

CHILDCARE WORKERS RECALL EXPERIENCES



What did you love about working at CUMC and the kids? I love the CUMC community and the kids are so fun! I loved getting to mix and match fun activities and games with Bible lessons for the kids. Also, being able to see how much they've learned and grown when I've returned each semester.

What did you learn about CUMC? Working at CUMC has allowed me to really learn and become ingrained in your unique approach to Christianity and also the many ways that CUMC gives back to Carlisle, and also serves around the world.

And if you know, What are your plans after graduation? After graduation I will be returning home to New York City and I will be working as a Community Relations Coordinator with Success Academy.

What will you miss about working at CUMC? I will miss the warm environment at CUMC and, of course, I will miss working with the kids! I wish the best for everyone!
~ Ginnah Etah



What did you love about working at CUMC and working with the kids?

I love watching the kids grow. I met some when they couldn't walk and now they're running and talking!

What did you learn about the church?

I learned that the church offers an amazing sense of community and support!

What are you doing next?

I have obtained employment with Teach For America, a nonprofit organization whose stated mission is to "enlist, develop, and mobilize as many as possible of our nation's most promising future leaders to grow and strengthen the movement for educational equity and excellence." I will join their organization as a 2019 corps member of the California Bay Area Community. Once relocated, I will address the individual behavioral, mental, and emotional needs of low-income students in San Jose as a Special Education Teacher.

(continued on Page 5)

~ Karin Carthins

VISIONING TASK FORCE

As we were unifying Carlisle United Methodist Church from the former Allison, First and Grace congregations, our new church was being operated by the Transition Team. The Transition Team brought together four members from each church and our pastors. The co::Lab, which had recommended that the three churches unify, had provided a rough skeleton upon which to construct our new church. It was

now time to flesh out this skeleton and put all of the pieces together. Faced with a mountain high list of things to do, the Transition Team formed Focus Groups which in the end numbered fourteen and involved ninety-two members. Working cooperatively with the Transition Team, the Focus Groups made the critically important decisions that led to the formation of our Leadership Council, the church staff, a multitude of

policies, identification of our many ministries and programs and our unique identity as a new church. This fall as we approached groundbreaking and the initial work at the construction site, the Leadership Council saw the opportunity to revisit and examine whether what we are presently doing best meets our mission, vision and dreams for our new church space. At its October 15, (Continued on Page 10)

CHILDREN MARCH

- 1-3 • KIDS'PRETEEN JoyEl Weekend
- 10 • Camp Sunday - before, during and after all 3 services
 - KIDS'PRETEEN, 5-7:30pm
- 17 • KIDS'PRETEEN, 5-7:30pm
- 24 • Generations Dinner, 5-7:30pm, MPR
- 28 • KIDS'TIME, 6:30-7:30pm
- 31 • KIDS'PRETEEN, 5-7:30pm

APRIL

- 7 • KIDS'PRETEEN, 5-7:30pm
- 14 • KIDS'PRETEEN, 5-7:30pm
- 20 • Easter Egg Hunt, 1-3pm, Mt. Asbury
- 21 • Easter Sunday, Give out Pastor gifts
- 25 • KIDS'TIME, 6:30-7:30pm
- 28 • KIDS'PRETEEN, 5-7:30pm

MAY

- 6 • Move Up Sunday, All day
 - CUMC Parent Gathering, Noon-2pm

MARK SCHORY Children & Family Ministries Director

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NEW GENERATIONS DINNER

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 • 5-7:30PM • MPR

This is a NEW event for Kids'CUMC. We hope to use this kick-off event to link our older members with our younger members. The event will include a nice meal, an "adoption" ceremony and a craft. We look forward to expanding and growing the vital part of our Kids'MINISTRY.

EASTER EGG HUNT



This is a recurring event for Kids'CUMC. We will have it once again at Mt. Asbury Retreat Center from 1-3pm on Sat, April 20. There will be fun, games and lots of eggs for kids of all ages.



THANK YOU LORI!

LORI SNYDER - K-2 VOLUNTEER TEACHER

Lori has been a volunteer teacher for a long time and is a vital part with our Kids'WORSHIP at CUMC. I can always count on her to be prepared and ready to go. Her enthusiasm is contagious. I want to personally thank her for her support, for what she does and for who she is.

~ Mark Schory

VOLUNTEER HELP

We are always looking for volunteers for all areas of the Kids'Ministry. Teachers for Sunday Morning Kids'WORSHIP, Helpers for all Events, Kids'PRETEEN and Kids'TIME. Please let Mr. Mark know if you are interested in serving as part of our team.



CUMC PARENT GATHERING

- This is a NEW event for Kids'FAMILY. It will be held on Sunday, May 6 as part of "Move Up Sunday". We will have a lunch and then an open time for information exchange, discussion and Q&A.



