



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

MARCH 2026



**Holy Week Worship Schedule**

**HOLY THURSDAY/GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** - April 2nd at 6:30pm we will have Worship with Holy Communion as we continue our series “The Way”.

**COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** - April 3rd from 12Noon-3:00pm broken into 20 minute segments (come for one or stay for all), at Sharon Lutheran Church, 120 South Market Street, Selinsgrove.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE** - April 5th at 7:00am, Shreiner’s Cemetery with the Susquehanna Valley Baptist Church.

**EASTER SUNDAY** - April 5th we will have our regularly scheduled worship services (8:30am & 11:00am).



**Easter Eggstravaganza**

This year’s Easter Eggstravaganza will take place on Saturday, April 11th, from 10am-12Noon. We will have food, games, an egg hunt and much more! We also have a sensory friendly egg hunt for children with those needs. Mark your calendars now for this fun event! Donations of individually wrapped candy are appreciated and may be placed in the donation box in the Fellowship Hall.



**Arts & Crafts Fair**

We are preparing for our 2nd Annual Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday, March 28th, from 9am-2:00pm. A Kitchen Food Court will be open for eat-in or take out until 2pm. Mark your calendars now! Come to the fair and find great Easter & Mother’s Day gifts.

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Church email: [ccumc@ptd.net](mailto:ccumc@ptd.net)

Church phone number: 570-743-7303

Web page: [ccumchurchselinsgrove.org](http://ccumchurchselinsgrove.org)



# The Way of Prayer

*“Pray without ceasing.” ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:17*

From our Bishop - a portion of his Lenten call to a renewed commitment to pray...

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

As we begin this season of Lent, I am reminded once again that prayer is not simply one more task in the life of a follower of Jesus Christ. Prayer is the heartbeat of the Christian life. Scripture calls us to “pray without ceasing”—not as a burden, but as an invitation into constant communion with the God who sustains us. Through prayer, we remain rooted in God’s presence. We participate in God’s life, and we allow God to participate in ours. Outside of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit—we can do nothing.

This truth feels especially urgent in this season when so much is distressed in our nation. In moments like these, it is easy, even tempting, for us to grow cynical about the role and power of prayer. But cynicism is not a fruit of the Spirit. Cynicism grows where prayer has been neglected. We cannot lead others into Christ’s hope if we ourselves have stopped drinking from the well. Jesus modeled this rhythm, withdrawing often to pray. Prayer is the most tangible means of grace we have to nurture our relationship with God, and if we are not nurturing that relationship, all that we are carrying is a hollow religion.

In prayer, we learn humility, repentance, compassion, gratitude, and love. Prayer becomes a channel through which God’s healing and liberating power flows—renewing us from the inside out, echoing the psalmist’s plea: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” And when we pray together, something even deeper happens. It creates space for the Holy Spirit to move among us. Our shared prayer shapes our shared identity and anchors our shared mission. In a moment when the world is desperate for hope, our prayer rhythms matter. They shape our discipleship... And they must translate into concrete actions that embody Christ’s love. We pray—and then, transformed and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we become part of God’s answer to those prayers.

This Lent, I invite us to renew our commitment to prayer as disciples and in our congregations. We are not retreating from prayer. We are leaning into it—because when we lean into prayer, we lean towards the Author and Sustainer of our faith and hope. And prayer transforms us, even as we collaborate with the Spirit to transform the world.

I am praying for a season of revival among us. A renewed life of prayer will be the foundation as we form disciples who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously—so that lives and communities are transformed through Christ’s healing and liberating love.

Peace of God be with you.

Bishop Hector Burgos-Nunez

# March at Christ Community



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



## Christ's Prayer Pantry

The next Free Food Drive Thru will take place on Saturday, March 21st, from 10-11am.



Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8th. Remember to change your clocks forward 1 hour to be sure you arrive on time for worship.



## Spring Pop Up Table

A Spring Pop Up Table will be coming in March and feature Spring and Easter Décor. Don't miss it!

## MEETINGS

### March

2nd - Busy Bees, 10:00am  
5th - Trustees, 6:00pm  
10th - Staff, 1:00pm  
12th - Christian Classics, 6:00pm  
15th - Children/Youth Ministry, 12:30pm  
17th - Worship Committee, 3:00pm  
30th - 4th Day Friends, 6:00pm



## EVENTS

### March

1st - Communion; Donations to Christ's Prayer Pantry  
1st - Cluster Prayer Gathering @ Trinity UMC, Middleburg, 6:30pm  
8th - Free Chicken Corn Soup from the C.O.O.L. Family Ministry after each service  
9th - Ham Loaf Pick Up, 1:00-5:00pm  
21st - Free Food Drive Thru, 10:00am  
25th - Mission Central Trip, **8:00am departure** from the church parking lot  
28th - Arts & Crafts Fair, 9am-2pm  
29th - Palm Sunday

## Yard Sale Update

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our 2nd Annual Yard Sale a huge success! We were again able to sell clothing for a \$1.00, have inexpensive food choices for breakfast and lunch so families could sit and enjoy a meal together, and all short sleeve T-shirts that were left after the Yard Sale were donated to mission work for the Philippines. Thank you again!



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.

### March Birthdays



- 04 Samantha Hile
- 05 Tyler Wolfe
- 07 Anne Carter
- 11 Keith Musser
- 13 Ralph Weiser
- 14 Rich Pehowic
- 20 Charles Moll
- 20 Eric Shafer
- 25 Stryker Lash
- 26 Deb Sanders
- 28 Judy Clark
- 28 Kelly Gryzniec
- 31 Les Seagraves

### March Anniversaries



- 19/1994 Mark & Tracy Hepner
- 31/1956 Shirley & Bill Doyle



*"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. Make this part of your Lenten Pilgrimage.

