

# THE BRIDGE

MARCH | APRIL | MAY 2021  
CARLISLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## LENT: A SEASON FOR GREENING OF YOUR SOUL

The Christian Church has a seasonal calendar all of its own. The Christian seasons have nothing to do with the weather and have everything to do with experiencing the story of Jesus more fully, knowing Jesus more deeply, and recalibrating our life to live more and more like Jesus.

Lent is a season of 40 days (excluding Sundays), leading up to Easter. This season traditionally was a time for converts to prepare for baptism on Easter and for all Christians to renew their faith and experience the joy, power, and mystery of the resurrection on Easter. Easter will be on April 4 this year, and the season of lent begins on Wednesday February 17.

The season of "Lent" comes from the English word meaning "spring" and is not just a reference

to the emerging green buds of the crocuses, but to the 'greening' of the soul. This year during Lent will also mark a year of living through a pandemic. As we look forward to emerging this year from this collective experience, I think many of us are feeling the need for greening of our souls. We hope this year that you take advantage of some of the opportunities to prepare yourself to experience new life this Easter. You can find full details of the following opportunities on page 8. Grateful as always to be on the Journey with Jesus with you. – *Pastor Jake*

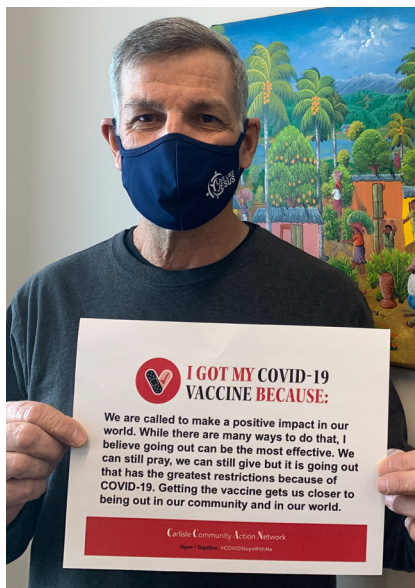
- Read through the Gospel of Mark along with our sermon series, Meeting Jesus.
- Join our 40 Days of Lent=40 Random Acts of Kindness
- Join our special Holy Week Services



CHERYL HALE



DONNA & KEN HOUSER



RICH CHARETTE



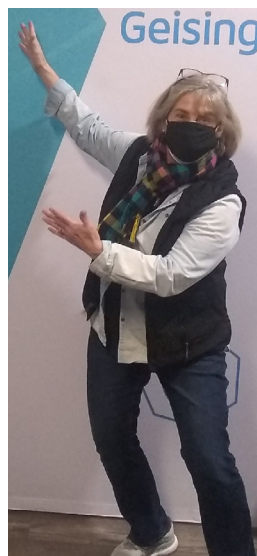
BILL & JACQUIE BUNT



BOB HALE



JOYCE SNYDER



CINDY KUNST

## Community Action Network

### Carlisle Community Action Network

Pastor Jake has been representing CUMC on Carlisle's Community Action Network (CAN), coordinated by Dickinson College President Ensign. Carlisle's Community Action Network (CAN) launched a public health initiative that encourages Carlisle visitors, business owners, patrons and students to wear masks while in public spaces. One of their efforts is supporting Covid-19 community vaccinations.

Pictured are members of the congregation and their "Whys" for getting the vaccine:

- Cheryl & Bob Hale
- Joyce Snyder

(continued on Page 6)



## KIDS MARCH

- 7** - Kids'Preteen Nerf Night, 5pm, Kids'Room
- 14** - Kids'Ministry Team Meeting, 1pm, Kids'Room
- 14** - Kids'Preteen, 5pm, Kids'Room
- 19-21** - Kids'Family: St Patrick's Drop-Off to families
- 28** - Kids'Preteen, 5pm, Kids'Room

## APRIL

- 3** - Kids'Carlisle Easter Egg Hunt, 10am, CUMC
- 4** - Happy Easter!
- 11** - Kids'Preteen, 5pm, Kids'Room
- 18** - Kids'Ministry Team Meeting, 1pm, Kids'Room
- 18** - Kids'Preteen, 5pm, Kids'Room
- 24** - Kids'Family: Mom & Son Experience
- 25** - Kids'Preteen, 5pm, Kids'Room

## MAY

- 3** - MoveUp Night, Kids'Room
- 16** - Kids'Ministry Team Meeting, 1pm, Kids'Room
- 16** - Kids'Preteen Hangout, Kids'Room
- 22** - Kids'Family: School's Out!

