



Cross Beams

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

February, 2024

WHAT IS JESUS UP TO?

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." — Mark 8: 31-38

It seems that we just celebrated Christmas, and yet, in a few weeks we will begin our Lenten journey. The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 14, Valentine's Day.

Using materials from the Worship Design Studio, our Lenten sermon series asks the question:
what r u up 2?

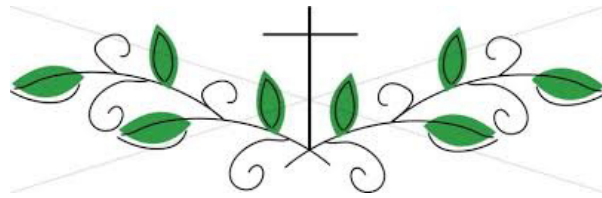
Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual pursuits. Rather than just "giving up" in Lent, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be up to in his name. Instead of bemoaning what we can't do, or used to do, in a culture where "measuring up" to external standards seems impossible, this Lent we will celebrate the small things that we can do right now to respond to God's call in our place, for our time.

Join us on February 14 at 7:00 p.m. for our Ash Wednesday service where we will receive ashes on our foreheads or hands, a reminder that we are created from the "stuff" of the earth, but also reminded that we are created in the image of our Creating, Redeeming and Sustaining God.

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Our series through Easter Sunday is as follows:

- February 14 - Ash Wednesday: *Store Up* | Matthew 6:1-6. 16-21
Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion**
- February 18 - Lent 1: *Come Up* | Mark 1:9-15**
- February 25 - Lent 2: *Take Up* | Mark 8:31-38**
- March 3 - Lent 3: *Raise Up* | John 2:13-22**
- March 10 - Lent 4: *Light Up* | John 3:14-21**
- March 17 - Lent 5: *Lift Up* | John 12:20-33**
- March 24 - Lent 6: *Sit Up* | John 12:12-16 (Palm/Passion Sunday)**
- March 28 - Holy/Maundy Thursday – 7:30 p.m.**
- March 29 - Good Friday – 7:30 p.m.**
- March 31 - EASTER SUNDAY – *Look Up* / Mark 16:1-8**



Helpful Suggestions From Financial Counting Teams

Thank you to all for your contributions. Your faithful financial stewardship is greatly appreciated. We would like to make a few suggestions that would really assist us to ensure your contributions are credited to your preferred funds and missions when counting the offerings received each Sunday.:

- 1) If you have Giving Envelopes, please indicate the amount on the line provided. The counting team members must write this in if left blank since the data input to the computer is done from the envelopes.*
- 2) If you want the amount you are giving to be applied to different funds, i.e. Mission First, Mitten Tree, Blankets, UMCOR, etc, please indicate this on your envelope. Envelopes with no specific fund listed will be credited to our very important Current fund for all our Church needs.
- 3) If you are **not** an e-giver and do not have an Envelope Set but would like one, please contact Susan and a set will be provided to you.
- 4) If you write a check for the plate and want it applied to multiple funds, please take advantage of a Visitor envelope from the pew to direct your contribution as you wish, *
- 5) If you miss a week, or a month, etc., you do not need to provide us with the envelopes for the times you have missed. You may provide one envelope for the total amount missed.
- 6) Please make all checks payable to Cedarville United Methodist Church. Please indicate on your envelope what funds you wish your contribution be applied, and they will be credited to that fund. Checks made payable to Mission First complicates the counting process, and can delay the deposit credit.

*We do preserve the envelopes for audit purposes, we do not hold checks or copies of the checks. Again, thank you for your continued financial gifts to Cedarville's ongoing ministries.

-Financial Secretarial Team

Mission First!

It's been a busy winter here at Mission First! The cold and snow have drained our supply of boots, coats and tents. We urgently need more of these items to keep our friends and neighbors safe and warm. Fortunately, our volunteers have been filling in to serve wherever they are needed. We are grateful to have such a wonderfully supportive community.

Our pork and sauerkraut dinner was a wonderful success! We were able to provide our community with a tasty New Year's meal and raise some funds for our missions at the same time. None of this would have been possible without Deb Kabrich. To celebrate the Martin Luther King day of service, we were visited by Zack **Last name?**, and his 5th grade class. They collected items and put together bags for everyone in the Center.

As always, Mission First could not function without our community. If you have time, stop by after our Sunday afternoon service to enjoy some fellowship with our community. If you can donate, we need toilet paper, razors, band aids, underwear, jeans in smaller sizes, winter coats, boots and tents. To donate, you can stop by or call Clare at 610-326-0560. Her email is 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.

