



# Christ Evangel

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Christ United Methodist Church  
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Thank you to everyone that helped make the Santa Breakfast a success! For more pictures, see the pictures at the end of the Evangel!



## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

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# FROM THE PASTOR

Reverend Zachary Hopple



Greetings and Happy New Year! I pray that you experienced the peace, hope, joy, love, and presence of Jesus Christ this Christmas season. I pray that 2026 will be a year filled with happiness and good health. And may God bless you this year.

As many of you know, I have been working on my Doctor of Ministry degree for the past two-plus years. I am currently in the final phase of my degree - my dissertation. Many thanks to those of you who have helped me with this project. The focus of my project is looking at why we engage in ministry through the lens of a very Methodist idea: social holiness.

John Wesley placed a very large emphasis on holiness. He encouraged believers to practice "works of piety" which are activities such as prayer, Bible reading, and fasting. He called these "means of grace" which the believer does to grow closer to God on their own. But he also emphasized "works of mercy" such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and visiting those who are sick or incarcerated. However, often times Wesley prioritized these works of mercy over works of piety.

Social holiness is how we carry out these works of mercy in the world. Social holiness can be defined as "the practice of obeying Jesus' commandments to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, loving your neighbor as yourself, and loving one another as Christ loves. When John Wesley says that holiness is social he means that the depth of your love for God is revealed in the way you love whom God loves."<sup>1</sup>

How do we love whom God loves? For God so loved the world, so how do we too love the world? 1 John 3:16-18 tells us, "We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." James 2:14-17 says, "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." And in the parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25, Jesus tells us, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." There are so many more scriptures that give this same message, but I think you get the point.

This is the basic principle of Christianity. Jesus Christ came here to die on the cross for us out of love for all humanity. He died in service to us all, to offer forgiveness and eternal life for all who believe. As his disciples we are asked to follow him and care for and love others as he showed us. The practical application of this mandate is one of the very basic building blocks of Methodism. How do you love others?

I want to challenge you as we begin this new year, look for ways that you can practice social holiness. Look for ways you can reach out to others around you and care for them. Look for ways to share the love of God with others. Look for ways to practice works of mercy alongside works of piety. And in all things look for ways to grow in your love of God.

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<sup>1</sup> Steve Manskar, "No Holiness But Social Holiness," Discipleship Ministries, Discipleship Ministries General Board of Discipleship, November 16, 2015, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/blog/no-holiness-but-social-holiness>.





**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 Luncheon: Tuesday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> at Franconia Heritage, 12:00 Noon  
Come on out and join the Deborah Circle on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon at the Franconia Heritage restaurant in Telford for lunch. The restaurant is located at 508 Harleysville Pike, Telford. If you need a ride or any further information, please contact Jean Davis at 267-218-2569 or Gail Scott at 215-368-0476 to let us know if you will be attending.

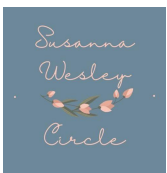
A big thank you to all the circle members who helped fill the candy bags for the kids for the Santa breakfast – it was greatly appreciated!!!

In case of inclement weather, we will contact you if the luncheon needs to be cancelled or postponed. Bring a friend!

Cooking for Manna  
January 8<sup>th</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: Join us Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> for our annual After Christmas dinner! Sign up by Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>!

The Susanna Wesley Circle will be getting together for our After Christmas celebration on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. We will be gathering to share a meal at Rey Azteca a Mexican Restaurant in East Norriton. The address to the restaurant is 79 East Germantown Pike East Norriton, PA. 19403. They will offer a gluten free option for those that need that restriction. After our meal we will be going to Mark & Nadene Stauffer's home for dessert and fellowship. Please join us for this fun evening. We will be collecting money donations to donate to Mitzvah & Marvin's Home in lieu of exchanging gifts with each other. Look for the SignUpGenius on the church website and in the Monday email. Deadline to sign up for dinner will be 1/1/26 to give the restaurant time to prepare to serve our group.

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.



## Stitching Sisters

Stitching Sisters ended 2025 packing gifts for the mothers of the Angel Tree children. We packed bags with small handmade items like hats, scarves, potholders, coasters, ornaments, etc. Need a snow day project? Our next focus will be baby items. Everyone can help whether you attend our meetings or not. Help us make baby blankets (30"x30"), hats and booties. Items are sized birth-2T. Any donations can be put in the Stitching Sisters collection box under the coat racks.



