



News from Christ Community
United Methodist Church
3939 Park Road, Selinsgrove, PA 17870

SEPTEMBER 2026

Friendly Reminders

September Worship

Just a friendly reminder that starting in September, and going forward, we will go back to TWO Worship Services. Our Contemporary Service with Praise Band is at 8:30am. Sunday School for all ages is from 9:45am-10:45am. The Traditional Service is at 11:00am. Please mark your calendars accordingly.



The Busy Bees are Back!

Ham Loaf Sale

The Busy Bees are taking orders for Ham Loaves. A 1-lb. Ham Loaf is \$7.50 and a 2-lb. is \$15.00. The deadline to order is Sunday, September 20th. Pick up is Monday, September 28th, from 1:00-5:00pm. Extra forms are available to take orders from friends, family and co-workers!



Game Night & Ice Cream Social

Friday, September 18th, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm, the C.O.O.L. Family Ministry will be hosting our first "Game Night and Ice Cream Social". Bring your favorite games and cards to share, and come ready to challenge each other, enjoy a delicious ice cream sundae, and make great memories together! We hope to see you there!



Chi Rho Singers

The Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Church PASTOR'S CHOIR is offering a concert of Praise & Worship at CCUMC on Thursday, September 24th, at 7:00pm. This is open to the public. All are invited and welcome to attend this uplifting concert. A Love Offering will be received.



CCUMC Kids Club

Our new kids ministry will meet on Wednesday nights from 6-7:30pm starting on Sept. 16th. Bible lessons and verses will be taught with fun activities. Sign up to volunteer See Michelle Heintzelman with questions.

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Phone: (814) 222-7207

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Church phone number: 570-743-7303
Web page: ccumchurchselinsgrove.org

“While the cat’s away ...”

As a kid I used to love the old Saturday morning cartoons. And one of my current joys is watching a couple of the “good ones” on WGAL out of Lancaster. They broadcast three hours of the classics — and no, I don’t watch all three hours, and often not at all. Sometimes I watch *Popeye*, and other times it’s *Woody Woodpecker*. And then there are those Loony Tunes — Bugs Bunny, Elmer Fudd, Daffy Duck, Road Runner, and all that crew.

As kids we thought we were absolutely hilarious when we would talk to each other in cartoon voices. We would mimic Bugs’ “What’s up, Doc?” and Tweety Bird’s “I t’awt I taw a pudgy tat.” And who doesn’t like to talk like Elmer Fudd?! As I said, in our eyes, we were hilarious. If you’re of a certain age, I’m sure you can hear all the voices of a whole host of characters. What was your favorite? Can you talk in that voice the next time you come through the greeting line after a service? We’ll be waiting.



But recently what captured my attention was an episode of *Tom and Jerry*, where Tom (the cat) was away, and Jerry and his friends (the mice) got into all sorts of mischief — until Tom returned and tried to shut down the shenanigans. Of course, the episode was titled “While the Cat’s away, the Mice Will Play,” and it explored all the appropriate hijinks.

Robin and Pastor Eric are away on much deserved renewal leave, mostly in the Tuscany region of northern Italy. So, what is happening while the “cat’s away”? If a congregation is dependent on the pastor’s direction for every move, things fall apart. I don’t see that happening at all. I see many of CCUMC’s ministries and missions chugging right along.

But none of that means Pastor Eric is superfluous. Rather, it means that he, as well as this mission station’s long tradition of committed pastors, has guided and mentored the various mission and ministry committees, assuring that there is a goal-oriented leader for each group. What an awesome responsibility for CCUMC’s Nominations Committee!

Certainly there have been some demanding transitions for some ministries, as personnel changes sometimes have necessitated a new vision for that group. Each of the members has a God-given gift, so as people move through their various seasons of ministry, the challenge is to capitalize on each person’s gift. And to be fruitful, a ministry must shape itself to get the most out of those gifts. A former model of operation may not be able to function in the same way if it has a new set of gifts to tap into.