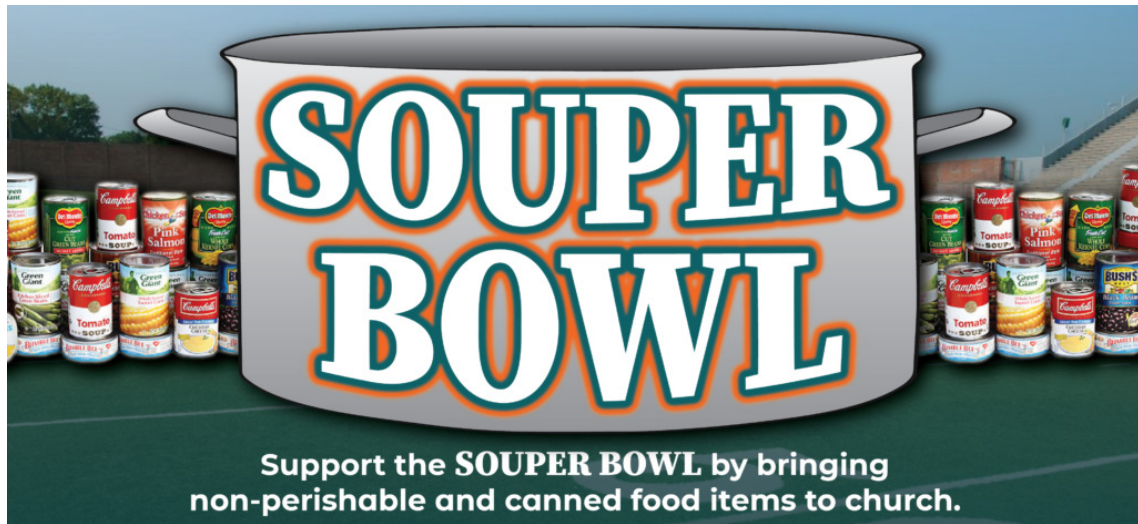


You can support this fund by contributing in the offering plate or online through either the CUMC Online Giving page or the Mission First website – Donate page. Make sure to select Mission First Emergency Relief.

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”



Here is a fun way to support your favored NFL team and Mission First.

During February bring in your non-perishable food donations and leave them under the goal posts in the FLC lobby. There will be 2 end zone tables, one for each team, **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS**) AND **KANSAS CITY CHIEFS!** . Every donated item will count as a point, and we will see which NFL team wins. There will also be a Soup Pot on the table for cash donations. We will keep track of the score as items are transferred to MF.

All donations are appreciated but the most desperately needed items are:

- Fruit cups or applesauce
- Items requiring only hot water –
 - Raman noodles, instant oatmeal
- Ready to eat bags of chicken salad, tuna, ham salad
- Pop top or ready to microwave meals
- Individually wrapped snack or dessert items

Please remember that as you plan your Super Bowl parties, to pick up some items for our 2024 Souper Bowl.

VOTE AS OFTEN AS YOU CAN





Cedarville Nights

Cedarville Nights has returned! The next one is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 28th. 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!

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!

Cedarville Leadership Board

The Cedarville UMC Leadership Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend any Leadership Board meeting. There may be from time to time a portion of the meeting where personnel matters or matters of legal negotiation are considered and during those portions of the meeting, the board will be in executive session.

In the event additional meetings are required above and beyond the monthly meeting, the

Leadership Board will make every effort to communicate the scheduling of said meetings to the church body in advance with a reminder that all are welcome to attend any meeting.

Meet Our New Church Leadership Board!



Emilie Atkinson:

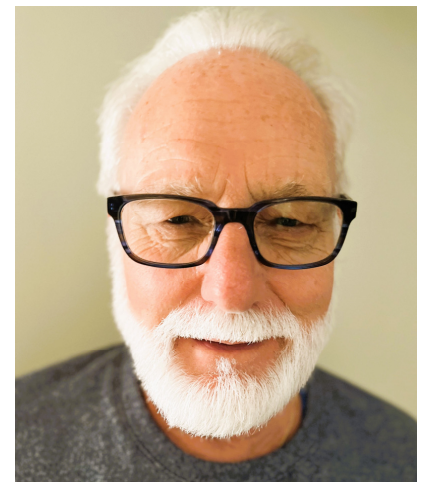
Emilie Atkinson is the fourth child of Barbara Crowle (deceased 2009) and Reverend David Crowle (deceased 2019). Emilie grew up in Audubon PA and attended school in the Methacton School District. After attending Antonelli Medical and Professional Institute she was employed as a medical assistant for 25 years. During that time Emilie attended Pennsylvania School of Muscle Therapy and obtained her state license as a massage therapist. She began a massage therapy business which continues today.