## 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](mailto:marge.kramer@cumclansdale.org) or 215.429.8881 for more information and the Zoom link.

## Friendly Seniors January Game Day, Wed., Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 12:30 PM

Time to escape the Winter blahs, cold and snow and have some fun with your fellow Christ Church friends! Come sip a mug of nice hot coffee, tea or hot chocolate, enjoy some dessert, and play your favorite games or learn a new one. Beginners and pros both welcome. Time to sit back after the holidays, relax and enjoy a great time together!



No need to sign up. Just show up with a game or refreshment and bring a friend or two!!! See you in the Fellowship Hall!

# MISSION of the Month January 2026

## December Mission of the Month: UMCOR Cleaning Buckets

In January the Christ UMC Mission Committee is asking for your prayers and financial support to provide Cleaning Buckets for victims of disasters across the United States and around the World. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) assists victims of disasters by distributing the Cleaning Buckets. These supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane or other disaster. While they provide required supplies to start the necessary clean-up, they also provide Hope and a tangible sign that "we" care in their time of need. "We" are you and I, Christ UMC, UMCOR, and God. For in times of disaster, it is our hands that act as the hands of God. Please help support this vital mission financially and with prayers for all those in need of these tangible signs of Hope and Caring.



Last years delivery of our Buckets!

## Food Drive Collection, 2025

Jan - unknown	Apr - 260 lbs	Jul - 254 lbs	Oct - unknown
Feb - 148 lbs	May - 184 lbs	Aug - 115 lbs	Nov - 477 lbs
Mar - 294 lbs	Jun - 192 lbs	Sep - 282 lbs	Dec -



Contents of the Buckets





### Ronald McDonald House Soda Pull Tab Collection


Collecting pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charities is an ongoing mission here at CUMC.

It's easy to remove the tabs, toss them in a bag/zip lock bag and drop them off when you visit the church.

Ask your friends, family members, and neighbors to save them for you. Our collections are taken to the Philadelphia

location where they are weighed and turned into cash to help defray the costs of running their amazing facility.

Your small efforts go a long way in helping others!



### Thank You's from the Holiday Season!

During the holidays, we as a church feel the hustle and bustle as we work to bring the Christmas spirit to everyone within our church as well as in the community around our church. Here are thank you's from various people for all the work that you as a church have been doing this holiday season!

- Thank you to everyone who donated to the Deborah Circle collection of notions for the Women's Code Blue Shelter in Lansdale.
- Thank you to everyone who supported the Angel Tree Project this year! We helped 12 families, with gifts and gift cards for food for the families.
- Thank you to the Stitching Sisters for the backpacks filled with many goodies for the moms of the families.
- Thank you to those who baked cookies for the Susanna Wesley Circle Annual December Cookie Sale and to those who supported our sale. This is a favorite event that comes together and allows us to make financial contributions to local charities. This year, thanks to our church family, we collected \$1,111 which will be shared between two charities. Our Circle chose Rubeye's Kids in Philadelphia which empowers children in need, especially those students experiencing homelessness by providing educational and personal care items. Our second charity chosen is The Bean Bag Program in Souderton which helps fill the gap of hunger that children face when not in school. What a blessing to help both these charities! We thank you for your support and hope you enjoyed delicious home baked cookies! –Wendy
- Thank you to Nanci Landes for directing our Sunday School Pageant again this year. It brings such joy to this season!
- Thank you to the Deborah Circle ladies for putting the stockings together for the Santa Breakfast for the kids.
- Thank you to all of the Santa Breakfast planners and volunteers who make this event possible each year. Your hard work and joy is reflected on the faces of those who attend and are able to take a morning to pause and connect with loved ones before visiting Santa.
- Thank you to everyone who came out to the Wreaths Across America project at the Orvilla Road Cemetery. We had about 30 people, two Scout Troops, two Veterans Groups, and members from our Church. To Ella Barlick and Kim Harris, thank you for reading the names and ringing the bell. A big thank you to Pastor Zach for his guidance and support.
- Thank you to Miki Chelton, for all of her planning and leadership of our music department for the concert this year every year. We are so grateful for all of the ways you have shaped our program and our church!
- Thank you from myself, Pastor Tawny, and the rest of the CUMC staff for the cards and generous gifts this Christmas season. We are truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful family and to serve and worship alongside of you. –Pastor Zach