This is one of the strengths of our pastor — recognizing individuals’ gifts and getting people into the right ministry. You’d be surprised how often others see our gifts, when we don’t see them ourselves.

But this column today isn’t so much about Pastor Eric being away, as being about what the “church mice” are doing *while* he’s away. Even in vacation season, they — *YOU* — are being The Church though continued vibrant involvement in important outreach. Just look at the bulletin and see all that’s going on. Listen to the Sunday morning reports from Christ’s Prayer Pantry and the Mission Central Sojourners. Also, the Busy Bees (same mission, different gifts), the C.O.O.L. Family ministry, Christian Classics, and the Fundraising Committee are all doing their — *OUR* — ministry as well. And as you well know, that is only scratching the surface of what’s going on at Christ Community United Methodist Church — the mission station on the hill. So while the Cat’s away, I would say to the mice, “Well done, good and faithful servants!”

~Andy Bucke, Director of Congregational Care

September at Christ Community



8:30am First Service
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Second Service

MEETINGS

September

10th - Christian Classics, 7:00pm
13th - C.O.O.L. Family, 12:15pm
14th - 4th Day Friends, 6:00pm
15th - Staff, 1:00pm
17th - Trustees, 6:00pm
21st - Busy Bees, 10:00am
21st - Ad Council, 6:00pm
22nd - Worship Committee, 3:00pm



Christ's Prayer Pantry

The next Free Food Drive Thru will take place on Saturday, September 19th, from 10-11am.



EVENTS

September

1st - Music Ministry Rehearsals start
6th - Holy Communion; Donations to Christ's Prayer Pantry
6th - Prayer Gathering at Christ UMC, 6:30pm
8th - Youth Group starts, 4:00pm
14th - Yard Sale Donation Drop Off, 10am-Noon
16th - CCUMC Kids Club starts, 6:00pm
18th - Game Night & Ice Cream Social, 6:30pm
19th - Free Food Drive Thru, 10:00am
19th - Pick Up for Chicken BBQ, 11:30am-12:15pm
24th - Chi Rho Singers, Concert of Praise & Worship at CCUMC, 7:00pm
26th - Selinsgrove Street Fair, 9am-4pm (Youth-Lemonade Stand)
27th - Celebration of Ministry between services
28th - Ham Loaf Pick Up, 1:00-5:00pm
29th - Yard Sale Donation Drop Off, 5-7pm
30th - Mission Central Trip, 8:00am

Prayer Gathering

A Prayer Gathering will take place at Christ UMC, 145 Disciple Drive, Selinsgrove, on Sunday, Sept. 6th, at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend!



Yard Sale Donations Needed

We are collecting donations for our church's annual yard sale. Please make sure your items are clean and in good condition. **The 2 drop off days for the month of September are Monday, September 14th, from 10am-12Noon & Tuesday, September**

29th, from 5-7pm at the former preschool entrance. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider helping to sort, size and organize donations. Thank You!



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 7th, for the Labor Day Holiday.

In an effort to have updated information in our newsletter, we are redoing the birthday & anniversary lists.

If you don't see your name and would like it added, please contact the church office by phone or email.

September Birthdays



02 Grant Walter
02 Tamie Wolfe
03 Marsha Eichner
04 Ellen Mack
05 Stephanie Rauch
07 Paige Hepner
07 Billie Jo Hoey
08 Corinne Hoke
08 Kayla Wilson
17 Madden Trego
18 Nora Crossley
18 Ethan Portwood
19 Nancy Lilley
19 Sabrina Sickle
21 Kay Milligan
21 Lee Portwood
25 Brenda Pehowic
27 Karen John
29 Nancy Herman



September Anniversaries

06/1975 Nancy & Lyle Mercer



"I call to you in times of trouble, because you answer my prayers." ~Psalm 86:7

If you have a prayer request, call Barb Inch (570)837-5384, Delores Kauffman (570) 743-8322, or the church office (570)743-7303.

