



Christ Evangel

Volume 62, Issue 4, 2026
Christ United Methodist Church
1020 South Valley Forge Rd
Lansdale, PA 19446
215-855-1643
secretary@cumclansdale.org



Holy Week & Easter Sunday Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday March 29 th	Holy Thursday April 2 nd	Good Friday April 3 rd	Easter Sunday April 5 th
8:30 AM Sunday Worship	7:00 PM Holy Thursday service with Chancel Choir	10:00 AM Good Friday Children's Event	6:30 AM Sonrise Service
9:45 AM Sunday School		7:00 PM Tenebrae Service	8:30 AM Sunday Worship
11:00 AM Sunday Worship			9:45 AM Sunday School
			11:00 AM Sunday Worship

The Endowment Committee needs your help!

We are asking, at this time, for ideas for spending available 2026 funds of approximately \$3,000. The funds can be used for areas of Missions, Christian Education, and Church property improvements that are not covered by the Church budget. Scan the QR code above to complete a Google doc for submission of your idea. Include as much information about your idea as possible, including estimated cost and your name and other information requested. We will be accepting suggestions through April 13th. Items selected for our 2025 spending included a contribution for the new altar railings, a receptacle for the columbarium, contribution for Nativity scene repairs, pans for the Santa breakfast, 8 thermal carafes, and a new kitchen air conditioner. We look forward to your ideas!

Endowment Suggestions



Save the date for our next exercise program!

Our friends from the Montgomery County Office on Aging will be back to bring us a new class, the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program. **You do not need to have an arthritis diagnosis**

to attend this class. This class is beneficial for all! This program is a 13-week series featuring low-impact exercises designed to improve range-of-motion, increase endurance and reduce joint pain. Participants will have the opportunity to use range of motion equipment including hand weights, resistance loops and Pilates balls. Join us Fridays, April 17th through July 10th (no class June 19th and July 3rd) from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

Annual Multi-Family Indoor Yard Sale

Many vendors! Come get household items, jewelry, collectibles, books CD's, toys, Hallmark, handmade soap, Hess trucks, Baseball cards, clothing, dolls, 1960 baby clothing, holiday items, linens, glassware, Snoopy items, 1960 toys, vintage magazines and so much more!

Saturday, April 18th, 9 AM - 1 PM





FROM THE PASTOR

Reverend Zachary Hopple



I hope and pray that the beginning of spring finds you doing well. As the change of seasons also brings with it the opportunity to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, I pray you were able to experience the Lord in a new and powerful way this Lent and Easter season.

As I was thinking about what to write about this month, I kept coming back to one word: "hope." Hope is an interesting word as it is not something that has translated well for us from Biblical times. Today, this word often carries with it an idea of desiring something to happen where the outcome may otherwise be unknown. Hope for this world today often brings with it uncertainty and wishful thinking.

But that is not a Biblical hope. In the Hebrew of the Old Testament, the verb translated most frequently as "to hope" is *יָחַל* (pronounced "yakh'al"). It is used 44 times in the Old Testament and it means, "to wait, expect, or wait expectantly." There are other words used in the Hebrew language that we translate as hope (roughly 16 variations), and most of them share a similar idea of expectation, trust, and confidence. Even the Greek of the New Testament brings with it the confident expectation of things to come. Biblical hope is a trust in something certain to come, not a wishful desire to fulfill something that is uncertain.

Spring brings this type of expectant hope. The snow has been washed away by rain as flowers and plants start to break through the thawed ground. Birds begin their singing a little more loudly and frequently as the cool air switches to a warmer breeze. We know that all that spring and summer have to offer by way of new life and new growth will soon be on its way and more fully realized. This all is coming.

In the Old Testament, there is a book that is not often attributed to this idea of hope: Lamentations. It is a book of lament looking back at the siege of Jerusalem, the destruction of the temple and the exile of the people that followed. It is not a happy book, but in chapter 3 there is a shift, where the author mentions thinking of their afflictions continually, to then thinking of something else. "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him'" (Lamentations 3:21-24).

Amidst the backdrop of destruction and exile, the author had an expectant hope in God. The author patiently waited for God to work and to do something amazing. Because there was evidence that God could be trusted. The author saw it before, and was reminded of it. As a result, their hope was renewed.

How have you seen evidence of God's never ceasing love and mercies throughout your life? And how have they reminded you of God's faithfulness?

Sometimes things in this life are difficult. Sometimes things are uncertain. Even knowing what lies ahead can sometimes be scary. But God is bigger than all of that. God is able to care for us, provide for us, and walk with us around all of the obstacles that we will face. And when we know that - when that is our faith - then our souls can truly be at peace as we are reminded, "the Lord is my portion, therefore I will hope in him."



