



2025

Christ Evangel

august

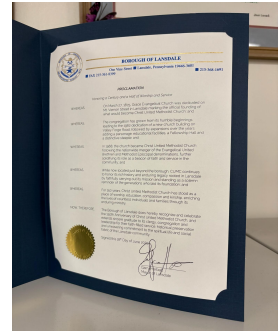
Volume 61, Issue 7, 2025

Celebrating 150 Years!

Christ United Methodist Church
1020 South Valley Forge Rd
Lansdale, PA 19446
215-855-1643
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Borough of Lansdale Commendation for 150 Years

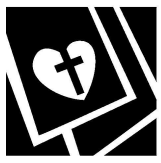
On June 18th, the Borough of Lansdale formally recognized Christ United Methodist's 150th anniversary with a special commendation, presented to Pastor Zach. CUMC was recognized as a beacon of faith and service to the community, with a rich history and enduring legacy. Through our enduring ministry, we have stood as a place of worship, education, compassion and kinship. The Borough extends sincere gratitude to CUMC's clergy, congregation and leadership for their faith-filled service, historical preservation and unwavering commitment to the spiritual life and social fabric of the Lansdale community. We give special thanks to Jean Davis for spearheading this initiative with the Borough.



Mission Moment Report! UMCOR Cleaning Buckets

After collecting funds at a Mission of the Month, purchasing the required contents (and co-ordinating with Lowe's for their generous donation), and packing the collected supplies into five gallon buckets, we delivered 36 fully assembled Cleaning Buckets to the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot and an additional substantial monetary gift to support additional buckets! From there they go to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) for distribution. We were thanked, especially since there have been so many areas of need recently. Thank You for monetary donations and gifts of time to make this happen! And thanks to Lowe's for their generous donation of buckets and supplies, and to our youth for their time in packing the supplies into the buckets!





FROM THE PASTOR

Reverend Zachary Hopple



It is hard to believe that August is already upon us. It seems like just a few days ago we were starting the summer season. I hope you have been having a good summer, that you have been happy and healthy, and staying cool in the incredible heat we have been having.

When I was growing up, August was always an interesting time for me. While it was still part of summer, it also marked the beginning of the end of summer break. September loomed just over the horizon and with it meant sitting behind a desk for what seemed like an eternity of tests, gym class, and the other horrors of being in school. But August is not September, and we still had a month of break to go. And so we, like many other families I knew, would make the best of it. Our family would go camping to several different places and each year we would spend 10 days up at Knoebels. This is where we would have our family reunions and by happenstance, often celebrate my birthday as well.

One thing I realized during those adventures of roller coaster riding, campfire making, s'mores eating, and so much more, was that if I kept thinking about what was coming just a few weeks away, I would not enjoy what I was experiencing in the moment as much. My mind would be occupied with anxieties and worries about who my teacher would be, if I would be in classes with my friends, or if the coursework would be too difficult. When focusing on those things I would miss out on enjoying the wonder of staring up at the night sky while resting in a hammock or enjoying the noise of the rain which sounded like ping-pong balls bouncing off the top of our pop-up camper. (And yes it always seemed to rain when we went camping.) And while I was never really a fan of school (what kid is?!?), it never was as bad as my mind thought it would be as I contemplated it on those warm August days.

This life gives us many opportunities for different experiences. Some of those experiences are good - some not so much. Some we make for ourselves - others are thrust upon us by our circumstances. But when we focus too much on what may or may not come we often lose sight of what is right in front of us, and we miss the perfect opportunity to take advantage of the moment.

In Galatians 6, Paul encourages us to take advantage of every opportunity to do something good. He says, "let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Gal 6:9-10). If we are too focused on the worry of what might come, we will miss out on what is here. We will be oblivious to the needs of those around us. We will overlook the signs of people needing help. We will fail to enjoy what God has given us right here and now.

And so as we start to make our way through the end of the summer, let us remember to enjoy what is here and now instead of worrying about what may come. Let us look for opportunities to do good and support one another. Let us take the time to encourage people to live into their faith as best as they can. Let us observe the world around us and celebrate what God has done while helping to improve upon the things we may have broken. And may God bless us all as we strive to live into God's will for us.



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

The Deborah Circle will not be meeting in August. Our first meeting in the fall will be 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!

