



2025

# Christ Evangel

## October



Volume 61, Issue 10, 2025

Celebrating 150 Years!

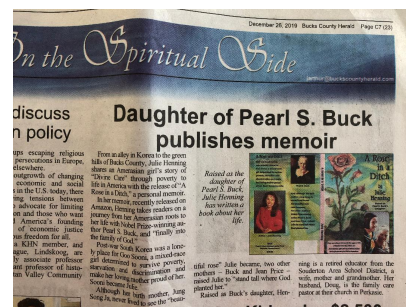
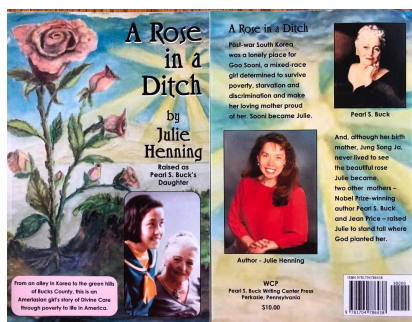
Christ United Methodist Church  
1020 South Valley Forge Rd  
Lansdale, PA 19446  
215-855-1643

[secretary@cumclansdale.org](mailto:secretary@cumclansdale.org)



### Annual Women's Tea: October 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM

Susanna Wesley Circle invites all women of the church to attend our Women's Tea on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM. We will be serving lunch, tea, and dessert for a ticket purchase of \$14. The tickets will be sold in the narthex starting on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> after both services. Please purchase a ticket and join us and invite a friend. We have a special speaker, Julie Henning who is the daughter of Pearl S. Buck and an author of A Pearl in the Ditch. Julie will share with us the story of her early life. A truly "rags to riches" story of how God's sovereignty was at work in the life of one of His children.



College  
& Military  
Boxes

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

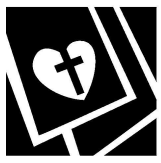
If you are, or have, a college student or military person who will be living away from home or commuting from home this school year, please contact the church office with mailing address information so we can send them a goodie box from our church family. We will be packing boxes on November 2 during the Sunday School hour. Contact Judi Plummer, [plummerjmc@yahoo.com](mailto:plummerjmc@yahoo.com), with questions.

### Join Us for our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat!

We're excited to invite you to our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat event on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 5:30 PM! Get ready for an afternoon filled with fun, laughter, and a festive spirit. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy a delightful array of treats as we celebrate the season in style. Dress up in your favorite costumes and join in on the festivities!

This event is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our community and create lasting memories. Don't miss out on the fun—mark your calendars and invite everyone you know for an unforgettable evening!





# FROM THE PASTOR

Reverend Zachary Hopple



October - a month here in Pennsylvania that is full of color as the leaves change and people put out pumpkins and gourds for decorations. The air is crisp in the morning and at night, yet somewhat warm during the day. October marks a time of transition where we see the beauty of fall and also the preparation for the winter yet to come.

When we read Paul's writings he often sets the tone of what is to come in his letters with his eloquent greetings. For example, in 2 Corinthians he writes, "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." (2 Cor 1:2-4).

As you may already know from some of my sermons, I love looking at definitions of words. So let's look at the definition of the word "comfort." According to Merriam-Webster as a verb "to comfort" is to give strength or to give hope, to ease grief or trouble. As a noun, "comfort" is support, consolation in times of trouble or a feeling of relief or encouragement.

In this brief introduction to his letter, Paul reminds us that the Lord is the God of compassion and comfort and that God comforts all of us in our troubles. We can then comfort others with the comfort we have received. It is a wonderful message of encouragement, but also a message of expectation - that we are expected to comfort one another.

As a church we are very willing to offer this comfort to one another. But sometimes we don't always know when to offer that assistance and support. Sometimes we can be somewhat private and not want to share what is going on in our lives. Other times, we may feel no one will understand what we are going through so we don't bother to share. But no one will know what we are going through if we do not allow them to know.

I once had a parishioner who was in the hospital for a few days in the middle of the week. Their stay in the hospital was unexpected and I had seen them two days before. When they returned home, they called me to tell me they were upset because I never visited them in the hospital. I asked them if they had called to tell me they were in the hospital and they said no. I asked them if they asked their family to notify me that they were in the hospital and they said no. I kindly asked the person to consider how I would have known they were in the hospital if neither of those communications had occurred in order to alert me. They were unsure and eventually understood, but this conversation remains with me all these years later.

