STAYING FOCUSED…

Diggin’ In the Dirt!

Shovels. Check. Dirt. Check. Words of commitment. Check. Photo booth. Check. People. Check. Lots of selfies. Check. Drone. Check. The list may have changed (when was the last time we had a drone taking video at a groundbreaking?), but the celebratory mood has not. Sunday afternoon, May 21, under somewhat sunny skies, we gathered in the green grass for our Ceremonial Groundbreaking. The big yellow machines aren’t on campus yet. Directional signs aren’t in place yet. New construction hasn’t started yet. But as we prepare for all these signs of life to begin it was important for us to mark the day in the story of Community Church.

If you were with us you received a small shovel keychain. Maybe you stood with your Leadership Team or Bible Study, posing with shovels and digging in the dirt. Or maybe with your family. In fact, that was my favorite. When the “official” pictures were over, the “photo booth” began. From our oldest to our youngest, families and friends shared shovels and joined the joy. Our congregation wasn’t just a group of bystanders, we were participants. All owning a portion of the day. And that’s the way it has to be, all of us answering God’s call and joining His Vision and Mission.

If you were unable to be with us, here are the words we used to frame this event:

WORDS OF DEDICATION (read by our District Superintendent, Rev. Pat Nelson)

To the Glory of God, in the presence of this congregation, I now direct that ground be broken for this expansion of Community United Methodist Church. The responsibility rests upon you not only for a building to rise here but for the Name of Jesus to be lifted high here. To this end: that the Glory of God may be evident here, the love of God be shown here, the worship of God be celebrated here, the Word of God be taught here, and the people of God be sent from here into the world to make disciples of Jesus.

WORDS OF COMMITMENT (spoken by all those present)

We commit ourselves as faithful followers of Jesus, to prepare this place where all people within our reach learn to worship, study, and serve Him. And from this place to launch into our homes, neighborhoods, schools, and places of employment and leisure to make disciples of Jesus. To His glory, now and forever. Amen.

With those words we broke the ground. But we did something much more significant: we committed to joining Jesus in His work. As long as there are lives within our reach who do not know Jesus as Savior and Lord, our work isn’t done. So let us move forward, building not just a building, but the church; this group of people committed to following Jesus and His work. As long as there are lives within our reach who do not know Jesus as Savior and Lord, our work isn’t done. So let us move forward, building not just a building, but the church; this group of people committed to following Jesus and sharing Him with others.

I cannot wait to see what God is to do through us. It is my joy to stand with you as we grow in the ways we love people like Jesus, lead people to Jesus, and launch people for Jesus. To Him be all the glory!

Pastor Rich
"Taxation without representation!" was the battle cry in America’s 13 Colonies, which were forced to pay taxes to England's King George III despite having no representation in the British Parliament. As dissatisfaction grew, British troops were sent in to quell the early movement toward rebellion. Repeated attempts by the Colonists to resolve the crisis without military conflict proved fruitless.

On June 11, 1776, the Colonies' Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and formed a committee whose express purpose was drafting a document that would formally sever their ties with Great Britain. The committee included Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. Jefferson, who was considered the strongest and most eloquent writer, crafted the original draft document (as seen above). A total of 86 changes were made to his draft and the Continental Congress officially adopted the final version on July 4, 1776.

The following day, copies of the Declaration of Independence were distributed, and on July 6, *The Pennsylvania Evening Post* became the first newspaper to print the extraordinary document. The Declaration of Independence has since become our nation's most cherished symbol of liberty.

**Bonfires and Illuminations**

On July 8, 1776, the first public readings of the Declaration were held in Philadelphia's Independence Square to the ringing of bells and band music. One year later, on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked Independence Day by adjourning Congress and celebrating with bonfires, bells and fireworks.

The custom eventually spread to other towns, both large and small, where the day was marked with processions, oratory, picnics, contests, games, military displays and fireworks. Observations throughout the nation became even more common at the end of the War of 1812 with Great Britain.

In June of 1826, Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to Roger C. Weightman, declining an invitation to come to Washington, D.C. to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It was the last letter that Jefferson, who was gravely ill, ever wrote. In it, Jefferson says of the document:

> “May it be to the world, what I believe it will be ... the signal of arousing men to burst the chains ... and to assume the blessings and security of self-government. That form, which we have substituted, restores the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason and freedom of opinion. All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man. ...For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them.”

- Thomas Jefferson
  June 24, 1826 Monticello

Congress established Independence Day as a holiday in 1870, and in 1938 Congress reaffirmed it as a paid holiday for federal employees. Today, communities across the nation mark this major midsummer holiday with parades, firework displays, picnics and performances of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and marches by John Philip Sousa.
The beloved hymn “How Great Thou Art” came together across many years and miles. In 1885, when Swedish preacher Carl Boberg wrote a poem titled “O, Great God,” he probably never dreamed he’d hear it performed years later to an old Swedish tune. Or that a Russian version would impact Stuart Hine, an English missionary to Poland, several decades later. Hine penned his own English version, resulting in the now-familiar lyrics.

