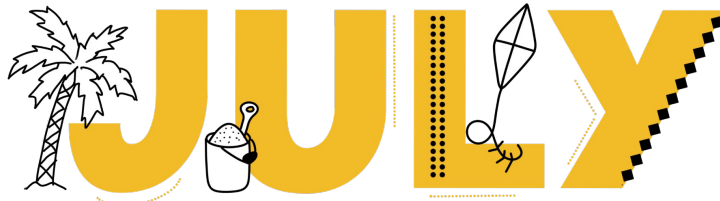




# Christ Evangel

Volume 62, Issue 7, 2026  
Christ United Methodist Church  
1020 South Valley Forge Rd  
Lansdale, PA 19446  
215-855-1643  
[secretary@cumclansdale.org](mailto:secretary@cumclansdale.org)



## Thank You from Miki Chelton

I do not know how to fully express my thanks and appreciation for all the love and gifts I have received with my retirement as your Director of Music. When I received a phone call 20 years ago asking if I would be the handbell director, I never imagined where that call was going to lead me. It has been a wonderful adventure being the director of music at CUMC and I wouldn't trade it for anything. Thank you for giving me the experience of a joy-filled career and for all the support for my family as we traveled the rollercoaster of life. The music program at CUMC is truly unlike any others. Thank you for trusting me to take over an already amazing program and supporting its growth and change throughout the years. It has been an honor to be a part of that growth. Thank you to everyone who helped put together the reception on my last day and to everyone who came to celebrate. Thank you for the gifts that have been given to me with my retirement. I am truly grateful for each one. I feel very appreciated and loved as I go into the next chapter of life. Thank you. - Miki Chelton

Thank you to all who came out for the Hayes Annual Memorial Golf Outing! See page 6 for the article about the golf outing! Additional pictures from the event can be found on page 8.





# FROM THE PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Zachary Hopple



I don't know about you, but this summer has seemed rather chaotic for me, and I know for much of the church staff. It seems like when one major event or project finishes another takes its place. When I was finishing up my dissertation this spring, I submitted it and thought to myself, "I will have time to breathe now for a moment." That same day, I had a finance meeting during which the capital campaign was introduced as a necessary way to raise funds to pay for the much needed work around the church.

During the month of June, the church had some major work done to take care of some structural issues that have developed over time. Last fall, we had the water drainage around the property cleared out to remove the cause of the foundational problems. But in June, holes were drilled through the foundation in multiple parts around the building and filled with a foam-like material that lifted the building to level it and make it more structurally stable.

I was asked a few times why we were having this work done, and so I walked the people asking the questions around the church. I pointed out the red tape, and asked them to stand on it, showing them how the ground felt notably off balanced as the tape ran along cracks that had developed with the sinking foundation. I pointed out cracks in the walls where blocks and wood that joined together began to separate under the stress of the growing tension, and the paint that peeled with it. I pointed out where water damage needed repaired from failures in the seams in the roof right over major foundational cracks. I pointed out the large cracks in the sanctuary and explained how if something was not done soon we would lose the stain glass windows as they would soon begin to crack or their housing would come undone. I took a 2x4 and placed it over a door threshold and showed them how either end was nearly an inch lower than the middle which rested solidly on the door frame. I pointed out the large spaces between the carpet border on the wall and the floor carpet, noting the fact that it was not poor craftsmanship, but where the floor was separating from the wall altogether. I noted the door closing mechanisms that had to be disconnected around the church so they would not break the doors because they were no longer level with the building. It is amazing all of the issues that were created as a result of a singular foundational problem.

Foundations are important. What we choose to build upon, and how we choose to build upon it, will have incredible effects on the rest of the structure. If we do not use the right source for the foundation, or if something undermines the foundation we have set (like in the situation with our church), it can have major effects. And the only way to fix the problem, is to shore up the foundation itself.

Jesus tells us in Luke 6:46-49, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, it quickly collapsed, and great was the ruin of that house."

We have been working hard to take care of the foundational issues at the church. But we also need to make sure we do not have foundational issues in our own lives as well. There are many people in this world right now that are claiming Christ as the one they follow, and yet do not do what he tells us to do. Instead of helping those in need, they selfishly take more for themselves. Instead of serving, they insist on being served. Instead of being moved by a love for others, they are fueled by hatred.

