



Cross Beams

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

March, 2026



Our Lenten Journey

Lent is a season the Church has observed for centuries, yet its purpose is beautifully simple. Lent is a time to return.

Not return out of guilt.

Not return out of obligation.

But return because God's grace keeps calling us home.

This year, our Lenten worship theme is *Return: A Journey Back to the Heart of God*. Throughout these weeks, we are exploring what it means to come back to what matters most; to renew our trust, our prayer, our generosity, our compassion, and our hope in Jesus.

Lent gives us space to slow down, reflect, and listen again for God's voice. It reminds us that faith is not only about what we believe, but about where our hearts are rooted.

I invite you to walk this journey with us in several ways:

- **Sunday Worship** will guide us each week as we reflect on what it means to return to God in our daily lives.
- Our **Ministerium Lenten Services** offer a meaningful opportunity to worship alongside other Christians in our community. (Details are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.)
- On **Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7 PM**, we will gather to remember Jesus' final meal with his disciples and the love that calls us to serve one another.
- And then our journey culminates in the joy of resurrection on **Easter Sunday, April 5**.

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We will begin Easter morning together with the wider community at the **Sunrise Service at Temple UMC at 6:30 AM**, followed by our celebrations here at Cedarville with services at **8:00 AM, 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship, and 11:00 AM Traditional Worship**.

Lent is not about giving things up simply for the sake of discipline. It is about making room for God. It is about rediscovering the One who never stopped seeking us.

Wherever you find yourself right now — steady in faith, searching for direction, or simply tired from the journey — this season is an invitation for you.

Come and return.
Come and be renewed.
Come and walk with us back to the heart of God.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Mike



Growing Together in Discipleship

Over the past year, we have been blessed to welcome new people into the life of our church. Each new face, each new story, and each new commitment to faith strengthens our church family. Membership is not simply a moment in time. It is the beginning of a journey of growing in Christ together.

To help support that journey, we will soon be offering a six-week Discipleship Ministry program designed especially for those who have joined Cedarville within the past year.

This program will focus on helping participants deepen their understanding of what it means to be a member of the church and how each person can take part in its mission. Together we will explore how we live out our membership through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We will also talk about the many ways people can become involved in the life of Cedarville, using their unique talents and passions to help us continue *Changing Lives with Jesus*.

This will not be a lecture series, but a time of conversation, learning, and connection. Our hope is that participants will leave with a stronger sense of belonging, a clearer understanding of their role in the church, and new relationships within the Cedarville community.



Re-Scheduled Town Hall Meeting Sunday, March 15, following 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

All members of Cedarville United Methodist Church are warmly invited to attend our Annual Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2026, following worship.

That morning, we will gather for a One Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. During this service, we will welcome new members into our church family. It will be a meaningful time of worship, unity, and thanksgiving as we begin a new year in ministry.

Following the service, we will hold our Town Hall Meeting. During this time, we will recognize and thank those members of the Leadership Board who have completing their terms and welcome those who are beginning their service. The Leadership Board will also share highlights from 2025, outline goals for 2026, and provide a general financial update for the church.

We encourage all church members to participate in this important conversation.

If you have questions, concerns, or topics you would like the Leadership Board to address, you are invited to submit them in advance by email to LeadershipBoard@cedarvilleumc.com. These emails will be reviewed and addressed during the Town Hall meeting whenever possible, or earlier if appropriate.

Your presence and participation matter. This is an important opportunity to reflect on where we have been, celebrate what God has done, and look ahead together as we continue Changing Lives with Jesus.

We hope you will plan to join us.

Reminder - March 15 – One service only at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Cedarville UMC
1092 Laurelwood Road
Pottstown, PA 19465
(610) 326-4173

YOUTH PICKLEBALL
Family Life Center 4:30pm - 6:00pm
All youth currently in grades 7th to 12th are invited to participate.

First Sunday of Every Month – Next Event, March 1, 2026

Mission First!



It's been a long winter here at Mission First, but we are confident that Spring will be here soon. The ice has been particularly hard on the building, which has suffered from leaks caused by ice dams. Thankfully, our wonderful volunteers have been here at all hours to empty the buckets and clean up the water. Without you, there would be no Mission First; thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

This month, we've been blessed by a lot of donations. The Giving Tree from Gwynedd Valley Kids rolled and stuffed 200 pairs of socks with snacks for us to hand out. Many people have donated lots of winter clothing. We've even been able to hand out blankets to keep our friends and neighbors warm during this cold weather.

As we look forward to warmer weather, we also are looking forward to a new health and hygiene vending machine. The machine and all the items will be supplied by a private company and Montgomery County; we supply the electricity and the space. This will be a wonderful way to ensure that everyone has the supplies they need! If you would like to join us in caring for our community, call Clare at 610-326-0560 or email Clare@missionfirstpottstown.org.