From “the rolling thunder” echoing off the Carpathian Mountains, to the “woods and forest glades” of Romania, to powerful conversions to Christianity, Hine was inspired to craft each verse. Sometimes the Holy Spirit takes time to complete a work, and that journey is as important as the destination.
Transplant a Living Memorial!  – Many of the shrubs and trees located around the sanctuary were planted as a memorial to Sue Anderson, Wes Anderson’s wife, a long-time member of CUMC. These plants will be removed with the construction of the new office suite and front entrance, and, unfortunately, we won’t have any place to replant them onsite. If you would like to transplant any of the shrubs to your yard, please contact Deb MacAllister at 724-744-3413 or dmacallister@communityumchurch.com. The plants will need to be removed by the end of June.

Altar & Narthex Flowers are available on the following dates:

- Altar: June 25
- Narthex: June 25
- Altar: July 2, 9, 16 & 23
- Narthex: July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Please contact the Church Office for other dates throughout the year and to reserve your date. Flower arrangements are $20.00 each.

Locking Fellowship Hall Doors – If you typically walk through Fellowship Hall to access the sanctuary or back stairwell for service, you may have noticed that the doors are now being locked. This is primarily for the safety of the kids and also to reduce distractions once the kids are into Worship. Doorbells are being installed at each of the entrances to Fellowship Hall, and can be used to alert the leaders if you need to pick up your child before the end of the service. Thank you for understanding & respecting the Community’s Kids worship experience by not walking through Fellowship Hall during any Children’s Ministry events. The FH doors are also locked during ARK & Noah’s Kids hours, for security reasons, Monday-Friday until 6pm. The doorbell can be used to alert Preschool leaders during those hours, as well.

NEXT C.L.A.S.S. 101 - SAVE THE DATE!

Want to know more about Community Church membership? Sign up for CLASS 101! New class will be Wednesdays, June 21 to August 2. We will begin at 6pm with a meal and then have class in Fellowship Hall. If childcare is needed or you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Somes at esomes@communityumchurch.com or 724-744-3413 ext. 204. Registration form available on page 3413.

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

Discover your spiritual gifts, personal style, and God-given passion for serving in the body of Christ. Network, will help you find your place of ministry that best reflects who they are. Believers will discover the spiritual gifts God has given them and better understand God’s will for their lives because of gaining a better understanding of who God created them to be. Join us on Friday evening, July 14 and Saturday, July 15 in the Ministry House for this seminar led by Jamie Caruso. For questions or to sign up contact Jamie at jamie.caruso@gmail.com.

Builder’s Corner

Groundbreaking!!! Can you believe it? After many years of planning and revising plans, it is such a blessing to see actual dirt being moved, even if only in a ceremonial event. I hope you attended the groundbreaking ceremony, and are looking forward to bigger and better things!

Sometime in June, we should see bigger things start to appear on site. Then the real fun will begin. Noise, dust and a touch of confusion will likely accompany the construction. Stay tuned to the bulletin, emails, and construction bulletin board for updates on changing traffic patterns and entrance closures. We’ll be erecting signs to direct pedestrians to the proper entrance – each of our existing entrances will be closed at some point during construction.

Mike Kleinschmidt, our Director of Current Worship Arts, is looking forward to bigger and better things. He can’t wait for the day when the worship team will not need to setup and tear down each week. He’s also looking forward to being able to schedule rehearsals when it is convenient for the team, and not whether the stage will be up or not.

With the larger platform in the new sanctuary, Mike expects the worship team to continue to grow in number, which will also increase the “engagement” factor for the congregation. The larger platform will also bring more flexibility in the musical experience, such as enabling the chancel choir and the contemporary worship team to perform together.

Mike is eagerly anticipating praising God in a space that is designed as a worship space, not a gymnasium, one with state-of-the-art equipment, where the limitations of the room and equipment won’t disrupt the experience with feedback or “dead spots”. Through these past years, the worship team has been happy to have the MMR for contemporary worship, but is truly excited about the ability to immerse the congregation in a more meaningful musical worship experience in the new sanctuary.

After talking with Mike about contemporary worship, I asked Keeley DiMartino, our Director of Traditional Worship Arts, how the new sanctuary will enhance music for the traditional service. Keeley responded by saying, “The thing that I find most exciting about our new worship space is that our separate traditional congregations (8:30 & 11) will be able to worship together without space constraints. Traditional worship music will retain the elements that we currently enjoy like the organ/piano and choirs, but my hope is that the new space will further help support our sound with a new audio system. With our new space will come more opportunities - opportunities for different musical groups to collaborate on a regular basis, using our talents to make music for God!”