\*The March thru May calendars may change due to current Covid and weather conditions. Please be on the lookout for the MidWeek Minute, Kids' and PreTeen newsletters for updated info as each event occurs.

## Kids'Preteen

During the month of January our PreTeen group took the time to Untangle Truth with Ricky and Elly in The Loop Show series. Check out the picture from our slime activity! We look forward to growing

our faith through The Loop Show: Building Relationships, having a PreTeen Nerf opportunity, and Investigating Grace in the upcoming months.



The purpose of our Family events is to continue to provide ways that we can build on our relationships within our own families and with the other families who are a part of the ministry. From different volunteers who step up to help out with the Kids' Ministry Drop-Offs to the In-Person events we have, let's take a look at

what's to come! In March we can look forward to a Saint Patrick's themed weekend Drop-off. We will take some time in April to provide a way for our Moms & Sons to connect with each other. In May we look forward to a School's Out event that will take place towards the end of the month. We hope these events provide ways for our families to continue to grow together and have fun through the different activities.



For all of our kids and adults who are participating in this school year's PenPal Program, we hope you enjoy staying connected in many ways. For the upcoming months are there any birthdays that might be happening, Saint Patrick's Day, Spring is here, Holy Week, Easter, Mother's

Day, and other celebrations along the way. Take some time to use your creativity to find a new way to connect with each other in the next few months. Maybe you send mail to each other on a monthly basis, try calling each other or taking some time to Zoom. We look forward to hearing how all of our Kids' Ministry PenPals are doing!





As we started out a new year CUMC Students were challenged by Pam Reynolds to pick one word for the new year. This is a simple discipline of developing a One Word theme for the upcoming year that Pam has used the past few years to help her grow spiritually every year. One word. That is right-One Word. Not a phrase, not a statement, just a single word. That word could be a discipline, fruit of the Spirit, character trait, or an attribute of God. Students were given two weeks to think it through to really find a good word to focus on for 2021. They spent time in small groups talking through what their word might be and were given the instructions on how to start to work on

their word. As I write this I have a list in front of me with 23 names and the word they picked for this year. You can see every word they have chosen (some actually picked the same word); in fact HOPE was chosen by 3 people. I'm sure we all could use some more Hope. One of the next steps of this is to memorize a verse of scripture that is based around your word; this will almost be your theme verse for the year. Here's one for HOPE: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you HOPE and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 It's not too late to join us in our word for 2021 challenge.

