

**Carlisle United Methodist Church  
Church Hall Meeting Reports  
October 2020**

**Introduction – Kerm Leitner, Chair**

The 2020 Church Hall Meeting has been cancelled due to COVID-19 precautions. In lieu of meeting live, the Leadership Council members have prepared reports in their pillar or administrative areas, which will follow this introduction.

For the past three and one half years, a major focus of the Leadership Council has been the planning, preparation and organization needed to acquire property and construct our fabulous new church. The Leadership Council has greatly appreciated the support of our congregation in their generous giving of their tithes and offerings to maintain and expand our ministries, and simultaneously makes a major commitment to the capital campaigns. The capital campaigns have yielded results, which place our church at the top of our nation in their success.

The Leadership Council is extremely grateful for the tremendous efforts of the Building Committee to accept the many duties and responsibilities associated with constructing such an impressive edifice and completing its work under the budget figures, which our church had approved. Jeff Barnes chaired the Building Committee throughout the project, and Brad Weiser was its vice-chair. Other members were Ryan Heishman, Colleen Kulp, Mike Landis, Jody Monoski, Joanne Reynolds, Courtney Svirbly and Rick Washinger. We appreciate all that the Building Committee has done to provide Carlisle with such a terrific place to worship God, grow Disciples and encourage everyone to strive to Live Like Jesus.

At our LC meeting on September 21, I said the following in my announcements: “We did it! We “Followed God and Built Community” with this magnificent new church to serve Carlisle and beyond. Like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon, we are now free to be whatever God wants us to be. There are no more barriers facing us – no steps for the handicapped, no need to parallel park for those who never learned how, plenty of spaces indoors and oodles of space, which none of our founding churches ever had, outdoors. We did this with very few bumps in the road; many, many good people stepping up; and a congregation that has been overwhelmingly generous every step of the way. Our primary responsibility now as a Leadership Council is to manage what we have, help in the planning so that we utilize everything to its fullest potential, model good stewardship and lead by example.

Now in alphabetical order are the pillar and administrative area reports.

**CONNECT – Michelle Williams**

The coronavirus pandemic has restructured our lives and our way of connecting with each other and the community. Staying connected has been vital during the last six months.

- Tessa Hein was hired to the Welcoming position succeeding Kathy Charette. Kathy agreed to be available for a period to mentor Tessa early on.
- Kathy Charette led a team of Connect Volunteers to call members who may have needed help during the coronavirus. This began in March and continues each month. Some of the same volunteers have run errands or gone grocery shopping when those in need could not. Currently, there are 90 people on the Connect Call List with a dozen or so volunteers calling several times a month.
- LAMs Team continued to stay connected with those in the program and their shepherd counterparts.
- The Prayer Teams continued to meet virtually, by phone and eventually in person, to pray for others, our church, the new facility, and those in need and the community.
- The Softball team was able to play a short, modified version of the season over the summer. No other sports teams met.
- Online Services evolved from pre-recorded to live stream to reach those who could not attend in person. With technology and innovations, we aim for all our congregation and the community to feel connected.
- Connections have been made through phone calls, mailing announcements, newsletters, and technology, all designed to keep everyone in the loop. Kathy Charette and the team surveyed the 90+ people on the Call List to ask whether they wanted or needed Internet, technology, and devices to access Online Worship. All but a few had what they needed and those who needed help were supported. Some opted not to have the Internet and the Connect team brainstormed on how to get Worship Services to them. One idea is to record DVDs of live worship services and deliver to members in person or by mail. When all the technology and expertise come together, we will know more about our capabilities.
- Funeral Service Greeters – Bonnie Cash resigned in July as the Funeral Services Greeter coordinator. CUMC Connect team will help those families wanting to have funeral services, life celebrations, and other important remembrance events for those who passed during the coronavirus shutdown.
- Other segments of Connect like Altar Flowers, Events, Prayer Shawls, and special “meetups” like Lunch Bunch, Men’s Gathering, North of 60, and other offerings will be able to resume as the coronavirus subsides.
- New offerings like Speaking Events, Musical Events, Member Connections (dinner groups) and Community Outreach (festivals, fairs, movie nights, craft shows, etc) may be a part of Connect when activities can resume.
- Live Stream Worship will also develop to have a “Virtual Host” to connect and chat with those viewing live worship.

In the meantime, we will continue to stay connected to one another through serving, worship, and small groups whether in person or virtually. We trust God in leading our efforts to fit in with His plan for CUMC and offer us direction in how our new facility and technology will be used to Connect to the members and community.