Certainly, the new audio system and acoustic design of the sanctuary will enhance all musical experiences - traditional and contemporary, bell choir and jazz quartet, soloists and groups. Pastor John is fond of saying, “We have really good music here.” Once we start worshiping in the new sanctuary, we’ll be glorifying God with GREAT music.
2017 GRADUATES

Congratulations to the following graduates
May God bless you in all your future endeavors

PENN TRAFFORD
Meredith Bennett
Julia Bosco
Hannah Dobrinick
Colten Good
Cody Girkman
Jared Haldeman
Natasha Popovich

William Kerr
Nicole McClure
Nathaniel Mischen
Alyssa Mountain
Drew Myers
Nicholas Panek
Mike Yakubisin

Katelynn Powell
Adam Power
Isabella Rourke
Elizabeth Temsick
Emma Trevenen
Ryley Watt

NORWIN HIGH SCHOOL
Evan Kochasic

JEANNETTE HIGH SCHOOL
Karlyn Simpson

FRANKLIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
Abigail McMahon
Andrew Roote

SCHOLARSHIPS

Patterson
Alyssa Mountain

Tracy Loughry
Nicole McClure & Ryley Watt

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
Joshua Forringer – Asbury
Megan McCoy – Lecom School of Pharmacy
Grant Grasha – Penn State University
Daniel Forringer – Thiel College
Karin Coiner – University of Pittsburgh

 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE!
235 Cards Returned
$2,182,804.00 Pledge Total
$1,144,574.00 Total Given To Date

For information on giving, please contact Financial Secretary Melanie Barrett at mbarrett@communityumchurch.com or 724-392-4212.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to make a formal pledge to the capital campaign, please let us know. Feel free to talk to our pastors or staff about the best way to get involved.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION CHANGES

Due to ever rising cost of producing and mailing our monthly newsletters, we would like you to consider the following options:

Option #1 If you attend regularly please consider the “Pick-up at Church” option. Please let the church office know you will pick a copy up at the Welcome Center and we will remove your name from the list.

Option #2 “Church Website” – Please let the church office know you will be reading the newsletter online and we will remove your name from the list.

Option #3 “Email Distribution” – Please provide email information to the church office and we will send your newsletter via email each month.

Option #4 If you no longer wish to receive our monthly Newsletter, please contact the church office so that we can remove your name from our list.

We have begun sending our Newsletter by email to those who have requested an email. Please let the church office know if you signed up for email but did not receive your Newsletter.

Receiving the newsletter by regular mail will still be available to those that do not have internet access. Please call or email the church office at info@communityumchurch.com.

Amy (Boyd) Lodovico
3121 Braun Avenue
Murrysville, PA  15668

Remove
Sarah Martz - death
**Community’s Kids SUMMER WORSHIP is looking for YOU!**
Everyone is uniquely wired & wonderfully made... by God. This summer we will discover what that means for each of us through this sermon series: Gadgets & Gizmos! Join our team as we praise and worship our Lord this summer!

Summer Kids Worship will meet Sundays during the 10:45/11:00 services in Fellowship Hall, June 18-August 13.

**All you need is a love for Jesus & a smile for the kids. Text or call Erin Kerstetter to find out more or to sign up! 412-607-1863**

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**Vacation Bible School is June 12-16 from 9am-noon!** At Maker Fun Factory, curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they’re lovingly crafted by God. VBS is for any child, age 4 – 5th grade.

**Skip the line on Monday morning by picking up your VBS info on Sunday, June 11 after church services!**

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**Family Movie Nights, June 28 & July 26.** Bring your family & friends for a relaxing night, under the stars! Bring a blanket or chair, we’ll provide the popcorn! The lawn will open at 8:30 with the movie starting at dark. Movie titles are TBD. Keep an eye out on the Community’s Kids Facebook page for updates.

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**Small Group SUMMER REUNION! Wednesday, July 12.** Watch the Community’s Kids Facebook page for more details!
**Deaths**

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Barb & Ray Baston and Family on the passing of Barb’s mother, Mary Emanuel.

**Baptisms**

Congratulations to the following families that recently had their children baptized:

- Damian & Michelle Resick - daughter Abigail May
- Christopher & Margaret Werner - son Jackson Thomas
- Joseph & Kristin Cudzik - daughter Hannah Elise

**Births**

In celebration of the birth of Cameron Patrick Kertes to parents Jennifer & Patrick Kertes. Proud grandparents are Ed & Patti Kroupa

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Thanks and praise to our Lord and grateful thanks to Pastor John and Pastor Jim for their prayers, visits, and support during Tom's numerous hospitalizations, our faith community for their prayers, and Kendra and team for the beautiful funeral luncheon.

