



2025

Christ Evangel

september

Volume 61, Issue 9, 2025

Celebrating 150 Years!

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

Kick Off Sunday

Our kick off Sunday will take place Sunday, September 7th. We will meet in the sanctuary at 9:45 to celebrate the beginning of a new Sunday school year, introduce children to their new teachers and classes and hand out Bibles to our 3rd and 7th graders. Nursery will be available during that time. Children who are 4 years old through kindergarten will meet in their classroom in the preschool hallway, room 131. They do not need to start in the sanctuary.



After the initial opening celebration, children in 1st grade through 6th grade will go to the preschool wing where they will have donuts and have some fun activities. Our adults are invited to the narthex for donuts and a time to check out the prayer stations set up in the fellowship hall. You won't want to miss out on kickoff Sunday!

All classes will begin in their regular classrooms the following Sunday, September 14th.

We will have our regular worship services at 8:30 and 11 AM as well.



You're Invited! Join us for the CUMC Picnic on Saturday, Sept. 6th, 3:30 PM
Plan on joining us starting as early as 3:30 PM on Sept 6th – rain or shine! - for fellowship, food and fun at the 2025 CUMC Picnic! We'll be looking for your RSVP and what you plan to bring to the potluck meal. Be sure and sign up through our weekly Monday emails, on our website and in paper form in the lobby. We will be grilling up hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken and brisket and we're looking for potluck contributions of sides, salads, desserts, and gluten free side/desserts. All potluck items are due to the kitchen no later than 4:30 PM, and the Bishop will do a special welcoming prayer

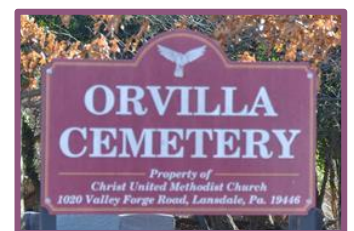
at 4:45. And back by popular demand, the Wise Guys will entertain us with great music while we eat. After that, we'll have some special 150th activities and Vespers.

Can you volunteer to help with this great event? We have sign-ups to volunteer to help with set up, buffet table monitoring during the picnic, clean up and assisting with activities. Help us continue to celebrate our 150th anniversary by joining us on September 6th. See you there!



Orvilla Road Church & Cemetery Tour, Saturday, September 27th, 10:30 AM

The original worshipping church for Christ United Methodist Church, the Orvilla Road church, is going to be open for a visit! Please join us for a tour of the church, now Holy Spirit Anglican Church, at 1133 Orvilla Road in Hatfield. We will have tours at 10:30 AM on September 27th, as well as a tour of our cemetery at the same location. Any questions, call Jean Davis at 267-218-2569.





FROM THE PASTOR

Reverend Zachary Hopple



I pray that this summer has been good to you. I pray that you enjoyed the warmer weather and extended daylight. I pray that you have found joy and contentment and that God has blessed you over these summer months.

As summer fades into fall, we begin to feel the changes all around us—the air grows cooler, the days a little shorter, and the rhythms of life shift into a new season. In much the same way, our church family is also entering a new season. Our music program picks up again, many of our committees resume their meetings, and worship takes on a new flavor as we move towards one of the most meaningful times in the Christian year.

So far over the course of this year, we have celebrated 150 years of God's faithfulness in this congregation. What a joy it has been to tell the stories, remember the people, and give thanks for the blessings that have carried us through generation after generation. We give thanks for our previous pastors who have come to share with us God's message once again, and we celebrate what God continues to do in their lives after serving here at our church.

Our theme scripture for our 150th has been Psalm 105:1–4, which calls us to “give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.” That has been at the heart of our anniversary celebration. We lift up our gratitude for God's goodness and praise all the ways the Lord has guided and sustained us over the life of this church. We give thanks for the way God has opened doors for us to be in ministry in this community and in this world.

Over the next few months, our celebration of our heritage will begin to draw to a close and we turn our hearts to the future. Seasons change, and with them come new opportunities and challenges. As a church, we are called to step forward in faith, trusting that the God who has walked with us over these 150 years will continue to lead us in the days ahead. At the same time, we do not forget where we have come from. Our roots matter. The prayers, service, and witness of those who have gone on before us have shaped the foundation from which we serve our world. Their legacy calls us to carry forward the same spirit of faithfulness for the generations yet to come.

So as we move into this next season of ministry, let us do so with both gratitude and anticipation. May we be thankful for our past, rooted in God's Word, and eagerly look for the new ways God will continue to work in and through us. May we “give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always” (Psalm 105:1-4).