## **Facilities – Ron Chipriano**

There has been a lot of activity in the last few months at CUMC. As most of you know, the belongings of the church were inventoried and then packed up for the move. The move took place the week of September 8, 2020. There were a number of volunteers who helped to pack and direct the movers as to where all the items needed to be placed at our new church. A big thank you to all of you who helped with the move. Without you, the move would have never happened as smoothly as it did. The move went extremely well because of the Herculean efforts of Kathy Charette and Pastor Mira. They spent months developing a game plan to move all the items that were moved to the new site. We are blessed as a church to have people who are always ready to step up and help when the call goes out.

Jenn Graybill, our facilities manager, has had her hands full for the last few months. She's been learning on the fly while trying to keep all the needs of both buildings covered. At the Pomfret Street building she had to have all the cleaning and disinfecting covered as well as the same for the Spring Garden Campus as we started to move into that building. Thanks, Jenn, for all the work you've done. Also a big thank you to Angie Carey for all the extra work she's done in this very busy time. Nicholas Cordes has been hired as a custodian at the Spring Garden Campus and will be a good addition to the existing team. Please welcome Nick when you see him.

Finally, there have been a number of volunteers who have helped to keep the inside and outside of our church looking fantastic. John Wardle, Fred McLaughlin, Bill Yufer, Frank Williams, Mike Landis, Dave Yearsley, Mike Druck, Jeff Barnes, Larry Miller, Mike and Ruth Ann Weigle are the members of our mowing team that keep the grass looking great. Also, Doc Loudon, Mike Landis and others helped water the trees to keep them going in this very dry stretch. Rich Charette along with Charlie Lebo, Dick Wimer, Doc Loudon, Larry Miller, John Roller, and Dave Brewer built the beautiful cross in the worship center along with all the other wooden objects located throughout SSG. Gary Ankabrandt is spearheading the planting of flowers at the entrance of the church. Gary Shook. John Roller, Bill Yufer and Jake helped to build the benches that will be used all around the church grounds. To everyone, thank you for gracing our church with your time and effort to beautify the Spring Garden Campus.

## **FINANCE – WAYNE HENDERSON**

What a year here at CUMC!!!

We began the year with great expectations of ending the year worshipping in our new church building with a new Lead Pastor. Well, we are in our new church with Pastor Jake and Pastor Mira at the helm. But we are also in a worldwide pandemic, which has impacted every aspect of our lives.

When the lock downs began, most people felt that church finances would struggle greatly. We were in our first Capital Campaign and planning for a second one. What would happen to finances at CUMC? Little did we know that our congregation

would continue to give to CUMC during all the chaos around us just as they have in the past. In fact, we are right in line with how we gave in 2019. That is amazing! Just as in the past six years, our financial success for the year will depend on very strong giving during November and particularly December. The pandemic has not thrown the finances of CUMC into a dark place. We will be financially strong, if we continue as we have in the past.

Due to the discipline in spending by our church staff and the changes COVID has caused, expenses are significantly less than budgeted. This is very helpful as we adjust to our new environment and the unknown and unanticipated costs that could arise, and probably will arise, as we learn the ins and outs of a new building with a large parking lot and a giant lawn.

Looking at our Capital Campaigns we see that we exceeded 95% of the amount that was pledged. All the experts say that is an incredible figure. Then our congregation responded to a request for giving to get ready for CC2. Our people gave in excess of \$346,000 to this request for "first fruits". Now with pledges still to be returned, we have pledges for CC2 of more than \$2.1. Another amazing example of the generosity of the CUMC family.

We at the Leadership Council want to thank all of you for your incredible generosity.

To end this report I would like to share an anecdote that Kerm sent to me the other day. I think this story is a clear snapshot of our CUMC family: *On September 13, as I was opening Money Bridge banks and pouring the contents into the larger collection container for banking the next day, I picked up a very light bank. Shaking the bank, it was obvious that it contained only a few coins. Momentarily, I said to myself, "Couldn't they have waited one more week and found a few more coins?" As I ripped open the bank, I saw immediately that the handful of coins in the bank was sitting on a \$100 bill.*

Thank you.

### **Give Team – John Seaton**

The Give (Generosity Inspires Vibrant Engagement) Team consists of three groups; Advocates, Donor Appreciation Team, and the Lifetime Giving Team Each team has been limited in their activities because of COVID-19 this year, however plans are being made as we end the year worshipping in our new church building for now and into 2021.

**Advocates:** While they have been unable to revisit the community around our church, they plan to invite the community to share our ministry and mission through out door activities, an open house, and an invitation to worship with us next year.

**Donor Appreciation Team:** This team is writing letters of appreciation and gratitude to all of us who have contributed financial support for our church budget

and for Capital Campaign 2. This letter will be included in your end of the year statement.

**Lifetime Giving Team:** This team will be offering “Giving Moments” in all services beginning in October. These “Giving Moments” will illustrate the many ministries and missions, which receive some support from our church. The general budget will be presented and a narrative budget will be shared with everyone.

### **GROW Adult – Roger Woods**

Just as plans were developing for a slate of classes for our Grand Opening of the Spring Garden Campus in the summer and fall, COVID-19 hit. Though the plans of mankind may have been momentarily delayed as we learned how to deal with the pandemic, the desire for Christian fellowship and for increased spiritual education didn't stop because of the pandemic. Shortly after the lockdown back in March, several Life Groups, Sunday School classes and Short-Term studies, kicked off remotely through Zoom. Also, in the midst of the initial stages of the pandemic, a new Adult Grow Director was hired. Many of you may not have had the opportunity to meet Chuck Steel so I have included his picture and contact information below.

Beginning the week of October 4, three Sunday School classes, several life groups and short-term studies began meeting entirely in person or in a hybrid mode where some meet in person and while others join through Zoom. Moving forward we hope to eventually provide hybrid sessions for as many offerings as possible, not just to get us through the pandemic, but even beyond to be more accessible to those who may have transportation or childcare issues. Currently most of our advertising has been electronic through email, Facebook and the *Midweek Minute*, but we hope as more and more of us begin meeting in person again to continue to get the word out. As part of our curriculum this summer we had several offerings of the Dialogues on Race study in response to the outcry for social and racial justice following the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. We will offer more in the coming terms in support of the United Methodist Church's stand against racism. For more information see <https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/advocating-for-justice/racial-justice>


No report can be complete without a huge thank you to all of our Adult Grow leaders and volunteers including those who are currently meeting and those who have yet to reconvene. As always, if you have an interest in leading or co-leading a class or study or have a topic that you'd like for us to consider, please contact Chuck.





• Live Like Jesus •


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**GROW Kids and Students – Darlene Sheaffer**

Lia Garrett is the Kids ministry leader. She came on board after Mark Schory retired. I have been working rather closely with Lia since I am a Sunday school teacher under her direction. She has completely revamped the Sunday school hour by making a schedule for the teacher(s) to follow. A change in the curriculum has also been done. Rather than using the Orange curriculum, she has decided to use a different one. COVID hit and I haven't yet been introduced to the new one. When it was time for the move, I helped her as much as I could. I also offered to help her at any time she needed me. She also has things going on during the week for the children including the planning of the Halloween bash, Octoberfest, the annual Easter egg hunt, etc. To thank her for all her hard work I gave her a gift card for Starbucks from the Leadership Council.

Erin Fleet is the Students ministry leader. She has held this position for a number of years and the teens really like her. She takes the youth on retreats, mission trips, and she is really active in their lives. She leads a weekly youth group – middle school on Sunday nights and high school on Monday nights. She currently does not have a Sunday school hour; rather she has the youth doing different things on Sunday mornings, such as working in the nursery, working sound/lights in the worship center and setting up for Drive In Worship. She is completely moved in but as of this past week she has not yet unpacked everything. I offered to help her and hope she will take me up on my offer. Mira shared with the L.C. that Erin did a great deal as far as the move went. To thank her for the hours she has put into the move, I also gave her a Starbucks gift card and signed it from the Leadership Council.

**PERSONNEL – Bill Bunt**

We are very fortunate at CUMC to have a dedicated staff of employees. Notwithstanding a pandemic that none of us had every lived through before, we were able to continue to provide quality custodial care for our building that allowed Little Lights to resume their activities at the earliest possible date; to continue to provide worship services with music by Connie Leitner and special music provided by a variety of talented individuals; to provide meaningful sermons given by Pastors Jim, Mira and Jake; we continued adult Grow programs; and provided programs for our youth and children. To successfully accomplish all of that in the midst of a

pandemic proves that we, at CUMC, are truly blessed and owe a debt of gratitude to all who made it possible.

Of course, a major change this past year was the retirement of Pastor Jim. When Pastor Jim arrived in July of 2012, no one could ever have predicted the challenges that we would face or the positive outcome that would result from the leadership of Pastor Jim and Pastor Mira. We truly thank both of them.

Pastor Jake's arrival in July was originally planned to occur shortly after we had opened our new facility at the Spring Garden Campus. As it turned out, Pastor Jake arrived months before we moved and became an integral part of the move and the opening of our beautiful new facility.

As a result of action taken at the Leadership Council meeting in September, Pastor Jake has been designated as our Vision Pastor and Pastor Mira will serve as our Executive Pastor. They have proven to be an effective team in the short period of time that they have worked together, and we know that together they will continue to lead CUMC to help all of us **Live Like Jesus**.

As I write this, we are in the process of advertising for a new job position at CUMC, which we have termed tech director. This person will oversee the live streaming of our services and contribute in many other ways to help CUMC remain and grow in its ability to not only reach our members but to also reach individuals nationally and internationally. While the pandemic has been a negative factor in many ways, one positive outcome of the pandemic is that it has helped us mobilize our resources to reach those within and outside our community in ways that did not exist even one year ago.

As Chair of the Personnel Team, I am thankful for the volunteers who have helped us with personnel issues over the years. These women and men give freely of their time and help review resumes, interview candidates and make recommendations for employment. I thank each of them for their dedicated service to CUMC.

### **SERVE – Debbi Goeltsch**

The report this year focuses specifically on how we have served during COVID-19. Serve teams have created many ways to continue to minister to those in need.

- Right now blankets, warm clothing and gift cards are being delivered to Fruit belt workers.
- My Brothers' Table is serving "lunch box" meals, friendly greetings and prayers.
- We continue to support the Mellier, Haiti school by sending \$1000 monthly to support staff salaries. Teachers earn \$200 monthly, cooks \$80 monthly. Economics in Haiti is so vastly different than in Carlisle. Your support helps provide education and a nutritious meal for the 89 children who attend.

- VIM teams provided many helping hands (and muscles) during the move from Pomfret Street.
- Blessed to Serve did outside repair and maintenance this summer.
- Emergency Assistance is interviewing applicants and dispensing Giant gift cards. Two new persons have been trained to do interviews
- Mission Central volunteers have been invited to return this fall. Social distancing work areas have been set up.
- Homework Club kids received “goodie bags” delivered to front doors this summer along with notes from their tutor pals.
- Your donations sent Carlisle4Kids \$2600 to be used for back to school supplies for 490 students. We learned that 42% of Carlisle School District students qualify for free and reduced lunch programs. When one cannot afford lunch there is no money for tablets or markers.
- Carlisle homeless were sheltered in our church during the months of March and July.
- Nine families received assistance transitioning into a permanent home. Please pray that there are no evictions this fall.
- Each LeTort teacher received a \$140 gift card for class supplies and the school received additional support through the purchase of learning materials.

Thank you for your generosity, which makes these programs possible. Thank you for the faith and confidence given to these teams to make decisions on your behalf as to how to best utilize the gifts, which you have given. You touch so many lives. Thank you.

### **WORSHIP & LITTLE LIGHTS REPORT – Kerm Leitner**

Due to the far-sighted planning of our previous lead pastor, Jim VanZandt, and our then associate pastor, Mira Hewlett, the very first Sunday following the suspension of our services and all activities on March 16, we were able to tune in to the Worship Experience starting at 8am on March 22. Those on-line Worship Experiences continued throughout the summer through September 13. Starting on Father’s Day, Drive In Worship Services were added at 9am initially and then moved to 8:30am with the hotter weather. It was neat seeing each other for the first time since March. While of us most remained separated in our cars, there was a sense of family and community coming together again.

Our long anticipated opening of our new church occurred on September 20 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the consecration of our new facility. Wearing masks, sanitizing our hands as we entered and sitting at least six feet apart, the capacity was limited to 120 worshippers per service. The indoor services started at 8am and 11am and offered a blended service – mainly traditional with the contemporary praise band singing one song. The Drive In Worship Services continued at 9:30am. Starting on October 11, the 8am service became totally traditional with the 11am Blended Service adding more contemporary components. On November 1, the Drive In Worship Services will cease and the services offered will be traditional services at



8am and 11am and the contemporary service at 9:30am. These services will be approximately 45 minutes in length to provide sufficient time for disinfecting the worship center between services.

Since one of the identified major causes of virus spread can be singing, all of the choirs have suspended operations until further notice. The Bell Choir will be participating in services monthly. Singing during the services, which both pastors love to incorporate into their worship plans, will be confined to the contemporary praise band, vocal selections sung by soloists and groups no larger than four. A song leader will sing hymns at the traditional services. Everyone is looking forward to the day when the COVID restrictions can be lifted and all of us can praise God through singing.

The Little Lights Daycare Center suspended its operations on March 17. Its director, Natasha Yearsely, worked very closely with the state in following all of its many intricate guidelines to open in early June. Every child is screened and has his/her temperature taken before entering the Center daily. This summer Little Lights won a grant of \$1500 from the Carlisle Area Emergency Response Committee United Way to purchase a temperature measurement kit, which measures temperatures quickly and accurately as the children and their families enter the building. This summer the *Sentinel* named Little Lights Learning Center the “Best Daycare Center in Cumberland County.” Little Lights moved into its new quarters this past weekend, was inspected by the State on Tuesday and reopened its doors on October 14.

**CLOSING – Kerm Leitner, Chair**

At very Church Hall Meeting the Leadership Council has hosted, those in attendance have had an opportunity to ask questions. If you have any questions about any of our reports or anything else, please email me and I or another Leadership Council will respond to you and the Q and A will be available to everyone. Deadline for submitting questions is Wednesday, October 21.