Dear CUMC Family!

Friends, I am writing to you during one of my favorite seasons—SPRING! It is that special time of year where the trees are in bloom, the animals are having new babies, and new life fills the world around us!! This time of year often gets lost in the rain and mud and warmer weather—but the true gift is found in new life.

God gives us so many reasons to celebrate. As I write this to you CUMC is going through its own kind of death and resurrection. In the past few weeks the sanctuary, fellowship room, and side entrance have been gutted and re-wired and re-walled and is now receiving new floor coverings. Many of you will agree that this is a project that has been on our ‘to-do’ list for many years and I am excited for it to be accomplished. I wanted to say thank you for all of your participation in this project. There have been so many hands who have contributed from ripping and tearing to building and rebuilding to food prep and cleaning to financial contributions—each person has done their part to make this project possible. In 2 weeks, when we re-enter this refurbished space, there is going to be much celebration and rejoicing.

Beyond the church refurbishment project, new life has come to CUMC in other ways: we had a record number of participants at the Painting for a Purpose, we held our first Chicken BBQ, and the Spring Blood Drive was a success. God has been moving through us and together we are doing great things. To God be the Glory!!

Switching topics: Many of you probably didn’t realize that on top of the craziness at CUMC, Linda Riley and I had an opportunity to walk beside another church as they were working through some rough patches in their ministry. We have been able to do this a couple of times over the past few years and it seems that every time we walk alongside other churches we learn more about ourselves and our ministry at CUMC. One thing that really stuck out for me is the importance of our church family. Sometimes we take one another for granted. Sometimes we fail to recognize that person who sits across the sanctuary. Here’s the truth: God has brought this assembly of people together for a specific purpose.

While we were at our meeting I shared a story of a birthday card I received at about age 8. I opened the card and it read: You can pick your friends, you can pick your nose, but you can’t pick your family...you’re stuck with us! As I remember this card I think about our church family. We spend a lot of time working hard, praising God, and striving to make disciples for Jesus Christ. When we gather as a Church, it takes all our gifts, all our talents, all our opinions,
all our quirks, all of US to make us who we are today. Sometimes we take one another for
granted and we don’t recognize just how important each one of us is to our church family. I
think that this is one of the hardest parts of transitions—it doesn’t matter if it is a pastoral
transition or parishioners coming and going or a new neighbor across the street—every time the
make up of our family changes, so do we.

I encourage you to consider for yourself what your Church family means to you. How
are you contributing to your family? What happens when you agree? Disagree? Together,
when we care for our family we care for us—after all, God has called us here on purpose and
we are all we have!

With you on the journey,
Pastor Chad
Church Family News

Come and join the United Methodist Women at CUMC for a day of fellowship, and working together for God’s Plan.
Meeting is the second Monday of each month at 1:00 pm
May’s meeting date is May 13th.
Please come and join us

5/4 Ed Petillion 5/8 Guy and Connie Powell
5/6 Pastor Chad
5/9 Harry Koerner
5/11 Joan Haussener
5/18 Andy Webber
            Lillianna Webber
Worship Services will be held in the Fellowship Room on May 5th and May 12th.
Sunday – May 19th Worship Services will be held in the Sanctuary.

Save These Dates in June

Sunday – June 2nd
Tuesday – June 4th
Wednesday – June 5th – June 8th
Thursday – June 6th
Monday – June 10th
Tuesday – June 11th
Wednesday – June 19th

Rededication of Sanctuary
Mobile Food Truck – Presho UMC
UNY Annual Conference – Syracuse, NY
Office Closed and No Praise Band Rehearsal
UMW
Caton Seniors and Leadership Team
Drive Thru Chicken BBQ
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