



Christ Evangel

december

Volume 61, Issue 12, 2025

Celebrating 150 Years!

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



Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 7th, 9:45 AM in the sanctuary

Get into the Christmas Spirit this year by attending the Sunday School Christmas Pageant. The pageant will be performed by the children you know from our congregation. Come see the action, the music, the drama, and the pageantry as the Christmas story unfolds with a few new twists and turns and a bit of humor. ****Disclaimer – the following reviews are slightly modified quotes taken from the internet from other pageants very similar to ours****

"A stunning performance and stunning message. Thank you for bringing Jesus home to the open hearts of Lansdale!"

"I came today with unforgiveness in my heart toward someone. Through this pageant message, God touched my heart and I truly feel released of this. Thank you, CUMC. It was MAGNIFICENT."

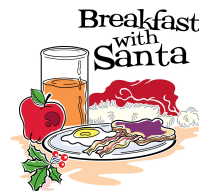
"Charming family fare that also uncovers the true, not commercial, meaning of the Christmas."

"It is not Christmas without attending your presentation. It is wonderful."

You don't want to miss this pageant! Mark your calendars now for the one and only performance: 9:45 a.m. December 7th, in the sanctuary

Santa Breakfast is coming!

Get Ready for Santa!! Santa Claus is coming to our annual Breakfast with Santa on **Sat., December 13th, 2025**, from 8 AM to 10:30 AM. While you enjoy pancakes, sausage, and hot chocolate (gluten-free option available), you'll have a chance to talk to Santa and have your picture taken with him! This event continues to be affordable for all: \$3 for adults, \$2 for children under 12 (children 2 and under are free) with a maximum of \$10 per family. Don't miss this wonderful event!



As always, we cannot offer this great event without the contributions and dedication of volunteers. So, if you are interested in volunteering, we have many great opportunities. Specifically, we will need:

- **Servers** (must be in 6th grade or older, with the exception of two 5th graders to serve as the marshmallow distributors)
- **Set up crew** to transform Fellowship Hall into a winter wonderland on Friday night
- **Clean up crew** to help after the event at 10:30

Whatever your interest and abilities, this event has a place for you! If you are a high school student, you can also receive community service or honor society credit for your help. If you are interested in volunteering, a sign up genius is available on our website or in paper form in our lobby.

See you there!



Wreaths Across America

Please come and join us for the Wreaths Across America ceremony on Sat., Dec. 13th at 12 noon at the Orvilla Road Cemetery in Hatfield on Orvilla Road. We have about 12-14 veterans at this cemetery, from the Civil War up to the Korean Conflict. If you would like to purchase a wreath, the cost is \$17. Pastor

Zach presides over a service where we honor the memory of these vets, read their names, and place a wreath on each veteran's grave. Visit the church website events page for more info. Thank you! Questions, contact Jean Davis.



FROM THE PASTOR

Reverend Zachary Hopple



I pray that as we enter into this Advent season that you are able to find some sort of joy. For some this has been a difficult year and as the year draws to a close there are emotions that we must acknowledge and face. I pray that the lights and decorations may brighten these darker days of winter. But most importantly I pray that the presence of Jesus Christ is evident in every moment of every day, and that you feel his loving forgiveness in the warmth of his embrace.

There are times where I get a sudden urge to create. It sometimes comes out of the blue and I just need to make something. Sometimes it is a paper cutting (Scherenschnitte), sometimes it is woodworking, sometimes I grab some of my old Legos. Whatever it is, I need to do something to satisfy the urge to create something. Have you ever had that type of urge? To create something out of nothing?

I have always been fascinated with those who are able to draw and paint. I may have a clear picture in my mind and I want to get it down on paper or canvas, but it never seems to come out clearly for me. Not to mention the fact that the colors don't always line up with what I expect them to do, being color blind and all. But drawings and paintings can show a picture of things that are imagined, things that can be, things that should be, things as we would like them, or things the way we may see them.

