



# Cross Beams

*News from Cedarville U.M. Church*  
*"Changing Lives with Jesus"*

## December, 2023

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Well, Happy Church New Year, anyway!

Advent is the beginning of the new church year. On December 3, we will light the first Advent Wreath candle and begin the time of anticipation as we await the arrival of Christmas and the celebration of our Savior's holy birth. It is all a part of the ongoing cycle of life and faith in the body of Christ, as we await his return.

While we wait, we will celebrate the four Sundays of Advent

**December 3** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent: Candle of Hope – “Stay Alert!”  
Holy Communion at all three worship services

**December 10** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Candle of Peace – “Get Ready!”  
Handbells ring at 11:00 worship service

**December 17** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Candle of Joy – Christmas Cantata - “Waiting for Christmas”  
Cantata presented by the Praise Team and Chancel Choir  
**ONE WORSHIP SERVICE** 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

**December 24** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: Candle of Love – “Be Courageous”  
**ONE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE** – 10:00 a.m. **(Sanctuary)**

**December 24 – Christmas Eve Services**

**5:00 p.m.** Children/Family/Contemporary Candlelight Service - Family Life Center

**8:00 p.m.** Traditional Candlelight Service – Choir, Bells, Brass – Sanctuary

**December 31** – New Year's Eve Morning – **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE** – 10:00 a.m.  
Three-Fold Blessing **(Family Life Center)** **(Continued on Next Page)**

May this time of waiting and anticipating ultimately fill you with hope, peace, joy, and love throughout this season and always!

Christmas peace to you all year 'round!

*Pastor Sherry*

# **NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION**

**Beginning December 1st,  
Read one chapter of  
The Book of Luke in the Bible  
each evening.**

**There are 24 chapters.  
On Christmas Eve you will have read  
an entire account of Jesus's Life  
and wake up Christmas Morning  
Knowing WHO and WHY  
We Celebrate!!**



*(Tower Health Offered Flu Vaccine Clinic at Mission First)*

## Mission First!

It's been a busy month here at Mission First! We have received many generous donations to allow us to bless our community. As we look forward to colder weather, your help is urgently needed to assist our less fortunate friends and neighbors.

### *(Donations from Cub Scout Pack 146)*



Mission First would like to thank Cub Scout Pack 146 from Pottstown. They were able to donate over 1,000 lbs of canned goods and shelf-stable items. They even came to the church and put everything away! Their generosity will allow us to feed the hungry in our community for a long time. Over the past month, we've given away 30 Thanksgiving boxes to families in the area. The clothing closet has given out over 100 warm coats, and we've provided emergency housing to 3 people. Our friends at Tower Health gave a well-attended flu vaccine clinic. In order to keep up these efforts, we need your help.

Mission First is hoping to give out Christmas food boxes to share the warmth of the season with our friends and neighbors. We are looking for donated hams to go in those boxes. Additionally, more people will need emergency housing in the coming days. Your financial gifts are always appreciated to support this ministry. Finally, our clothing closet give out a lot more than clothing! This month, we need shampoo, conditioner, band aids, pocket sized tissues, moisturizer, and underwear. If you can help, stop by or contact Clare at [clare@missionfirstpottstown.org](mailto:clare@missionfirstpottstown.org) or call 610-326-0560.

## Brrrrrrrrrr – Cold Nights are Coming Winter Warmth Greatly Needed



Whether it's for emergency shelter, a warm blanket, dry boots or a winter coat, the Outreach Committee and Mission First seek to help assist people survive the challenges of the severe winter season. To enable us do that, we are asking for donations toward this great need.

There are many ways you can help:

- **Winter Clothing Drive**

New & Used Winter Clothing can be dropped off in the FLC Lobby. We can use Men, Women, and Children's clothes. We predominately need Men's Medium & Large; however, many in our neighborhood need help.



- Coats, Hoodies, Sweatshirts, Heavy Sweaters can be hung up on the coat rack
- Boots and sneakers can be left in the labeled Bin – *prefer sizes*

10 – 12

- Hats, gloves, scarves can be left in the labeled Bin

- **Mission First Emergency Relief Fund**

We don't know what this winter will bring, but we do know our neighbors will need help with warm housing and food. In order to serve this uncertainty, we have established a Dedicated Fund called the ***Mission First Emergency Relief Fund*** administered by our MF Director and the MF Operating Committee.