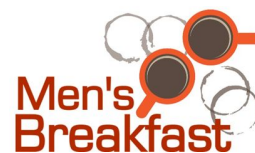
We need to open up and share with one another so that we can be supported and encouraged. We need to let each other know when we are hurting or are in pain or grieving. On the flip side, we also need to reach out to offer that support and encouragement even when we may not know if it is needed. I try to remind people all the time that I am here whenever someone needs to talk. It is an open invitation.

So I want to encourage you this month to reach out to the people around you, those you see on a regular basis, and those who may not have seen for a few weeks. Check in on one another. Ask how someone is doing. See how you can offer words of encouragement and support because we all need comfort from time to time and God has given us love and comfort enough to share.





**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, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM

We will be meeting on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 AM in Room 106 to discuss the Craft Fair at our church on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please bring a sandwich or salad and a drink for lunch.

We are looking for baked goods and will have a signup sheet available if you can help in the kitchen. All baked goods can be brought in on Friday evening or at 8:00 AM on Saturday morning.

Crafts will include Christmas decorations, stained glass, paper crafts, Hallmark items, crocheted items and much more. Money raised will be donated to our various missions.

Any questions, please contact Jean Davis at 267-218-2569 or Gail Scott at 215-368-0476. Please feel free to bring a friend. See you on the 13<sup>th</sup>!

Cooking for Manna

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, 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 Annual Women's Tea on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM

See the front page for more information about our upcoming Women's Tea! To stay up-to-date on circle happenings, contact Nadene Stauffer [nstauffer@verizon.net](mailto:nstauffer@verizon.net) or Suzanne Williams [slwmusic@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:marge.kramer@cumclansdale.org)) for our current schedule and the Zoom link

### Stitching Sisters

Stitching Sisters will meet on October 9<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall from 10:00 AM - noon. We hope to see you there as we continue this mission, and are thankful for all of the support from various people and areas of the church!



### 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 7<sup>th</sup> through November 11<sup>th</sup>! We will be studying Andy Stanley's "Follow." Books are ordered—the office will let you know when they have arrived!

### June Mission of the Month Update!

Dear CUMC Congregants,

The members of Christ United Methodist Church are very caring, generous people. The amount of money you donated through your June Mission project to Manna on Main Street's back to school drive was far beyond what we anticipated!! We were able to distribute 334 backpacks to 143 families with your help. The money was used to buy additional backpacks, school supplies and water bottles. We were able to add water bottles as an additional item this year because of your generosity. We also had extra school supplies after our distribution that we are now able to have a section in the market that families can access when they are shopping. Your kindness goes beyond the material goods. Your support shows our clients that our community cares about each other. They can see that working together we can meet the challenges that life presents. I have included a picture of one of our families that received back to school gear. You can see from their smiles they were super happy with their new supplies. Again, thank you for being a partner with us in helping our kids feel confident and prepared for the new school year.

Warmly, Susan



### **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 -



### 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 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.



# MISSION of the Month October 2025

## October Mission of the Month: CUMC Loan Fund

Have you ever been in a situation like me where you were out to lunch with a friend and you forgot your wallet? Or maybe the restaurant didn't take credit cards and you had no cash on you? In order to pay the bill, you needed to borrow a few dollars from your friend. How about a time you needed tires for your car or a new piece of furniture and had to finance the payments because you could not afford to pay for them all at once? These types of things happen to people all the time.

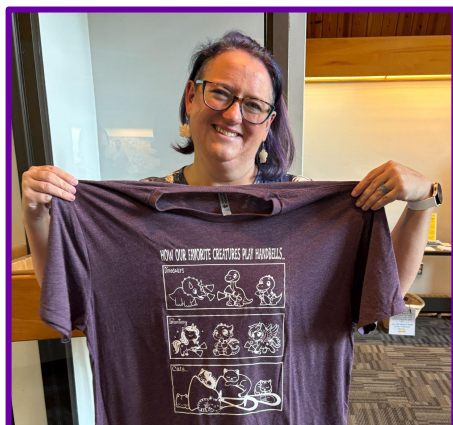


But for some, financial insecurity is much more severe than borrowing a few dollars from a friend or opening a new credit card to get special financing to help pay for something. In some cases, having to pay back those few dollars could break the bank and they may never qualify for that new credit card or for the special financing. For others, every penny of their income goes to food or utilities and there is nothing left over if something unexpected comes up. These situations happen more than we realize and many times, people are uncertain about where to turn when they do. Can we as a church help in tough times?