The prophets of the Old Testament were like painters. They spoke to a people in pain and in turmoil and painted pictures with their words of a time to come filled with peace, hope, joy, and love. As stated through the prophet Isaiah, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy" (Isa 9:2-3). Some of the images they shared with the people came true immediately, some were realized many years later, and some we are still waiting on today to be fully realized.

For many of that time, these thoughts of peace, hope, joy, and love seemed impossible. And for us, these attributes may seem just as impossible. But God makes the impossible possible. Even if it seems that the time for these attributes of God are far off, we know the time has already begun in Jesus, who is love and came down to transform our lives and the world. This Advent season, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we celebrate how he has made possible what once seemed impossible for many – peace, hope, joy and love. They are with us today and part of our future.

As we go through this Advent season and approach Christmas, let us remember that nothing is impossible with God. Jesus Christ came here to save the world from sin and death. It is his birth we celebrate. It is his return we await. And in him we experience the true peace, hope, joy, and love of the season.



Wise words from the Welcome Ministry

During this Advent season, we will see new and returning faces. Do you experience a spirit of joy and welcome each time we gather for worship? How can we extend that same spirit to our visitors, and to each other?



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, December 8th, 11:30 AM

Come on out and join the Deborah Circle meeting on Monday, December 8th, 2025 at 11:30 AM. At our November meeting, we decided to make a donation to Bridge of Hope; meals and gift cards from the Sudz Laundromat for the Code Blue Shelter for Women. We will also be donating money for an item from the Angel Tree which provides a gift for a child in our community.

We will also be packing Christmas stockings with candy for the Santa and Me breakfast. Please bring a sandwich or salad and a beverage and join us for this fun activity.

A big Thank You to everyone who donated baked goods and helped with the Craft Show on November 15th! Any questions, please contact Jean Davis at 267-218-2569 or Gail Scott at 215-368-0476. See you on the 8th! Bring a friend!

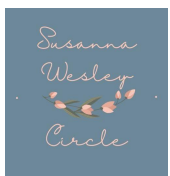
Cooking for Manna

December 4th, 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.



SWC: Join us in January for our annual After Christmas dinner!

Please join the Susanna Wesley Circle at their annual After Christmas dinner on Thurs., Jan. 8th at 6 PM. We will share dinner at a restaurant to be determined and have dessert and fellowship after dinner at the home of Mark & Nadene Stauffer. Look for a sign up genius soon on the church's website to let us know you will attend.

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 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.

Stitching Sisters

Stitching Sisters will meet on December 11th at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. First, we will pack a bag of small handmade gifts for each mother connected to the Angel Tree. At 11:00 we will travel to Ralph's Corner Diner for a meal together to celebrate Christmas. Starting in the new year, we will be making baby items for the Baby Bureau and Mitzvah. Come and join us.



Susanna Wesley Circle Christmas Cookie Sale, December 7th

December 7th the Susanna Wesley Circle will be hosting their annual cookie sale. Our narthex will be filled with homemade cookies for sale in a variety of your favorite selections. Cookies make great hostess gifts and can also be frozen for future servings.

This year, we will offer a variety of plated cookies for \$9 as well as our traditional prepackaged bags of 6 cookies for \$3, available before and after all services on 12/7/25.

We need your help to make this a success. We need you to:

- 1) Sign up
- 2) Bake Cookies
- 3) BUY Cookies on Dec. 7th

All proceeds will be donated to 2 local charities.

Please use the sign up sheet at the cookie table in the narthex and pick up bags and labels if you plan to donate cookies. If you can help sell cookies on Sunday, use the Sign-Up Genius on the church website. Any question can be directed to Wendy Beatty-Burg (267-972-7381, beattyburg@aol.com) or Pat Julia (215-896-0329, patbjula@gmail.com).



Christmas Market Update

Thank you to all who came out to the Christmas Market! It was very successful--we had a steady stream of people coming to look at all our vendors could offer and all were in a fun and festive mood the whole day! We made \$760 in profit that Deborah Circle will be giving to various missions. Thank you for all the various ways you support our Christmas Market and allow us to reach out to others in our communities, both near and far!