We are hoping to be able to help the Code Blue program for Women at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale with donations for the women. We will have more information at the September meeting.

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. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you in September!

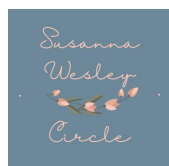
Cooking for Manna

August 7th, 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 No Summer Meetings--See You in the Fall! September Meeting & Women's Tea

The Susanna Wesley circle is planning our September 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. Watch for a signup in early September.

Whether you're a woman who has just started worshipping with us or you're a long time member, we invite you to join us.

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 e-mail 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

On the fourth Friday of each month, at 10 AM, our caregivers' support group meets via Zoom. If you are a caregiver – of someone in your home, in a facility, or at a distance – we invite you to join us, as we share our experiences of caregiving, and offer resources that we have found helpful. To receive the Zoom link, please contact Marge Kramer: marge.kramer@cumclansdale.org.

Stitching Sisters

Stitching Sisters will be meeting on Thursday, August 14th, from 10:00 AM to noon in Fellowship Hall. Over the summer we are working on 9" squares (see to the right) for Project Chemo Crochet blankets (projectchemocrochet.com), and hats and scarves for the fall Manna coat drive (mannaonmain.org). Come join us!



Fall Short-term Bible Study

Our Tuesday morning short-term Bible study will be resuming in the fall! Andy Stanley's "Follow" will be the topic of this study. Anticipated start date is the first Tuesday in October: October 7.

Food Drive Collection, 2025

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



The Mustard Seed Garden



We have had so many beautiful rain days in June and July that our vegetable garden is growing fabulously! 40lbs. of beets were picked in June and now we are picking green beans. Next will be zucchini, okra, and tomatoes.

I have had a wonderful time working at our garden over the years! I have some really wonderful co-gardener assistants that never ever mind getting their hands in the soil. Deciding what to plant and watching it grow, and then sharing the food that God has provided with others is very healthy and rewarding for all of us at "The Mustard Seed."

I am retiring this summer from my volunteer job as head gardener at our vegetable garden and now we are looking for my replacement. "The Mustard Seed" is a church mission garden with all our produce going to Manna.

We are looking for a volunteer that is over 18 yrs. old to help organize the garden and coordinate the volunteers, 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 contact Jean Davis 267-218-2569. Thank you!

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.



MISSION of the Month August 2025

Missionaries Daniel & Kim

Daniel and Kim live within a Muslim community. For 18 years they have been showing the love of Christ to Muslims. This expression of Christ's love has resulted in:

- Learning the local language, customs and culture of the Muslim-ruled country where they live
- Starting a relief organization in partnership with Muslim-background Christians to implement a Goat Project to combat poverty and malnutrition
- Starting a kindergarten for children of refugees providing education and trauma recovery
- Gaining additional counseling education to provide informal mental health counseling to their community at two clinics. Also providing workshops, trainings and advocacy support for mental health needs in the community
- Attending Graduate school to become a Bible translation facilitator to provide Scripture-based audiovisual media to their community in their local language
- Hosting Scripture Discovery Groups to teach Bible stories
- Providing computer school training to raise both the educational and economic level of their community



Daniel and Kim place the future of their ministry into the hands of God and God's people. They would be grateful for any financial and prayer support you can provide. Their ministry will be the recipient of the August 2025 CUMC Mission of the Month offering. Please give to this worthy ministry that shares Jesus' love to the Muslim people. If you have any questions, please see Sue Fetzer, a member of the CUMC Mission Committee.



Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

The Ronald McDonald House mission is to support families with sick children.

YOU can help these families by collecting the flip tops from aluminum cans. The Ronald McDonald House collects tabs (soda, soup, vegetable, fruit, pet, etc. cans) and then recycles them for cash. The money earned goes to support families staying at Ronald McDonald Houses. These families receive a place to stay offering comfort and care while their child receives medical treatments.

We have been praying for the Eckert family's son/grandson/great-grandson, Charlie Eckert. Charlie's parents are now staying at the RMH. Please help to continue the good work to help families that need support.

Don't toss the tabs in the trash. Take a moment to remove them from the can, toss them in a bag or container and bring them to CUMC. We will deliver them to the RMH to translate them into cash to help defray the costs of running their facility. Ask your friends, family, neighbors, and offices to collect them for you. Drop them in the basket in the narthex on Sundays! Bless you for helping others!