It's that time of year again, it's time to get ready for summer 2019 mission trips. Mission trips are a very important part of our student ministry. Mission Trips give us an opportunity to serve others, take us out of our comfort zones and help us grow spiritually and as a group. This summer both middle and high school students will be serving others through home repair and leading a Vacation Bible School. They will be serving in Virginia Beach, Virginia; Conway, South Carolina; and Nassau, Bahamas. Many students will be going on their first ever mission trip this summer, and a few of our high schoolers will be going on their 4th or 5th trip. Either way they will be pushed outside of their comfort zone by going somewhere new or doing something that is unusual or uncomfortable for them, like leading VBS songs in front of 70 kids. Throughout the 3 weeks this summer that students will be serving, Jesus' love will be spread near and far. Students will have special times of worship, singing praises at the top of their lungs, and devotion and small group times will help us grow, taking the next step both individually and as a group. Spending a week living with each other we will grow closer to each other and continue to realize that God has made us to live life in community, helping each other grow to be more like Jesus. Memories of mission trips will last for a lifetime and will change the lives of our youth and the lives of those who are served.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THESE TRIPS?

1. Pray for safety, for those we serve to see Jesus' love in us, for us to grow closer as a group and become more like Jesus
2. Give to our fundraisers (See below)
3. Provide a scholarship. Families are asked to pay over half of the trip (\$350). Many families cannot afford this amount but are still required to pay a partial amount toward the trip. We do not want family funds to determine who goes on these trips.

MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISERS:

Spaghetti Dinner March 8th- @ CUMC-dine in or take out-cost \$8 adults \$2 kids tickets available from a student or at the door that night

Hoss's Day March 24th eat @ Hoss's and they give us a percentage of your bill (need to take a card or the email with the group number)

Annual Outdoor Yard Sale April 13 @ CUMC Annex – collecting donations April 7th-11th

Rent a Kid April 27, May 4, 11, and 18th – we will complete your home projects as a group for a donation toward our trip 8am-3pm (we are really good at mulch, weed pulling, leaf raking, and many more spring projects)



YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- May 19 - Family Picnic
- June 9 - Confirmation Class joins church
- Aug. 5 - Beach Day Trip

Full Middle School Calendar is available online at www.carlislepaumc.org/grow/students/middle-school/

HIGH SCHOOL

- May 19 - Family Picnic
- June 9 - Confirmation Class joins church
- Aug. 5 - Beach Day Trip

Full High School Calendar is available online at www.carlislepaumc.org/grow/students/high-school/

ERIN FLEET
Youth Ministries
Director

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ADULTS MARCH

- 3 • Explore CUMC, 9:45am
- Theology Cafe, 5pm
- 5 • WOFF, 6pm
- 6 • UMW Exec. Mtg, 2pm
- 10 • Easter Earthquake, 6pm
- Theology Pub, 6pm
- 12 • Easter Earthquake, 10am
- 14 • WOW, 1pm
- 16 • UMW Call to Prayer, 11am
- 28 • Moms of Little Disciples, 6pm
- Parenting Discussion, 6:45pm

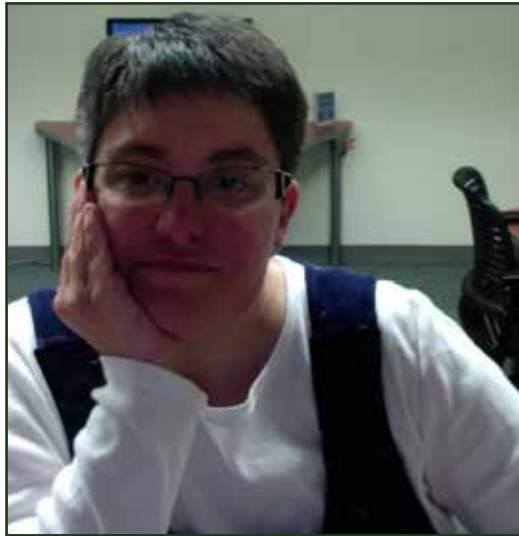
APRIL

- 2 • WOFF, 6pm
- 7 • Theology Cafe, 5pm
- 9 • UMW Exec. Mtg, 2pm
- 14 • Theology Cafe, 5pm
- Theology Pub, 6pm
- 25 • Moms of Little Disciples, 6pm
- Parenting Discussion, 6:45pm
- 27 • UMW Spiritual
Enrichment, 10am
- 28 • Transitions
- Theology Cafe, 5pm

MAY

- 7 • WOFF, 6-7:30pm
- 11 • WOFF Dinner
- 23 • Mom's of Little Disciples,
6-7pm
- 23 • Parenting Discussion,
6:45pm

LIFELONG MEMBER



Peace and blessings to you! My name is Christa Bassett and I am a lifelong member of Carlisle United Methodist Church and the former Allison United Methodist Church. I most often attend the 11am worship service but have been known to attend both the 8:15am and 9:45am services as well. I work part-time at the Joseph T. Simpson Public Library in Mechanicsburg and full-time as the STAR (Service To Adult Readers)

Coordinator for the Cumberland County Library System. STAR is an invaluable program which provides individualized monthly selection and delivery of library materials to homebound adults who are unable to visit their local public library on their own. Volunteers provide support across all of Cumberland County where friendships and comradaderie are fostered and grown.