May God bless you.



**College
& Military
Boxes**

College Boxes--Send your updated addresses to the church office!!

If you are, or have, a college student or military person who will be living away from home or commuting from home this school year, please contact the church office with mailing address information so we can send them a goodie box from our church family. Contact Judi Plummer, plummergjmc@yahoo.com, with questions.



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



Deborah Circle Meeting: Monday, September 8th, 11:30 AM

Welcome back!!!! The Deborah Circle will be meeting on Monday, September 8 at 11:30 at the church in Fellowship Hall, Room 106. Please bring your lunch and a beverage and join us for food, fellowship and fun! Bring a friend!

Our speaker will be a representative from the Code Blue for Women program from Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale. This program has recently been started at 765 E. Main Street in Lansdale in the Wissahickon Park Building. Volunteers are always welcome to help with donating a home-cooked or catered meal.

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. Any questions, please contact Jean Davis at 267-218-2569 or Gail Scott at 215-368-0476.

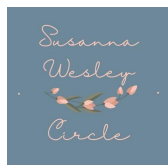
Cooking for Manna

September 4th, 2025, 6:30 p.m.



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 September Dinner, Thurs. Sept. 25th, 6:30 PM at The Metropolitan Diner

The Susanna Wesley circle is kicking off the fall with our September dinner event. We'll be meeting at The Metropolitan Diner, 750 Upper State Road in North Wales (across from Costco) on Thursday, September 25th at 6:30 PM. Sign up on the church website, under the Get Involved tab, or on the signup sheet on the kiosk in the narthex, by September 18th. Whether you're a woman who has just started worshipping with us or you're a long time member, we invite you to join our warm fellowship. If you'd like to stay up-to-date on circle happenings, contact Nadene Stauffer nstauffer@verizon.net or Suzanne Williams slwmusic@hotmail.com to be added to our email distribution list.

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 Group

Caregiving, whether in one's own home, or remotely, has its challenges. If you are serving in this role, we invite you to join us for a time of sharing. It's helpful to know that we're not alone. We meet one Friday a month (the week varies) via Zoom. If you are interested, contact Marge Kramer (marge.kramer@cumclansdale.org) for our current schedule and the Zoom link

Stitching Sisters

Stitching Sisters will meet on September 11th. We meet in Fellowship Hall from 10:00am-noon. We will begin the fall with a potluck brunch at 10:00 and then continue with our meeting. Come and join the friendly fellowship.



Thank you to everyone who helps us. We find yarn and finished items in the Stitching Sisters box. Some people let us know where the treasures have come from and other items are anonymous. It is all appreciated whether it is supplies for the Stitching Sisters group or finished work to be donated. God blesses it, and it all gets put to use.



Fall Short-term Bible Study

Our Tuesday morning short-term Bible study will be resuming in the fall! We will be meeting from 10 AM - 12 PM in fellowship hall beginning October 7th through November 11th! We will be studying Andy Stanley's "Follow." You can purchase this on your own, or place an order through the office. Orders should be submitted by Sept. 16th. Please sign up on the website (Get Involved > Events) or at the kiosk by Sept. 16th.

Family Movie Night is Coming!

Looking for a great way to spend your Friday nights as the weather begins to change? Then plan on attending CUMC's **Family Movie Night** on September 12th at 7 PM! We're getting ready to pop the popcorn and welcome you to a screening of "How To Train Your Dragon". This Oscar-nominated film from Dreamworks Studios follows the adventures of a hapless young Viking who aspires to hunt dragons and becomes the unlikely friend of a young dragon himself, learning that there may be more to the creatures than he assumed. The film's message about empathy and challenging norms resonates with viewers of all ages. Plan on joining us in the Sanctuary for this special movie event!



The Mustard Seed Garden



The Mustard Seed Garden continues to do well! Thank you to our many volunteers who help us tend the garden: pulling weeds, watering the plants, picking our produce, and dropping off our donations. We have already donated several hundred pounds to Manna this summer alone!

We are always looking for more volunteers, and are looking for someone to take over as head gardener for next season. This person would need to be over 18 yrs. old, would help organize the garden and coordinate the volunteers, and ideally loves plants, being outdoors, and loves our mission. Interested? Call the church office: 215 855-1643

Open Garden hours:

Wed. and Sat. mornings, 9-10:30 AM.

Come to the garden and we will show you how to pick, water, and plant the vegetables. We provide all the tools and gloves.

Save the Date: Retreat Weekend is Nov. 7th through Nov. 9th!
Both fall retreats for 2025 will be offered the weekend of November 7th through November 9th.

Women's Retreat: All women of Christ UMC as well as friends and neighbors are welcome to attend a weekend of rest and renewal at camp Gretna Glen. The retreat is a way to foster fellowship among women who desire to grow closer to God. The theme of the retreat will be From Wonderful to Woeful: Women of the Bible. Each session will focus on a different woman of the Bible and how her story might impact our faith. This year, the leadership team includes: Jen Hopple, Marge Kramer, Jeanmarie Loss, Pam Nicholson, Diana Ricci, and Pastor Tawny. We always appreciate extra help, so if you are interested in assisting with a small piece of the retreat, please reach out to let us know!



The retreat will be held at Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center from the evening of Friday, November 7th through lunch on Sunday, November 9th. Visit the church website for more info (including a schedule) and to register!

Men's Retreat: The 14th Annual Men's Retreat will be held at Camp Innabah for a 4-part program inspired by Adam Hamilton's *Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It*. Phil Newcomer—attorney, life-long Methodist, preacher's kid, Christ Servant Minister, and member of Jarrettown UMC (where his wife, Dorry, serves as the pastor!)—will be leading the weekend for all to learn how the example of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, can ignite a new flame of faith within all.

Prices: \$155 (2 Nights/5 Meals), \$135 (1 Night/3 Meals), or \$75 (Sat. Day/2 Meals)

Contact Ed Hartmann to register: 215-896-3399 or edhart3399@gmail.com



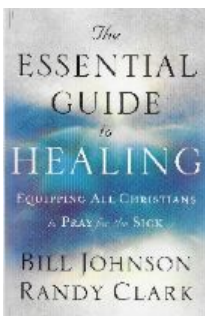
Family Promise meals in September

Family Promise is coming to Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale and Christ United Methodist Church will be a Buddy Church. We will be providing meals to the guests for part of the month of September.

Meals are prepared by you and dropped off at Trinity Lutheran. If you can help with this project, please sign up on the church website (under Get Involved > Volunteer Sign Ups) or contact Jean Davis at 267-218-2569.

Come join our choirs this fall!

The Christ UMC music department would love for you to come join us in one of our many choirs. You do not need to be an experienced musician to join and we have openings for singers and ringers. Stay tuned for more details about our first rehearsals and feel free to contact Miki Chelton if you have any questions. We look forward to making music with you.



Healing Prayer Training Offered This Fall

The 8-week training will be held on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 AM, beginning on September 25th and run until November 13th. Training will be based on the book "The Essential Guide to Healing – Equipping All Christians to Pray for the Sick" by Bill Johnson & Randy Clark.

Please contact Rich Fetzer at voxallosc@yahoo.com or 267-772-2315 if you are interested.

MISSION of the Month September 2025

September Mission of the Month: Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia

The mission of the RMH is to support families of seriously ill children by creating a community of comfort and hope. A RMH program helps reduce stress and financial burden for families when they must travel far from home to access medical care for their child. Families don't have to worry about where to stay. At a RMH, families can be together, enjoy home-cooked meals, and receive compassionate hospitality and support - all near the child's hospital. Houses are built on the simple idea that nothing else should matter when a family is focused on the health of their child. Stays in the house range from one night to more than a year. Each house is run by a group of full-time paid employees, assisted by a large staff of volunteers. Many of the houses offer additional resources, including accredited education programs, recreational activities, children's art therapy and music programs, and gardens so families can grow vegetables and herbs like they do at home.

The Philadelphia RMH was the first of the Ronald McDonald Charities. Early in 1974, two Pediatric Oncologists at CHOP saw families spending night after night in the hospital while their children received medical care, and they recognized the need for a house where families could stay. At the same time, the Philadelphia Eagles were fundraising in support of a player's daughter who was battling leukemia. The Eagles' manager met with the two oncologists and committed to supporting their dream for a house. He approached their advertiser, McDonald's, for support and they agreed to fund the house through "Shamrock Shake" sales. The house opened in October 1974. The RMH is now worldwide, with over 387 houses in 62 countries. The majority of programming funds comes from individuals, organizations, and businesses.

