer, I want to meet with you, and I love you." You are not alone, and we are here for You. Please join us, we have a seat at the table just for you!

~ Sam Butler & Jason Weeber



(Ice Fest...continued from Page 4)

JESUS is our motto. Conversations were had with the community about our egg hunt and our Welcome Statement. It was especially fun to chat with teens and young adults who were enjoying the hot chocolate and were interested in learning what CUMC means by ALL Means ALL. I know I said "Yep them too" at least twenty times when asked what we mean by it.

The sun was strong on Saturday and the words were not easily seen unless you looked from the side. Many people said I can't see it all, but I see Jesus. Many people even asked to see a photo of the sculpture before it melted. I stopped by the sculpture to get

a picture after it melted and ran into someone who worked for the company that made the sculptures. He was so excited to share that it was the first one they made with Jesus on it and they prayed when they placed it in the pocket garden asking God to introduce Jesus through it. I do know that many people met genuine followers of Jesus through conversations and hot chocolate that weekend.

If you know of a community event in the Spring or Summer we can attend, please let me know, we are hoping to add one more this year.

~ Andrea Katz

AT CARLISLE UMC

LENT

SERMON SERIES: FOLLOW ME: SEEING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

'Follow me', were the first words that Jesus said to his early disciples. They are words that still call to each of us through the words of the gospel of Matthew. Matthew calls us to follow Jesus and live as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.

MATTHEW READING PLAN

Don't take our word for it, read the Gospel of Matthew 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 Matthew to prepare for Easter and see Jesus in new ways for yourself!

(Connect...continued from Page 10)

grieving the loss of a loved one for the first year after death.

- **Hospitality Teams** - Prepare/ Serve
 - Sunday morning coffee and treats
 - Funeral luncheons
 - Food and Friends luncheon, which grew to an average of 100 - 130 people.
 - Special church-wide food and beverage events
 - Hospitality Team of 28 volunteers.
- **Joe Bros Men's Breakfast** - New group in 2024, with 15 - 25 men gathering to connect and interact with other men from CUMC.
- **North of 60** provides quarterly events for 60+ years of age with 12-25 people at events. Events include Mt Asbury Retreat Days, lunches, cookie exchange, crafts, and sing alongs. Monthly North of 60 sponsors Chair Yoga for 5 - 10 people.

In addition to 57 CUMC Ministry Groups using our building and athletic fields we have 27 Community Groups using CUMC and private parties hosted by members.

SPECIAL SERVICES HOLY WEEK

April 14-18, 7:00am

Holy Week Services

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 7:30 am.

April 17, 7pm

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.

April 18, 12-2pm

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.

EASTER SUNDAY

7:00am Sunrise Service in the outdoor chapel with Communion; Donuts afterwards

Regular service times at 8, 9:45, and 11:15am

• Limited Activity Members (LAMs)

at the end of 2024 we had 26 LAMs. Volunteers deliver newsletter/bulletin, devotions, and communion as appropriate through 18 shepherds.

• **Lunch Bunch** gathers monthly with 8-10 people attending, with fresh faces joining on occasion.

• **Corn Roast** coordinated annually, in 2024 the Corn Roast benefited Mission Central with 101 attending and \$573 donated to Mission Central.

• **Knitted in Love** knits and crochets blankets for new babies, LAMS, and others. This averaged 6-10 knitting in person monthly. Gave 31 shawls to LAMs and others and 15 scarves to Community Cares.

• **Knit Wits** works on personal sewing projects, averaging 10-15 at weekly meetings. They share devotion and conversations on faith together.

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*



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