Our lives should be built on Christ. We are called to be disciples of Christ. We should emulate Christ in all that we do. We must make sure our foundation is Jesus and that we follow him in every aspect of our lives.

So as we continue to work on the projects around the church, let us also take this time to work on projects around our heart as well. Let us shore up the foundation of our faith. Let us patch the holes where sin has eroded our relationships with others. Let us take time to strengthen our connection with God.

2 I pray that God will bless you this summer.



**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 Meetings in July or August

The Deborah Circle will not be meeting during July and August. Our first meeting in the fall will be on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 at the church in Fellowship Hall, Room 106. When we begin our meetings again, we will be collecting toiletries and socks for the Code Blue Shelters for Men and Women, so now is a good time to take advantage of those items you may find on sale this summer.

A big thank you to the circle members who helped Pastor Tawny by preparing the materials needed for VBC at our June 8 meeting! Also, please remember to send cards or call our members who cannot come out to our meetings at this time. We know they appreciate keeping in touch. Please bring your lunch and a beverage and join us for food, fellowship and fun on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Bring a friend!

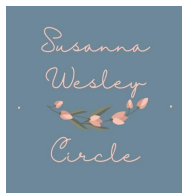
Any questions, please contact Jean Davis at 267-218-2569 or Gail Scott at 215-368-0476. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you in September!

Cooking for Manna  
July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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](mailto:kdcreative@aol.com).



SWC: No Summer Meetings; See you on September 24<sup>th</sup>!

The Susanna Wesley Circle will not meet in July or August. Our next meeting will be dinner at a local restaurant (TBD) on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Save the date and watch for details in the Evangel and weekly emails in September.

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.



Caregivers Support Group

Are you a caregiver? Caregiving, for someone in your home, remotely, or for someone in a care facility, is challenging. Our caregivers' group allows the time to share experiences, frustrations, and more. We meet virtually on the second Friday of each month, typically at 10 AM. To learn more, and to receive the Zoom link, contact Marge Kramer at [marge.kramer@cumclansdale.org](mailto:marge.kramer@cumclansdale.org).

From Dallas Indian Mission UMC

This is the Prayer list submitted by the Dallas Indian Mission Methodist Church. Their Silver Feathers Bible Study group provides us with these names of people that are in need of prayers. They also provide their church members with a list of our church members that need prayers. I provide that list to them with names from our bulletin and the Prayer chain. Thank you for your prayers.



**Prayer Requests from Dallas IMUMC, 5/14/2026**

**Healing**

Tim and Sally Yellowfish	James Williams Jr.	Yolanda Munoz	Ricky Yellowfish Sr.
Kassie and Staffan Kyling	Dan Farell	Ralph Huffman	Cynthia Gonzales
Gary Corzine	Miriam Reynosa	Arlene Overland	Amelia Ramirez
Beverly Gilbert	Linda Pahcheka	Cynthia Martinez	Roger Kriesel
	Linda Powers	Kaylen Jay Coleman	

**Spiritual Guidance**

Gary Corzine

**Peace and Comfort**

The families of: Darren Luther, Fernando Hernandez, Rudy Gomez Jr.

Save the Date: Retreat Weekend is Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> through Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>!

Both fall retreats for 2026 will be offered the weekend of November 6<sup>th</sup> through November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Women's Retreat: The retreat will be held at Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center from the evening of Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> through lunch on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Contact Pastor Tawny at [tawny.bernhardt@cumclansdale.org](mailto:tawny.bernhardt@cumclansdale.org) for more information.



Men's Retreat: The retreat will be held at Camp Innabah for "Christian Living Inspired by Jazz" and led by Rev. Jim Goudie. Contact Ken Dickinson at [orangeaero@comcast.net](mailto:orangeaero@comcast.net) for more information, or contact Ed Hartmann to register: 215-896-3399 or [edhart3399@gmail.com](mailto:edhart3399@gmail.com). More info available on the church website.