The answer is YES! Christ UMC has been blessed to have two different ways that we can help people make ends meet. The first way is through the Helping Hands Fund. This is a grant given to those who may need short term assistance with minor funding for items such as utility bills, rent assistance, and other minor expenses.

The second way that our church helps those in need is through the CUMC Loan Fund, which is the focus for October's Mission of the Month. The Loan Fund offers a no interest loan to those who are associated with the church who may find it difficult to receive a loan through other means. These loans are to help cover the costs that exceed the capacity of the Helping Hands Fund and are repaid on a schedule that is agreeable to both the borrower and the church as the lender. Both the Helping Hands Fund and the Loan Fund are overseen by several people in key positions of leadership within our church. Each confidential request is carefully researched, evaluated, and voted upon before any funds are distributed.

You might be asking, why is the Loan Fund our Mission of the Month for October? During the time I have been appointed here we have had two loans that were distributed and repaid in full. However, we have had to turn others away because we did not have the funds available to meet their needs. Additionally, the cost of living has been increasing drastically and more and more people are finding it difficult to make ends meet. While we have some funds readily available, sadly they are not enough to meet the growing needs of some within our church community. In light of these changing and difficult times for some, I ask you to consider giving to support the CUMC Loan Fund as October's Mission of the Month. Thank you. –Pastor Zach



**Congratulations on your retirement, Elysa!! Thank you for ALL you have done and given to our church in your time as an employee!!**



## GriefShare Grief Support Group on Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30 PM

Our grief support group, GriefShare, continues. Each week is self-contained, so you can begin at any time. 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 the entire cycle; scholarships are available. You'll find a sign up for this program on our website, under events. This is 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.



### Friendly Seniors October Meeting, Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM



It's Fall! Leaves are changing colors! There's a crisp breeze! It's time to go outside. The Friendly Senior Group will have lunch at 11:30 AM at the So Much to Give Inclusive Café in the Cedars shopping center at 3401 West Skippack Pike in Cedars on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. This fairly new restaurant has a warm and cozy setting that employs people with special needs.

Following lunch let's take a short ride up Rt. 73 (about 4 miles) to Ott's Exotic Plants and Greenhouse at 861 Gravel Pike, Schwenksville and see their beautiful, grand mound of flowering chrysanthemums. Simply gorgeous in the Fall Colors. You can view the mound outside and then enter the greenhouse and browse at your leisure free of charge.

If you plan to join us, please sign up on Sign Up Genius or the paper sign up in the lobby at church by October 12<sup>th</sup> so that we can give the Café a count for their set up. See you soon! For questions contact Barb Gingrich at 610-584-6648 or Nancy Shane at 215-368-5889.

The National Giving Alliance (NGA) will once again be collecting new and essential items for local charities, such as: Methodist Services, Manna on Main Street, Hedwig House, Crossroads Pregnancy Support, Gemma Services, Northcare Women's Clinic of North Penn, Sixth Street Shelter, Creuding Center.



A white Collection Bin will be in the Narthex from Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Please place your items in the bin.

NGA is requesting all items to be new: baby clothing and blankets, women's clothing, men's clothing, socks, towels, twin sheets, twin blankets and toiletries. Checks should be made out to "NGA" and also placed in the bin in an envelope.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Parnell. Thank you for your generosity this year and in the past.



### Christmas Gift Cards

The Christmas gift card Pre-order form is coming! We will need your name, phone number, and email address at the top of the form. We must receive payment when you order. The last order day is November 10<sup>th</sup> and we hope the gift cards will be in during the first week of December. The money we make on the sale of gift cards will go to the Trustees Capital Fund to continue building repairs and improvements. You will be able to pick the form up at the gift card desk or find it on the website. Happy Shopping!





# 2025 Women's Retreat



November 7<sup>th</sup>-November 9<sup>th</sup>  
Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center  
Lebanon, PA

## **From Wonderful to Woeful: Women of the Bible**

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.

### **Cost Information:**

\$175 for two nights | \$55 for the day

You can stay both Friday and Saturday night with meals provided all day Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday OR you can come just for the day and enjoy all the great sessions and lunch and dinner on Saturday! Either way, there will be numerous opportunities for bible study, fellowship, outdoor activities, worship services, and more!

We don't want the cost to deter anyone from coming, so please speak to Pastor Tawny confidentially ([tawny.bernhardt@cumclansdale.org](mailto:tawny.bernhardt@cumclansdale.org)) if there are any concerns.

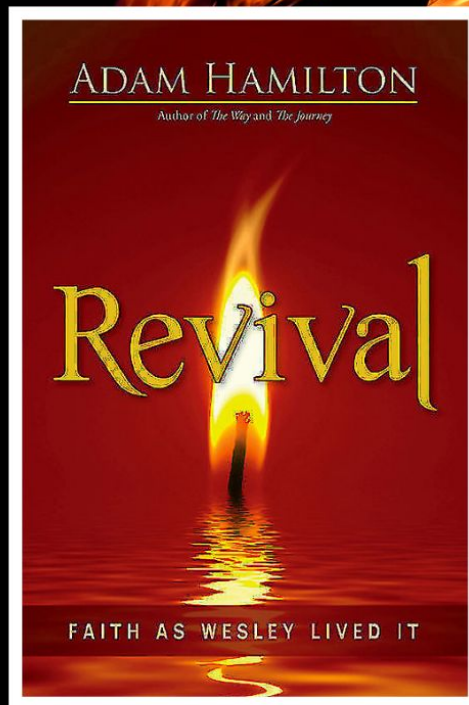
If you have any questions about the retreat, please reach out to any of the retreat leaders.



# 2025 MEN'S RETREAT

NOVEMBER 7-9 | CAMP INNABAH | SPRING CITY, PA

The 14<sup>th</sup> 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.



We hope you will join us and invite others to attend with you!

To register, contact Ed Hartmann, [edhart3399@gmail.com](mailto:edhart3399@gmail.com) | (215)-896-3399



Cost (includes meals):

Whole Weekend: \$155 | One Night: \$135 | Saturday Only: \$75



CUMC Preschool Express is gearing up for another fantastic year!

Fall fun is in full swing at Preschool Express and we have been so blessed with an unbeLEAFable start to the new school year! We have been busy making friendship fruit salad, taking nature walks, creating art, and learning new songs at music with Miss Sherry! Last week we celebrated Johnny Appleseed's birthday by making homemade applesauce and apple playdoh! Our students are having a blast exploring STEM concepts each week with our new science teacher, Miss Angela, and we are excited to announce the start of our new Friday Gym program with Miss Mel! October starts our weekly pop-up library fun, and we have lots of special events planned, like a visit from the fire truck and field trips to the farm! We are so thankful for a wonderful start to the new school year! For information on Preschool Express, contact the Preschool Director, Valerie Dreyer: [preschooldirector@cumclansdale.org](mailto:preschooldirector@cumclansdale.org)



### Wise Words from the Welcome Ministry

Mixed in with the bills and the ads, it's always a nice surprise to find a card or a note in the mail. With our new church directory, addresses of our members are at your fingertips, along with e-mail addresses and phone numbers, if you'd prefer to e-mail, text or call. In each Monday e-mail, you'll find the link to our "sending some cheer to our members" list. Take a few moments this month to let some members of our church family know that they are on your mind.



## FINANCIAL REPORT



**Total Revenue**

**Expenditures**

**Total 4000 Missions**

**Total 5000 Programs**

**6000 Salaries and Benefits**

**Total 6000 Salaries and Benefits**

**Total 7000 Property, Maintenance & Utility**

**Total Expenditures**

**Net Operating Revenue**

### **Christ United Methodist Church Profit & Loss Budget Performance Aug 2025**

<b>Aug 2025</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>\$ 42,490.21</b>	<b>\$ 387,372.85</b>
<b>\$ 8,133.66</b>	<b>\$ 68,849.02</b>
<b>\$ 2,301.33</b>	<b>\$ 19,180.10</b>
	<b>0.00</b>
<b>\$ 30,592.96</b>	<b>\$ 231,131.70</b>
<b>\$ 6,842.99</b>	<b>\$ 71,009.19</b>
<b>\$ 47,870.94</b>	<b>\$ 390,170.01</b>
<b>-\$ 5,380.73</b>	<b>-\$ 2,797.16</b>

