



Cross Beams

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

December, 2024

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." – Isaiah 9:2

Dear Friends and Members,

Advent is a season of waiting—a holy pause in the rhythm of our busy lives. We anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth, but also the fulfillment of God's promises yet to come. In this waiting, we are reminded that the story of Christmas is not just about the past but also about the future.

The people of Israel knew what it was to wait. For generations, they longed for a Messiah, a Savior who would bring peace and justice. Their longing echoes in our hearts today as we look at a world still marked by brokenness and pain. Advent invites us to sit with that longing and to remember that God does not forget His promises.

Each candle we light during this season reminds us of the gifts Christ brings: hope, peace, joy, and love. The flickering flame reminds us that even a small light can overcome the deepest darkness. It points us to the child in the manger—the Light of the World, who came to dwell among us, full of grace and truth.

This Advent, let us:

- **Wait with hope.** In a season often filled with so much hustle and bustle, let us carve out space to reflect on the promises of God and the faithfulness we've already seen.
- **Share the light.** Just as the shepherds shared the good news, we are called to bring light to those who feel the weight of darkness. Acts of kindness and words of encouragement reflect Christ's love.
- **Welcome the Savior.** Make room in your heart for Christ to be born anew. Let the story of Christmas shape how we live every day, filled with faith and love.

(Continued on Page 2)

As we draw near to Christmas Day, may we experience anew the wonder of Emmanuel—God with us. The wait may feel long, but the promise is sure. The light has come and will come again in glory. Let us prepare Him room.

A Prayer for Advent

Loving God, In this season of waiting, help us to hold on to hope and trust in your promises. May your light shine brightly in our lives and in our world. Prepare our hearts to receive your Son, the Prince of Peace. Let our lives reflect your love to others, that they too may know the joy of Christmas. Amen.

Mission First!

It has been a busy month here at Mission First! We enjoy celebrating this time of year with our friends, neighbors, and volunteer family. When we come together as a community, we can help many people with food, clothing, and shelter. Some of our helpers in the past month include Pottstown's Cub Scouts Pack 146 who provided a large donation of canned goods. We received cases of sweet potatoes from Temple UMC and boxed pies from Mt. Carmel UMC. Some of these items went to fill our Thanksgiving boxes. We were able to bless 30 families with a large box of food to celebrate the holidays.

Our efforts would not be possible without your donations. Currently, Mission First needs financial support to house the homeless during Code Blue emergencies. If you would like to donate, please see our website for details. The clothing closet has been working hard to provide clothing and toiletries to over 100 people per month. This month, the greatest needs are men's winter clothing and personal care items. If you can help, stop by Mission First, call Clare at 610-326-0560 or email Clare@missionfirstpottstown.org.



Cubs provided canned goods.

Pies & Sweet Potatoes!

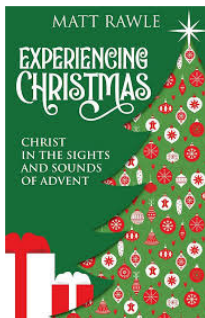
Please Donate to Mission First Code Blue Emergency Fund to house people during the cold weather



**Cedarville Nights' Dinner
Wednesday, December 18
5:30-6:30**

The next Cedarville Night's dinner will be on Wednesday, December 18, 5:30-6:30. As in the past, we ask for a donation to cover costs - \$7 each, \$25 family cap. The donation is not required, no one keeps track. Everyone is welcome!

We are asking everyone to bring a dessert to share.



**Advent Bible Study
and Sermon Series**

This year we are experiencing Christmas through the sights and sounds of Advent. In his book, *Experiencing Christmas*, Matt Rawle invites us to consider what signs we see during the Advent and Christmas season that point you to the divine?

The Monday Night Bible study, and both the Thursday Afternoon, 1:00, and

Thursday Evening, 5:30, Bible Studies are using this study, which is now ongoing, and Pastor Mike will be preparing a sermon series that shares many of the same themes of the book beginning December 1st. If anyone would like a copy of the book, please contact the Church Office or order on Amazon.

**Friday Morning Advent Zoom Study – *It's a Wonderful Life*
by Alan Vermilye**

Pastor Pat will lead this 5 week Advent study, Friday's, 9:00 a.m. Contact Pat for more information.