GriefShare Grief Support Fall Cycle Begins in September

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Our church offers a grief support group, known as GriefShare. It is an opportunity to spend time with others who can relate to your situation-many have found comfort in this group setting.

Our next 13 week cycle begins on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will meet weekly in the Reichley room, right inside the church office, beginning at registration fee (covers the entire cycle) is \$20. Scholarships are available.

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, we will offer a one time program, Loss of a Spouse. This no charge event runs from 1:30 to 3:30 PM, also in the Reichley room.

You can sign up on the church website, [www.cumclansdale.org](http://www.cumclansdale.org), under Events.

Stitching Sisters

Stitching Sisters will meet this summer on July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup> in fellowship hall from 10:00 - noon. Bring whatever project you are working on and join the fellowship of our group. New faces are always welcome. July or August is a great time if you need help with your knitting or crocheting skills. We have some very patient teachers in our group and all are welcome.



# MISSION of the Month July 2026

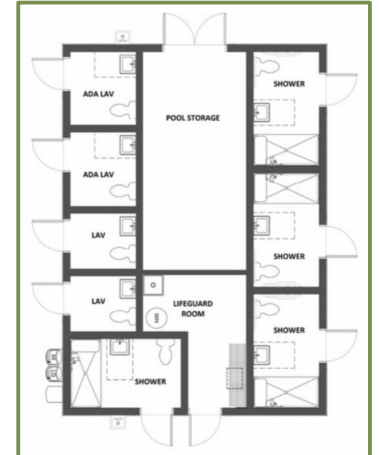
## July Mission of the Month: Gretna Glen New Meadow Restrooms

This month we are supporting a project at Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center – the New Meadow Restrooms. Gretna Glen is one of our Eastern Pennsylvania Conference camps, which we make use of.

They note that for more than 20 years, upgrading restrooms and shower facilities near our pool and meadow has been part of Gretna Glen's master plan. Our current pool shower house, built in 1968, has served faithfully for decades, but can no longer be renovated to meet today's accessibility standards or the needs of our campers and guests. After careful discernment, we determined that building a new, fully accessible facility is the only viable and responsible path forward.

The New Meadow Restrooms will be open year-round and include 8 individual restrooms, ADA accessible facilities, showers, a lifeguard room and pool storage, as shown below. Most importantly, this project ensures that all people – regardless of ability- can fully participate in the life and ministry of Gretna Glen.

Please consider supporting this mission that serves so many youth and group retreats throughout the year!



### Food Drive Collection, 2026

Jan - 56 lbs	Apr - 300 lbs	Jul -	Oct -
Feb - 314 lbs	May -	Aug -	Nov -
Mar - 215 lbs	Jun -	Sep -	Dec -



Frieda Bailey began teaching Sunday school in our church in 1986. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Reichley Sunday school class celebrated Frieda's FORTY years of teaching, as she announced her retirement. Her love for God was evident in her lessons; her insights into the Bible that she knows so well enhanced our learning. Frieda will continue as a member of our class—for that, and for her many years with us, we are grateful.



## Results 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Hayes Memorial Golf Outing June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

All 31 participants had a **GREAT** time at the annual golf outing and raised money for the CUMC preschool gym programs. Miss Val and Miss Mel, of the pre-school staff, came to our fellowship to share how impactful our support is. Wonderful to hear firsthand how we are making a difference. A final donation total will be published later this month. THANK YOU to all those who donated.



THANK YOU also to all the people that contributed to the prize table and contributed their time to make the outing a success.

During our fellowship this story was shared by one of the golfers. Out for his daily walk Andrew saw \$100 attached to a book left behind. It was a bible. There was a note:

Please take this cash and use it,  
For whatever you may want to do.  
Please take the book and use it too.  
It has even more value.

When I was feeling hopeless,  
Someone gave this book to me.  
I want to pass it along to you  
To share what brought me clarity.

Keep it, and read it, whenever you may need it,  
If you have one, please pass this book along,  
To someone who may need a lift.  
The cash is cool, but the book is THE GIFT.

Andrew thought long and hard about what to do with the \$100. He brought it to our golf outing to contribute to the preschool.

The outing is a success because of the people that play regularly. We thought we should show some of their pictures. Look for them on page 8.