Dear Members and Friends of CUMC,

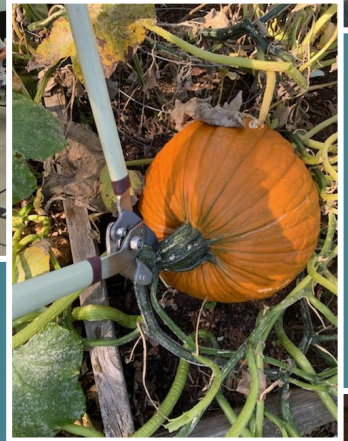
Shown above is a summary of our church financial report for the month of August and Year-To-Date. Operating Budget income for August was \$42,490 and expenses were \$47,871, giving a deficit for the month of \$5,381. Year-To-Date, we have a \$2,797 deficit in our Operating Budget. Not shown above is the \$3,868 received in August for the Mission of the Month (Missionary Support).

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

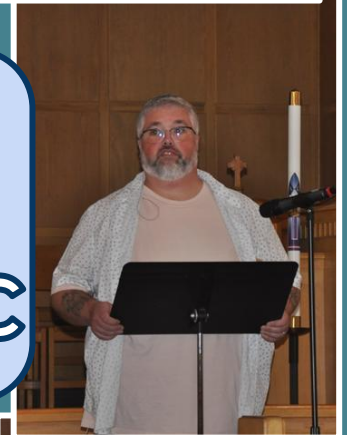




Harvesting the "great" pumpkin for the guess-the-weight-of-the-pumpkin contest. Congratulations to Mike Jula for the closest guess.



# 2025 Annual Church Picnic

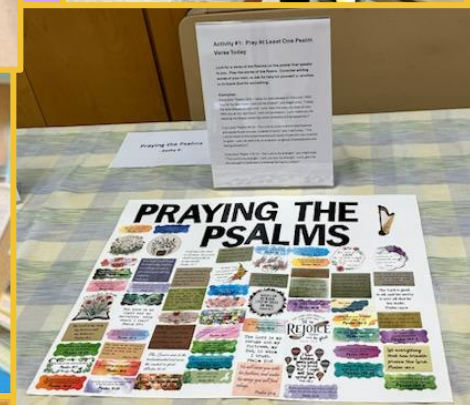




# Adult Summer Sunday School...



## ...to Kick Off Sunday!







## Stitching Sisters Brunch



## Friendly Seniors make ice cream!



## One last Youth Group trip to Freddy Hill before they close





# OCTOBER

## Calendar Highlights

- 10/1 GriefShare\*  
Various Music Group Rehearsals\*
- 10/2 Cooking for Manna  
Healing Prayer Training  
Adult Praise Band Rehearsal
- 10/3 Laudate Ringers Rehearsal\*
- 10/6 Staff Meeting  
Perky Promenaders\*
- 10/7 Finance Meeting  
Fall Short-term Book Study Begins\*  
Bible Reading Group\*  
Kaleidoscope Group\*  
Jazz Group Rehearsal\*
- 10/8 Men's Breakfast Group  
Endowment Meeting
- 10/9 Stitching Sisters  
Board of Trustees Meeting
- 10/10 Caregivers' Monthly Meeting
- 10/12 Women's Tea  
Youth Music Rehearsals Begin  
Youth Group
- 10/13 Deborah Circle
- 10/14 Finance Meeting
- 10/15 Friendly Seniors
- 10/19 Trunk or Treat
- 10/20 Staff Meeting
- 10/21 Church Charge Conference (on site)  
Church Council Meeting
- 10/24 Youth Group Drop-In Time
- 10/26 Caregivers' Monthly Meeting
- 11/2 All Saints Sunday  
Daylight Savings Time ends
- 11/3 Staff Meeting
- 11/4 Election Day
- 11/6 Cooking for Manna

\* Denotes Weekly meeting

Note: All meetings are subject to change.

## Looking Ahead in 2025

Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

Annual Women's Tea



Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

Trunk or Treat



Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 AM - 3 PM



Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>

Thanksgiving  
(Church office closed through 11/30)



Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

Advent Begins



Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Eve  
(Church office closed through 12/28)



Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

New Year's Eve  
(Church office closed 1/1)



## 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



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