



**2024**

# Christ Evangel

Volume 60, Issue 4, 2024

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



## Vacation Bible Camp: July 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

Join us for Vacation Bible Camp!! This year our theme is Camp Firelight! Camp Firelight VBS is based on Psalm 56:3: "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." This verse reminds us that we can trust God no matter what challenges we face in life. Camp Firelight invites us to put our trust in God in every situation, including during times when we might be afraid. Kids will participate in awesome games, unique crafts, fun science experiments, and Bible story time.



Camp Firelight will run from July 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. It is open for kids 4 years old by September 1st, 2024 through fifth grade. (Sixth graders and older can serve as volunteers). VBC is FREE, and you will want to register quickly so that it doesn't fill up! There are two sessions to choose from: our morning session will run from 9-Noon and our evening session will run from 6-8:30 PM. Dinner is provided for the evening session.



We are always looking for volunteers! If you are interested in serving, even for a day that week, please let Pastor Tawny know.

### **Volunteers needed to adopt a Flower Bed**



The Trustees are asking for people to maintain the flower beds around the church and parsonage.

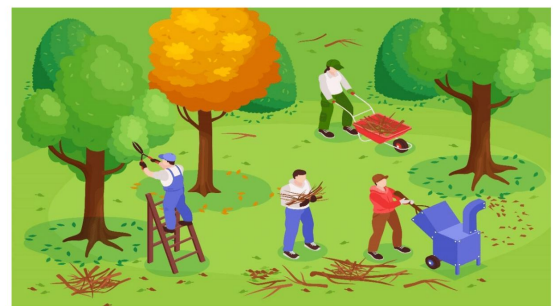
If you adopt a bed, please maintain it for a neat and clean look.

If you would like to adopt a bed or need information, contact Robin Bresser.

[robinbresser@yahoo.com](mailto:robinbresser@yahoo.com)

### **Property Cleanup Day Come Join The Trustees April 13<sup>th</sup> 9AM To 12PM**

Bring your favorite tools (gloves, rakes and shovels)



**Rain Date: April 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Please contact Robin Bresser for more information.**

**We would like an idea of how many people will be attending so email Robin Bresser.**

**[robinbresser@yahoo.com](mailto:robinbresser@yahoo.com)**

# FROM THE PASTOR

Reverend Zachary Hopple



Spring has sprung! I hope the joy of Easter and the longer days are allowing you to take in the beauty of God's creation. I love watching the trees bud and the flowers bloom as the cold and dark of winter transitions to the colors of spring.

One of the things that I am most fascinated by, and yet feel the most inadequate in doing, is prayer. I don't know about you, but I feel that whenever I sit down to pray I have to be purposeful because my mind starts to wander. Other thoughts enter into my mind as I try to focus on who is dealing with what and who is in need of my prayers that day. Because of this, I often feel that I am lacking in my prayer life. Of course maybe that is God's way of encouraging me to pray more.

Many people have shared with me that they have some trouble with prayer. Maybe we do not feel that we are praying the right way, or maybe we do not like praying out loud and in front of other people. Some of that might be attributed to the rather personal nature of prayer. After all, Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:6, "But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." How easy is it for us to learn and grow from the examples given by others who pray if we are to pray in secret? It puts us in a bit of a conundrum, doesn't it?

However, there are a lot of scriptures regarding prayer, not just this famous one from Matthew. These other verses speak about approaching God with boldness and confidence (Hebrews 4:16), praying with persistence (Luke 11:5-13), and praying continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We also see in scripture that God always hears us when we pray (1 John 5:14). If we have all of these encouraging instructions that empower us to pray, why do people like me struggle with prayer?

This month we are starting a sermon series on prayer. We will be looking at various aspects of prayer while using the Lord's Prayer as a guide. We will be encouraging you to be more purposeful and confident in your own prayer life and will also be looking at ways we can better utilize prayer in our church. One small change we will make is with our Evening Worship services. This year, we will meet on the first and third Sundays of the month (starting April 21). The format will generally be the same, but we will have a larger emphasis on prayer. I encourage you to come out and join in these worship services.

As we begin this new sermon series on prayer, I encourage you take a little more time in prayer than you already do. Pray prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God. Pray for what you need. Pray for others. Regardless if your prayers are the most eloquent or if you struggle to find the words to use, God loves to hear us pray just as a parent loves to hear from their children. Take confidence in the fact that God will always hear us when we pray. I am very much looking forward to this sermon series and I pray that God will bless us all as we explore this topic of prayer together.