The top three teams in the Scramble were:

- In first place with a score of 54, or 16 under par were Bob, Crystal, and Brad Deckel with Tim Hegge. This is a truly exceptional round of golf. Congratulations.
- In second place with a score of 58, or 12 under par, were Chet, Carolyn, and Trevor Coupe with Andrew Lengyel.
- In third place with a score of 64, or 6 under par, were Brad Spanial, Jeff Spanial, Erik Enters and Rick Wilkie.

The skill prizes were:

- Longest Drive Men: Brad Spanial
- Longest Drive Women: Crystal Deckel
- Closest to the Pin Men: Brad Deckel
- Closest to the Pin Women: Lori Haynes

Save the date, June 12, 2027, for next year. We hope to see you out there!

–Don Albacker, Chair and Chet Coupe, Co-chair

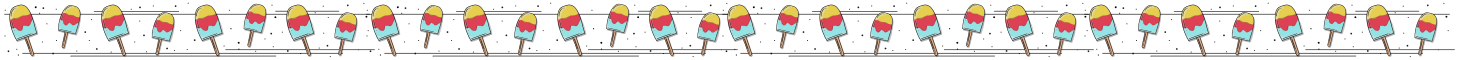


### A Word of Thanks

CUMC Congregation, Thank you for all of your help and guidance through my confirmation process. I especially want to thank everyone for their donations towards my confirmation project. Together we were able to donate more than two full carloads of toys and books to Mitzvah Circle. I am happy to just think of the amount of children that we have blessed. With thanks, Andrew Blissman

The Ocean Grove Choir Festival 🎵🎶! July 18<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM

If you enjoy music of faith, this is a must! It is not too late to register to sing, or plan to be in the audience! Ken Dickinson and our new Director of Music, Brenten McGee will be singing in it! If you need more information contact Ken at [orangeaero@icloud.com](mailto:orangeaero@icloud.com). Hope to see you there!



# FINANCIAL REPORT



## Christ United Methodist Church Profit & Loss Budget Performance May 2026

	May-26	YTD
Revenue		
Total Revenue	\$ 52,253.38	\$ 276,728.23
Expenditures		
Total 4000 Missions	\$ 9,203.66	\$ 46,834.88
Total 5000 Programs	\$ 5,416.66	\$ 14,466.11
Total 6000 Salaries and Benefits	\$ 29,405.40	\$ 153,231.78
Total 7000 Property, Maintenance & Utility	\$ 5,903.18	\$ 77,554.34
Total Expenditures	\$ 49,928.90	\$ 292,087.11
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 2,324.48	\$ 15,358.88

Dear Members and Friends of CUMC,

Shown above is a summary of our church financial report for the month of May and Year-to-Date. Operating Budget income in May was \$52,253 and expenses were \$49,929, giving a surplus for the month of \$2,324. Year-to-Date Operating Budget income is \$276,728, expenses are \$292,087, giving an overall Operating Budget deficit of \$15,359. We thank you for your continued financial support of our church and its ministries. --CUMC Finance Committee

### Summer Update from Preschool Express!

Preschool Express wrapped up another fabulous school year! Our Pre-K graduation was an adorable success, with our graduates proudly wearing their caps and gowns as they sang and danced their way toward kindergarten. Summer Camp was now in full swing last month and having a banner year. Campers have enjoyed exciting activities including scavenger hunts, a foam party, superhero adventures, and so much more!



We are incredibly thankful for the support, encouragement, and blessings of our church family. Thank you for helping make another amazing year possible. We are already looking forward to September when we get to welcome our students back and do it all again!

We are still enrolling for next school year and have a few spots available, if you know a family who might be interested, please have them reach out to us at [preschoolexpress.org](http://preschoolexpress.org) or 215-412-7836.



