



Cross Beams

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

January, 2025

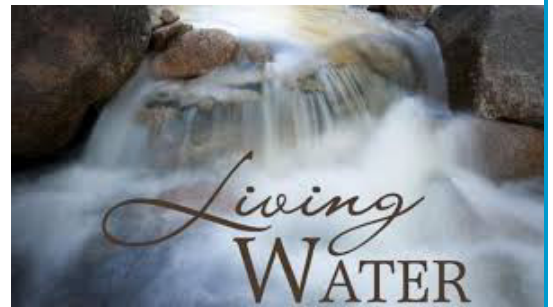
A New Year, A New Thing

Scripture: *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."* – Isaiah 43:18-19

As we step into 2025, I want to begin by expressing how grateful I am to all of you for welcoming me as your new pastor this past year. Your warmth, kindness, and faith have made the past year one filled with joy and blessing, and I am excited to journey with you into this new year of ministry together. As we do—the words of Isaiah offer us a profound invitation: to let go of what lies behind and embrace the new work God is doing in our lives. This passage reminds us that God is continually at work, crafting new opportunities, healing old wounds, and leading us into fresh paths of grace.

Each January, I like to take time to reflect on the past year and set intentions for the year ahead. It's a time to pause, pray, and listen for God's guidance. Isaiah 43:18-19 serves as a wonderful framework for this process. It reminds me to release anything from the past that holds me back and to remain open to the new thing God is springing up before me.

Think about the wilderness and wasteland mentioned in this passage. These are often symbols of desolation, confusion, or difficulty. Perhaps you're entering this year carrying the weight of last year's struggles—a wilderness of unanswered questions or a wasteland of missed opportunities. Yet, God promises to create streams of living water even in the driest places and a clear path forward in the most uncertain terrains.



This is not just a message of renewal but of partnership. "Do you not perceive it?" God asks. The challenge is not just to see the new thing but to believe it, trust it, and walk in step with the Spirit as it unfolds.

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As you set goals for 2025, consider this question: what might God be inviting you to release so you can fully embrace the new thing He is doing? Perhaps it's letting go of a grudge, surrendering fear, or trusting him with a dream you've hesitated to pursue.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, as I enter 2025, help me to let go of the past and trust in the new thing you are doing in my life. Open my eyes to see your hand at work and my heart to believe in your promises. Lead me through the wilderness and refresh my soul with streams of your living water. May this year be a journey of faith, growth, and renewal in you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

May 2025 be filled with the fresh wind of God's Spirit guiding you into His promises and purposes!

"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

Pastor Mike

Mission First!



Happy New Year to all our Mission First friends and family! As we reflect on a busy December, we are counting our blessings for all the people who have come together to help Mission First function. We have received many donations over the past month, including a \$6,000 Urban Alliance grant from the conference for Code Blue housing. Grace Tabernacle church has shared a gift of service, helping to hand out 200 meals on Christmas Day. Iron Mountain has helped distribute coats at the Wednesday meal and the New Ridge Fellowship youth group provided 150 gift bags as a further treat. Tower Health has donated a washer and dryer, while the Coventry Lions Club provided funds for the plumbing and installation. First Presbyterian church helped the clothing closet with money for new coats and boots. Clearly, we are extremely blessed to have such wonderful groups to help us care for our friends and neighbors.

As we look forward to 2025, we hope you will continue to support our ongoing projects. Throughout the winter, we need financial help to shelter the homeless from Code Blue weather. If you can donate, please go to Cedarville's website and click donate. If you can help in other ways, the clothing closet needs ChapStick, deodorant and toilet paper. If you would like to help, stop by Mission First, call Clare at 610-326-0560 or email Clare@missionfirstpottstown.org.

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

Christmas at Cedarville



Delaney Grosser & Grant Sharrock – Live Nativity

**Elianna Beidler – “Star” in
5:00 Christmas Eve Service**



Christmas Eve 5:00 Service – “Follow the Star”



**Christmas Eve Traditional
8:00 Candlelight Service**



**Cedarville Nights' Dinner
Wednesday, January 15,
2025
5:30-6:30**

The next Cedarville Night's dinner will be on Wednesday, December 15, 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.