Tuesday morning Prayer Time at 9:00am in the lounge.

Please remember our shut-in members with a visit, phone call, or "Thinking of You" card to let them know that we miss them. If we have missed anyone on this list, please call the church office.



St. Martha Center - 470 Manor Avenue, Downingtown, PA 19335

Alice Zeeger, Room 102A

Richfield Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center - 631 Main Street, Richfield, PA 17086

Virginia Host, **Room 4**

Heather Court at Nottingham Village

281 Ironstone Drive, Northumberland, PA 17857

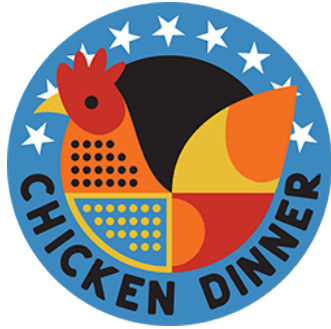
Peg Sowers, No room number is needed

The Manor at Penn Village - 51 Rte. 204, Selinsgrove PA 17870

Margaret Wendt, Room 306



Paul Aungst, Box 42, Hummels Wharf, PA 17831



BBQ Chicken Sale

A BBQ Chicken Sale is taking place with all orders due by Wednesday, September 9th. The proceeds will benefit Mission Ministries of our church. You can purchase chicken only (\$7.00-\$10.00) or chicken meals which include BBQ Chicken, Macaroni Salad, Baked Beans, Roll, Chips, Brownie and Water (\$9.00-\$12.00). Check out the form on the bulletin board to see your ordering options. Extra forms are available to take to friends, family and co-workers. Pick up will be Saturday, September 19th, from 11:30am-12:15pm at the church portico driveway at the front doors.



Mission Central Sojourners

The next Mission Central Trip is happening on Wednesday, September 30th. We will vanpool from the church parking lot at 8:00am. We will most likely be working on school kits, health kits, working in the warehouse sorting and packing items, etc. Be sure to wear closed toe shoes. Become the hands and feet of Christ. You will be blessed as you bless others! If interested in purchasing items while shopping at the Mission Central Thrift Store, bring along some cash as well! We will enjoy a Fellowship Lunch at the Olive Garden in Mechanicsburg.



4th Day Friends

4th Day Friends will meet on Monday, September 14th, at 6:00pm to prep for the upcoming Emmaus Walks.



New Members

Say hello, introduce yourself, and continue to give a warm welcome to everyone who joined the church in August:



Good Years Group

Christian Classics

The next Christian Classics meeting will take place on Thursday, September 10th, at 7:00pm. We will have a Penn State Extension Program with Trifle Desserts!

Jasmine Auman
Cheryl Adams
Vern Adams
Karen Adams
Mike Adams
Noah Chmielewski
Brandon Crossley
Shelly Diggins
Zoey Ditty
Deb Runkle
Melanie Schreffler
Jeff Schreffler
Melanie Spade
Dalton Zerbe



Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth
Serve the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

Psalm 100: 1-2, NRSVUE

Weeknight practices for our three Music Ministry ensembles have resumed! By the time you are reading this, it will be time to gather to make music together. All groups practice **Tuesday** nights, September-May.

The Prince of Peace Handbell choir meets in the Music Room from 5:45-6:35

The Chancel Choir meets in the Music Room from 6:45-7:50

The Praise Team meets in the Sanctuary from 8:00-8:50

All are welcome to join in creating music together to glorify God and help lead worship for our Sunday services. No prior experience is needed! Bring a willing heart, a spirit of praise, and a readiness to learn and worship together.