PRESENCE  
gratitude LOVE  
LOYALTY HOPE  
BELIEVE  
RESPECT TRUST  
SELF-CONTROL  
listen  
GRATEFUL

## Summer Trip Fundraising

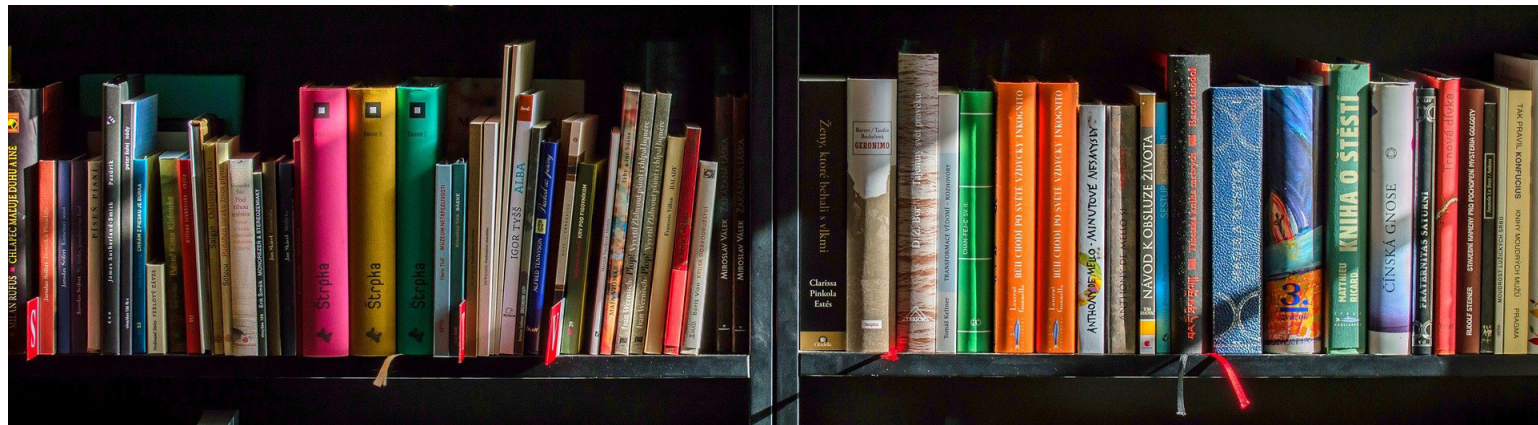
Even though we don't know with 100% certainty what the summer will bring, we are hoping we will be able to go on a week-long summer mission trip with high schoolers and spend a weekend serving with our middle schoolers. We will be fundraising for these trips this spring, here are ways to support these possible opportunities:

### RENT-A-KID

Help our Student Ministry work their way to their summer mission trips. Sign up to have a group of students come to your house and complete your projects for a donation. Job ideas include: raking leaves, mulching, painting, cutting grass, pulling weeds, stacking wood, washing windows or moving furniture. Available on the following Saturdays: April 24, May 1 & 8 and will work from 8am-3pm. Most jobs take our group about an hour to complete and then we move on to our next job. Forms will be available early April. (both online and at the church)

### OUTDOOR YARD SALE

April 17, 7am-2pm (held at 801 Belvedere St., Carlisle). We will be collecting yard sale donations April 6-14. Drop-off stations will be outside the student ministry entrance at the church. You can do a no-contact drop off anytime. If you need help unloading items, students will be available Tues. April 6 - Thurs. April 8 & Tues. April 13 & Wed. April 14, 3:30p-5:30pm. Not accepting clothing, VHS or cassette tapes, or printers. Thank you for your donations.



## What's Coming Up with GROW Adults?

As we get closer to Easter I have been putting more thoughts into what comes after. Not just what comes after Jesus' resurrection from the grave, but what comes after the Lenten classes that haven't even started as I'm writing this. Planning ministries three to six months out is never a particularly easy task; and as I'm sure you all know, the past year has only made it more difficult. Despite that, we must continue to look to the future and make what plans we can. Here are a couple of things that are in the works for the coming months.

**Disciples: Invitation to Psalms.** I have heard from several people that they want to continue using the Disciple Bible Study curriculum, and Vicki Morley has agreed to take the lead on the next session of these classes. Invitations to Psalms is a ten-week course that will begin soon after Easter.

**Book study on leadership.** One of my goals for the coming months is to lead a class on the topic of small groups and leadership. I'm in the process of selecting a book and hope to announce the study later in March.

## Book Recommendations

Looking to pick up something to read? Late last year I asked the Grow Adult leaders to recommend books. Here are a few responses I received:

**The Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict** by the Arbin-gar Institute. Recommended by Don Schoepes.

*"The Anatomy of Peace asks, What if conflicts at home, conflicts at work, and conflicts in the world stem from the same root cause? What if we systematically misunderstand that cause? And what if, as a result, we unwittingly perpetuate the very problems we think we are trying to solve?"* - Excerpt from Goodreads.com

**The Practice of the Presence of God** by Brother Lawrence. Recommended by Greg Williams.

*"Brother Lawrence was a man of humble beginnings who discovered the greatest secret of living in the kingdom of God here on earth. It is the art of 'practicing the presence of God in one single act that does not end.'" - Excerpt from Goodreads.com*

The Forge recently used this book as part of their meetings and I also heard good things about it from Jay Layman.