You can support this fund by contributing in the offering plate or online through either the CUMC Online Giving page or the Mission First website – Donate page. Make sure to select Mission First Emergency Relief.

Thank you for your continued support of our neighbors in need. Please know that someone's life will be greatly touched by your generosity. **Hope Starts Here** with an open hand reaching out to someone else.

Mission First Operating Committee & CUMC Outreach Committee

## “Code Blue Depends on You”



**December 2, 9:30 a.m.  
Hanging of the Greens**

Please come out and help us decorate our facility for the Christmas Season. All help is gratefully appreciated!!



*I Wish You Christmas*

**December 2, 3:00 p.m.  
Coventry Singers  
Christmas Concert –  
Sanctuary**

Don't miss this exceptional choir as they sing in the Christmas Season! The concert will feature favorites including works by J.S. Bach, Alfred Burt, John Rutter and classic Christmas Carols. They will also have a second concert on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2:00 p.m. at Trinity Reformed U.C.C., 60 North Hanover St. Pottstown. The concerts are free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be accepted.



**All Church Christmas  
Dinner  
Sunday, December 3  
5:00 p.m. FLC**

Everyone is invited to join us for our annual Christmas Dinner. Please bring a salad, vegetable or a dessert to share. The meat, potatoes, rolls and drinks will be provided.

Join us for a time of fellowship and good food as we join together to welcome the Christmas season!!



**Women's Christmas Tea  
December 12, 6:00,  
Family Life Center.**

All women and girls are invited to join us. Please plan to bring your favorite cookies/dessert to share for the tea. (Please try to arrive a few minutes early.) Entertainment will be provided.



*Merry  
Christmas*



**Christmas Cantata**

*Waiting on Christmas*

**December 17, 10:00 a.m.  
Sanctuary**

Join us for the beautiful cantata, performed by the combined Chancel Choir and Praise Team! Let the musical sounds of Christmas enter your hearts as we celebrate the season!



*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Services*

**December 24, 2023  
5:00 & 7:00 p.m.**

**5:00 Service –  
Children/Family  
Contemporary Candlelight  
Service  
Family Life Center**

This service will feature an enchanting version of "Twas the Night", with a theme of the night Baby Jesus was born with angels celebrating and a family being awe-struck by the arrival of sweet baby Jesus! Any child wishing to participate should contact Susan Morris at 610-326-4173 or [susan@cedarvilleumc.org](mailto:susan@cedarvilleumc.org).

(Continued on Page 6)  
**5:00 Contemporary/Family  
Contemporary Candlelight  
Service – Continued**

A rehearsal for all members, children and adults, of the mini-drama, *Twas the Night*, will be held on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 in the FLC.

This service will also include traditional Christmas carols, Contemporary Christmas songs, and of course, the candlelighting ceremony while singing, *Silent Night*”.



**8:00 Traditional  
Candlelight Service -  
Sanctuary**

The 8:00 Traditional service will feature our fine musicians in the Bell Choir, The Cedarville Brass, the Chancel Choir and the Organ and Piano. Traditional Christmas carols will be sung, and of course, ending with the candlelighting ceremony to the beautiful carol, *Silent Night*.

Join us for either of both of our services as we welcome the Christ Child to our world!!



**Order Your Poinsettias to  
Beautify the Sanctuary for  
Christmas**

If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone or to celebrate the birth of Jesus, order forms are located in the narthex. Cost is \$10 per plant. Order Deadline December 18<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Post Office**

The Cedarville Christmas Post Office is now open in



Fellowship Hall. Drop off Christmas cards to your Cedarville Family, save on postage,

and leave a donation toward future **Youth Fellowship** initiatives. Specially marked donation envelopes will be available at the Post Office for placement in the Offering Plate (no cash box this year). You may also donate via online giving, selecting the **Youth Fellowship** designation. Additionally, a Christmas note board will be offered to leave a note in lieu of a card. Whether you send cards or not, be sure to check the box for cards that may be left for you.

*Thursday Night Bible Study  
Group*



Christmas is coming and so are the dreams of many children in our community. Please consider supporting our 2023 Mitten Tree project to help brighten their holiday. We are hoping to donate a \$25 gift card and a mitten ornament to 120 OJR Elementary students. The gifts will be delivered to the school counselors who will select the families who need our support and love. Please donate through the offering plate or visiting our online donation website and selecting “Mitten Tree”. We will keep you informed each week on our progress.