Coming in December...



**All Church Christmas Dinner
Sunday, December 1
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!!



**New Bishop coming to
Cedarville!**

On Thursday, December 5th Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi will be visiting the South District. The Day will conclude with a worship service here at Cedarville UMC at 7:00 p.m.. Mark it on your calendar and join in welcoming Bishop Moore-Koikoi to the South District and to Cedarville.

**JOIN COVENTRY SINGERS
IN CONCERT**



*December in My
Hometown*

Conductor:

Cheryl Markofski

Pianist: Eleanor Lundy

**Featuring Music by Johann Pachelbel, Dietrick Buxtehude, John Rutter, Dan Forrest and Pinkzebra
Saturday, December 7, 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary**

Don't miss this exceptional choir as they sing in the Christmas Season!



December 8 – Live Nativity

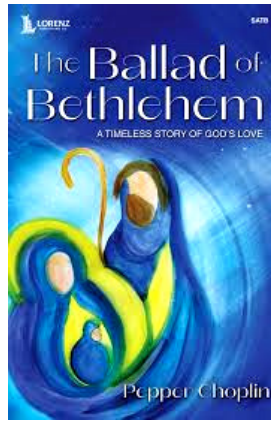
Join us on December 8 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the return of Cedarville's Live Nativity. The night will provide an interactive story of our Savior's birth, live animals, refreshments and more! Invite your family and friends to join you as we celebrate the second Sunday of the advent season with this special event. We're looking forward to it; don't miss out! For more information on ways to help contact:
Suzy Kingsley 484-366-4602
May Smith 610-517-1867
Benita Holden 610-850-5950



Continental Breakfast

December 15 – 9:00-9:30 a.m.
Family Life Center

Before the Cantata, let's all enjoy a short fellowship time of coffee, tea and pastries together. Please bring a pastry/donuts to share or if you'd prefer, some fruit, then proceed to the Sanctuary for the Christmas Cantata by the Chancel Choir and Praise Team at 10:00 a.m. (This was initially advertised as a pot-luck full breakfast and has been changed to a continental breakfast.)

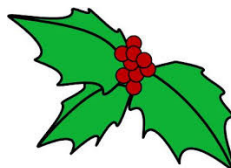


December 15, 10:00 a.m. – Christmas Cantata by the combined Chancel Choir and Praise Team

The Chancel Choir and Praise Team are busy rehearsing this year's wonderful cantata, *The Ballad of Bethlehem*. Join us for this wonderful musical Christmas worship event.



**Women's
Christmas Tea
Tuesday, December 10,
2024, 6:00 p.m.
Entertainment by Terry
Kane on Guitar
Please bring a plate of
cookies, or a finger
food to share.**

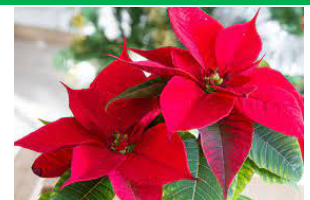


December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Services –

5:00 Contemporary Children & Family Service, featuring mini-drama, "Follow the Star" by Tracy Wells, and Christmas carols, special solos, and Praise Team – Family Life Center

8:00 Traditional Christmas Eve Service featuring the Handbell Choir, Cedarville Brass, Chancel Choir, and Organ.

Bring your family and friends to one of our Christmas Eve services as we welcome the newborn King!



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

**\$10.00 per Plant
Order Deadline, December 15
Questions? Contact Deb
Kauffman at 610-659-2002**



Mitten Project!

Thanks to everyone who took mittens – and good news – all mittens are gone! Please return your unwrapped presents by December 8. You will be making some children’s Christmases “Merry & Bright”, by giving the gift of “Hope” and helping to provide a “Joyful Christmas”.



MILLER-KEYSTONE

'TIS THE SEASON OF giving: Miller - Keystone Blood Center will be here at Cedarville UMC on Tuesday, December 3rd from 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm. To schedule an appointment please go to https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/87951 or scan the QR code on the posters displayed throughout the church. If you need help or prefer not to use the technology, please call Karen Baum-610-323-5352 to schedule an appointment.

Walter Mouse Devotional

Psalm 63:1... O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you...