Do you have a book recommendation for the congregation? Let me know.

## Who is Sue Baxter?



With the start of the New Year came the start of some new faces on the Leadership Council. One of the new folks is Sue Baxter, and she is also the

new Grow representative. I have already gotten to know Sue a little bit because she is an active leader of two Grow Adult groups, Mindful Women and Women of the Word. For the newsletter, I decided it would be fun to ask Sue some questions so that others can get to know her better, too.

**How long have you been a member of**

**Carlisle UMC?**

I was a member of Grace Church and now CUMC for a total of 28 years. My family had moved to Carlisle because of our jobs, and I was introduced to Grace by Donna Myers.

**How have you grown in your faith since joining?**

When we moved to Carlisle I was a mother of two elementary age (continued on Page 6)





## THANK YOU LETTER FROM REV. JUDY STRAYER AT CUMBERLAND CROSSINGS

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. I am Reverend Judy Strayer, the Chaplain of Cumberland Crossings Retirement Community. I want to share with you some insights I had as I was serving the meals you so generously provided to the staff of Cumberland Crossings. In the 12th Chapter of the book of Romans, Paul shares his insights on the ministry of the church and love being the standard of Christian conduct. In chapter 12: 9-13 Paul wrote, "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil, cling to what is good. 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

*(continued on Page 8)*

## Blessing the Heroes . . . . .

In 2020 we learned all heroes don't wear capes but may wear scrubs, deliver mail, stack shelves at stores, and care for our elders. In appreciation and encouragement for heroes in Carlisle caring for those sickest with Covid, our Christmas Eve offering this year was designated for our health care workers. UPMC Carlisle was overjoyed when we proposed this idea and provided ideas that would be a blessing to staff on the front lines and those behind the scenes making our hospital run smoothly. They asked for snacks

for their 678 staff to grab quickly during their shifts, and shared that 12 of their 41 departments had wishes for Keurig machines. Throughout the Christmas season donations poured in. In total \$6800 was collected, allowing us to expand beyond the wishes of UPMC Carlisle. We reached out to the UMC Chaplain serving at Cumberland Crossings and a CUMC member working at Chapel Pointe care communities. Each came up with unique ways that would be a blessing to their staff to

*(continued on Page 6)*

## What's GROWING On? . . . . .

Last August, a call went out to CUMC gardeners to donate perennials and bulbs that they might be thinking of dividing or replacing. The plan was to fill the planter boxes and some of the planting areas in the front of the church with member-donated plants and bulbs. The response was fantastic. More than twenty-five CUMC families responded to the request. The boxes and areas outside the church entrance were filled and mulch was added.

When worship services were held at the church in the fall, you may have noticed the colorful mums, obedience plants and liriopse. In

the spring, beautiful crocuses, tulips, grape hyacinths, and daffodils will appear. Later in the spring, irises, peonies and lilies will bloom. During the summer, daisies, black-eyed susans, salvia, phlox, roses, daylilies, coneflowers and gaillardias will bring dazzling color to the front of the church. In addition to the plants, the mulch and labor were also donated. Thank you so much to all who donated and to those who helped to prepare the beds and do the planting. Each Sunday, before or after we enter the church, we can check out what's growing on.

**- GARY ANKABRANDT**







## SHOWING OUR GRATITUDE

- \$4000 and 3 cars full of snacks, K-cups, hot chocolate & tea for 41 departments at UPMC Carlisle
- 12 Keurig machines for UPMC departments
- Chick Fil A meals delivered to 125 staff at Cumberland Crossings Continuing Care
- Over \$750 given to Chapel Pointe for staff appreciation gifts

(Blessing...con't from Page 5)  
show our appreciation and support for the hard work they are doing in very challenging days.

CUMC strives to Live Like Jesus. Your offering turned into goods that showed we at CUMC are Living and Loving Like Jesus.



### I GOT MY COVID-19 VACCINE BECAUSE:

As an RN I understand the science and the safety.

At the end of this I want to be able to say I did not contribute to even one death.