Men's Breakfast Group meets the second Wednesday of each month at the West Main Diner in Lansdale, PA at 8:30 AM. For more information, contact the church office.



Deborah Circle NO April Meeting: Indoor Yard Sale April 18th

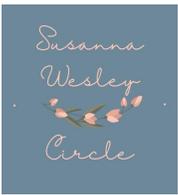
The Deborah Circle will not be meeting this month – we are sponsoring the Indoor Yard Sale on Saturday, April 18th from 9 AM - 1 PM at the church and will be working in the kitchen serving hot dogs, sauerkraut, etc. We need baked goods to sell (cookies, etc. in small bags) that can be dropped off Friday evening until 4 PM or early Saturday morning.

Please stop by and help us make some extra money for our missions. For further information, see the April Evangel. Any questions, please contact Jean at 267-218-2569 or Gail at 215-368-0476. See you there!!!

Cooking for Manna
April 9th, 2026, 6:30 PM



Once a month, our group of volunteers come together to cook a meal for Manna on Main Street, a soup kitchen/food pantry located in Lansdale. We spend about 1-1.5 hours prepping meals that feed approximately 90 people. Meal prep tasks include washing and chopping vegetables or fruit, shredding chicken, cooking pasta, and assembling the meal. Folks of all ages are invited to help the group prepare the meal, so feel free to bring a friend or family members to help. This is a great way for youth to earn volunteer hours. Children are welcome, but must be supervised and assisted. The cooking typically gets underway the first Thursday of every month in Room 110 (Kitchen) at 6:30 PM. For more information, please contact Kristi Weatherwax at kdcreative@aol.com.



SWC: Trip to the Michener Art Museum, Saturday, April 25th

It's spring, and time for a field trip! All women are invited to join the Susannah Wesley Circle on Saturday, April 25th, for a visit to a local gem, the Michener Art Museum in Doylestown. The museum, named after world-famous author and Doylestown native James A. Michener, is housed in a former jailhouse. It is home to a world-class collection of Bucks County Impressionist art as well as a replica of Michener's office and a room dedicated to the furniture of internationally renowned Bucks County woodworker George Nakashima. In addition, there are changing exhibits for anyone who would like to explore them after our tour. For anyone who's interested, we'll gather in a nearby restaurant for lunch after the museum.

Our museum admission will include a 1-hour, docent-led highlights tour, followed by free time to explore the art on our own or visit the gift shop. Our tour will begin at 10:00 AM at the Michener Museum entrance. Those who wish to carpool should meet at the church parking lot at 9:00 AM.

Costs for the museum tour are \$18 for seniors (65+), \$20 for under age 65. The museum requires payment in advance, so please give your cash, check, or Venmo payment to Lois Stevenson no later than Sunday, April 19th.

Please use the SignUp Genius link on the church website to sign up for our trip. In the comments, indicate if you want to carpool and if you want to stay for lunch.

If you have any questions, contact Lois Stevenson (lois.stevenson815@gmail.com, 215-692-3667.) We hope to see you on April 25th!



Stitching Sisters

Stitching Sisters has stitched and donated 11 baby blankets and 64 baby hats to Mitzvah Circle and The Baby Bureau.

Our next secret project involves helping Santa. Our next meeting is April 9th from 10 AM - noon in fellowship hall.



Thank you for the donations that have shown up in the Stitching Sisters collection box. We do appreciate donations of yarn that is clean and in good condition. Full or partial skeins are welcome. Our favorite donations are 2 or 3 matching skeins that can be worked up into a larger project.

Kaleidoscope Book Group

Ladies, we would love to have you join us for Christian fellowship. We meet every Tuesday at 12:30 PM in the Lounge and via Zoom. We read and discuss books weekly. We also spend time in fellowship and prayer. Contact Becky at 215-896-4964 for the Zoom link or any questions.



Friendly Seniors to Visit Pearl Buck House Wed. April 15th, 11 AM, RSVP by April 1st!
The CUMC Friendly Seniors invites those 60+ to join them in visiting the Pearl S. Buck House, a local National Historic Landmark, on April 15 for the Life and Legacy tour. See the home, furnishings, and artifacts of this famed author who won both the Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize in literature. You may also visit the garden and stop by the Welcome Center. It's all included in the senior price of \$12/person.

Pearl Buck was an amazing woman who cared about the plight of marginalized people and advocated for civil rights and social justice. She founded Welcome House, the world's first international biracial adoption agency. This tour will leave you in awe of the difference one person can make!