# Fellowship

**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: No April Meeting! Come to the Indoor Yard Sale!

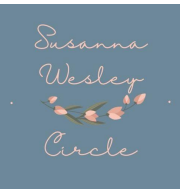


The Deborah Circle will not be meeting this month – we are sponsoring the Indoor Yard Sale on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 1:00 at the church and will be working in the kitchen serving hot dogs, etc. as well as helping out at the Jewelry table. Please stop by and help us make some extra money for our missions. For further information, see the April Evangel. Any questions, please contact Jean or Gail.



## Cooking for Manna April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 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 gets underway the first Thursday of every month in Room 110 (Kitchen) at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Kristi Weatherwax at [kdcreative@aol.com](mailto:kdcreative@aol.com).



## SWC April Meeting

Susanna Wesley Circle will be meeting on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Please consider joining us. We will be enjoying a travelogue presentation from Deryk and Stacey David, members of our congregation. They traveled to Kenya, Mombasa, Zambia in Africa and Johannesburg, South Africa. It will be wonderful to see these beautiful countries and share in the David's experiences during their travels. We will be meeting in the church fellowship hall - enter through the first set of doors off the parking lot. Everyone is welcome.

## Kaleidoscope Book Group

Ladies, we would love to have you join us for Christian fellowship. We meet every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. 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.



## Wise words from the Welcome Ministry



Have you noticed the welcome packets on the table in the narthex, between the doors leading into the sanctuary? (you'll also find devotional guides and other info on this table.)

These packets include information about our church and our programs; they are a good introduction to what we're all about.

When you meet someone in worship who is new to our church, offer them one of these packets-it's up to all of us to help our visitors feel noticed, and welcomed.



## Stitching Sisters

Stitching Sisters has finished up a Soap Sack project. We knitted/crocheted/sewed small bags that each contained a fresh bar of soap. The idea is that the bag can be used as a washcloth and a container for the soap. These Soap Sacks were delivered to Manna on Main Street (141 sacks) and Mitzvah Circle (138 sacks). Both organizations are delighted with these items. Toiletries are always greatly appreciated by their clients. Thank you to Deborah Circle and the Congregant Missions fund for helping us purchase the bars of soap. Your support for our projects is greatly appreciated.

Our spring project will be hats and scarves for the Manna on Main Street coat drive in early fall. To help, make a hat or scarf in any size for a K-12 student, using any color and any pattern. We have a lot of donated yarn that you can use. Place your finished items in the Stitching Sisters box under the coat rack.

Our next meeting is April 11<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00-noon in fellowship hall. Contact: Karen Fallows, 267-240-7800.



## GriefShare

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

Our GriefShare group continues to meet each Wednesday at 1:30 PM in the Reichley room, off the church office. Our sessions typically last from 90 minutes to 2 hours. There is a \$20 registration fee, which covers the entire cycle; scholarships are available. If you are dealing with the loss of a loved one, we invite you to join us. If someone in your life is grieving and would benefit from this program, invite them to attend.



## 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Ocean Grove Choir Festival: Save The Date – Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>

The Ocean Grove Choir Festival assembles hundreds of voices from about 125 churches across the United States! The concert is at 7:00 PM (usually with a joint rehearsal before the concert).

Ken Dickinson has heard several of their concerts and this year plans to be part of the Festival Choir for the first time! He is extending an invitation to anyone who would like to attend with him as part of the choir, or to hear the glorious music being raised to God!



Last years program consisted of 10 anthems, many accompanied by the MidAtlantic Brass Ensemble, with scripture and hymns between the numbers! Whether you are part of the Festival Choir or part of the audience, it will be a spiritual highlight for you!

The venue is the Great Auditorium which was built in 1894 with 10,000 seats (and now seats 8,600 due to seating improvements) at the United Methodist Camp Meeting in Ocean Grove NJ. It is now a wonderful Victorian Community with a "Tent City" around the Auditorium, honoring the way early attendees of the early Camp Meetings spent time at "The Grove"!

If interested contact Ken Dickinson at [OrangeAero@comcast.net](mailto:OrangeAero@comcast.net), or sign up by going to the church website, Events & Sign Ups!

## Endowment Fund Updates

Is there something at our worship center you'd like to see added? Some simple amenity that would really add that "extra something" to our mission and fellowship experience? Now is the time to make your voice heard!