Contact Liz Stevenson, our Director of Music Ministries, to learn more or with questions: (412) 304-2782 or elizabeth.carras@gmail.com



Youth Lemonade Stand

Stop by the Lemonade Stand at the Selinsgrove Street Fair on Saturday, September 26th, from 9am-4pm. The youth will be raising funds by selling delicious lemonade. Adults are needed to help in the stand, so watch for a volunteer sign up sheet.

Book - N - Bake Sale

A Book and Bake Sale is being planned for Friday, October 23rd and Saturday, October 24th. We have a large assortment of Books from Yard Sale donations. We have Cooking to Spiritual, Children's to Adults, Crafting to History, Old to New and everything in between! As the weather starts to change, we will all be spending more time indoors. Buy a book or two to read on a cold or rainy day or as a gift! Watch for more information in the October Newsletter.



Christ Community
United Methodist Church
3939 Park Road
Selinsgrove, PA 17870



OPPORTUNITIES AT CHRIST COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

General Information

Weekly Services

8:30a.m. - Service of Praise
9:45a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
11:00a.m. - Traditional Service

CHURCH OFFICE

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:00am-1:00pm
Phone 570-743-7303

Senior Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Shafer

Director of Congregational Care :
Andy Bucke

Director of Music Ministries:
Liz Stevenson

Secretary: Pam Eister

Pianist: Josh Stevenson

Sexton: Heidi Carroll

Children's Sunday School

Nursery Beginners, grades 1 & 2
Primary, Pre-K & K Middlers, grades 3-5
Sundays, 9:45-10:45am

Youth Sunday School

Grades 6-12
Sundays, 9:45-10:45am

Youth Group

Grades 6-12
Meets Tuesday afternoons during
the school year from
4:00-5:30pm

CCUMC Kid's Club

6:00 P.M. Wednesdays for age 3-Grade 6
September-April

Adults

Sunday School Classes
9:45-10:45am

Elective Class - The Book of Revelation

Agape Class - Harmony of the Gospels

Music Ministry Aug.-May

Bell Choir 5:45 p.m. - Tuesday
Chancel Choir 6:45 p.m. - Tuesday
Praise Team 8:00 p.m. - Tuesday

Seniors

Christian Classics usually meet on the
second Thursday of each month.

Women

United Women in Faith meet on the first
Monday of even numbered months at
7:00 p.m.

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 9am Prayer Time 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir 8pm Praise Team	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6 Communion</i> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 6:30pm Prayer Gathering @ Christ UMC	<i>7 Labor Day</i> Church Office Closed	<i>8</i> 9am Prayer Time 4pm Youth Group 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir 8pm Praise Team	<i>9</i> 9am-4pm Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall Reserved	<i>10</i> 7pm Christian Classics	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 12:15pm COOL Family Meeting	<i>14</i> 10am-Noon Yard Sale Donation Drop Off 6pm 4th Day Friends	<i>15</i> 9am Prayer Time 1:00pm Staff Meeting 4pm Youth Group 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir 8pm Praise Team	<i>16</i> 6:00pm Kids Club	<i>17</i> 6pm Trustee Meeting	<i>18</i> 6:30pm Game Night	<i>19</i> 10am Free Food Drive Thru 11:30am-12:15pm Chicken BBQ Pick Up
<i>20</i> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship	<i>21</i> 10am Busy Bee Meeting 6pm Ad Council Meeting	<i>22</i> 9am Prayer Time 3pm Worship Comm. 4pm Youth Group 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir 8pm Praise Team	<i>23</i> 6:00pm Kids Club	<i>24</i> 7pm Chi Rho Concert	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> 9:00am-4:00pm Selinsgrove Street Fair (Youth-Lemonade)
<i>27</i> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Celebration of Ministry 11am Worship	<i>28</i> 1-5pm Ham Loaf Pick Up	<i>29</i> 9am Prayer Time 4pm Youth Group 5-7pm Yard Sale Donation Drop Off 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir 8pm Praise Team	<i>30</i> 8:00am Mission Central Trip 6:00pm Kids Club			