**Friendly Seniors  
help with  
VBC Prep!**





Andrew Lengyel with Carolyn, Chet, and Trevor Coupe



Ron Dewitt,  
Phil Woodruff,  
Warren Shuey,  
and Al Scott

Jennifer Sandor (preschool board member),  
Jim Hare, Barry & Alice Neil



Erik Enters, Rick Wilkie, Jeff and Brad Spanial,  
sons of long-time member Joe Spanial

# 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Hayes Memorial Golf Outing



Golf outing co-chairs with preschool ambassadors.  
Chet Coupe, Don Albacker, Miss Mel, and Miss Val



2026  
Children's  
Musical  
"Tell Me  
the Truth"





# Susanna Wesley Circle Indoor Picnic



# Meet & Greet with Missionaries Daniel & Kim



# Church Floor Leveling Project



Preparing the Church

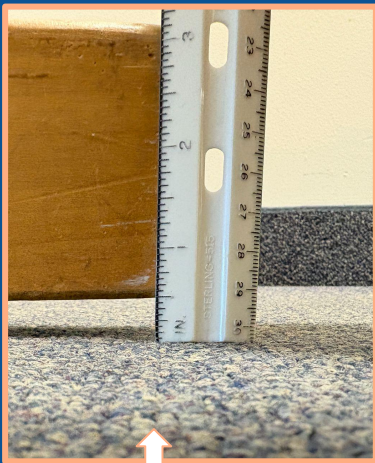
# Church Floor Leveling Project



Reichley Room



Church Office



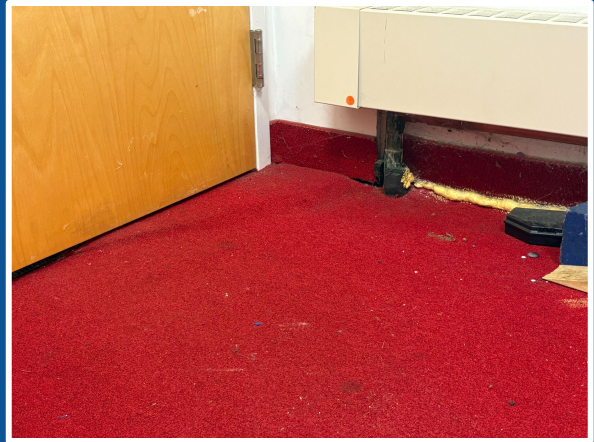
Church Office AFTER—the doorway gap was reduced by over 50%!

## Before/After Pictures

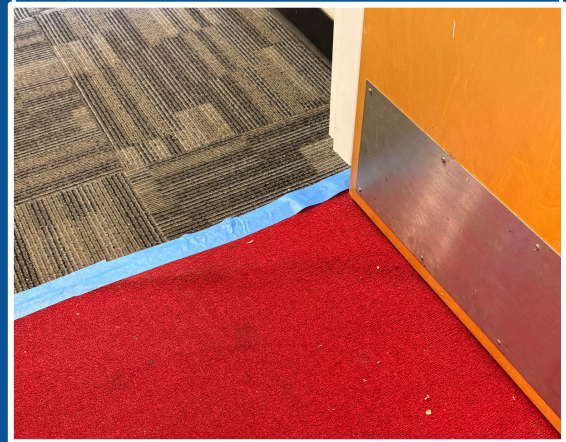
# Church Floor Leveling Project



Preschool Office

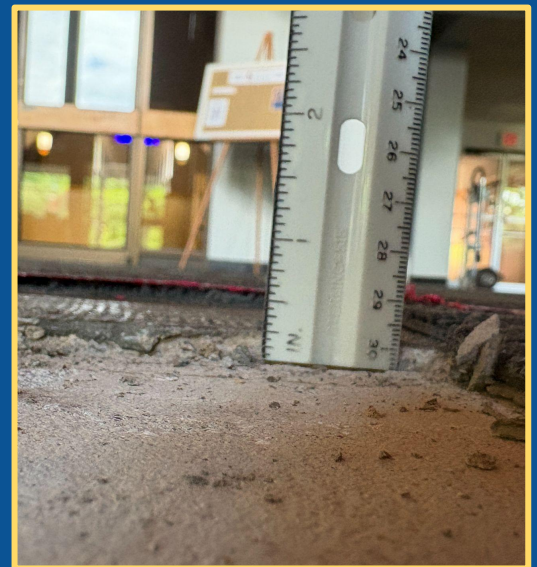


Preschool Office AFTER leveling—the carpet is marked but the floor is even!