Each year at this time the Endowment Committee solicits suggestions from the congregation and staff on unbudgeted additions to the facility that would have a significant, positive impact for CUMC. A portion of last year's Endowment Fund earnings are leveraged to supplement the regular budget for such purchases. The typical annual spend in recent years has been \$1,200 to \$1,500 and have resulted in replacing the refrigerator in the church kitchen, purchasing a sound system for the outdoor worship services, a collection of cushioned folding chairs, and in 2023 window air conditioning units for the Lounge and Music Rooms as well as table coverings for funeral receptions held at the church.

Give your ideas to an Endowment Committee member or the office staff before May 1, and listen for announcements during our weekly worship services. Suggestion forms are found near the mailboxes by the "pantry" on the right as you enter the main sanctuary doors from the parking lot and may be placed in the "Endowment" mailbox there.

Financial contributions to the Endowment Fund to help expand our impact can be made online, via the weekly offering plate, or sent to the church office. Please be sure to mark the donation specifically for "Endowment".

For more information, please see Jeff Baer (215-896-9333) or any member of the Endowment committee.

Thanks, as always, for your support!



## **Annual Multi-Family Indoor Yard Sale**



**Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>  
9am-1pm**

**Christ United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
1020 S Valley Forge Road  
Lansdale, PA 19446**

Many vendors! Come get household items, jewelry, collectibles, baseball cards, books, CD's, children's items, toys, dolls, wall pictures, depression glass, crocheted items, vintage floral feed sacks, quilted items, Hallmark, and so much more!

Food will be available for purchase.



## Join the Church Mowing Team

Are you interested in mowing the church lawn but have never driven the tractor? No problem. We will train you on how to use the equipment.

Contact Tim Weir at  
timweir99@gmail.com (email) or  
(267) 206-7602 (phone/text).



*Church Mowing Team*

# MISSION of the Month April 2024



## Cable Salad

Do you have an area under your desk, or behind your couch where electric cables and multiple wires are hidden in a tangled maze? In Germany, people call this a Kabel Salat, or cable salad—a great term which unfortunately perfectly describes the electric wiring in the Dallas Indian Mission UMC kitchen. You have heard about this kitchen before. It was last year that the cookstove in that kitchen was calling it a day and was no longer able to work well enough to prepare meals for church gatherings, community meals, fundraisers, and picnics, essential components for the life of the Congregation and Community, like they are for our church. For them, it is one of the very few places where they spend time in fellowship with other Native Americans from the many tribes that are represented in this congregation.

Last year we were able, with the help of our Congregation, to financially assist them with the purchase of a new 6-burner cookstove to replace their failing 4-burner stove. Soon thereafter, people using the kitchen realized that the stove needed a new hood as well.

The Dallas Congregation set about collecting enough funds to purchase a new hood for their stove. After many months of fundraising, they were able to purchase the hood, but when it came to connecting the hood to a power source, they were told that their present electric system does not support adding the hood. In fact their entire wiring system in the kitchen is outdated and dangerous.



Once again, we are asking for help from our generous Congregation. Our donations for the Mission of the Month in April will go towards the rewiring of the kitchen for DIMUMC. It will help with the full use of the stove with hood for the preparation of many meals, including the much sought "fry bread" for their gatherings, and continued fellowship and outreach. Please keep the members of this church in your prayers as they include members of our church in their prayer concerns. Thank you so much!



## Help Build Hope with Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication

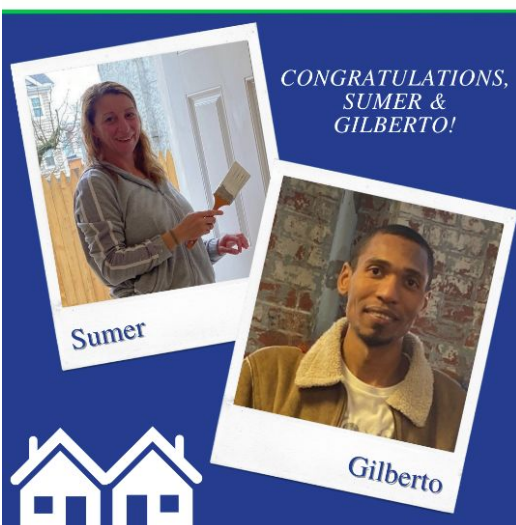
For the first time ever, we will be dedicating TWO new Habitat homes. Please join us as we honor homeowners, Sumer and Gilberto!

Wednesday, April 10, 1pm-2pm  
436 & 440 Miltimore Street, Reading 19601

Lunch will be provided following the dedication. Parking will be available at the Fine Fare Market, 200 W. Buttonwood Street.

Email Aimee Hafer (AHafer@habitatberks.org) with questions or to RSVP by April 3.