The tour is about 1 hour and 40 minutes in length. For those not wanting the challenge of 12 steps to the second floor, a portfolio of the upstairs is available on the first floor, so you won't miss a thing! And if you don't want to be on your feet that long, a virtual tour is available on iPad in the Welcome Center.

We need to let them know by April 1st the number attending, so please sign up now! Signups are available at the kiosk in the narthex and on the church website. Please also indicate if you would like to carpool.

Caregivers Support Group

Are you a caregiver for someone in your life? You may care for them in your home or theirs, in a facility, or remotely, if they live at a distance. There are commonalities to caregiving, which can be found in a group setting. Our church's caregivers support group meets monthly on Zoom, typically on the second Friday of each month at 10 AM. If you would like to be a part of this group, where you can find comfort in hearing the stories of others, contact marge.kramer@cumclansdale.org or 215.429.8881 for more information and the Zoom link.



Food Drive Collection, 2026

Jan - 56 lbs	Apr -	Jul -	Oct -
Feb - 314 lbs	May -	Aug -	Nov -
Mar -	Jun -	Sep -	Dec -



MISSION of the Month April 2026

April Mission of the Month: Mosaic Norristown

Since 2015, Mosaic has been investing in the lives of Norristown's middle and high school students by giving them opportunities to broaden their horizons, prepare for life after high school, and fall in love with Jesus.



At every weekly meeting, students find a safe, nurturing environment and caring Christian adults who are excited to invest in them. They are challenged to try new things, develop new skills, ask questions, and explore where God fits in their everyday lives. Through fun and engaging experiences, students develop critical thinking skills, creativity, perseverance, confidence, and relationships with God, each other, and adults that will help them reach their full potential.

Activities include learning to cook, team-building challenges, art projects, strategy games, and much more. We go on trips to broaden their horizons that include visiting colleges, exploring new cities, outdoor adventures, and faith-focused retreats. Students visit various companies to learn about possible career paths, and our summer employment program allows them to develop practical skills for their futures as well.



This powerful 3 minute video (scan the QR code) shares the reflections of two young adults who graduated from the program. Learn more at mosiacnorristown.org.



Shores of Grace Ministry Tour: April 24th, 6:30 PM

Shores Of Grace is a ministry that has been supported through CUMC missions giving in the past. CUMC will be a stop on their April/May 2026 US tour. On April 24th there will be a worship service that includes a welcome to CUMC, worship music ministry led by Nic and Rachael Billman, a video of Shores ministries, a message, an offering to raise funds for their new rescue home for babies and special needs children, and an altar prayer ministry. All teens, adults and children are welcome to attend!

The ministry founders, Nic and Rachael are in love with God and in love with people! They fully embrace their journeys with the Father and daily surrender their lives to Him, because he is a good Father! Their daily prayer is, "Father, teach us to love as you love and to see as you see." They have been leading worship together since they were 13 years old and have ministered all over the world. They wrote over 150 songs and released 12 albums. Their passion for family worship is similar to their passion for street worship with their friends, as much as they love leading thousands of people in worship.

Very recently Nic and Rachael participated in "The Send" in Recife, Brazil. Below is some information written by Nic.

"On January 31st, Rachael and I had the honor of participating in "The Send," which was an event that happened in five stadiums simultaneously here in Brazil. There was an estimated 220,000 combined people in attendance and another 3 million who watched it online. The focus of The Send is gathering and mobilizing the church to live out the Great Commission. At The Send here in Recife, I spoke about the Father's heart, the spirit of adoption, and the opportunity for the church to be the adoption solution for the thousands of children and teens in Brazil who are waiting for their adoptive families.





Join Us for a Snowball Mountain Challenge this summer at VBC!
At Snowball Mountain Challenge, your children will learn that God is the source of their strength!

Children will enjoy engaging Bible stories, crafts, science activities, and games, all while growing in their faith and forming new friendships.

VBC is FREE and open for Children 4 years (by September 1, 2026) through completed fifth grade. Children must be potty trained. Sixth graders and older are welcome to serve as volunteers, making a lasting impact on young campers' lives.

Important Info:

Dates: July 13–17, 2026

Times: Morning Session: 9 AM – 12 PM
Evening Session: 6 PM – 8 PM (Dinner Provided!)