Closet Paint  
"Tears"

Narthex Slab  
Differential



## Before/After Pictures

# Church Floor Leveling Project



Installing Sanctuary Wall Supports



Supports in the Basement Crawlspace

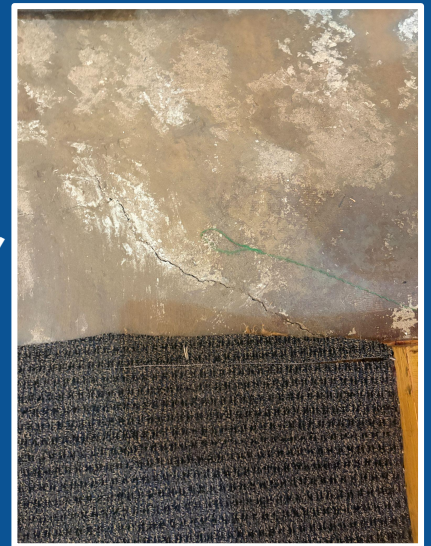


In Process

# Church Floor Leveling Project



Clockwise from top left:  
Preschool office,  
Sanctuary,  
Sanctuary,  
Recihley Room,  
Narthex,  
Narthex



You can see all of the places where the foundation shifted so significantly that it cracked the concrete slab

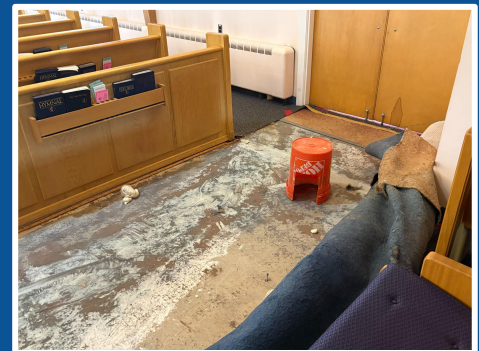
## In Process

# Church Floor Leveling Project

The project involved drilling holes in the floor, pulling a tube through the building, and filling the holes with a foam mixture from the tube.



As they pumped the foam in, you could watch the building and the slab move in real time. Once it was level with the surrounding areas, they stopped and that was where it settled!



## In Process

# J



# JULY

### Calendar Highlights

- 7/2 Cooking for Manna
- 7/3 Church Office Closed
- 7/4 Independence Day
- 7/6 Staff Retreat–Church Office Closed
- 7/7 Softball Game\*
- 7/8 Men's Breakfast Grp  
Endowment Mtg
- 7/9 Stitching Sisters  
VBC Song Practice  
Board of Trustees Mtg
- 7/10 Senior Exercise Class\*  
VBC Skit Practice
- 7/12 Youth Group
- 7/13 VBC Starts! (Through 7/17)
- 7/19 Mission Committee Mtg
- 7/21 Staff Mtg
- 7/23 Red Cross Blood Drive  
SPRC Mtg
- 7/26 Manna Food Drive  
Youth Group
- 7/28 Church Council Mtg
- 8/4 Staff Mtg
- 8/6 Cooking for Manna

\* Denotes Weekly meeting

Note: All meetings are subject to change.

## Looking Ahead in 2026

**Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>**



Staff Retreat, Office Closed



**Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**

VBC: Snowball Mountain Challenge  
(through 7/17)

**Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>**



Red Cross Blood Drive 1-6 PM

**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

Kickoff Sunday



**Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday School Classes Resume

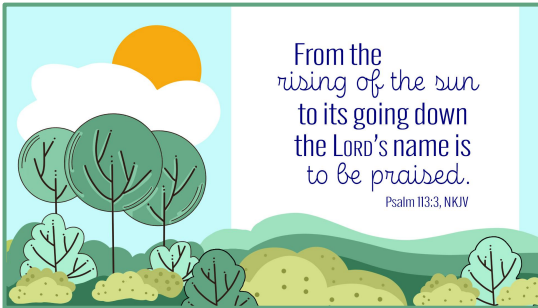
### Join us for Sunday Worship!

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

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



**Join us for Sunday Worship!**

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