The unification of CUMC has been a wonderful joy in my life as I have had opportunities to meet remarkable individuals from across our congregation, individuals I am certain I would not have had opportunities to cross paths with had we not come together as one. Since our unification, I've had opportunities to participate in our Transitions Life Group, multiple Advent and Lenten studies, numerous short-term studies and have attended a few adult Sunday School classes. In each *(Continued on Page 5)*

A SHOUT OUT!.....

As United Methodists, we are encouraged to grow in our knowledge of God and open ourselves to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit through reading the Bible, spending time in prayer, and regular attendance and participation in worship. We believe studying the Bible in community with other Christians strengthens us to deal with the ups and downs of life. Adult GROW provides these study opportunities to help us explore our relationship with God and to challenge us to become better disciples of Jesus Christ. The adage "It takes a village to raise a child," applies to raising Christians and helping us grow in spiritual maturity.

So... ***This is a SHOUT OUT! to the men and women*** who are the backbone of the 2018-19 Adult GROW program. They may look like ordinary church-goers on the outside, but these volunteers are really quite extraordinary! They desire to help us grow in our knowledge of God – in our head and in our heart. This village of people spends dedicated time each month preparing lessons and looking for the best ways to help members of their group gain insight into and connection with God. Please take a moment to recognize the efforts of our unsung heroes of Adult GROW: *(continued on Page 5)*



My favorite thing about working with kids is seeing them grow up and develop their personalities and learn about the world around them. Something I learned about the church is how much of it is done by volunteers giving their time. Some of my favorite memories are of coming back to the church from a semester at school and seeing how excited the kids were to see me! I'll miss all of the interactions with families that I'm close to and I'll miss the kiddos! After graduation I'll be staying in Athens, OH to work as an advocate at Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program, the local rape crisis center. ~ Kate



My favorite part about working at CUMC was getting to know all of the kids and their families. I have worked at CUMC for four years so I have really gotten to know everyone and have enjoyed watching all of the kids grow up! Some of my favorite memories at the church have been playing on the playground in the nice weather and playing board games with the older kids on Tuesday nights! I always love Sunday mornings when I am in church and all of the families say hi. As a college student it was so nice to feel welcomed and to be a part of the CUMC community. Next year I am headed to Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine in Scranton, PA! ~ Emily



Working at CUMC has been something that I have thoroughly enjoyed during my time at Dickinson. It has been a great opportunity to get off campus and engage with the greater Carlisle community by working with these kids and their families. The community feeling that this church has to offer is what I love most. I grew up in church with a similar sense of community and have been touched by the outpouring of love and support that CUMC has given me. Some of my fondest memories have been spending time one-on-one with the individuals when reading or coloring and watching the kids play together. After graduation in May I will be moving back home to the greater Boston area. There I hope to pursue a career in hospital administration. I will very much miss the Carlisle community, however, it will always hold a special place in my heart. ~ Izzy

I have been very impressed with their (childworkers) enthusiasm and kindness they show everyday towards our kids. They have been a wonderful and important part of the CUMC family. I wish them all the best. ~ Erin Burd

(Lifelong...cont'd from Page 4)

of these settings, I am amazed by the experiences, thoughtful insight and wisdom I have learned from other attendees. When I attend a class, I am able to reflect on my own experience and beliefs. I am challenged to think about particular subjects which deepen my faith and my understanding of Biblical subjects. During discussions, I often learn from others, viewing topics through different perspectives and learning from their life experiences. We are fortunate to have so many different opportunities for adult learners at CUMC. I would encourage you to make time in your personal life to join a study. It will deepen your faith experience.

~ Christa Bassett

(Shout Out! Cont'd from Page 4)

Sunday School leaders & presenters:

The Adult Bible Study – Gary and Bonnie Ankabrandt, Vicki Morley, Sandra McClintock, Jim Cox, Jack King, Ken Kurtz, Fred McLaughlin, Shirley Petresky, Charles Reynolds and Robert Williams
Faith Journey – Ron Chipriano
New Beginnings – Nancy and Don Schoeps
Pathways – Greg and Michelle Williams

Life Group leaders/facilitators:

Pastor Jim - Disciple 1, Explore CUMC, Pizza with the Pastors
Pastor Mira – Explore CUMC, LIFT, Theology Pub, Pizza with the Pastors
Parent Discussion– Kathy and Rich Charette, Explore (Kathy), Men's Prayer Breakfast (Rich), The Forge – Mark Lemon, Nick Wardle and Mark Workman

LIFT - Jenny Brewer, Emily Clepper, Kayla Iannuzzi and Heather Weiser
Moms of Little Disciples – Jessica Walton
Theology Café – Pete Posey
Transitions – Vicki Morley and Roger Woods
Women of Faith and Friendship (WoFF) – Michelle Williams and Sherry Monoski
Women of the Word (WoW) - Sue Baxter, Jacquie Bunt, Ann Cook and Christina Benson

Seasonal & Special Class facilitators:

Advent- Christa Bassett
Lent – Vicki Morley, Christina Benson
Daniel Study – Erin Burd
Financial Peace University – Stephanie Peffer
Summer Book Club - Amy VanZandt
Summer Movie Series – Teresa Ocker, Deb Johnston



A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

HAITI TRIP 2019

(Unless noted, quotes throughout are from the 2019 Haiti Team)

Serving in Haiti exposes you to amazing hope amid seemingly insurmountable poverty and deep spiritual questions in the presence of a powerful God. Returning home is always difficult. Certainly, you are happy to be home, but *"strangely you are homesick for the place you just left."* (Lena Wood – "CHANGED" Mission Trip Devotions and Journal) You start *"feeling the post-trip blues" "wondering what your purpose is in this life and missing your new friends. It's a funny thing ...you spend focused, concentrated time caring for your team mates and then they're gone."*

In a recent video, Amy Valdez Barker, executive director for Global Mission Connections, talks about the importance of

relationship building. Amy says that mission and ministry are at the heart of relationship building. It's about connecting people and getting to know one another, and it's about recognizing that God is already at work in the people where we are serving. *"That's an interesting perspective on mission trips... engaging with our global Christian friends as an honor and privilege to share time with one another."*

As we transitioned from the Haiti Response Plan, our goal was to be intentional about returning to the same community. Since January 2018 we have served in Mellier three times; we can be truly focused on building a long-standing relationship. This has also allowed us to follow-up with beneficiaries of the Micro-Credit Bank and explore the possibility of a deeper commitment to

the Mellier school and church. Through sharing our time and resources we helped with paying teacher salaries and repairing school buildings. Our visits with beneficiaries of the Micro-Credit Bank were short. We learned that the small loans they received resulted in positive changes to their businesses and lives. Hearing their stories and witnessing their praises to God were affirmation that sharing our resources is pleasing to God.

"It takes a while to readjust to being back home... it's more than just the tempo of life." All of us had been to Haiti before. We expected the *"post trip blues"*. This time something was different... We want to share the story... *"especially now that we are returning with updates on ongoing projects."* Please join us to hear *"the rest of the story"* on Sunday, Mar. 3 at 9:45 or 11am.

~ Rich Charette

CONNECTIONS PRAYER TEAMS

Individual, small group, and corporate prayer, regardless of the number of participants, is a Christian privilege, opportunity, and responsibility. Prayer matters; prayer changes things, people, and circumstances. Sincere, heartfelt prayer is never ignored. Prayers are wordless or elaborate; formal and ritual, or spontaneous and highly personal. Prayer is listening more than speaking; it is sharing a conversation with God.

CUMC has at least five organized and specifically-focused prayer teams. The Prayer Chain responds to prayer requests for individuals that come in during the week and to those listed in the weekly Worship folder. Recently it has also added prayer requests from Samaritan Fellowship, Community CARES when we are the overnight shelter, and the Salvation Army's "My Brother's Table," when we serve *(continued on Page 7)*

KNITTED IN LOVE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

You know how comforting it feels for someone to give you a hug when you are feeling low, or when you are happy and someone gives you a hug to celebrate with you? That is the purpose of prayer shawls and our Knitted in Love ministry. Shawls are knitted and prayed over and then given as our expressions of God's love for whomever receives it. Our Knitted in Love ministry is made up of crocheters and knitters of all capabilities – beginners to more ad-

vanced. All have created beautiful shawls, lap robes, baby blankets and scarves as CUMC's outreach of love to others.

This past year, 2018, Knitted in Love has given 28 shawls to Cumberland Crossing Retirement Village at Christmas. One afghan was given to the Homeless Ministry and three prayer shawls were given to friends. Anyone who enjoys knitting or crocheting is invited to join us. You don't even need to know how to

knit or crochet before you join. There are many patterns that can make a beautiful shawl using the basic two stitches in knitting and even just one stitch in crochet. If you are interested, let Lois Weibley or Joy Felty know. Knitted in Love meets the third Friday of each month, 1-2:30pm. Come and enjoy sharing, laughter, and conversation as well as creating and reaching out to others in love.