The Eckhart family's grandson/great-grandson, Charlie, is currently being treated at CHOP. He and his parents, Tim and Emma, are now residing in the Philadelphia RMH. Tim sent a brief paragraph about their stay: "The RMH is a great transitional place for us on Charlie's journey to recovery. We need to be within an hour of the hospital, in case of fever or infection, so we can't go home quite yet. The RMH provides us a place to stay that's close to the hospital. We can walk back and forth, but they also provide frequent shuttles to the hospital and back. They also provide dinner every day and breakfast a couple of times a week, which is one less thing to worry about. They offer many activities for both caregivers and children, like trips to the zoo and mindfulness sessions, but because of Charlie's situation, we haven't been able to take advantage of them. I particularly enjoy the gardens on the outside terrace that have lots of flowers, pears, and tomatoes. This is all provided for free. They only ask for a suggested donation when we eventually check out."



Food Drive Collection, 2025

Jan - unknown	Apr - 260	Jul - 254	Oct -
Feb - 148 lbs	May - 184	Aug -	Nov -
Mar - 294 lbs	Jun - 192	Sep -	Dec -





Prayer Fest Stations: Part of Kickoff Sunday, September 7th

As a part of Christ UMC's Kick Off Sunday on September 7th, Prayer Fest interactive stations will be available for viewing. We would like to provide the Prayer Fest interactive stations during these time periods to give the congregation and preschool parents additional opportunity to view them. The days the stations would be on display would be on:

- Sunday, September 7th from 9:30 AM to Noon
- Monday, September 8th from 9 AM to 1 PM
- Tuesday, September 9th from 9 AM to 1 PM

Friendly Seniors Ice Cream Party, Wednesday, September 17th, 11:30 AM

I scream. You scream. We all scream for ice cream! So come and get some of the cool, creamy and delicious ice cream made at our next Friendly Seniors gathering, Wednesday, September 17th, beginning at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall! The children at Vacation Bible Camp had a blast making their own ice cream! Now our seniors (age 60+) and their friends can get in on the fun, too!



Bring your own lunch unless you want to reserve more room for ice cream. We will make our own ice cream as our activity of the day while we catch up after our summer activities and do some planning, too. Ice cream toppings will be provided, as well as vegan ice cream options.

What a great opportunity to make new friends! Please invite a new member, friend, or family member to join you. Sign-ups are on the kiosk in the narthex or on the Sign-up Genius on the church website under "Get Involved."



Toiletries and Clothing Collection for Code Blue Shelter for Women

Deborah Circle will be collecting toiletries and clothing for those using the new Code Blue Shelter for Women in Lansdale. We are asking for donations of small items of toothpaste, shampoo, soap, women's hygiene products, sweat pants XL size, socks and Gift Cards for the Suds laundromat. Basket in the narthex, Sept. 14th-28th. Thank you! -Jean, Gail, and ladies of Deborah Circle

Item Collection for Liberty Ministries Women's Housing

Deborah Circle will also be collecting items for Liberty Ministry Women's housing. Needed items are women's hygiene products, socks, toothpaste, shampoo, soap. These items can be the regular size as these ladies have housing through Liberty Ministry. Basket in the narthex, Sept. 14th-28th. Thank you! -Jean, Gail, and ladies of Deborah Circle



The Souderton Main Street Food Crawl is back and supporting the Bean Bag Food Program! Sunday, September 28th, 3:00-6:00 PM

Grab your friends, bring your appetite, and get ready to munch and sip your way through downtown Souderton—all while supporting the Bean Bag Food Program! You'll enjoy everything from barbecue and ice cream to popcorn, quesadillas, and even chicken and waffles.

Only 175 tickets available—don't miss out! Tickets are \$60 per person. Find the link on the church website under Get Involved > Events. Raffle basket tickets will be available for purchase on site at Broad Theater and Branch Creek, where winners will be announced.

Grief Support: Loss of a Spouse & GriefShare begin soon
Our church offers support for those who are grieving.

Wednesday, September 17th: 1:30 to 3:30 PM Loss of a Spouse, a one-time program. No charge.

Beginning Wednesday, October 1st, running for 13 weeks: GriefShare. If you would benefit from a group of people who can relate to your experience of loss, of a spouse, a parent, a child, grandchild, sibling, or someone else close to you, please join us. Registration fee of \$20 covers all 13 weeks; scholarships are available. You'll find a signup for each of these programs on our website, under events. They are open to the community, so invite a friend, family member or coworker to join us. We meet in the Reichley room, off the church office. Enter through the church office.



Jesus Jammerz

Who: Children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade

When: Wednesdays from 5:15-6:00 pm
Starts in September

Where: CUMC Narthex

This group uses body percussion, percussion instruments, and movement to express the Christian music that they are "jammin'" to. It is a lively group and a different style than any other group in our music ministries. There is no singing and no prior musical experience needed, just a love of music, movement and Jesus!