Thank you for helping our local children.

-CUMC Outreach  
Committee



# Blanket Sunday

January 7, 2024



On this 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany, we celebrate the arrival of the Magi and the gifts they bestowed on Jesus as he lay wrapped in blankets secure in his mother's arms.

Many in our community are not warm, they do not feel secure, and not loved. Please help support the efforts of our Outreach committee and Mission First for our annual Blanket Sunday by bringing new or lightly used blankets with you to church. Our greatest need is full/queen size with a wool blend for our homeless friends.

Please lay them across the chancel rail and they will be blessed at the end of the service.

Every child knows the internal warmth of a security blanket, the warmth we receive from knowing our Lord Jesus Christ. Please help us to also share the physical warmth needed by so many.

You may also donate through

- Online e-giving options

[DONATE ONLINE – Cedarville UMC](#)

- Special offering envelopes
- Mission First's Amazon Wish

[Donate – Mission First \(missionfirstpottstown.org\)](https://missionfirstpottstown.org)

Thank You,  
Outreach Committee & Mission First



## Happy New Year Let's Eat!

Please join us in celebrating with a pork and sauerkraut **takeout** dinner to be picked up at the Cedarville Family Life Center. Mission First, with the generous help of many others, will be holding a **takeout only** dinner on Monday, January 1, 2024 from 11a.m. to 1p.m. Tickets will cost \$12, with a children's hot dog meal also available for only \$5.

Menu will include pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans almondine, roll and dessert.

The kid's meal will be a hot dog, applesauce, chips and dessert. We hope everyone will please plan on getting tickets soon and supporting the life changing ministries our church offers to the

community through Mission First.

Please look for tickets to be on sale soon following each worship service. Thank you for your support through this and so many ways. We couldn't do what we do without you! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Judy Culshaw at [kmouse928@aol.com](mailto:kmouse928@aol.com) or 610-898-4635.

### NEW LEADERSHIP BOARD

On Sunday, November 19, at a Special Church Conference, the congregation affirmed the Nominations Committee's recommendations for the New Leadership Board. The dates next to their names represent the final year of each individual's term.

Emilie Atkinson	2024
Judy Culshaw	2024
Mary Viera	2025
Rich Adamson LL	2025
Vicki Miller	2026
Dale Sharrock	2026
Frank Cebular LM	2026
Pastor Sherry Lantz	Ex-Officio

The Leadership Board begins its ministry on January 1, 2024. Moving forward, any references to Church Council, Board of Trustees, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Endowment Committee, and Finance Committee shall be understood to refer to the Leadership Board.

Please keep this dedicated team in your prayers as they begin this new journey and take on the responsibility for leading and guiding this church into God's future for us!

## Cedarville UMC Permanent Endowment Fund (PEF)

We have created a legacy for our family, our friends, our church and for future Christians. It is the gift that keeps on giving. Annual withdrawals will help support our missions and ministries.

Let's take advantage of the \$15,000 matching donation during 2023. We have received \$8,000 from generous donors and those funds are already working to enhance a future of hope for our Cedarville community.

You may wish to make a legacy gift now to our PEF and continue to "Change lives with Jesus."

Blessings,  
The Permanent Endowment  
Fund Committee



**Miller-Keystone Blood Center** will be here at Cedarville UMC on Monday, December 11th from 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Appointments are required. If you want to volunteer to be a donor call Karen Baum 610-323-5352 or you may schedule online [GIVEaPINT.org](http://GIVEaPINT.org). **BLOOD DONATIONS SAVE LIVES.**



## Thank You

Dear CedarSowerz,

*Thank you so much for the baby afghan you gave to Abigail on the occasion of her baptism. It is so pretty. I know your blankets are made with love for the youngest in our church, and your efforts are appreciated.*

*Sincerely,  
Alison Paravis and  
Don Ellis*



## Cluster Holiday Baskets

Cedarville will be collecting **Instant Mashed Potatoes** for the Cluster Holiday food baskets this year. (12-16 oz size regular box). We are asked to collect 250 boxes - deadline to return is December 10. Please place on the counter at the back of Fellowship Hall.