~ Joy Felty

(Prayer...continued from Page 6)

The Bridges Prayer Team has been meeting since July 2012, after the three heritage church congregations voted to unify. Back then it was called the Transition Prayer Team. It continues today, meeting in the CUMC Library at 11am Wednesdays under the leadership of Janet Keller, focusing prayer on the immediate and future needs of the CUMC.

Since the Spring Garden Campus was purchased, the Builders Prayer Team has regularly prayed a "Job Jar" of specific requests updated regularly and based on the state of development. The team also frequently offers thanksgiving for all the blessings and accomplishments God has poured upon us.

The POETs are a dedicated band of prayer servants which regularly rotat-

ing its focus on six widening circles, beginning with ourselves, then those around us, then our church, our community, our nation, and the whole world. To be a POET means to place great trust in God to bring peace to what seems totally impossible by ourselves. POETs are marathoners, seemingly lonely runners, fully committed to laying prayers for peace upon God's altar.

Every Sunday after the sanctuary services, the Postlude Prayer Teams join a pastor at the altar rail to offer intercessory or praise prayer for anyone who seeks it. These are precious, moving, and intimate moments where the Holy Spirit surrounds the petitioners, and peace emerges.

Consider joining one of the CUMC Prayer Teams or starting another. How? Contact the Church Office.

~ Charles Reynolds

CONNECT WEEKLY CONNECT

SUNDAYS

Narcotics Anonymous,
6pm, Room 4

MONDAYS

Narcotics Anonymous,
8pm, Room 1

TUESDAYS

Alcoholics Anonymous,
6:30 or 8pm, Building 33

Narcotics Anonymous,
7pm, Room 4

AlAnon, 7:30pm, Room 1

WEDNESDAYS

Bridges Prayer Team,
11am, Library

THURSDAYS

Co-Ed Volleyball, 7pm,
MPR

Narcotics Anonymous,
8pm, Room 1

SATURDAYS

Alcoholics Anonymous,
8pm, Building 33

Shepherds/LAMs and our Home Communion team visit at least monthly based on personal schedules. Card and Altar Flowers are sent/delivered each week by our teams.



WELCOME JEANETTE MATER

In January our SPArKS choir (3rd-8th graders) said thank you and goodbye to Jennifer Neslund as their director. They loved her creativity, musical diversity, and chocolate covered strawberries.

We welcome Jeanette Mater as the new SPArKS director! Jeanette is a retired Presbyterian clergy person with a passion for music and working with children. Prior to going into full time ministry she was an elementary music teacher. She enjoys reading, yoga and spending time with her 6 grandchildren.

SERVE MARCH

- 1-31 • Hosting CARES Women & Children Shelter
- 6-Apr. 20 • 40 Days/40 Items Lenten collection for Salvation Army
- 20 • Mission Central, 8:30am-Noon
- 20 • Salvation Army Dinner, 4-5pm
- 23-30 • VIM S.C. trip
- 24 • Salvation Army Dinner, 5:30-6:30pm

APRIL

- 17 • Mission Central, 8:30am-Noon
- 17 • Salvation Army Dinner, 4-5pm

MAY

- 1-31 • Community CARES Full Shelter, nightly 8:30-10pm in the MPR
- 15 • Mission Central, 8:30am-Noon
- 15 • Salvation Army Dinner, 4-5pm
- 26 • Salvation Army Dinner, 5:30-6:30pm

WEEKLY SERVE

WEDNESDAYS

Homework Club, 6-7:30pm, Hope Station & Safe Harbour

THURSDAYS

LeTort Snacks, 3-4pm, LeTort Elementary

SERVE teams that meet as needed/volunteer schedules: Blessed to Serve, Homeless to Home, Little Lights Readers, and Samaritan Kids



MY BROTHER'S TABLE

What's it like to serve at My Brother's Table at Salvation Army? Our volunteers serve every third Wednesday of each month. When we arrive, many of our guests want to know what's being served. Usually when we let them know, they tell us that our church serves great food. But I know that it's more than just the food that's great. I watch as the volunteers interact with our guests and the love and caring for each guest shines through. God's love is evident in not only our volunteers but also in our guests. When collecting prayer requests, I've seen God in a little boy that was about 6 ask for prayers for his parents that he loved. A little girl, who is a Girl Scout, asked for CUMC to pray for a successful cookie drive. She was the same little girl when given a cupcake and not a brownie had a concerned look on her face. When asked, she said she really loves brownies. One of the volunteers heard this and replaced the cupcake with two

brownies. When she looked up from her tray, her face was beaming with happiness. Many of the guests when sharing their prayer request thank our church for serving the meal and ask when we are coming again. Sam, a guest I met a year ago, was down and out. He needed work and a place to stay. Sam's wife and children were living with relatives in Erie, Pa. He wanted to get a job and move on with his life. When given a few suggestions for work at one of the local warehouses, Sam applied and got a job as a forklift operator. Today he has moved on from the warehouse work to become a welder and is doing quite well. Every time I see Sam he has a big grin and a handshake for me. God has truly blessed our guests and all of us. God walks among us at MBT and throughout all of the SERVE areas and beyond. You just have to step back, look, and listen and you will see Him.