Contact Nanci Landes
nanci.landes@cumclandsdale.org
for more information

Spontaneous Singers prepare for their anthem



Thank you from Donna Stewart (Our church office manager!)
Thank you CUMC congregation for all the prayers, well wishes, and support from the end of June until now. The rotator cuff repair surgery seems to have been successful - PT is ongoing and I have been told that recovery is at a pace of about 10% per month.. We are looking at a long recovery before I am back to 100%. Thank you again for all the prayers and support during these last 2 months.

THANK YOU
for

YOUR
SUPPORT

CUMC Preschool Express is gearing up for another fantastic year!

Preschool Express opens the school year on September 8th with many children enrolled in our gorgeous classrooms! We can't wait to see our young friends, and new and returning families!

For information on Preschool Express, contact the new Preschool Director, Valerie Dreyer: preschooldirector@cumclansdale.org

Dear God,
Thank you for this brand new start to preschool,
We can't wait to laugh and play.
Help us learn and help us grow,
Show us the kindest way to go.

Bless our teachers, bless our friends,
Help us make amends.
Keep us safe and full of cheer—
Thank you, God, for this school year!



FINANCIAL REPORT



Christ United Methodist Church Profit & Loss Budget Performance July 2025

	Jul-25	YTD
Total Revenue	\$ 45,845.11	\$ 344,882.64
Expenditures		
Total 4000 Missions	\$ 8,963.49	\$ 60,715.36
Total 5000 Programs	\$ 2,205.68	\$ 16,878.77
Total 6000 Salaries and Benefits	\$ 29,319.87	\$ 200,538.74
Total 7000 Property, Maintenance & Utility	\$ 4,764.00	\$ 64,166.20
Total Expenditures	\$ 45,253.04	\$ 342,299.07
Net Revenue	\$ 592.07	\$ 2,583.57

Dear Members and Friends of CUMC,

Shown above is a summary of our church financial report for the month of July and Year-To-Date. Operating Budget income for July was \$45,845 and expenses were \$45,253, giving a **surplus** for the month of \$592. Year-To-Date, we have a \$2,584 **surplus** in our Operating Budget. Not shown above is the \$2,151 received in June for the Mission of the Month (Henderson Project).

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



Susanna Wesley Circle has been volunteering consistently at Marvin's Home for the last several months! If you would like to help, please reach out to Nadene or Suzanne to assist them in their mission to make a house a home!



Confirmation room updates in progress! Stay tuned for more!



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SEPTEMBER

Calendar Highlights

- 9/1 Labor Day (Office Closed)
- 9/2 Bible Reading Group*
Kaleidoscope Group*
Jazz Group Rehearsal*
- 9/4 Cooking for Manna
Adult Praise Band Rehearsal*
- 9/6 150th Anniversary Church Picnic
- 9/7 Kickoff Sunday
Prayer Fest Stations Open (through 9/10)
- 9/8 Staff Meeting
Deborah Circle
Perky Promenaders*
- 9/10 Men's Breakfast Group
Endowment Meeting
Loss of a Spouse
- 9/11 Stitching Sisters
Board of Trustees Meeting
- 9/12 150th Anniversary Movie Night
- 9/16 Evening Fellowship
Finance Meeting
- 9/17 Friendly Seniors
GriefShare begins*
- 9/20 Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing
- 9/21 Mission Committee Meeting
- 9/22 Staff Meeting
- 9/23 Church Council Meeting
- 9/25 Red Cross Blood Drive 10 AM - 3 PM
- 9/26 Caregivers' Monthly Meeting
- 9/28 Manna Food Drive
- 8/29 Books Between Friends
- 10/2 Cooking for Manna

* Denotes Weekly meeting

Note: All meetings are subject to change.

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

Looking Ahead in 2025

Saturday, September 6th

Annual Church Picnic



Sunday, September 7th

Kickoff Sunday



Friday, September 12th

Family Movie Night



Saturday, September 20th

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing



Thursday, September 25th

Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 AM - 3 PM



Saturday, September 27th

Orvilla Road Church & Cemetery Tour



Sunday, September 28th

Guest Preacher: Graham Truscott



Sunday, October 12th

Annual Women's Tea



Sunday, October 19th

Trunk or Treat



Thursday, November 20th

Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 AM - 3 PM



Thursday, November 27th

Thanksgiving (Church office closed through 11/30)



Sunday, November 30th

Advent Begins



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



Join us at the
Church Picnic!



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