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 10

**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



### College Care & Military Ministries

Our Spring 2026 outreach will be sent March 30th 2026. We are in

need of gift cards (\$5, \$10, \$15, and \$20 increments) or monetary donations to purchase gift cards. Some fan-favorites are; Wendy's, McDonalds, Dunkin, Starbucks, Taco Bell, Moes, Weis, Walmart, Jersey Mikes, Chipotle, Aldi, Subway, and Dominoes. You are welcome to purchase these gift cards through the church. We currently are sending care letters to 15 College Students and 2 Military Personnel. We are looking to add college students and military to our ministry list. If you have someone to add to this ministry, please share their name, address, college or military branch, and graduation date. Please contact Judie Steinbacher 570-765-0670 or Monica Hoover 570-274-4113 with additions, donations, and questions. All donations and new addresses need to be in by Sunday, March 29th. These can be given to Judie or Monica directly, or placed in the CCUMC College Care/Military Ministry Mailbox.



### Prayerful consideration please!

Come May there will be some changes happening within both the Funeral Committee and Busy Bees Groups. Crucial positions are needed to be filled with key individuals wanting to step down in these 2 faithful mission groups. New people are needed to fill the following roles:

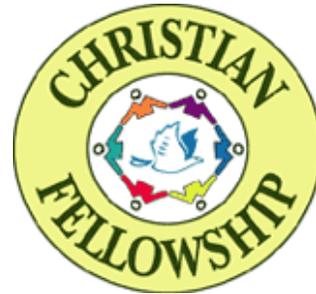
Funeral Committee - President (Brenda Pehowic)  
Busy Bees - President (Toby Wolfe); Treasurer/Food Buyer (Nancy Lilley); also, a handful of members that help serve/prepare are needing to step down as well. Please be in prayer, asking God if He can use you in any of these roles, to strengthen body, minds, and souls of the men and women currently in these mission groups, and ultimately the future of the groups moving forward.

Sincerely,  
Your brothers & sisters in Christ



### Free Chicken Corn Soup

The C.O.O.L. Family Ministry will be handing out FREE Chicken Corn Soup in 1 pint containers to the congregation after both worship services on Sunday, March 8th. Take some for yourself and also think about who you could bless with some free soup (an elderly neighbor, a single mom, etc.) It's not too late to sign up to help make or deliver the soup to nursing homes and shut-ins. Check out the sign up sheets on the bulletin board.



### 4th Day Friends

A 4th Day Friends meeting will take place on Monday, March 30th, at 6:00pm in the classroom off the Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in attending a Spring 2026 Mens (April 23-26) or Womens (April 30-May 3) Emmaus Walk Weekend at Wesley Forest is encouraged to attend to learn more.



### Mission Central Sojourners

We will travel to Mechanicsburg on Wednesday, March 25th (New departure time of 8:00am from church parking lot). Be the hands and feet of Christ directed mission work for the morning. We will enjoy a FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON at The Olive Garden on the way home.

# The Chosen:

## **Lenten Study Season 5:**

Begins Wednesday, February 25, 2026  
6:00pm to 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

Soup Clatch begins at 5:00pm in Fellowship Hall  
...come for the soup meal, fellowship & study

Watch the Episode, discuss, prayer...sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall!

**Episode 1...Entry to Jerusalem...Jesus rides into Jerusalem**

**Episode 2...House of Cards...Jesus turns the Temple tables**

**Episode 3...Woes...Jesus preaches to the Passover Crowd**

**Episode 4...The Same Coin...Caiaphas resolves to arrest Jesus quietly at night**

**Episode 5...Because of Me...Jesus' arrest causes a fiery public outcry**

**Episode 6...Reunions...Jesus' followers gather for the Passover Meal**

**Episode 7...The Upper Room...Part 1...Jesus arrives at the Last Supper**

**Episode 8...The Upper Room...Part 2...the Last Supper Ends**

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**LENT** *a season of reflection*

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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

#### Awana

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                    As Needed

#### 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.

# March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Communion</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 6:30pm Prayer Gathering @ Trinity UMC, Middleburg	2  10am Busy Bee Meeting	3  9am Prayer Time 4pm Youth Group 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	4  5pm Lenten Soup Dinner 6pm Lenten Study 6pm Awana	5  6pm Trustee Meeting	<b>6 World Day of Prayer</b>	7  Kitchen Reserved for C.O.O.L. Family-Making Soup
<b>8 Daylight Saving Time</b>  8:30am Worship 9:30am Free Soup 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 12Noon Free Soup	9  1-5pm Ham Loaf Pick Up	10  9am Prayer Time 1:00pm Staff Meeting 4pm Youth Group 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	11  5pm Lenten Soup Dinner 6pm Lenten Study 6pm Awana	12  6pm Christian Classics	13	14
15  8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 12:30pm Children & Youth Ministry Meeting	16	17  9am Prayer Time 3pm Worship Comm. 4pm Youth Group 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	18  5pm Lenten Soup Dinner 6pm Lenten Study 6pm Awana	19	20	21  10am Free Food Drive Thru
22  8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship	23	24  9am Prayer Time 4pm Youth Group 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	25 <b>8:00am</b> Mission Central Trip 5pm Lenten Soup Dinner 6pm Lenten Study 6pm Awana	26	27  5-7pm Vendor Set Up	<b>28 Craft Show</b>  9am-2pm Craft Show (Kitchen Food Court open for Eat-In or Take Out)
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b>  8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship	30  6pm 4th Day Friends	31  9am Prayer Time 4pm Youth Group 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir				