

THE BRIDGE

JUNE 2020

CARLISLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PASTOR JIM RETIRES



On June 30 Pastor Jim will retire from full-time ministry after 34 years. His ministry began in 1986 in North Bend, PA where he served a charge of three churches. He next went to Covenant UMC in Lock Haven, the hometown of his wife Amy. It was then onto Bethany UMC in Red Lion before moving to Carlisle in 2012 as the three UMC churches in Carlisle were merging. The first year he was Lead Pastor at Grace UMC, while working with a team of pastors and laity to revise and create Carlisle UMC. Throughout the eight years at

CUMC, Pastor Jim has led with faith-filled spirit, reminding us of God's guidance through each season of the life of this new church. He has been a strong advocate of lay leadership in all ministry, always interested in learning the latest going on in church culture, and supporting the staff. He is beloved by the children of CUMC for the jelly beans at the end of each children's message. Billy Graham once said, "The test of a preacher is that his congregation goes away saying not, "What a lovely sermon!: but "I will do something!" Pastor Jim's sermons did this constantly and have helped CUMC become a church known in our community for our commitment to Live Like Jesus.

In retirement Pastor Jim and Amy look forward to traveling more - with a cruise to Alaska with their best friends as a retirement celebration.

Paul's letter to the Philippians says it best: *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

~ Philippians 1:3-6

Thank you, Pastor Jim, for your faithful service and partnership in the gospel with CUMC and all the congregations where you have served. We will remember you and thank God for our time together.

**Celebrate Pastor Jim's
retirement on
Sunday, June 28th
at CUMC.**

WELCOME PASTOR JAKE



On July 1 Pastor Jake Waybright will begin as CUMC's new Lead Pastor. Pastor Jake comes to us from Faith UMC, Montoursville, after serving at Camp Hill UMC and starting his ministry at Middlesex UMC. He is very excited to be returning to the Carlisle area and particularly in this season of CUMC's history.

He grew up in York PA, going to Susquehanna University, serving with the Mennonite Voluntary Service in Washington DC after college, and eventually going to Chicago Seminary where he interned in a

Puerto Rican congregation and did a full time hospital chaplaincy residency.

He is married to Susan, and they have a curious, book loving, cat-snuggling 11-year-old Naomi and two gray tabby cats. As a family they love to travel, hike, try different foods, and explore the wonders of the world. They will be living in the CUMC parsonage on Mooreland Ave.

Pastor Jake loves hearing the stories of people's lives and their journey of faith, and seeing how God's ancient *(continued on Page 4)*

CUMC CALLERS



There are a group of people who have volunteered to make phone calls for CUMC. Our task is simple. We need and want to call the folks from church who are alone during this time of social distancing and unknowns. We are checking in to see if they are doing ok, if they need anything at all, including groceries or medicines to be picked up and delivered, and most importantly, to connect as brothers and sisters in Christ and get to know one another.

As of May 1, 2020:

At this time there are 18 callers and 9 grocery shoppers. There are 118 folks we want to connect through weekly calls. We started calling the last week of March and will continue until we can meet again in worship.

Each caller may have a different approach, but we like to find out what folks are interested in, and what kinds of things they are doing, on these sometimes long days. We want our calls to uplift them, like a little sunshine on a cloudy day. We also share our own phone numbers and encourage them to call us if a need arises, or if they just want to connect. We pray together and want to end the call feeling that the person on the other end of the line

feels the care, concern and

blessings we send from the church. As callers, we have learned that some are doing jig-saw puzzles, crossword puzzles, taking walks, mowing grass, gardening, cleaning, cooking, walking, watching reruns of Olympic games, enjoying the spring days, reading books, holding on to faith in God, connecting via internet with church groups they are associated with and in other ways with family and friends. We have learned about lawnmowers, table saws, relatives, travels, hobbies, books and there is also a bit of a 'who remembers the best outhouse?' challenge going on! Laughter is good medicine! We have asked where folks used to sit in the sanctuary and what service they attended, wondering if we might know each other by sight, and find each other on a Sunday morning when we can finally be together again.

We feel blessed by these personal connections, some we know, and some we are anxious now to meet in person. We hope their days are warmed by friendship, and we callers know that ours are surely far better for having reached out to our sisters and brothers.

We are especially fortunate to have within our group those who have shared inspiration with us.