Emilie recently trained for a new career and obtained her

Certified Professional Coder credential in 2022, and currently works for Universal Health Services as a medical coder.

Emilie has a daughter and a grandson who reside in Indiana. Among her favorite things to do during her free time are hiking, camping, gardening, bicycling, and projecting around her house.

Emilie has enjoyed being in service these past 16 years at Cedarville UMC in various capacities including mission and outreach. She looks forward to continuing her service to God and the church's mission through membership on the Leadership Board.



Frank Cebular

Frank Cebular was born in Carbondale, PA and was raised in Philadelphia. He was raised in the Russian Orthodox faith and became a United Methodist shortly after marrying his wife, Cindy. They have three children and four grandchildren. **(Continued)**

Frank Cebular – Continued

Frank graduated from Drexel University with a degree in Metallurgical and Material Science Engineering. Frank worked for Eaton-Yale and Towne, Phoenix Steel, The Department of the Navy and PECO-Exelon. He retired from Exelon in 2011 after 27 years with the company. He has been active at Cedarville for 35 years serving on Education, Missions, Trustees, Finance, SPRC, and Ad Council Chair as well as teaching both youth and adult Sunday School, and small group Bible studies. Cindy and he were co-lay leaders for six years and Frank has been Cedarville's Lay Member to Annual Conference for 12 years. Cindy and he are also Christ Servant Ministers. Frank enjoys reading, wood working, and volunteering. He is active in the Kiwanis Club of Pottstown, the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities and the Lower Pottsgrove Planning Commission. He is looking forward to being a part of the Leadership Board and continuing his journey of faith at Cedarville UMC.



Judy Culshaw

After growing up in Birdsboro, PA and in the Russian Orthodox faith, Judy was invited to attend Alice Focht Memorial UMC. She joined there in 1974 and was blessed to serve in many positions and become a Christ Servant Minister. She also met and married her husband Pete during that time. After 43 years, and while serving in the position as the Ad Council Chair, sadly the church closed. Following that time Judy and Pete found, and later joined First UMC. From there they became part of Cedarville UMC. She prays that God will guide her to use her experience to be a better leader and is blessed to be a part of the new Leadership Board.



Vicki Miller

Hello Cedarville Friends! My name is Vicki Miller and I have been a member of Cedarville my entire life. I have two families – my immediate family which includes my children, their spouse, my adorable granddaughter, my father, my siblings and many nieces and nephews. My second family is the people of Cedarville. They have been here for me through the joys and troubles of my life. I have been actively involved in many

areas of service, ministry and leadership of the church. My newest challenge is serving on the Leadership Board. I bring a historical perspective to this board as well as my love for Cedarville. I am excited for the future of Cedarville and see where God will lead us. Please feel free to talk with me if you have any questions, concerns, or hopes as we move forward. Thank you.

Vicki Miller

Vickimiller18@gmail.com



(Vicki Miller visiting the Holy Lands last year)



Dale Sharrock

Dale and his wife Jenny are residents of East Coventry Township and are the proud parents of two boys, Logan (age 14) and Grant (age 12) both of whom attend school in the Owen J Roberts school district.

A graduate of West Chester University, Dale has worked for FIS (one of the world's largest financial technology service providers) for over twenty-five years, most recently as a Software Tester and QA Manager.

He and his family typically worship at the 11:00 Traditional service but from time to time also enjoy the 9:30 Contemporary Service.

Dale often serves as an usher or as a worship leader and on occasion delivers the children's message. He enjoys fellowship and learning with the Thursday evening bible study group. For the past two summers he and Logan have had a lot of fun volunteering for and taking active roles in Vacation Bible School.



Mary Viera

My name is Mary Viera. I have lived in the Pottstown area for 46 years, 45 of which I have attended church here at Cedarville. Over the years, I have served on the Evangelism, Finance and Administrative Committees. I am on the counting team, attend Bible Study regularly, and have periodically served in the kitchen.

I have two beautiful daughters, one amazing son-in-law and four perfect grandchildren. I am retired and fill my time walking with a group called The Roamers and thrifting with a few of my friends from Cedarville (because I do EBay).

I am looking forward to serving on the new Leadership Board and seeing what God has in store for this church.

*God Bless Our
Leadership Board*



All New GriefShare Set to Begin in March

We have offered the GriefShare program for more than a year here at Cedarville Church, hosting four 13week sessions. The positive feedback we've received has indicated we have helped many individuals who are grieving a loss.