There’s an old German tradition involving a Christmas Pickle. A single pickle ornament is hidden on the Christmas tree and the first child to find it

Christmas morning gets an additional small gift from Santa Claus. Sounds like fun for the one who finds it, but how about the ones who don’t spot it? They lose out.

With Jesus on Christmas morning, everyone who looks for it “find the pickle”. It’s not just the first one to find the Manger who gets the gift of eternal life. It’s all who seek Him ever. No one loses out unless they choose to.

© Pam Frame; All Rights Reserved



December Worship Helpers

Worship Leaders – 8:00

- 1 – Anna Taylor
- 8 – Pat Goshert
- 15 – Cantata (10:00)
- 22 – Michelle Zieser
- 29 – Pat Goshert

Worship Leaders – 11:00

- 1 – Barbara Boyer
- 8 – Susan Morris
- 15 – Cantata
- 22 – Patti McClimon
- 29 – Dale Sharrock

Ushers - 8:00 Worship Service

- 1 – Will Knox
- 8 – Eliza Mann, Saritha Devathala, Denise Reagan
- 15 – Cantata (10:00)

- 22 – Gale & Glenn Nester
- 29 – Will Knox

Ushers - 11:00 Worship Service

- 1 - Mary Viera, Emilie Crowle, Judy Culshaw and Patti Kinard
- 8 - Mary Viera, Emile Crowle, Caleb Work and Lydia Work
- 15 - Mary Viera, Patti Kinard, Logan Sharrock and Joanne Means
- 22: Mary Viera, Emilie Crowle, Patti Kinard and Mary Uba
- 24 (Christmas Eve - 8:00 Service): Emilie Crowle, Mary Uba, Patti Kinard, Lydia Work and Caleb Work
- 29: Mary Viera, Emilie Crowle, Judy Culshaw and Joanne Means (one service at 10:00)

9:30 Scripture Readers

- 1 – Susan Youst
- 8 – David Zarley
- 15 – Cantata (Sanctuary)
- 22 – Susan Paravis
- 29 – One Service – 10:00 in Sanctuary

CedarKidz/CedarTweenz Teachers

- 1 – Crissy Fiorani
- 8 – Sandie Armstrong
- 15 – Cantata
- 22 – Susan Morris
- 29 – No Sunday School

Children’s Messages

- 1 – Caleb Work
- 8 – Cindy Cebular
- 15 - Cantata
- 22 – Dale Sharrock
- 29 – Caleb Work

Altar Flowers

- 1 – Deb Kauffman
- 8 – Donor Needed
- 15 – Judy & Pete Culshaw
- 22 – Poinsettias
- 29 – Karen & Gene Baum

Cedarville United Methodist Church
Benefit Mission First Emergency Housing Fund
Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner

New Year's Day
Wednesday, January 1, 2025
11:00 to 1:00 - Dine In or Carry Out

Adult Menu includes: Pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans almandine, roll, dessert

Tickets
Adult \$12:00
Child 10 & under \$5.00

Child's Menu:
Hot Dog with Roll
Chips, Applesauce, Dessert

For tickets contact Judy Culshaw
Kmouse928@aol.com or 610-898-4635
Checks payable to Cedarville UMC, Memo Line: Mission First
Tickets also on sale after most services



Cedarville United Methodist Church
1092 Laurelwood Rd. Pottstown, PA 19465



www.cedarvilleumc.org

Pastor: Rev. Mike Remel

mike@cedarvilleumc.org

717-405-0659

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

Sexton: Steve Krasley

Nursery Coordinator: Amanda Pinder

Music Staff:

Chris Vogel, Organist & Director of Contemporary Worship

chris@cedarvilleumc.org

Kathy Ballein, Choir Director

Lori Snavelly, Handbell Director

Bradley Shupinski, AV Coordinator

Servant Staff:

Treasurer: Randy Beidler, treasurer@cedarvilleumc.org

Prayer List Coordinator: Sheila Hardin, TUCKERSFAMILY@aol.com

Prayer Chain Coordinator: Elaine Lambert, CatchAcat2@aol.com

Memorial Secretary: Sandra Burkert

Pet Prayer Chain: Pam Frame pawprints@cedarvilleumc.org