Thank you to the volunteers, donors and sponsors who have made these homes possible!





CUMC Preschool Express is immersed in the beauty of spring! We love watching our garden entry way return with color and signs of new flowering life! Our classrooms are bursting with student art and beautiful projects. Our students have made great strides and learned so much in the last 8 months of school. Friendship, kindness, learning to get along, and to improve our skills is the heart of our day in preschool and we all learn from each other. Our enrollment for 2024-2025 has nearly reached capacity, and for that we are grateful and energized to be planning another terrific year for our students. If you know of a

family who is searching for preschool, please have them contact the Preschool Director, Darlene Adams ([darlene.adams@cumclansdale.org](mailto:darlene.adams@cumclansdale.org)), for information, and to be added to our enrollment waitlists. Happy Spring!



## 17th Annual Jim Hayes Memorial Golf Outing

**Save the date: June 8, 2024** (changed to 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June instead of 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday)

All are welcome. We will be playing at Mainland Golf Course. We will play golf AND have fellowship including prizes. We will be playing a Scramble this year, always enjoyable. The event supports our Church Preschool Scholarships.



The first tee time will be 8:30 AM. If you have a prize to donate, a suggestion, or a question, please contact Don Albacker at (215) 692-2958 or [dalbacker@jclfg.com](mailto:dalbacker@jclfg.com). To sign up email Don Albacker or use the sign-up sheet in the lobby.



## Friendly Seniors Planning Help Wanted!



The Friendly Seniors Planning Committee will soon be working on their Fall 2024 - Spring 2025 meeting schedule. We enjoy hearing special speakers at the church, trying new restaurants, visiting historic sites, businesses and houses of worship, learning about crafts and hobbies, playing trivia, and simply having fun together!

We need both idea people and detail people! That means if you have an idea for a program or a place to visit, we need to hear from you! If you enjoy writing articles for the Evangel or making arrangements for an offsite visit, we could use your help!

Contact Barb Gingrich ([bbingrich1@gmail.com](mailto:bbingrich1@gmail.com)) or Nancy Shane ([njshane@yahoo.com](mailto:njshane@yahoo.com)) to see how you can help Friendly Seniors be even better!

### **Food Drive Collection, 2024**

Jan - 207 lbs	Apr -	Jul -	Oct -
Feb - 207 lbs	May -	Aug -	Nov -
Mar - 172 lbs	Jun -	Sep -	Dec -





Friendly Seniors' Covered Dish Luncheon & Travelogue  
Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m.

What do an African safari, research on family history, a beach weekend, beautiful waterfalls, and a visit to historic homes have in common? They were all part of an amazing journey taken by Deryk and Stacey David last year!

Join the CUMC Friendly Seniors for a covered dish luncheon (a.k.a. potluck) on April 17 at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall to enjoy a time of fellowship and food. Have a new recipe to share? An international treat? Main dishes, sides, salads, and desserts are all welcome! Lots of samples to try and some of your own to share! New friends to meet!

Following the lunch, Deryk and Stacey will show us their beautiful travel pictures, share some interesting stories, display souvenirs of their trip, and answer your questions. You'll see why this was truly a journey of a lifetime for them! Perhaps you will be inspired to visit some of these significant locations yourself?

Paper sign-up sheets are available at the kiosk in the church narthex. Sign-up is also available on the church website under "Events." Please indicate how many will be attending, your contact information, and what you plan to bring to the luncheon. And why not invite a friend?

For questions, please contact Barb Gingrich (bgingrich1@gmail.com) or Nancy Shane (njshane@yahoo.com). Hope to see you there!!!



Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Extra-Musical Dates!

Please be sure to join us on the following dates, as the music department will be treating everyone to some extra-musical events!

- Great Day of Ringing: April 14<sup>th</sup>
- Great Day of Singing: May 5<sup>th</sup>
- Handbell Concert: May 19<sup>th</sup>



Stop by for a tuneful time while we worship the Lord and celebrate the talent within our congregation!



"The Mustard Seed"



April brings spring rains, spring flowers, and new beginnings at "The Mustard Seed". This month we will begin to turn over the soil in our raised beds plus we'll add compost and extra soil as well. We'll also start some seeds like beets, lettuce, radishes, and turnips in a few of the garden beds.

Thank you to everyone for the many packets of seeds donated plus the monetary donations to buy additional seedlings. The vegetables we grow are picked, weighed, and donated to Manna. Last year nearly 1/2 ton of vegetables were picked and donated to provide healthy vegetables for people in need.

Also, four garden beds will be dedicated to growing flowers that will be used to brighten our summer Sunday services.