**Report from
Rise Against Hunger!!**

The meals you packed for Rise Against Hunger have shipped!!

Meals you packaged are headed to the Philippines! The Philippines consists of over 7,000 islands in the Ring of Fire in the Pacific Ocean. One of the most environmentally disease prone countries in the world. It faces near constant threats of natural disaster like earthquakes, typhoons, and volcanic eruptions. These disasters cause displacement and major loss of livelihoods and infrastructures, and disproportionately affect poor communities in rural areas, where people rely on

agriculture and fishing. The Global Hunger Index, which assesses food insecurity based on indicators that measure undernourishment and undernutrition, categorizes the Philippines as having a moderate level of hunger overall. Rise Against Hunger serves the regions of the Philippines where hunger is more urgent.

Your Impact:

To address some of the food security challenges that children, families and communities in the Philippines face, Rise Against Hunger partners with organizations that support educational programs by providing meals to children at schools and early child development centers. This is a key part of Rise Against Hunger's Nourishing Lives pathway. In some cases, the food children receive at school will be the majority of the food they eat in a day. The meals your packaged will help ensure that children have access to the consistent nourishment they need to live healthy lives and successfully pursue their education.

Thank you again for volunteering your time. The impact we are making together starts with a meal and leads to resilient communities worldwide.



**Leadership Board
Town Hall**



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

On Sunday January 19, we welcome you all to attend one service at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. It will be followed by a Town Hall Meeting to be held by the church Leadership Board. Also, on that day the 4 newest members of the Leadership Board, will officially join the other 9 members.

We welcome all our church members to think about and submit any concerns or questions to our email address: Leadershipboard@cedarvilleumc.com. Those emails will be reviewed and then addressed at the Town Hall, if not before.

In true Methodist tradition, light refreshments will be available following the 10:00 a.m. service. Thank you for marking this on your calendars and planning to attend.



MITTEN TREE PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who supported our 2024 Mitten Tree Project. We collected 150 presents for 10 children, which will be distributed by the Coventry Food Project. Every comment we heard from the congregation was *how much they enjoyed the personal touch of shopping for our "adopted" children.* All monetary donations will be sent to the food pantry to support additional children in the community. So after some warm weather, our mittens will be back in 2025.



BLANKET SUNDAY January 12, 2025

Many in our community are not warm, they do not feel secure, and not loved. Please help support the efforts of our Outreach team 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.

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](#)

- Mission First's Amazon Wish

[Donate – Mission First \(missionfirstpottstown.org\)](#)

Thank You,
Outreach Committee & Mission First

CAN YOU CROCHET?

Help is needed to replenish our supply of Christening Blankets. The pattern is easy and we can supply the yarn. If interested, please contact Diana Wrisley at 267.992.1020 or dianawrisley@verizon.net

PLASTIC BAG MATS

We will be re-starting our Plastic Bag Mat project in January. We will have opportunities to work at the church take home project packs. Watch for fellowship / training dates in January. If interested, you can also contact Diana Wrisley at 267.992.1020 or dianawrisley@verizon.net

Leadership Board Welcomes New Members



Peggy Moser

Hello Cedarville church family

I am born and raised in the Pottstown area and a member of Cedarville for 15 years serving on several committees but mostly Staff Parrish.

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Peggy Moser – Continued

Currently am a senior Human Resources Director with Siemens Medical Solutions supporting HR operations and with Siemens for 27 years.

I am also FAP (favorite aunt Peg) to 10 great nieces and nephews scattered across the US which allows many travel opportunities.