Cheryl Hale, RN MSN



### I GOT MY COVID-19 VACCINE BECAUSE:

I am an educator—Bob Hale

(CAN...con't from Page 1)

- Ken & Donna Houser celebrating their 56th Wedding Anniversary "gift" of Covid Shots on Jan 23, 2021
- Rich Charette
- Bill & Jacquie Bunt
- Cindy Kunst



### I GOT MY COVID-19 VACCINE BECAUSE:

Bill and I wanted to return to a normal life and protect other people from the COVID-19 virus!

Jacquie Bunt  
Bill

(Sue...con't from Page 4)

children, and a full-time teacher. I participated at Grace as much as I could, and I could tell that through the people there, I was finding a place to grow my faith. My faith has been challenged over those 28 years, I'll admit, but I remained faithful at the same time knowing that God had better plans for me. Right now I feel my faith is just growing day by day, and I contribute that to my relationships with my church family, and the wonderful pastors that we have been blessed to have.

## Are you reading anything right now?

I am always finding something to read, usually for a group that I am helping to lead. Right now I am planning to begin the study on Mark. I have been reading a lot on spiritual gifts and hope to use that in some future Grow offerings. I am also reading and co-leading a book called, "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton which I also hope to use in Grow.

## If you could recommend one book, other than the Bible, to everyone in the congregation, what would it be?

I would find it hard to recommend one book for all the congregation to read. I would start by finding a daily devotional. I also like to write so my devotionals are journals too. As a very basic book to get you on the right track with spiritual practices I would recommend, "The Walk."

## What have you missed the most during the pandemic?

I have definitely missed being physically in church, seeing other members and just being able to be close to people again. This church has definitely been a lifeline for me in so many ways, and I just cherish those friendships. And I most definitely miss singing in the choir!

## When we can all travel safely, where will you go on vacation?

My little family and I are starting a tradition of beaching it in the summer. So that's on the checklist. We'll see what else develops.

Thanks, Sue. I'm looking forward to working with you this year and in the future.

— CHUCK STEEL

## SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Connie Gruber Scholarship**  
for students pursuing Ministry, Music, Religious Education, Missions or Teaching
- **Dorothy M Hill Grants**  
for students pursuing nursing or undergraduate degrees
- **Roy Hill Memorial Grants**  
for students seeking a Bachelor's degree
- **Harding Family Scholarship**  
student studying Psychology, Health Care, Social Service or Ministry graduate or undergrad
- **King-Crowding Scholarship**  
students pursuing a Christian vocation
- **Mary Alice Lippert Scholarship**  
undergrad students pursuing religious studies, education, health studies or social work
- **Mary Peters Scholarship**  
undergraduate or graduate students of CUMC
- **Ministry Education and Ministerial Income**  
students pursuing religious education

## Our Future Neighbors

In January The Sentinel newspaper announced the rezoning of the remaining 19.2 acres of the Smith Farm adjacent to our church property. The property was approved for a mix of institutional, commercial and residential uses according to South Middleton township. Part of the development is for 300 apartments that includes housing for senior living and some for residents in need.

Infrastructure development could begin as early as spring 2021 according to Integrated Development Partners who is coordinating the project. Carlisle UMC is not directly involved in any of the development plans but is excited as our new neighbors become known to find ways to work together.



## SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS

Each spring CUMC is able to support students (and their families) with funds for higher education. We are hopeful we will be able to do that this fall if the market stays stable.

Scholarship applications will be available online starting Apr. 1 and due back by April 30. Scholarships are available for both un-

dergraduate and graduate studies, with preference given (or sometimes required) to CUMC members.

For a full listing of requirements for each scholarship, please visit [carlislepaumc.org/scholarship](http://carlislepaumc.org/scholarship).

Thank you to all who helped make these scholarships possible for CUMC students!

## CUMC Nursery . . . . .



The beginning of 2020 was exciting for all of us at CUMC, the Spring Garden Campus would be completed soon and our numbers in the nursery were increasing. In 2019 the nursery helped care for 13 families and in 2020 we had 26 families. When we had to close down, we had to adapt and change like the rest of the world by finding new ways to connect with our families. We started sending out weekly lesson plans and mailing our children the weekly coloring pages.