## Walter Mouse Devotional



***Daniel 9:23...as soon as you began to pray, an answer was given...***

Bill's nephew lives in California. We live in Pennsylvania. Just out of curiosity, Bill looked at a map to see how you'd drive from Pennsylvania all the way out to the west coast. What a journey it's be—lots of route changes, twists and turns; lots of crossroads and forks in the road. You'd want to be sure you took the right path each time you came to a turn.

Now I wonder—when someone's name drifts into our minds, do you suppose that's sometimes because they're at a crossroad or a fork in the road, and they need a guiding prayer to help show the way? Whether such decision-points are physical, emotional, or spiritual, a prayer from far away might just provide a gentle nudge in the right direction. Next time someone drifts into your mind, try offering up a prayer for them. It might provide the answer they're looking for.





**December Worship Helpers**

**Worship Leaders – 8:00**

3 – Anna Taylor  
10 – Pastor Pat  
17 – One service at 10:00 in Sanctuary  
24 – One service at 10:00 in Sanctuary  
31 – One service at 10:00 in Family Life Center

**Worship Leaders – 11:00**

3 – Barbara Boyer  
10 – Betsy Wright  
17 – None needed – Cantata  
24 – Vicki Miller (10:00)  
31 – One service at 10:00 in FLC

**Ushers - 8:00 Worship Service**

3 – Tracey & Will Knox  
10 – John & Joan Baxter  
17 – One service – 10:00  
24 – On service – 10:00 Sanctuary

31 – One Service, 10:00  
Family Life Center

**Ushers - 11:00**

Gordy Lantz, Patti McClimon, Denny McClimon & Janet Austin

**9:30 Scripture Readers**

3 – Susan Youst  
10 – David Zarley  
17 – Cantata – 10:00 Service in Sanctuary  
24 – 10:00 Service in Sanctuary  
31 – 10:00 Service in FLC

**CedarKidz/**

**CedarTweenz Teachers**

3 – Susan Morris  
10 – Velva Zarley  
17 – No Sunday School  
24 – Diane Cherico  
31 – No Sunday School

**Children’s Messages**

3 – Susan Morris  
10 – Lea McCullough  
17 – Cantata – no message needed  
24 –10:00 service – Caleb Work, Sanctuary  
31 – 10:00 service - Diane Cherico, FLC

**December Flowers**

3 – Deb Kauffman  
10 – Betsy Wright

24 – Poinsettias  
31 – Service in FLC



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sherry Lantz  
[sherry@cedarvilleumc.org](mailto:sherry@cedarvilleumc.org)  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Pat Goshert

[pat@cedarvilleumc.org](mailto:pat@cedarvilleumc.org)  
Church Office: 610-326-4173

Office Administrator:  
Susan Morris

[susan@cedarvilleumc.org](mailto:susan@cedarvilleumc.org)  
Director of Mission First:

Clare Schilling  
Clare@cedarvilleumc.org

Website & Social Media  
Coordinator: Lori McCormick

Sexton: Steve Krasley  
Director of Children and

Family Ministry:  
Lea McCullough

Lea@cedarvilleumc.org  
Web Page:

[www.cedarvilleumc.org](http://www.cedarvilleumc.org)  
**Music Staff:**

Chris Vogel, Organist &  
Director of Contemporary

Worship  
chris@cedarvilleumc.org

Kathy Ballein, Choir Director  
Lori Snavely, Handbell

Director  
Bradley Shupinski, AV

Coordinator  
**Servant Staff:**

Treasurer: Randy Beidler,  
randy@cedarvilleumc.org

Pianist: Jean Arbogast  
Prayer List Coordinator:

Sheila Hardin,  
TUCKERSFAMILY@aol.com

Prayer Chain Coordinator:  
Elaine Lambert,

[CatchAcat2@aol.com](mailto:CatchAcat2@aol.com)



**Cedarville United Methodist Church**  
**1092 Laurelwood Road**  
**Pottstown, PA 19465**  
**610-326-4173**

**Sunday Services:**  
**8:00 Traditional**  
**9:30 Contemporary**  
**11:00 Traditional**

**Sunday Morning Christian Education:**  
**9:30 Adult Sunday School**  
**9:40 CedarKidz & CedarTweenz**  
**11:10 Kidz Worship**