Grief support events

GriefShare

Many people have found comfort and strength through our GriefShare program. It is a safe place to share your feelings about your loss, knowing that you are surrounded by others who understand. Each GriefShare session is self-contained-you can join at any time through the 13-week cycle. We meet on Wednesdays at 1:30, in the Reichley Room, located next to the church office. Registration fee, that covers the entire program, is \$20-scholarships are available. You can register on our website, www.cumclansdale.org, under events.



Blue Christmas Worship Service

If you are struggling to find the joy of the Christmas season, due to a loss or a change in your life-death, divorce, illness or unfortunate and tragic circumstances-join us for our Blue Christmas service. This service will minister to these needs, while still recognizing that part of the reason for Jesus' coming was to bring hope and comfort. The service will include a candle lighting, with music and time for reflection.

We will gather in the sanctuary on Tuesday, December 16th at 7:00 PM. This service will be live streamed on our website and YouTube page.



Friendly Seniors December Luncheon & Festivities, Wed., Dec. 17th, 11:00 AM
Please join the CUMC Friendly Seniors of adults 55+ on Wed., Dec. 17th at 12:00 noon, in the Fellowship Hall for a delicious holiday meal:

Assorted appetizers	Roast Turkey & Gravy	Roast Beef au Jus
Green Beans Almondine	Mashed Potatoes	Cranberry Sauce
Assorted salads	Assorted sides	Rolls & Butter
Assorted desserts	Coffee & Tea	

Following our special luncheon, Suzanne Williams will lead us in singing Christmas carols and playing Christmas songs on the small colored Melody Bells – so much fun & joy!!! Whether you're new to Friendly Seniors or attend regularly, come and enjoy the food, fun, and festivities!!!

Please sign up by December 9th on the reservation sheet located on the bulletin board in the church narthex. There is no charge for this luncheon. Just sign up to bring an item to share. Why not invite a friend?

CUMC's Christmas Concert: December 14th, 4:00 PM

Celebrate the joy of the season at our annual Christmas Concert! Join us as talented musicians from our children, youth, and adult choirs fill the air with the warmth and wonder of Christmas. Our format this year will feel familiar... with a twist! We are going to hold an illuminated collage concert: We will have our standard collage format, but we will not be in the dark! We hope you will enjoy this concert as much as we do! Bring family and friends to start your season with music that inspires, uplifts, and reminds us of the true magic of Christmas.



Food Drive Collection, 2025

Jan - unknown	Apr - 260 lbs	Jul - 254 lbs	Oct -
Feb - 148 lbs	May - 184 lbs	Aug - 115 lbs	Nov -
Mar - 294 lbs	Jun - 192 lbs	Sep - 282 lbs	Dec -



MISSION of the Month December 2025

December Mission of the Month: Code Blue Lansdale

The Lansdale area is blessed to have both a men's and a women's Code Blue shelter. Each shelter provides dinner, breakfast and a warm place to sleep. A Code Blue alert is activated when the overnight temperature and/or wind chill is expected to be at or below 32° Fahrenheit for two or more hours. Each time a shelter is open, volunteers are needed to cover four shifts; meals are needed as well. For the 2024-2025 season, these local shelters operated for over 100 nights; 54 of them were consecutive. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Mark Lanan 215-272-4979, email codeblue@trinitylansdale.com. Note that security clearances are required. Two of our members, Warren Shuey and Dave Williams, have volunteered at the Code Blue men's shelter, and would be happy to talk to you about their experiences.



There are many expenses associated with these locations; the most significant are laundering of linens and cleaning of the facilities. As winter approaches, the community's help is needed. The women's Code Blue shelter is beginning its second season. Donations to December's mission of the month will benefit that shelter. A Code Blue representative will be in the narthex on November 30th.

Preschool Express is blessed to be having a wonderful October full of learning and friendship!