## Happy New Year from Preschool Express!

We finished 2025 with a month full of joy and special moments! We loved celebrating the holiday season with magical events like our Polar Express Day, going indoor snow "skiing" at gym class, and singing our very best carols to our families at our Christmas party! Our preschool community was also thrilled to take part in the CUMC Angel Tree Project! Thank you for helping us spread kindness and cheer!



As we welcome a new year, we're excited to stay cozy and keep the learning fun with upcoming events like Hot Cocoa Day, our If You Give a Pig a Pancake breakfast and stuffy day, and Pajama Day. We're also looking forward to a new experience for our three-year-olds, who will begin joining Miss Sherry's music classes each week!

Here's to a warm, happy, and fun filled start to the new year at preschool! ❄️🎵💛



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Christ United Methodist Church Profit & Loss Budget Performance Nov. 2025

### Revenue

#### Total Revenue

Nov '25	2025 YTD
\$ 40,664.87	\$ 512,838.21

### Expenditures

#### Total 4000 Missions

\$ 10,419.85	\$ 94,033.43
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#### Total 5000 Programs

\$ 1,460.81	\$ 26,254.48
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#### Total 6000 Salaries and Benefits

\$ 27,940.90	\$ 316,306.23
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#### Total 7000 Property, Maintenance & Utility

\$ 7,639.11	\$ 93,320.98
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#### Total Expenditures

\$ 47,460.67	\$ 529,915.12
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#### Net Operating Revenue

-\$ 6,795.80	-\$ 17,076.91
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Dear Members and Friends of CUMC,

Shown above is a summary of our church financial report for the month of November and Year-To-Date. Operating Budget income for November was \$40,665 and expenses were \$47,461, giving a **deficit** for the month of \$6,796. Year-To-Date, we have a \$17,177 **deficit** in our Operating Budget.

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

CUMC Finance Committee

Thank you, Miki, for all your years of service and music-making here at CUMC! We are so grateful that we get to keep you through the end of the musical season!! Thank you for all you have bring to our church and our music program!







# 2025 Children's Sunday School Pageant



## Mitzvah Circle Volunteers





# 2025 Illuminated Collage Concert





# 2025 Santa Breakfast

2025



# Friendly Seniors Christmas Luncheon





# Christmas with the Youth



# SWC Cookie Sale





# JANUARY

## Calendar Highlights

- 1/1 Church office closed
- 1/2 Church Office regular hours resume
- 1/5 Staff Meeting
- 1/6 Men's Reading Group
- Bible Reading Group\*
- Kaleidoscope Group\*
- Gloria Dei Ringers Rehearsal\*
- Jazz Group Rehearsal\*
- 1/7 GriefShare\*
- Various Music Group Rehearsals\*
- 1/8 Stitching Sisters
- Cooking for Manna
- Board of Trustees Meeting
- Adult Praise Bank Rehearsal \*
- 1/9 Laudate Ringers Rehearsal\*
- Caregivers' Monthly Meeting
- 1/11 Youthapalooza: Rehearsals & Youth Group
- 1/13 Deborah Circle Meeting
- 1/14 Endowment Meeting
- 1/18 Mission Committee Meeting
- 1/19 Staff Meeting
- 1/20 Evening Fellowship
- Finance Meeting
- 1/21 Friendly Seniors
- 1/25 Manna Food Drive
- 1/27 Church Council Meeting
- 1/29 Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 AM - 3 PM
- 2/2 Staff Meeting

*\* Denotes Weekly meeting*

*Note: All meetings are subject to change.*

## Looking Ahead in 2026

**Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

Red Cross Blood Drive



**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**

Spaghetti Dinner



**Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**

Ash Wednesday



**Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

Confirmation Retreat  
(through 3/22)



**Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Holy Thursday Service



**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Good Friday Children's Event  
Good Friday Tenebrae Service



**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Easter Sunday



**Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

Annual Indoor Yard Sale



## 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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