CUMC Preschool Express is gearing up for another fantastic year! Our programs for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-olds will resume right after Labor Day. Each classroom offers a nurturing, fun, and supportive learning environment where children thrive under the guidance of two dedicated teachers. We're thrilled to share that enrollment is strong, and most of our classrooms are nearly full! Our teachers are eager to welcome both new and returning families as we head into an exciting school year. If you—or someone you know—are looking for a high-quality preschool experience, please reach out to the Preschool Director at darlene.adams@cumclansdale.org for more information.

FINANCIAL REPORT



Christ United Methodist Church Profit & Loss Budget Performance

There is no new financial report at this time. Please check our website for an update later in August or check out our September Evange!



We give thanks and praise for our amazing crew of youth and adults who served in Northeastern PA from July 20-26. Here is the crew preparing to head out for their trip after 8:30 worship on July 20.

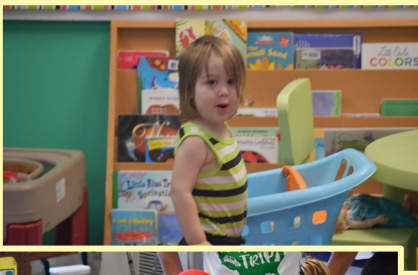
If you are interested in volunteering with our spectacular youth, please contact Nicholas Hill, Director of Youth Ministries, at youthdirector@cumclansdale.org.



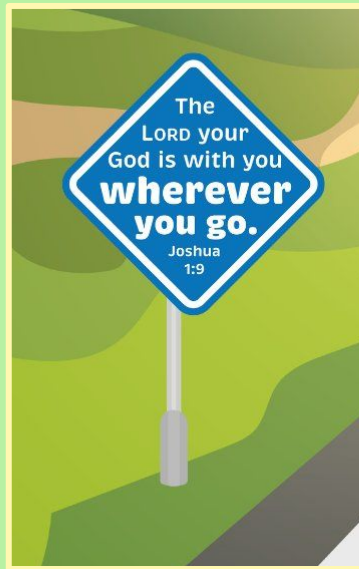
VBC 2025: Roadtrip!

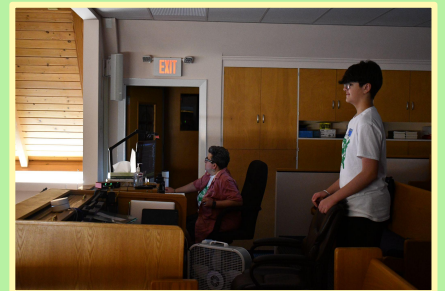
If you weren't able to join us at VBC this year, you can still join in the fun captured in all of our photos! We are so thankful for each and every one of our volunteers who helps make this event a success, and for all of our participants who joined us on our adventure!













AUGUST

Calendar Highlights

- 8/4 Staff Meeting
Perky Promenaders*
- 8/5 Bible Reading Group*
Kaleidoscope Group*
Jazz Group Rehearsal*
- 8/7 Cooking for Manna
- 8/8 150th Anniversary Ice Cream Social
- 8/10 Preschool Closed—No Entry through 8/15
- 8/11 Staff Retreat (Office Closed)
- 8/13 Men's Breakfast Group
Endowment Meeting
- 8/14 Stitching Sisters
Board of Trustees Meeting
- 8/17 Mission Committee Meeting
- 8/18 Staff Meeting
- 8/19 Finance Meeting
- 8/21 Adult Praise Band Resumes*
- 8/24 Manna Food Drive
- 8/26 Preschool CPR Training
- 9/1 Labor Day (Office Closed)
- 9/4 Cooking for Manna
- 9/6 150th Anniversary Church Picnic
- 9/7 Kickoff Sunday

* 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

Friday, August 8th

150th Ice Cream Social, 6:30-8 PM



Sunday, August 24th

Guest Preacher: Gary Knerr

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

Saturday, September 27th

Orvilla Road Church & Cemetery Tour

Sunday, September 28th

Guest Preacher: Graham Truscott

Thursday, September 25th

Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 AM - 3 PM

Sunday, October 12th

Annual Women's Tea

Sunday, October 19th

Trunk or Treat



August 8th, 6:30-8:00



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- >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