Kernel of Wisdom:

Dig up or buy about 100 or more earthworms to put in your compost pile. The earthworms make humus which is a fantastic plant food. Add this mixture of compost and humus (and some earthworms as well) around your vegetable plants.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Christ United Methodist Church Profit & Loss Budget Performance February 2024

	Feb 24	Jan - Feb 24	YTD Budget	% of Budget	Annual Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>					
Income					
Total Income	43,871.13	86,986.84			
Expense					
Total 4000 · Missions	16,477.51	17,848.67	19,046.96	93.71%	108,942.00
Total 5000 · Programs	3,965.82	5,737.39	6,335.84	90.56%	42,515.00
Total 6000 · Salaries and Benefits	32,347.34	58,491.31	60,347.85	96.92%	362,837.00
Total 7000 · Property, Maintenance & Utility	7,627.18	18,307.72	28,641.32	63.92%	153,176.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>60,417.85</b>	<b>100,385.09</b>	<b>114,371.97</b>	<b>87.77%</b>	<b>667,470.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-16,546.72</b>	<b>-13,398.25</b>	<b>-114,371.97</b>	<b>11.72%</b>	<b>-667,470.00</b>
Other Income					
9000 · Building Mortgage					
9100 · Mortgage Receipts	6,292.00	13,841.00			
Total 9000 · Building Mortgage	6,292.00	13,841.00			
Total Other Income	6,292.00	13,841.00			
Other Expense					
9150 · Prin & Int - Office Wing	6,457.46	12,914.92			
Total Other Expense	6,457.46	12,914.92			
Net Other Income	-165.46	926.08			
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-16,712.18</b>	<b>-12,472.17</b>	<b>-114,371.97</b>	<b>10.91%</b>	<b>-667,470.00</b>

Dear Members and Friends of CUMC,

Shown above is a summary of our church financial report for the month of February and Year-to-Date. Operating Budget income for February was \$43,871 and expenses were \$60,418, giving a deficit for the month of \$16,547. Expenses were higher this month due to paying January and February Conference billings together. Year-to-Date our income is \$86,987 and expenses are \$100,385 giving a deficit of \$13,398. Mortgage receipts in February were \$6,292, payments were \$6,457 giving a deficit of \$165. Year-To-Date mortgage income has exceeded payments by \$926. Not shown above is the \$5,209 received in February for the Mission of the Month (Help Build Hope).

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

CUMC Finance Committee



**Evening Fellowship dyes eggs and celebrates Easter!**



# 2024 EGGstravaganza Egg Hunt



# APRIL

## Calendar Highlights

- 4/1 Easter Monday, Office Closed
- 4/2 Men's Reading Group\*  
Daniel Bible Reading Group\*  
Kaleidoscope Group\*  
Gloria Dei Rehearsal\*  
Jazz Group Rehearsal\*
- 4/3 GriefShare\*  
Various Music Group Rehearsals\*
- 4/4 Cooking for Manna  
Adult Praise Band Rehearsal\*
- 4/5 Laudate Ringers\*  
Help Build Hope Event (Through 4/7)
- 4/7 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11\*  
Precious Angels Rehearsal\*  
Sunday School\*  
Youth Group\*
- 4/10 Men's Breakfast Group  
Endowment Meeting  
Help Build Hope Home Dedication
- 4/11 Stitching Sisters  
Board of Trustees Meeting
- 4/13 Property Cleanup Day  
20's through 40's Game Night
- 4/15 Staff Meeting
- 4/16 Evening Fellowship  
Finance Meeting
- 4/17 Friendly Seniors
- 4/18 Young Clergy Worship  
SPRC Meeting
- 4/19 Yard Sale Setup
- 4/20 Yard Sale
- 4/21 Mission Committee Meeting  
Evening Worship Begins (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.)
- 4/22 Staff Meeting  
Books Between Friends
- 4/23 Primary Election
- 4/26 Caregivers Zoom
- 4/27 Raindate for Property Cleanup
- 4/28 Manna Food Drive
- 5/2 Cooking for Manna

\* Denotes Weekly meeting

Note: All meetings are subject to change.

## Looking Ahead in 2024

Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

Evening Worship Begins, 6:00 PM



Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

Red Cross Blood Drive, 12:00-5:00 PM



Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

Last Day of Regular Sunday School  
Confirmation Sunday



Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>

Red Cross Blood Drive, 12:00-5:00 PM



Monday-Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

Vacation Bible Camp



# Stitching Sisters Soap Sacks



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



**Register now!**