We give special thanks to Kathy Charette who organizes and encourages us, and to Don Schoeps and Joanne Reynolds for sharing positive thoughts, prayers, and passages for all. The needs and joys we report each week are shared with Pastor Jim and Pastor Mira who follow up with prayers. See below for just some of one person's thoughts about the calling connection:

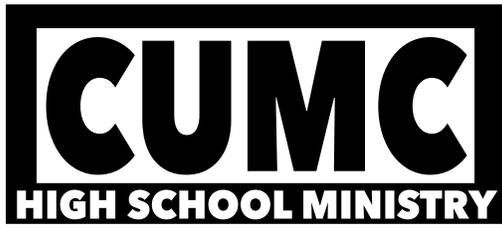
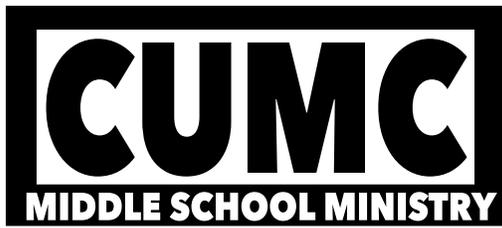
"Today during this Easter season and Good Friday, believers reflect on its meaning and mission. I want to commend my church for its attempts to live like Jesus. We are a mixture of economic, political and social beliefs that reflect society as a whole. We make mistakes. But we get a lot right also. During this Covid19 virus I have received three calls from church members offering to assist me if needed in any way. Two I do not even know. And this is going on in churches and other religious organizations all over the world. I think it is nice younger people are offering their time. As Christians we will differ on many issues, but hopefully we can make a deeper commitment to listening, learning, obeying and living more like Jesus. I am a blessed man."

And, the following verse seems to sum up our mission.

Romans 12:10-13

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

~ Robyn Krohn



During this time of being apart both the middle school and high school groups have stayed connected by having weekly Zoom meetings. We have been able to see each other, pray for each other, support each other, laugh with each other and challenge each other weekly. Another way we are staying connected is through the Bible App we do daily Bible studies and comment together. By far the highlight has been our mailings and drop off goody bags, they have included service project ideas, family activities, snacks and

other boredom busters. After receiving this surprise goody bag the other day, one student sent this text message "Thank you for the gifts! They really made me happy. I was having a rough day and they made a difference." Staying connected but apart has been very hard as we miss each other. I know we cherish the moments we've had together and we look forward to getting back together soon! Continue to pray for our students as they finish up the school year remotely.

~ Erin Fleet



The Kids' Ministry families are staying connected in many ways during this time. One way is by sending mail. The Kids' Ministry started to send mail to the kids once a month. Some of the mailings have been "All About Me", an Easter Surprise, and a Mother's Day card. Another way the kids in the ministry and the rest

of the congregation at CUMC are staying connected came from an idea that a parent gave us to be PenPals. There are thirty-five kids matched with both CUMC and older LLC kids who take the time to send a letter to each other in the mail. This opportunity creates a positive impact as parents see their child's face light up with joy

and how touched the adults are receiving pictures the kids made. Kristen Sprenkle comments that "It's been really excellent for us! Jay gets so excited for his letters from John, and we save them all on our fridge." Kevin Lytle let us know that "I've been having a good time with my pen pal Finn (or more likely his mother!). We have been trading pictures for stickers and drawings to color that I've sent and also learning about favorite stories to read." During this time of challenge, we all can find ways to stay connected with each other and make a difference just like the kids, families, and members at CUMC are doing.

~ Lia Garrett

ADULT GROW

We're GROW-ing online! Several of our classes and small groups are meeting through Zoom or other video chat platforms. Growing in



faith isn't just about learning. It's about being part of a group that knows you and cares for you, being supported and encouraged in difficult times (like now), and about doing the same for others. It's about leaning on God, our source, revealed to us through our fellow journey-ers.

There are two new online studies for summer: Won't You Be My Neighbor starts May 17, and Self-care for the Caregiver starts June 4. Several other small groups will also continue to meet regularly. If you

once we are able to meet in person, recognizing that some may still be wary of contagion and some who have been and will be joining us are not local. We do look forward to the day when we can join face to face again.

~ Susan Stewart

WELCOME AUDRA



Audra Clements joins CUMC as the Administrative Assistant coordinating the many details and jobs within the Church Office. She comes to CUMC after years working in a dental office and other administrative roles. She has a college aged son and dog. She worships regularly at Life House Church and was excited to bring her skills and talents to serve God through her work at CUMC. For fun she enjoys interior decorating, antiquing, history and gardening. Join us in welcoming Audra to CUMC at aclements@carlislepaumc.org.

(Pastor Jake...con't from Page 1)

story is continuing in the lives of people, communities, and the world today. He is very excited to serve a church that is dreaming big dreams and committed to serving the least and last in your community and around the world as you learn to live like Jesus. He looks forward to the story of what God will do in and through us as God brings us together for this time. We will welcome Pastor Jake in worship on July 5th and hear his story in worship on July 12th. Please keep the Waybrights in your prayers as they prepare and move to Carlisle and our church family.

Check out CUMC's Worship Experience online on Youtube

The Church Office is open daily for church business. Unfortunately we are not open for public traffic.

WORSHIP

SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:15am - Traditional Worship
Worship in the Sanctuary with traditional hymns, a full choir and traditional UMC liturgy.

9:45am - Contemporary Worship
Worship in the Multi-Purpose Room led by our Praise Band using contemporary music.

11am - Celebration Worship
Worship in the Sanctuary with a variety of traditional hymns, songs from "The Faith We Sing," choruses of praise, and a full choir.



45 S West St, Carlisle, PA
717.249.1512 • carlislepaumc.org