~ Ron Chipriano

CUMC'S SERVE MINISTRY IN 2018

15 TEAMS
in local, national, &
international ministry

150 VOLUNTEERS
+ 19 leaders

3357 VOLUNTEER HOURS
given

18% INCREASE
OVER 2017

UMW EVENTS

- Mar. 16** - Call to Prayer/Self Denial
- Mar. 29-30** - Women's Retreat, Best Western/Country Cupboard, Lewisburg, PA. Registration deadline is March 6.
- Apr. 27** - Spiritual Enrichment Day.
- May 2019** - Salad Smorgasbord

The UMW mission distributions for 2018 were \$7,000 to local, state and national programs from the proceeds of our Salad Smorgasbord and Indoor Yard Sale. Complete listing in the Gathering.



*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:*

a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

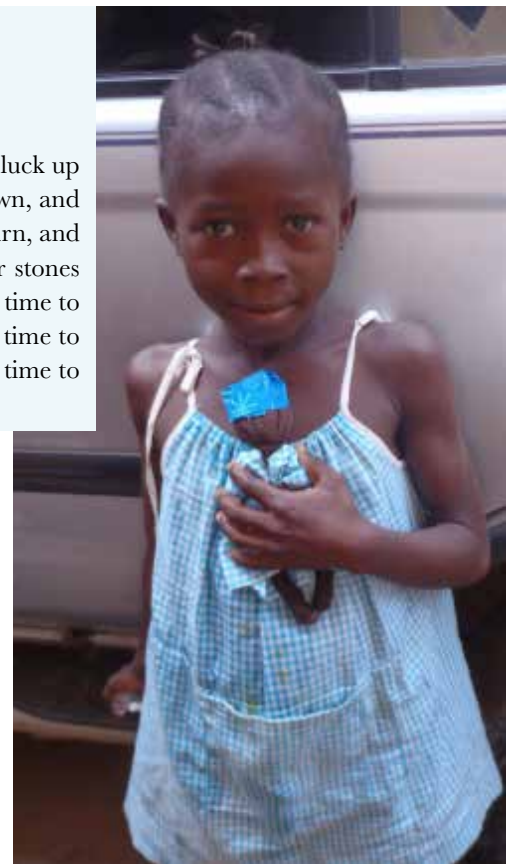
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

I can think of few people who have lived these verses out in the last 20 or so years more than the people of the country of Sierra Leone in West Africa. These are people I have come to know and to love through the Susquehanna Conference's Sierra Leone Initiative and my two relationship building trips there in 2010 and 2016; once representing Allison UMC and once with Brad Weiser and Christina Benson representing Carlisle UMC. On my first trip I saw a country slowly recovering from a brutal civil war. The Sierra Leone Initiative was started, Conference wide, to help the UM Churches recover from the devastation of that war through the payment of pastoral salaries.

Over time, some local churches, including ours, agreed to be partnered with specific churches in Sierra Leone to build more direct relationships and to support the church in other ways. When our small 2016 CUMC Serve team arrived the country was just beginning to recover from the ravages of the Ebola epidemic. While the congregation of our partner church, First Makeni UMC lost only a few to the terrible disease, their city was a center of Ebola treatment, and no one was untouched by the traumatic events of the fearsome epidemic. Many said the time of Ebola was

scarier for them than the time of war had been. If you've ever watched the film *Blood Diamonds* which is about the war, you, like me, will find it hard to believe that anything could have been scarier or more traumatic for people than that war had been.

Over the years CUMC has been blessed to provide many kinds of assistance to our brothers and sisters in Sierra Leone. We've contributed monthly to a pot of money, once hand delivered throughout the country, to help support local pastors and their families. At First Makeni, CUMC helped fund necessary renovations to the church building including the construction of modern toilets to replace an unsafe and unsanitary pit latrine. We've supported school children by providing culturally appropriate reading books to classrooms that have no books at all. We've funded scholarships to preschool, elementary, secondary, and college-aged children so they could attend UM schools. We've supported a women's group that dyes fabric to make money for the church and to support their families. Ladies in our congregation have sewn hundreds of dresses which have been sent/taken over along with shirts and shorts for the boys. For many children these were their first new clothes. Women have also sewn



dolls and men have built beautiful wooden cars and trucks for children who have never owned a toy.