We're ready to start a new session on March 6. And we're set to use brand new GriefShare materials as we roll out the fourth edition.

What is GriefShare? It's a weekly video seminar featuring some of the nation's foremost experts on grief recovery topics. Each seminar is combined with a small group discussion time to allow group participants to talk about the content of the seminar and about how they are dealing with the death of their loved one. A modest registration fee will include a participants guide with short daily questions, insights, and Bible verses which can make a difference for those experiencing loss.

Our next session will be held every Wednesday evening from March 6 through May 29 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. in room 105.

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Tri-fold brochures are in the narthex and FLC lobby. Feel free to take a few for yourself, friends, or family members who might benefit from some support in a time of grief. You can email me at griefshare@cedarvilleumc.org. Also, visit the GriefShare website at www.griefshare.org. You will see our church listed when you click on "Find a Group". This is where people can register for our seminar. You can also call Susan in the church office for information. We continue to pray for those who have attended our workshops in the past.

If you have benefited from GriefShare sessions and think you'd like to take the seminar again, now is a perfect time to come back! The new materials are sure to inspire you as you continue your healing journey.

Susan Paravis



Farewell Retirement Event for Pastor Sherry and Gordy

Anyone who would like to help with the planning and implementing of this occasion, which will be held an early Sunday in June, (date to be announced), please contact either Vicki Miller, vickimiller18@gmail.com or Susan in the church office.

susan@cedarvilleumc.org or 610-326-4173.



Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for your donations to the Mitten Tree project. We delivered 120 Gift Cards and Mitten Ornaments to the OJR Elementary Schools.

-The Mitten Project Team

A big thank you to everyone who donated blankets or money to provide blankets for Mission First.

-The Blanket Project Team

Pastor Sherry, Pastor Pat and Cedarville UMC

Thank you for inviting us to sing and give the message at a recent service. It is such a blessing to each of us to be able to be a part of this.

Thank you for your generous donation. We always give it back to the community in some way.

We pray that God blesses each one of you in some way in this New Year and that He blesses your church richly.

*In His Service
Three Fold Blessing
Jen, Rich, Pan and Carole*

Dear Cedarville United Methodist Members

Thank you so much for your extreme generosity this season by supporting some of our families in need with gift cards.

You were able to make the holidays extra special for them and we are so appreciative.

*Sincerely,
North Coventry
Elementary Staff*

Thank you to all of my Cedarville family who have lifted me in prayer, taken the time to send me a card or call on the phone or even stopped by for a visit. Your kindness and thoughtfulness have meant a great deal to me. God bless and keep you all.

- Mary Viera

Dear Cedarville

Thank you so much for the box of candy – it is delicious!

Suzanne Yorgey

Thank You

To Cedarville –
I appreciated the candy. It was great!

I wish everyone a Blessed Christmas.

Alma Murphy

Walter Mouse Devotional

Genesis 4:7...sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.



We were walking across a parking lot today when Bill stumbled over a small stone. When we looked back at it, we were amazed that something so little could almost make him fall.

Sin's like that. It starts out a small almost invisible presence in our lives, and then trips us up as we focus on other things. We're constantly called to overcome the pebbles of sin that crop up in our lives. If we don't master **it**, it mater **us**, and then where are we?!

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February Worship Helpers

Worship Leaders – 8:00

- 4 – Anna Taylor
- 11 – Pastor Pat
- 18 – Judy Pfeffer
- 25 – John Thiessen

Worship Leaders – 11:00

- 4 – Judy Culshaw
- 11 – Susan Morris
- 18 – Elaine Lambert
- 25 – Betsy Wright

Ushers - 8:00 Worship Service

- 4 – Will Knox
- 11 – John & Joan Baxter
- 18 – Ken Good
- 25 – Gale & Glenn Nester

Ushers - 11:00 Worship Service

- Jere McDonald, Emilie Atkinson, Dawne von Czoernig, and Clete McLaughlin

9:30 Scripture Readers

- 4 – Rich Adamson
- 11 – Cindy Cebular
- 18 – Peggy Moser
- 25 – John Waclawsky

CedarKidz/ CedarTweenz Teachers

- 4 – Diane Cherico
- 11 – Crissy Fiorani
- 18 – Susan Morris
- 25 – Sandie Armstrong

Children's Messages

- 4 – Caleb Work
- 11 – Lea McCullough
- 18 – Pastor Pat
- 25 – Diane Cherico





Cedarville United Methodist Church
www.cedarvilleumc.org

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

Pet Prayer Chain: Pam Frame

pawprints@cedarvilleumc.org