OUTREACH MINISTRY



**Thank You
We Did IT**

Through the snow and cold – and an extension into overtime, we completed an amazing 2026 Souper Bowl event.

Final score: Patriots 226 Seahawks 849

A special thank to Anna Taylor for helping with counting and sorting the food, and Sally Harpold and Gary Nicholson for making the delivery to Mission First and Coventry Pantry.

Our donation of **1075** items was a significant gift to our friends, but please remember the continued needs in our community. Donations to Mission First can still be left every week in the shopping carts outside the FLC and Fellowship Hall.

Help Needed for our **Seasonal Ministry Team.**
Help plan our Mother's Day, Father's Day, Coventry Woods, and GoFourth projects.



**Idea Exchange
March 24th**

You are invited to a think-tank gathering to replan how our Live Nativity is delivered. We will regroup to address current concerns, brainstorm improvements, and explore opportunities to help manage the event. Your participation and ideas are valued as we work together to enhance the experience for all involved. Come out to provide your input on Tuesday March 24 at 7:00

Contacts

May Smith @ maysmith2@comcast.net

Diana Wrisley @ dianawrisley@verizon.net

COMMUNITY

LENTEEN SERVICES
 Join Us for Mid-Week
 Lenten Worship!

This Lent, our church is once again joining with **several local congregations** for a special series of **seven mid-week Lenten services**, leading up to a **Good Friday service**. These gatherings offer a meaningful opportunity to deepen our faith, reflect on Christ's journey to the cross, and grow in community with fellow believers.

Offerings go to the discretionary fund of the Ministerium. Through Scripture, music, and prayer, we will prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.



Service Schedule:

March 4 – Rev. Rick Knarr @ Coventryville UMC, 1521 Old Ridge Road, Pottstown

March 11 – Rev. Peter Detterline @ Mt. Carmel UMC, 2203 Harmonyville Road, Elverson, PA 19520

March 18 – Rev. Scott Stevenson @ Temple UMC, 1390 Unionville Road, Pottstown

March 25 – Rev. Jim Jannotti @ Nantmeal UMC, 359 Nantmeal Road, Glenmoore, PA 19343

April 3 – Good Friday
(service is at 2:00 p.m.)

Rev. Mark Muthler @ Grace Renewal, 653 Glasgow Street, Pottstown



Confirmation Classes
Beginning This Month!

We are excited to announce that our 2026 Confirmation Classes will begin on Sunday, March 1, and will continue to meet on Sunday evenings in the weeks ahead. This is a special time in the lives of our confirmands as they explore their faith, learn about the foundations of our church, and prepare to take the next step in their spiritual journey.

Each confirmand will be paired with a mentor, someone who will walk alongside them, offering encouragement, wisdom, and support. This is a meaningful time of growth for both the students and their mentors, and we ask for your prayers as they embark on this journey together.

Please pray that our confirmands will experience God's love in new and deeper ways, that their faith

will grow strong, and that they will feel confident in making their own commitment to Christ and the Church. Also, lift up their mentors, teachers, and families, asking God to guide them in this important season.

We look forward to celebrating with our confirmands in the coming months and giving thanks for all that God is doing in their lives!

New Wednesday
Afternoon Bible Study
 – *The Letters of John*

The Wednesday 1:00 p.m. Bible group will be studying, *The Letters of John*, starting March 25th. This session will run nine weeks, and we be using N. T. Wright's Bible Study for everyone book for discussion questions. You do not have to buy the book to come to the class, but you do have to read the Bible passages before the session. If you have any questions, please contact Frank Cebular at 610 970 7725,



Daylight Savings
Begins March 8, 2026
Spring Forward



2orMore - A new way of belonging and growing together

We are excited to announce a new women's group, "2or More." The goal of 2orMore is to grow in relationship with God and each other. It is based on Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Our kick-off event will be a Ladies Night Out on Friday, March 20th at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at the WQ Diner. Pay your own way. The goal of the kick-off evening would be to simply enjoy each other's company, introduce the new group concept, and talk about what those who attend would like to do as part of this group.

Any and all women are invited, please invite friends and family outside our congregation that you think would benefit from the group. Questions? RSVP? Contact Lydia Work at lydiawork@msn.com or call/text 304-552-1442.

March 2026 Gift Card Orders

It's time for Cedarville's semi-annual fundraiser-gift cards! Order forms will be available outside each worship area on March 15th with a due date of April 19th and distribution by May 3rd. Start thinking of what you can use gift cards for: baby/bridal showers, Mother's Day, graduation gifts, and birthdays. Remember, buying gift cards for yourself to pay for your normal expenses helps too! Groceries, gas, restaurants, and general purchases at stores and online. And don't forget vacations!