It seems now that the season for this relationship has changed. This has happened for a variety of reasons. The scope of our mission efforts has increased here in the U.S. as we undertake trips to help families recover from natural disasters of immense proportions and work to address issues of poverty, hunger, and homelessness right here in our community. Our communication with the Sierra Leone Initiative on this side of the ocean has been challenging, which presents issues when communication with the people in Sierra Leone is costly and difficult. Furthermore, travel to Sierra Leone is expensive and difficult, making it difficult for us to maintain relationships in the way we should and to be good stewards of resources sent almost 4,500 miles away. After much
(continued on Page 10)



LITTLE LIGHTS READERS

We have a wonderful group of volunteers who spend time with the children that attend Little Lights Learning Center. Right now we have nine volunteers who read to the various classrooms. Every volunteer works with the teacher to set up the time and day that works best for the class and the volunteer. Some of the classrooms have a volunteer read every week and sometimes it

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(Vision...continued from Page 1)
the Leadership Council (LC) approved the formation of the Visioning Task Force. In December, the chair announced the formation of the Visioning Task Force Steering Committee comprised of Bill Bunt, Kathy Charette, Pastor Jim, Pastor Mira and Kerm Leitner. At the Church Hall Meeting on Feb. 10, 2019, attendees received info about the many groups comprising the Task Force and each group's leader(s).

There will be 20 groups tasked to examine thoroughly its area and make recommendations to the Steering Committee regarding changes and future plans. The Steering Committee will take all recommendations needing approval to the LC. The goal is to be able to launch our mission and ministries successfully from day one at 333 S. Spring Garden St. – our new address! Unlike the Focus

is once or twice a month. And it is always fun!! And it is also wonderful to see the children in the hallway at church, excited to see you, saying Hi! or waving hello!

The volunteers participate in some other ways as well. Many came to the children's Trick or Treat event. And we help to show the teachers how much we appreciate them during the Teacher Appreciation Week

.....
Groups, that operated within the same greatly compressed timeline, the Visioning Task Force's timeline stretches from the present into January 2020.

The work of the Visioning Task Force is extremely vital to our success in our new surroundings. Like a magnet, we expect many curious folks to visit when we open, and we want to put our best foot forward from day one. It should also be fun to dream and IMAGINE. For those of you who were part of us back in the fall of 2011, Imagine was the name of the newsletter all of us received prior to the Unification Vote on March 4, 2012.

If you are interested in volunteering or you have questions about the Visioning Task Force, contact Pastor Mira (717.249.1512 or mhewlett@carlislepaumc.org) or Kerm Leitner (kermleitner@comcast.net). Copies can be found at Info Central.

~ **Kerm Leitner**

in the spring. A couple of the volunteers (mostly Mr. Kerm!) helped out with Chapel Time during Pastor Mira's maternity leave.

The pictures are of Loretta Maddox, one of our busiest volunteers! She has read in her grandchildren's classrooms and continued when they have moved on. She is often reading in four classrooms every week! Thank you so much Loretta!

..... ~ **Paula Patrick**

(Sierra Leone..continued from Page 9)
discussion and prayerful consideration, CUMC's partnership with First Makeni and the Sierra Leone Initiative will be discontinued for an undetermined period of time. Mariama Bockari, the pastor of First Makeni has been informed and has handled the situation with her usual grace and Christian love. If there are those in the congregation who would like to continue to make little dresses or little cars, please feel free. We can send them on occasion to Sierra Leone with a team from Cross Point UMC in Harrisburg that travels there regularly. Others can be sent with our teams to Haiti. Mostly we need to be in prayer for the people of Sierra Leone. Day to day life there remains a struggle for many, and our prayers mean a lot to them. Thank you to all of you who have supported this mission. Together we have made a difference.

~ **Marnie Anderson**



AMISH DINNER

The Amish dinner will be Saturday, May 4. Please plan to arrive at 4:30pm. Dinner served promptly at 5pm. There will be a sign-up sheet at Info Central starting the end of March. Cost is \$20 & tips are appreciated. Payment is to be cash. Directions will be put in the mailboxes of those who sign up. Any questions, call Jane Lerch 717.258.6864.



CHRISTMAS "POP-UP" CHURCH

Throughout the year Pastor Jim and I participate in various continuing education events to keep abreast of new and innovative ideas happening in ministry. Last fall one event shared the idea of a pop-up church – like the trend for pop-up restaurants- finding initial success in Texas. A stand alone, singular worship service that connects with the local community geared towards those who are not, or never have been, part of a local church.

After discussion and prayer the Leadership Council supported moving forward with a pre-Christmas Eve service on Sunday, Dec 23 in partnership with Project SHARE at the Farmstand. Forty-six people, with a core of helpers from CUMC and Chris Gregory leading music, worshiped together. Worship centered on beloved Christmas hymns, the traditional scripture of Jesus' birth, and a sermonette of hope and comfort. Perhaps the best part was an opportunity to share prayer concerns and pray together for family and friends. The night ended with homemade cook-

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2019

At publication time CUMC was joining all United Methodist Churches in prayer Feb 23-26 for this world-wide meeting of United Methodist representatives. This special General Conference was to consider the work of The Way Forward Commission and a plan for leadership of LGBTQ persons within the UMC. Info on the outcome of their decisions will be forthcoming to all of CUMC. Keep our local church and entire denomination in your prayers as our way forward is discerned.