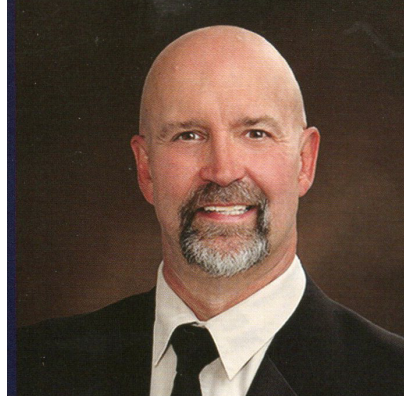
Thank you Cedarville for the opportunity to serve on the Leadership Team and working with a great group of people



May Smith

I was fortunate to find Cedarville around 25 years ago, soon after moving to the area. Cedarville was a wonderful church to raise my daughter due to the wonderful people and relationships we formed. I've supported our church in different capacities over the years by serving in many roles and leading various programs. I've been impressed with the kindness, love and passion our church body exudes. It's the reason I continue to be enriched by our community. I'm looking forward to serving on the board to support our church's legacy of enriching lives with Jesus. My ask of you, is to seek me out to share

thoughts and recommendations as we work together on our present and future.



John Waclawsky

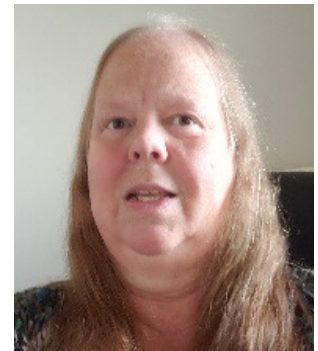
Meet John Waclawsky, he has been a member of Cedarville United Methodist Church for 23 Years. John grew up in Audubon, Pennsylvania and graduated from Methacton High School in 1976. John then went to Montgomery County Community College for 2 years then moved to West Chester State College and Graduated in 1982. While attending college he worked at Genuardi's Supermarket. His hard work and dedication paid off, as he earned enough money to purchase his first home in North Coventry where he presently resides with his wife Linda, daughter Jessica and grandson Ezra.

In the late 1980's John became a partner at Pottstown Auto Parts proudly serving his customers first as a Big A store, then Pronto, finally a Napa store which it is today. He worked there for 20 some years. Afterward he purchased and renovated 3 Investment Properties in Pottstown with his wife. This marked the beginning of his Real Estate Career.

John acquired his Real Estate License in 2014, he also got a CDL and started driving for Owen J Roberts School District at the same time. He understood that starting out in the Real Estate Industry would take time to earn money. He doesn't need to drive still, but continues to drive to this day.

John is very active at Cedarville UMC. His roles at CUMC have included being a Trustee for a lot of years. He has been Trustee President, Trustee Vice President, Finance Board Vice President, Operating Team member at Mission First, the church we merged with in Pottstown. John is also a member of Cedarville's AV Team where you can see and talk to him at the sound board.

Thank you.



Diana Wisley

Diana and her husband Rick live on a small farm in Upper Pottsgrove accompanied by cows, horses, goats, chickens, ring-neck pheasants and their 2 German shepherds Luke and Leia. They are lucky to have both of their daughters and family living nearby with grandchildren, Izzy and Dominic, who attend Pottsgrove Middle School.

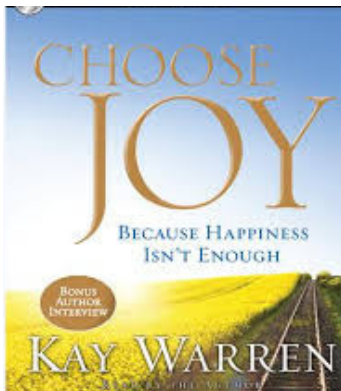
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Diana Wrisley – Continued

Diana is a life-long Methodist; confirmed at St. Mark's in Broomall; transferring from St. Paul's in Warrington to Cedarville in 2016 when they bought their farm. Within a few months, Rick was assigned as the pastor at St. Matthew's UMC in Reading starting an 8 year journey of splitting her time between the congregations.

Diana is a Christ Servant Minister (CSM) in Caring and Leadership. She has served the EPA Conference as Chair of the Committee on Disabilities, member of Conference Sessions and the Conference Committee of CSM, and recently as Dean of the EPA Laity Academy. She is currently a member of the Board of Laity and is the Communication Director for the Laity Academy. Diana has also served on various church-level committees including Education at St. Paul's and St. Matthew's where she coordinated VBS for many years.