Location: Christ UMC Lansdale, 1020 S. Valley Forge Rd., Lansdale, PA 19446

❄️❄️ Get ready to tackle the mountain with us this summer at Vacation Bible Camp 2026!! ❄️❄️

Grief Support at Christ UMC

Healing from loss is a journey. There is no "right way" to grieve, and grief cannot be rushed. It is a journey that shouldn't be traveled alone. Everyone experiences grief differently, but you'll find many grieving people are facing the same struggles. If you are dealing with the loss of a loved one, join us for GriefShare; our 13 week cycle continues through June 17th, 2026, (\$20 registration fee covers all 13 weeks—scholarships are available.) Each week's session is self-contained, so starting at any time in the 13 weeks is fine. We meet in the Reichley classroom, next to the church office, each Wednesday at 1:30. Enter through the office entrance. These programs are open to the community—please extend an invitation to those you know who have experienced a loss. Register on the church website, www.cumclansdale.org, under Events.



The 19th Annual Jim and Joey Hayes Memorial Golf Outing: June 13th, 2026
*Note the date is still the second Saturday in June!!!

All are welcome. We will be playing at Mainland Golf Course. The first tee time will be 8:30 AM. Please sign up early. Tee times are limited to the first 8 foursomes.

We will play golf followed by fellowship, including prizes. Scoring will be a Scramble format, always fun. Our Church Pre-School will be the charity again this year.

If you have a prize to donate, a suggestion, or a question, please contact Don Albacker at (215) 692-2958 or dalbacker@jclfg.com. To sign up email or call Don Albacker.

Seed to Supper will be hosted at CUMC again this year!

Seed to Supper is a free beginning gardening program facilitated by the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners at Christ UMC in partnership with Manna on Main Street. Adult gardeners will learn the tools they need to successfully grow a portion of their own food on a limited budget.

This program prioritizes individuals in Montgomery County on a limited budget. Individuals interested in the program must register (application coming soon!) and will be chosen on a lottery basis. The program will begin on Thursday, May 21st.



Hello from Preschool Express!

We are lucky to say that March has been full of fun and learning here at Preschool Express! Our kiddos have been enjoying all things springtime along with lots of St. Patrick's Day excitement. As we move toward the Easter season, we are keeping God's message of hope in our hearts by noticing all the little signs of spring popping up more each day! We are looking forward to both the church and school egg hunts coming up - and a big thank you to the many families who helped stuff eggs to make the fun possible!

This month we launched our new "Fairy Tales in Motion" yoga storytelling program, and it has been a magical success! We also continue to enjoy music class with Miss Sherry, including a fantastic lesson from Mr. Nick on wind instruments! And as always, Miss Mel has been keeping us leaping like leprechauns for gym class!

We still have a few spots available in our program for the upcoming school year. If you know a family looking for a loving and joyful place for their little learner, we would be so grateful if you passed along our name! You can learn more about us at preschoolexpress.org.



Pull your tabs for Ronald McDonald House!

Please remember to save your flip tops and bring them to CUMC. We are always collecting aluminum pull tabs from Soda, Soup, Vegetable, and Pet Food cans for Ronald McDonald House. Tabs are recycled and proceeds directly benefit the RMD House.



FINANCIAL REPORT



Christ United Methodist Church Profit & Loss Budget Performance Feb. 2026

	Feb-26	Year-to-Date
Revenue		
Total Revenue	\$ 48,267.99	\$ 97,366.10
Expenditures		
Total 4000 Missions	\$ 14,806.16	\$ 20,027.90
Total 5000 Programs	\$ 2,219.51	\$ 4,025.82
Total 6000 Salaries and Benefits	\$ 34,677.84	\$ 64,586.79
Total 7000 Property, Maintenance & Utility	\$ 27,963.60	\$ 49,370.53
Total Expenditures	\$ 79,667.11	\$ 138,011.04
Net Operating Revenue	-\$ 31,399.12	-\$ 40,644.94

Dear Members and Friends of CUMC,

Shown above is a summary of our church financial report for the month of February and Year-to-Date.. Operating Budget income for February was \$48,268 and expenses were \$79,667, giving a **deficit** for the month of \$31,399. We had several one-time costs that added to our monthly expenses. Year-to-Date Operating Budget income is \$97,366, expenses are \$138,011, giving an overall deficit of \$40,645.

We thank you for your continued financial support of our church and its ministries.
CUMC Finance Committee



At their March meeting, the Deborah circle celebrated Flo Kalin, as she prepares to move to Washington state.



Youth Group dinner out at Applebee's!

To honor his service in the U.S. Army, in a special ceremony at our church, conducted by Sharon Moran, Jonathon Kohl received a Quilt of Valor. Thirteen years ago, Jon was critically injured in a helicopter crash. Today, he and his mother, Micha, are volunteering at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, providing comfort to injured service people and their families.



