



Cross Beams

News from Cedarville U.M. Church
“Changing Lives with Jesus”

January, 2024

As we begin this new year, I share with you an important message from our Bishop, John Schol, about what it means to be a United Methodist. This article encompasses the basic practices and beliefs we share as United Methodist Christians and is a good review for all of us at the start of 2024.

The Wesleyan Path: A Guide for Being a United Methodist Disciple of Jesus Christ

Our founder John Wesley had a distinct way of being a Wesleyan Christian which all United Methodists are called to live. It is a path, a route traveled. And the goal of all United Methodists is not only to stay on the right path but to help others join in traveling and staying on that path.

The path is not literally a road to travel, but steps to take in life. One can enter the path at different points, but traveling the entire path over and over is what deepens and enlivens an abundant life. (Jesus said, I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly. –John 10:10)

The path is not a duty but a calling, an invitation; and it is compelling. Our calling, our character and values, our means of grace and mission engagement is the DNA of United Methodism.

The Wesleyan Path

Calling, Character, Values, The Means of Grace, and Engagement—United Methodists have a distinctive Wesleyan way of being the church of Jesus Christ.

Calling

The first calling of every United Methodist, lay and clergy, is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. As disciples, United Methodists are called to be lifelong learners and followers of Jesus Christ who passionately serve God in the church and in the world. Disciples live their baptismal vows, and these vows are the standard for evaluating the calling and engagement of any United Methodist.

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Character

Every United Methodist, lay and clergy, is to live by the highest standards of faith, including but not limited to: ethical decision making; care for creation; faithfulness in relationships; ending evil, injustice and oppression; and welcoming and including everyone in our ministries and worship. The ethic of a United Methodist is embodied in faithfulness to the Scriptures, doctrine, teachings and Wesleyan Way of The United Methodist Church.

The character of a United Methodist is encompassed in Wesley's three general rules: *Do no harm, do all the good you can, and stay in love with God*. These simple rules are profound and transformative when lived every day.

Core Values

Grace—God's grace is sufficient for salvation and is offered to all through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Extending God's grace—Grace is extended through the sacraments of communion and baptism to adults, youth, and children, inviting all people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and by practicing the Wesleyan means of grace.

The Bible—The Bible is the primary authority and revelation for salvation and holy living, and is interpreted through tradition, reason, and experience.

Personal and social holiness—United Methodists grow spiritually and are accountable for witness, service and doing justice in the world.

Connectionalism—United Methodists are connected through a web of congregations and organizations that share a common mission, doctrine, apportioned financial mission support, itineracy and holy conferencing.

Diversity and Inclusion—United Methodists welcome, include and involve all people in the life of the church guided by the scriptures, doctrine and Wesleyan Way of the church.

Itineracy—United Methodist bishops and superintendents teach, support, and practice an open itineracy in making appointments to strengthen the mission of congregations, and taking into consideration differences among congregations in theology, language spoken, leadership needs, and contexts.

The Means of Grace

United Methodists practice the *means of grace*. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, taught that while God's grace is unearned, we are not to be idle waiting to experience grace. Rather, we engage in the *means of grace*. God's mystery works in the hearts and thinking of disciples through the *means of grace*, hastening, strengthening and confirming faith so that God's grace pervades in and through disciples. The *means of grace* are categorized into *works of piety* and *works of mercy*.

Works of Piety

Individual Practices include reading, meditating on and studying the Scriptures, prayer, fasting, regularly attending worship, holistic healthy living and sharing our faith with others.

Communal Practices include regularly sharing in worship, the sacraments, Christian conferencing (accountability to one another in small groups), and Bible study.

Works of Mercy

Individual Practices include doing good works, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, feeding the hungry, and giving generously to the needs of others.

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Communal Practices include advocating for and seeking justice, ending oppression, injustice, and discrimination (for instance, Wesley challenged Methodists to end slavery), and addressing the needs of others, particularly the poor, marginalized, oppressed, children, and elderly vulnerable persons.

Living the Membership Vows

Every United Methodist is called to witness and actively participate in the life of the church as they fulfill their membership vows.

- Renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of the world, and repent of their sin.
- Accept the freedom and power God gives them to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever form they present themselves.
- Confess Jesus Christ as Savior, put their whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as their Lord.
- Remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.
- Be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church and do all in their power to strengthen its ministries.
- Faithfully participate in its ministries by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service and their witness.
- Receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

More specifically, this calls all United Methodists to engage in:

- worship, faith sharing and intentional faith formation through small groups, including children and youth ministries;
- engaging in ministries of witness, mercy and justice in the community and the world; and
- giving generously to the mission and ministry of the church. *These practices were initiated by the disciples of the first-century church. (Acts 2:41-47)*

Active engagement in the mission and Wesleyan Way of The United Methodist Church keeps disciples on the path to loving and serving God. All United Methodists are called to daily live The Wesleyan Path creating habits that become part of our nature.

United Methodist congregations and organizations are to teach, invite and offer meaningful and relevant opportunities for people to participate in and practice The Wesleyan Path. What does it look like for you to embrace and live and walk more on this path in your life?

As we move into 2024, may we walk the Wesleyan path of discipleship and vow to live by John Wesley's three general rules, to:

- 1) *Do no harm*
- 2) *Do all the good you can*
- 3) *Stay in love with God.*

Blessings as we begin this New Year!!

Pastor Sherry



Mission First!

As we look forward to the new year, Mission First is excited to continue to bless our friends and neighbors. Recently, we were blessed by the staff of the Mental Health Recovery Center. They provided a wonderful lunch for all the volunteers, complete with gifts and awards. It's great to know that we are really making a difference in our community! In order for our efforts to continue, your support is still greatly needed as we begin 2024.

During the holidays, Mission First was able to give out 40 meal boxes to our community. Thanks to generous donations, everyone who signed up received a holiday meal. The New Ridge Fellowship Youth provided the meal on 12/20. They even gave out 150 Christmas gift bags to everyone who came to dinner! We are blessed to have them as partners. Additionally, we were able to help provide Christmas presents to two single mothers and their children.

Your help is still needed to help us care for our community. The recent

rains have damaged many tents, and we are looking for 2 and 4 man tents in order to help shelter the homeless. We also need some 6 foot folding plastic tables and card tables. The clothing closet needs large men's coats, men's gloves, personal care items and underwear. If you can help, visit Mission First, call Clare at 610-326-0560 or email clare@missionfirstpottstown



Brrrrrrrrrr – Cold Nights are Here! 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”



NEW YEAR, NEW CEDARVILLE NIGHTS!!

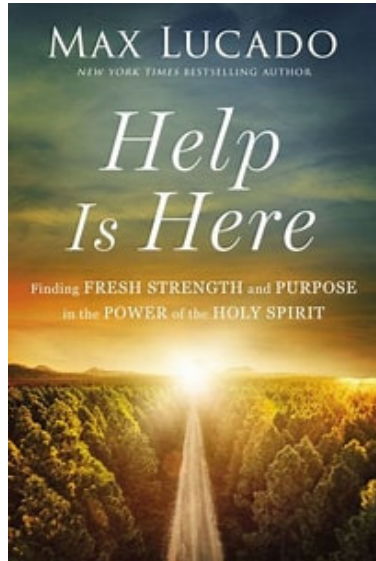
Returning the 4th Wednesdays of the month, Cedarville Nights will begin January 24, 2024. Dinner will be served 5:30-6:30. This new Cedarville Nights will not provide dessert, so we ask you to bring a dessert to share. Store bought or homemade, a package of cookies or a cake, it does not matter!

First menu is: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetable, salad, rolls, drink

As in the past, we ask for a donation to cover costs. As food costs have gone up, we ask for \$7, \$25 family cap. The donation is not required, no one keeps track. Everyone is welcome!

Also, as always, help is needed in the morning to prepare food and set up the FLC and again in the evening at 4:00 to finish prep, serve food and clean up.

Please let me know if you are willing to help.
Debra Kabrich
610-310-7926



Friday Morning Bible Study Beginning New Study on January 5, 2024

Our group on zoom, Fridays at 9am, beginning January 5th, will be doing the book... **Help Is Here** by Max Lucado. (Finding fresh strength and purpose in the power of the Holy Spirit).



Thank you church

We just made our goal of 250 boxes of instant mashed potatoes which were delivered to the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities for inclusion in the holiday gift baskets.

Undecorating the Church



Anyone who can come and help un-decorate and store the decorations from our Christmas services, please come and help on January 6th at 10:00 a.m. All help greatly appreciated!! 6th



Christmas Post Office

Don't forget to check for any Christmas cards to you from the 2023 Cedarville post office. For the next few weeks, the box with Christmas cards, will move between the FLC lobby and Narthex. Donations totaling \$250 were collected toward future Youth Fellowship endeavors. Cards to the congregation were left by: Vicki Miller, Judy & Bill Pfeffer, John & Joan Baxter, Jere & Carol McDonald, Michelle Zieser, Pastor Sherry & Gordy, Larry & Pam Frame and Sandy & Scott Armstrong.

A big "thank you" to Carol McDonald and her elves for arranging for our post office this year!

Blanket Sunday

January 7, 2024



On this 1st 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 \(missionfirstpottstown.org\)](#)

Thank You,
Outreach Committee & Mission First

Welcome New Members

The following people were taken into the membership of our Cedarville family on Sunday, December 3, 2023:



Ed Devenpeck

Ed Devenpeck came to Cedarville in order to worship with his daughter, Daryl, McLaughlin. He enjoys stamp collecting and history.



Dorian Devenpeck

Dorian Devenpeck came to Cedarville to worship with her sister, Daryl McLaughlin. She enjoys latch hook and crafts.



Curt & Dory Erb

Curt Erb was looking for a local Methodist church, as he has a special appreciation for the Wesley understanding of the Christian faith. He is married with 2 adult children and three grandchildren. He enjoys history, music, theater, reading and travel. He loves studying the Bible and deepening his understanding of my Lord and what He expected of his disciples

Dory Erb came to Cedarville because of her love of friends. She is married to Curt for 35 years, has two adult children, and three grandchildren. She is retired (happily). She loves being with her family, serving, cooking, traveling and most sports, especially basketball.

New Members - Continued



Joyce Shutt

Joyce Shutt came to Cedarville as she was not comfortable with her church's handling of Covid and was looking for a church that followed the recommended government guidelines. Joyce is married and has 3 grown children, 2 son-in-laws and three grandchildren (one new baby girl born just this November!) She enjoys gardening and anything outdoors! She also loves traveling.



Barbara Yorgey

Barbara Yorgey came to Cedarville after her church, Salem U.M.C. closed, and she then decided to come to Cedarville.



Andrew and Susie Zinger

Andrew Zinger came to Cedarville as his current church, Salem U.M.C. closed. He has worked in North Coventry for 24 years as a police officer and would like to worship in the community that he serves. He is married to his fantastic wife, Susan, and has three children, Cyndi, 21, Cooper, 15, and Bella 11. His hobbies are swimming, working out, lifting weights, and anything beach related.

Susie Zinger came to Cedarville, also because their church closed. She is married to Andrew and they have three children. She enjoys crafts, yard sale shopping, the beach and Walt Disney World.



Please take time to welcome our new members and introduce yourselves.

NEW LEADERSHIP BOARD

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!



Thank You

Dear Cedarville Church Family,

A heartfelt thank you for all of your cards, words of encouragement and many expressions of love during this holiday season and throughout the year. We are blessed by your love, support and care.

Pastor Sherry and Gordy

Thank You

Continued

To my friends at Cedarville,

Thank you for the box of chocolates and the cards I've received. Please know how much it means to me.

Nancy Airey

Happy & Healthy New Year!

ANYONE NEEDING A BABY-CRIB, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

Walter Mouse Devotional



1 Samuel 9:26...Get ready, and I will send you on your way.

Years ago, Bill worked at the church, he took something over to our main building (he worked in the church office) shortly before 11:30. As we approached one of the exits, we noticed fifteen little backpacks lined up in a row by the door. The nursery school would be dismissing soon and the kids wanted to be ready.

Maybe that's not a bad plan for us as well. If our "bags are packed" and waiting by the door, we, too, will be ready for whatever journey the Lord wants to send us on.



January Worship Helpers

Worship Leaders – 8:00

7 – Anna Taylor
14 – Pastor Pat
21 – Judy Pfeffer
28 – John Thiessen

Worship Leaders – 11:00

7 – Susan Morris
14 – Patti McClimon
21 – Dale Sharrock
28 – Lisa Harner

Ushers - 8:00 Worship Service

7 – Tracey & Will Knox
14 – John & Joan Baxter
21 – Ken Good
28 – Gale & Glenn Nester

Ushers - 11:00

Joanne Means – Head Usher, Jay Wright & Mary Uba

9:30 Scripture Readers

7 – Susan Paravis
14 – Benita Holden
21 – Sandie Armstrong
28 – Marilyn Knight

CedarKidz/ CedarTweenz Teachers

7 – Diane Cherico
14 – Susan Morris
21 – Crissy Fiorani
28 – Sandie Armstrong

Children's Messages

7 – Sandie Armstrong
14 – Cindy Cebular
21 – Dale Sharrock
28 – Susan Morris

January Flowers

7 – Karen & Gene Baum
14 – The Sharrock Family
21 & 28 – Donors Needed





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**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sherry Lantz

sherry@cedarvilleumc.org

Associate Pastor: Rev. Pat Goshert

pat@cedarvilleumc.org

Church Office: 610-326-4173

Office Administrator:

Susan Morris

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

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