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Thanks to all those in our church family who have committed to support me financially and prayerfully on my upcoming medical mission trip to Peru in June. The support was overwhelming along with written notes of encouragement. I hope to share my experiences with all of you when I return. With heartfelt thanks, Matthew Burger

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AA Expresses Thanks as they Move to a New Location:

“We want to express our gratitude to CUMC for working with us for nearly the last 19 years. Alcoholics Anonymous has changed the lives of many within Harrison City and the surrounding communities. By providing a meeting space, CUMC has been a part of the process in which God works through us to spread the message of recovery. Since 1998, numerous have been introduced to AA at the Sunday night meeting. Some have become active members in other groups and a few have stayed with our group as circumstances permit. Please note that there is nothing special about our AA group. The message of recovery is passed on at every AA meeting and there are about 800 in the greater Pittsburgh area. We thank CUMC for providing the facility to allow us to do our part.”

Due to the growth of the group and to the limited space available on Sunday nights, AA will be moving their meetings to the Level Green Presbyterian Church beginning June 4. CUMC has been honored to host their meetings these many years, and we wish them many more years of continued success. If you know of anyone who may be interested in Alcoholics Anonymous, please refer them to the Sunday night meetings at the Level Green Presbyterian Church or to the Pittsburgh Area Central Office (http://www.pghaa.org).
Welcoming Words  
By Elizabeth Somes

“Only Connect”

Recently, a friend shared a blog post with me (reprinted below). It is a lovely reminder of the importance of connection. Do you disagree with someone? What barriers exist between you and others based on the color of your skin or hair, the way you dress or who you associate with or voted for, the team you root for or the sports you don’t play? Pastor Rich recently said,

“‘It’s funny that the people who were the most unlike Jesus, the people who were known for their sin, who were shut out from the church and deemed unworthy of God, these people who were most unlike Jesus really liked Jesus and He really liked them. Those are the people who often form the crowds around Jesus. The way He loved them and the message He brought to them was so appealing that they really liked hanging around Him. And He loved that. But the people who were most like Jesus, the people who were really religious, the religious leaders, they didn’t like Jesus. They had their idea of who God was. Then Jesus came on the scene and said, “Wait, you’ve got God all wrong,” and that really ticked them off. They weren’t used to people telling them they were wrong.”

I wonder how many of us would be wise to follow the advice below of Shauna Niequist and the example of Jesus and “only connect”?

*** Below originally printed in blog by Jen Hatmaker…..

Spoiler alert: I ask every podcast guest a question about the best and worst advice they’ve ever received, and Shauna Niequist said the best advice she’s been given was this:

“Only connect.”

In every sticky situation, hard conversation, ideological impasse, awkward scenario, nerve-wracking encounter, challenging gathering, tough moment:

Only connect.

In other words, no need to prove, defend, convince, push, scold, rebut, impress, explain, win. Just connect. I noticed this work yesterday in a discussion where connection overrode the escalating tension. It took the wind right out of its sails. It injected kindness and levity at the exact needed moment.

The thing wasn’t “solved” and no one “won.” It didn’t wrap up with a bow and come to a tidy conclusion. But it ended with laughter and connection and I’m pretty sure everyone exhaled. It isn’t actually that hard; it’s just that someone has to go first. Someone has to drop their sword or reach across the table or offer a humble “I hear what you’re saying.” It’s magic. Most of us can connect over something, even in the midst of some pretty high winds. Dig deep. Find something.

My friend Deidra Riggs used red lipstick as a connection point between TWENTY VERY DIFFERENT WOMEN on Twitter.

Only connect.

You may not win the thing, but I’m not sure that is the end game we really crave. In any case, it certainly won’t be the one that heals this broken down world.

C. L. A. S. S.  101

Christian Life and Service Seminar
New Members Small Group Class

Want to know more about Community Church? Interested in church membership? Then make plans to attend CLASS 101.

Wednesdays June 21st to August 2nd Begins at 6:00 p.m. with a meal then class in Fellowship Hall

This class is a requirement to become a member of Community Church. We try to offer it at least quarterly. If you have decided on becoming a member, please make every effort to attend. If you are still considering membership, please come to receive the information so that when you make the decision, you’ll be ready.

Tear off and put in Offering Plate or Return to Church Office

REGISTER ME FOR C.L.A.S.S. 101

Name: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Address ___________________________________________
Email: _____________________________________________
Childcare Needed: ____________________________

Have questions about CLASS 101 or need childcare, please contact Elizabeth Somes at 724-744-3413 ext. 204 or esomes@communityumchurch.com