Confirmation Retreat 2026 at Gretna Glen





APRIL

Calendar Highlights

- 4/1 GriefShare
Various Music Group Rehearsals*
- 4/2 Holy Thursday Service 7 PM
- 4/3 Good Friday Christ's Kids Event 10 AM
Tenebrae Service 7 PM
- 4/5 Sunrise Service 6:30 AM
Breakfast
Easter Services 8:30 and 11:00 AM
- 4/6 Easter Monday (Church office closed)
- 4/7 Men's Reading Group*
Staff Meeting
Kaleidoscope Group*
Gloria Dei Ringers Rehearsal*
Jazz Group Rehearsal*
- 4/8 GriefShare*
Various Music Group Rehearsals*
- 4/9 Stitching Sisters
Board of Trustees Meeting
- 4/10 Caregivers' Monthly Meeting
- 4/11 Property Cleanup Day 9 - 11 AM
- 4/12 Youth Group
- 4/14 Men's Reading Group
- 4/15 Friendly Seniors
Various Music Group Rehearsals*
- 4/17 Senior Exercise Class
Yard Sale Set up
- 4/18 Annual Indoor Yard Sale
- 4/20 Staff Meeting
- 4/21 Finance Meeting
- 4/23 SPRC meeting
- 4/24 Shores of Grace Event
- 4/25 SWC Museum Tour
- 4/26 Eastern District Conference
Youth Dinner & Drop-In Time
- 4/27 Books Between Friends

* Denotes Weekly meeting

Note: All meetings are subject to change.

Looking Ahead in 2026

Thursday, April 2nd
Holy Thursday Service



Friday, April 3rd
Good Friday Children's Event
Good Friday Tenebrae Service



Sunday, April 5th
Easter Sunday



Saturday, April 18th
Annual Indoor Yard Sale



Tuesday, May 19th
2026 Annual Conference
(in Wildwood, NJ through 5/21)



Thursday, May 21st
Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-6 PM



Monday, May 25th
Memorial Day



Sunday, June 7th
Confirmation Sunday



Sunday, June 14th
Church Handbell Concert



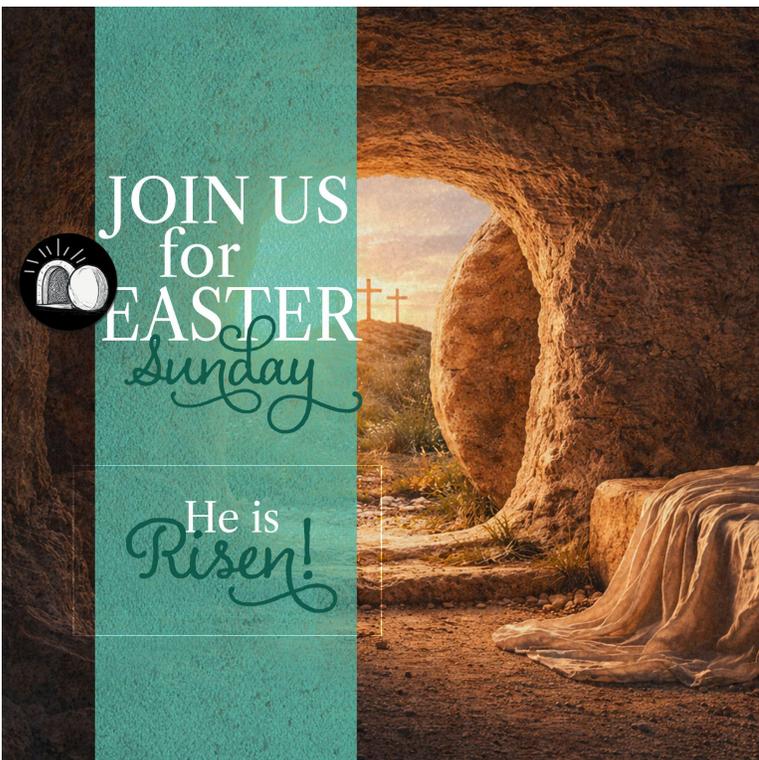
Join us for Sunday Worship!

8:30 AM: In-person, communion every week

10:40 AM: In-person & livestreamed to YouTube, contemporary Praise & Worship

11:00 AM: In-person & livestreamed to YouTube, communion first Sunday of each month

CHRIST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1020 S. Valley Forge Rd
Lansdale, PA 19446



Join us for Sunday Worship!

- 8:30 AM:** In-person, communion every week
- 10:40 AM:** In-person & livestreamed to YouTube, contemporary Praise & Worship
- 11:00 AM:** In-person & livestreamed to YouTube, communion first Sunday of each month