When we were able to open our brand-new nursery, we enjoyed seeing old and new faces! This

fall, when we closed again, we wanted to find new ways to connect with our families. We continued sending out weekly e-mails and letters to our nursery children, but we wanted to do more. We wanted to feel more connected to our families and we wanted them to feel connected to CUMC. We started sending weekly videos on Sundays with our childcare workers reading the Bible story of the week. This was a way our families could continue to include their children in worship with shorter videos and a coloring page. Some of our childcare workers also assisted in checking in with our families which gave us more opportunities to connect. During this time, we have been able to connect with new families who joined the nursery before we closed down and reconnect with the families who did not feel comfortable attending church during this pandemic.

— JESSICA WALTON





Take the challenge to read through the book of Mark with your friends at CUMC. The reading plan is online: [carlislepaumc.org/lent](http://carlislepaumc.org/lent) and available on a bookmark at the church or by request. The sermons each weekend that began Feb. 21 will be from the reading plan. You can also join the Facebook discussion group "CUMC Meeting Jesus Discussion Group". This is a place to post any questions you have about Jesus and the Bible and join in discussion with Pastor Jake and others. We hope you will have a fresh experience of who Jesus is as we read the gospel together.



Sometimes people give something up for Lent, which can be a freeing spiritual practice when we stop doing something that we have lost control over. Another idea is to add a new spiritual discipline or practice. This year as a congregation instead of giving up something, let's love our neighbors with kindness that is rooted in our faith and mission to LIVE LIKE JESUS. A list of ideas can be found at [carlislepaumc.org/lent](http://carlislepaumc.org/lent).



Plan now to be part of special worship experiences the week before Easter.

- Daily 30 minute Holy Week services at 8am in the Worship Center. Sign-ups required ([carlislepaumc.org/lent](http://carlislepaumc.org/lent)). Services will also be live-streamed.
- Maundy Thursday: April 1, 7pm, Worship Center. Nursery care provided. Sign-up: [carlislepaumc.org/lent](http://carlislepaumc.org/lent). Live-streamed.

How will you prepare yourself over the next 40 days to experience the joy, power, and resurrection of Jesus in fresh ways this Easter? I'd love to hear what you find meaningful. Grateful as always to be on this journey with Jesus with you. ~ Pastor Jake

(Letter...can't from Page 5)

who are in need. Practice hospitality." The word of the Lord.

You will not know the extent to which your hospitality has touched the staff of Cumberland Crossings. The gift you shared with us touched the hearts of many who are in need. The past year as you are aware was unprecedented in nature. The new year has started in the same way but with glimmers of hope as we await larger distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine throughout the nation. During the months of November and December, Cumberland Crossings experienced much heartache as we had a large outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. In a seven week period we experienced many resident deaths and the death of a staff member to COVID. The staff found themselves very weary emotionally, physically and spiritually and are in the process of regenerating and renewing their mind, body and

spirit.

To know that there are people continuing to pray for us and cared enough to provide a meal meant more than you will ever know. The gratitude expressed as people came through the line for their food was overwhelming and many surprised that people who did not know them, nor necessarily have ties to Cumberland Crossings would extend this kind of hospitality. Brothers and sisters, you the body of Christ shared with those who are weary, a time of comfort and joy by practicing hospitality and loving one another. From the depth of my heart, I want to thank you for being faithful to the call of Jesus and in serving the Carlisle community in the many ways you do. Keep on serving our Lord and may the blessings of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer provide you with what you need to journey forth in your service to God's children. God bless you. — **REV. JUDY STRAYER**

## WORSHIP

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

#### 8:00am - Traditional Worship

Worship in the Worship Center with traditional hymns and traditional UMC liturgy.

#### 9:30am - Contemporary Worship

Worship in the Worship Center led by our Praise Band using contemporary music.

#### 11am - Relaxed Traditional Worship

Worship in the Worship Center with a variety of traditional hymns, songs from "The Faith We Sing," & choruses of praise.

\*Sign ups required for services and childcare. All services live streamed to [youtube.com/CarlisleUnitedMethodistChurch](https://youtube.com/CarlisleUnitedMethodistChurch)



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