Joining Cedarville has permitted Diana to focus on her passion for outreach ministries, where she has chaired the Outreach Committee for several years and is a member of the Cedarsowerz and the Mission First Operating Committee. Serving on the Leadership Board is an honor as we continue to build the path forward for Cedarville, its role in our community, and our contribution to our Lord's ministry. Thank you and Blessings. Diana



Wednesday Morning Bible Study being new Study January 15

Wednesday, Jan 15, the 10:00 Bible study will begin the next study. This study is entitled **Choose Joy**, by Kay Warren. It is a four week study and all are welcome. If you have questions please contact Vicki Miller at vickimiller18@gmail.com or 610-451-4116, All are welcome!



Thanks!

From the Knox Family -

It is with much humility and love that we wish to thank our Cedarville family for your most generous Love Offering gift. This has been the most difficult year of our life centering around Tracey's care.

Your love and support have been there for us at every turn. Not knowing exactly what the future holds we have placed the

funds in a special account to use as needed. Rest assured it will be used for Tracey's care and living conditions.

May God bless everyone for your generosity and ongoing love and support of our family.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Thank you to all, Will, Linda, Tracey and Chris

Dear Cedarville UMC, Thank you for the box of chocolates for Christmas and also for the greeting cards that have been sent to me by the congregation. I greatly appreciate all you do to keep in touch, which lifts my spirit greatly.

Edith Dillman

Thank you for the box of candy – I really appreciated it.

*Thank You!
Alma Murphy*

A heartfelt thank you to all of our very gifted musicians and performers at both Christmas Eve services. If we tried to list everyone, we would no doubt miss someone, but please know your sharing was greatly appreciated and a real Christmas gift to all those watching and/or present.

Judy and Pete Culshaw



Walter Mouse Devotional

**Matthew 7:1...Do not
judge...**



We were looking out into our back yard today, watching the juncos (snowbirds) peck for seeds in the now frozen garden. Juncos are cute little winter birds—charcoal grey with white tummies. As we watched them hopping around, Bill mentioned that he was also seeing a few floaters—those annoying dark particles that get loose and swim around in older folks' visual field.

Juncos and floaters were each part of Bill's reality; he could actually see them both. But it was only the juncos that were part of my reality. It's ok that Bill sees things that I don't. His life has been and is different from mine. This whole junco-floater thing really made it clear to me how important it is for me to honor another's reality, even if I don't see things through their eyes. My reality isn't the only one out there.

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January Worship Helpers

Worship Leaders – 8:00

5 – Anna Taylor
12 – Pat Goshert
19 – One service at 10:00
26 – Michelle Zieser

Worship Leaders – 11:00

5 – Three Fold Blessing
12 – Betsy Wright
19 – One service at 10:00 in FLC
26 – Kristyn Kaari

Ushers - 8:00 Worship Service

5– Will Knox
12 – Eliza Mann, Saritha Devathala, Denise Reagan
19 – One service at 10:00
26 – Gale & Glenn Nester

Ushers - 11:00 Worship Service

5 - Joanne Means, Caleb Work, Vicki Miller & Jay Wright
12 – Joanne Means, Caleb Work, Mary Uba, & Jay Wright
19 – One Service in the FLC, 10:00
24 – Joanne Means, Caleb Work, Janet Austin & Jay Wright

9:30 Scripture Readers

5 – Three Fold Blessing
12 – Diane Cherico
19 – Benita Holden
26 – Marilyn Knight

CedarKidz/CedarTweenz Teachers

5 – Susan Morris
12 – Sandie Armstrong
19 – One service 10:00
26 – Crissy Fiorani

Children's Messages

5 – Susan Morris
12 – Sandie Armstrong
19 – Diane Cherico (one service at 10:00)
26 – Caleb Work



*May God
Bless You
Throughout this
Year
And Always!*