It's been a busy fall here at Preschool Express! Our little learners are off to big things! The Halloween parade and show were a great success, and the children did a wonderful job singing their songs for our families! Our Pre-K scientists are studying dinosaurs and making fossils, and our tots and threes wrapped up a unit of farm fun! This month our theme is gratitude and sharing. We set a goal to "Stuff a Turkey" full of food for Manna on Main, and we are already overflowing with donations! Now more than ever, our school is so thankful for the hope and promise of the holidays. As this fall season changes, we're growing too! Our school is taking exciting steps to reach new milestones and enhance the experiences we offer our students and families. We are so blessed for what is to come at our school, and for all the silly turkeys in it! We can't wait to keep gobbling up the learning and fun!



FINANCIAL REPORT



Christ United Methodist Church Profit & Loss Budget Performance Oct. 2025

Total Revenue

Oct-25	YTD
\$ 43,604.12	\$ 472,173.34

Expenditures

Total 4000 Missions

\$ 8,288.37	\$ 83,613.58
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Total 5000 Programs

\$ 1,239.94	\$ 24,793.67
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Total 6000 Salaries and Benefits

\$ 28,412.83	\$ 288,520.02
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Total 7000 Property, Maintenance & Utility

\$ 7,380.52	\$ 85,681.87
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Total Expenditures

\$ 45,321.66	\$ 482,609.14
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Net Operating Revenue

-\$ 1,717.54	-\$ 10,435.80
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Dear Members and Friends of CUMC,

Shown above is a summary of our church financial report for the month of October and Year-To-Date. Operating Budget income for October was \$43,604 and expenses were \$45,322, giving a **deficit** for the month of \$1,718. Year-To-Date, we have an \$10,436 **deficit** in our Operating Budget. Not shown above is the \$7,498 received in October for the Mission of the Month (CUMC Loan Fund).

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



Packing College Boxes



CHRISTMAS MARKET



2025

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DECEMBER

Calendar Highlights

- 12/1 Staff meeting
Perky Promenaders*
- 12/2 Men's Reading Group
Fall Short-Term Book Study*
Bible Reading Group*
Kaleidoscope Group*
Jazz Group Rehearsal*
- 12/3 GriefShare*
Various Music Group Rehearsals*
- 12/4 Adult Praise Band Rehearsal *
- 12/5 Laudate Ringers Rehearsal*
- 12/7 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal*
SWC Cookie Sale
Perky Promenaders Holiday Event
Youth Group Christmas Dinner
- 12/8 Santa Breakfast Meeting
Deborah Circle Meeting
- 12/9 Kaleidoscope Group
- 12/10 Men's Breakfast Group
- 12/11 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 12/12 Santa Breakfast Set-up
Caregivers Meeting
- 12/13 Santa Breakfast
Wreaths Across America (at Orvilla Cemetery)
- 12/14 Christmas Concert
- 12/16 Blue Christmas
Finance Meeting
- 12/17 Friendly Seniors Christmas Festivities
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Services: 4, 6, 8:30, 11 PM
- 12/25 Church Office closed
- 12/26 Church Office closed
- 12/28 Manna Food Drive
- 12/31 New Year's Eve
- 1/1 Church office closed

* Denotes Weekly meeting

Note: All meetings are subject to change.

Looking Ahead in 2025 & 2026

Sunday, December 7th

Children's Christmas Pageant



Saturday, December 13th

Santa Breakfast

Wreaths Across America (at Orvilla Rd. Cemetery)



Sunday, December 14th

Christmas Concert



Wednesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

(Church office closed through 12/28)



Wednesday, December 31st

New Year's Eve

(Church office closed 1/1)



Thursday, January 22nd

Red Cross Blood Drive



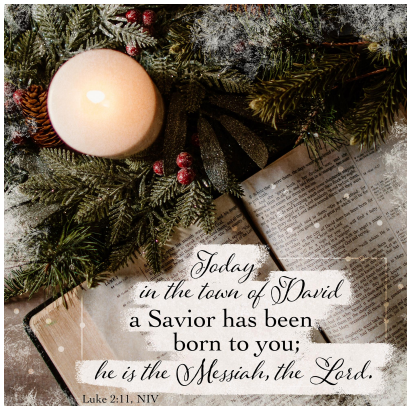
Join us for Sunday Worship!

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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