YOU ARE INVITED TO DINNER!

Second Presbyterian Church has invited all of us (yea, that's right, all of us) at CUMC to have dinner with them on April 10. It's part of their Wednesday Night Lenten Program. Dinner begins at 6pm with a 30 minute program led by Pastors Jim and Mira at 7pm on a child's perspective of Holy Week. **THEY INSIST WE BRING NOTHING BUT OURSELVES!** Sign up deadline is April 7 either online or at Info Central

ies provided by our hospitality team.

A resident from 1 West Penn thanked us for coming to provide worship in her community and encouraged us to consider this again, even inside 1 West Penn in the future. An older couple, with a husband struggling with mobility and dementia, were appreciative it was later in the day when he could move better and near their home.

God's spirit was in the Farmstand that night as we kicked off "Christmas Eve" worship at CUMC. I was reminded how we could, even in short-term ways, reach out to our community in and beyond the holidays. We look forward for new and innovative to connect and worship in our community. ~ **Pastor Mira**

IT JUST TAKES AN INVITATION

Most people who visit a new church do so because someone personally invited them. Sue Baxter did just that when she invited Michelle and Will and their two young children to come to CUMC. Michelle is the Director of Music at a church in Chambersburg, so they already have a church home, but when Sue learned that Michelle would be off for maternity leave, she invited the couple to come to CUMC at Christmastime. When their newborn son was 3 weeks old, Michelle and Will started coming to CUMC. Michelle began singing in the choir, they brought their children forward for the Children's Chat each week, and they met and talked with other young couples in the gathering time. They both enjoyed CUMC greatly and appreciated the shorter drive, since they already live in Carlisle.

This couple is not sure where they will be permanently, as Will's career is in the military, but whether they remain at CUMC, return to their Chambersburg church, or ultimately move, they have been welcomed and made to feel a part of our church. They have been grateful for their time here, which began with a personal invitation from one of our members. Is there someone YOU can invite to attend CUMC? It just takes an invitation.

~ **Sue Barnes**

HOLY WEEK

Early Morning Worship April 15-19 7:00-7:30am

CUMC Staff will share daily meditations as we remember what Jesus did each day of Holy Week. After worship a great breakfast will be served in the MPR. Monday-Thursday services occur in the Chapel, Good Friday we worship with the choir in the Sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday April 18 • 7:00pm Sanctuary

Remember and celebrate the Lord's Supper, just as Jesus' did this night many years ago with his disciples. We will hear about Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane and betrayal by Judas Iscariot. The Confirmation class will join in worship leadership this night as well.

Community Cross Walk April 19 Afternoon, TBA

CUMC joins other area churches witnessing to our faith using the Stations of the Cross. Watch the bulletin for more information on the starting location and time.

Easter Sunrise Service April 21 • 6:30am Spring Garden Campus

Join us as the sun rises over our building site at Spring Garden for Easter worship that includes hymns, communion, and a brief message. Bring a lawn chair if needed.

MESSAGES FOR LENT

Easter Earthquake: How the Resurrection Shakes Our World is our series for Lent this year. The series invites us all to consider the assumptions we have about ourselves, God and Jesus. Be sure to be here at CUMC each Sunday this Lent.

"WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY?"

Beginning the week after Easter and continuing through the first Sunday of June, the pastors will be bringing a series of messages around the question: "What would Jesus say?" We will look at questions like: What would Jesus say to the 1%? What would Jesus say about school? What would Jesus say to Graduates? What would Jesus say about #Me Too? What would Jesus say about family? And more.

PREPARING FOR THE CONVERSATION

This Spring our preparations for the conversations we will be having in July here at CUMC regarding the Way Forward Decisions from the February Conference of the United Methodist Church continue with an invitation for you to join a book study group around one (or more) of the following titles: *Torn*; *Finding our Way*; *Bible, Gender, Sexuality*; or *Embracing the Wideness*. For a synopsis of each book you are invited to research the titles online and read a special hand-out from our Adult GROW ministries (available at Info Central).

At our round-table discussions we

will hear presentations about The Conference decision, what it means for us, and our next steps; A Bible Study: What the Bible Says and Doesn't Say; Panel on Perspectives: Affirming and Non-Affirming; What is our Posture vs. our Position; plus more.

If you have not read the book *Crucial Conversations* or were not part of a book discussion group earlier this year, please pick up a copy. It's not just a book for our conversations but for all of us in whatever setting from family to work to school where we commonly talk with people who have divergent views.

~ Pastor Jim

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," and choruses of praise.



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