Questions? Joyce Shutt: leave a message on home phone 610-792-3417 or email joyceandhal@hotmail.com



A GriefShare seminar will be offered beginning March 4th here at Cedarville Church. GriefShare is a Christ-centered program which helps people apply biblical principles as they deal with the emotions and life stresses following the death of a loved one.

The program includes videos, small group discussions, and a participant's guide used for reflection after the meetings. Our group will meet every Wednesday evening from 6:30pm – 8:00pm in room 105. There are 13 sessions in the seminar.

More information can be found in brochures in each of our lobbies. Please share them with friends and family members who are struggling with grief. Everyone is welcome. It is never too soon or late to join our group, at any time in the cycle, or at any stage in your grief journey.

Register at griefshare.org or call Susan in the church office (610-326-4173) to sign up.

-Susan Paravis



Cedarville U.M. Church Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 4th 11:00 a.m. – rain or shine

Save the date! The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 4th at 11:00 a.m. at the church. All children are welcome!

We are asking for donations small candy (that can fit inside plastic eggs) and prizes for children that find the "golden eggs" such as small chocolate bunnies, small bottles of bubbles, sidewalk chalk and snack bags. Donation baskets will be set up starting Sunday, March 1st.

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Easter Egg Hunt – Continued

My young-adult special needs students will be filling the eggs for us, so I need to collect the items by the middle of March to give them time to complete this task.

If you would like to help with the set up on Friday morning, April 3rd, and/or with the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4th starting at 10am, please reach out to Crissy Fiorani at 484-332-6759 or cchfiorani@aol.com



Easter Flowers

If you would like to order Easter flowers for the Sanctuary to beautify our Easter services, order forms can be found in the narthex of the Sanctuary.

We will be offering Daffodils and Tulips again. (we are no longer offering lilies due to many who have allergies to them.) Fill out the order form and place in the box provided with your check or money clipped to the form.

Prices are:

Daffodils - \$9.00

Tulips - \$9.00

Order Deadline is Sunday, March 22.



Anniversary Gala!

Celebrating the 6th Anniversary of Mission First

"Come celebrate with us! What could be a better way to rejoice in how Mission First has grown in the past 6 years than to party at our Anniversary Gala? DJ Joel Blankenbiller will be providing entertainment with music from the '50s to '80s.

Yes, there is a dance floor, but even if you don't dance we'll have some music trivia, light refreshments, door prizes and best of all---a chance to mix and mingle with old friends and meet some new people too. The event is scheduled for Friday, May 15th from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Tickets are \$25, will be on sale soon, with all proceeds being donated to Mission First outreach programs in Pottstown."



I know it's hard to believe as we look at the snow still piled around, but Summer is right around the corner! That means planning for this summer's Vacation Bible School is going to kick into high gear soon, and we need YOU to make it a great experience for the kids!

Last year we had twice as many children compared to the previous year, and we want to keep growing. To do that we need a team that includes many different talents and gifts. Even if you can't participate directly during VBS week (July 6 - 9), there is a need for creative support and logistics that YOU might be just the right person to provide.

Please reach out to Sandie Armstrong, if you haven't already, at armstrong21@verizon.net or at 610-304-9306 to talk about how you can help. Please join us at the kickoff meeting on Tuesday, March 24th at 7 pm in Room 103.



Thank You!

Dear Cedarville Friends,

Thank you so much for the prayers, calls, cards and jokes during my Shingles' event. Praise the Lord, they are gone! Thank you once again.

Betty Brehm

Cedarville UMC,

Thank you so much for inviting us to sing at your beautiful church. Thank you for the generous donation. We will use it to give back to the community.

It's always our blessing to sing at your church. Thank you.

Love & Blessings,
Three Fold Blessing
Jen, Rich, Pam &
Carole

From: UMCOR

Dear Friends in Ministry,

Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their

response would be—Thank you!

And through your financial support, you are serving within a vital web of interactive relationship, partnering to engage globally in direct ministry to people in need.

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Grace and Peace,
Roland Fernandes
General Secretary
UMCOR



Join Us for an Inspiring Bus Tour!

Get ready for an extraordinary adventure as we set out to explore the Museum of the Bible and witness the awe-inspiring Dead Sea Scrolls!

There are a few spots left on the bus. The bus will leave Cedarville on April 1st at 7:30 a.m. and return the same day. Contact Denny Emrick (610-310-1631) or dennyemrick@gmail.com with questions. Final

payment is due now. Cost of trip is \$125.



Lenten Poem: My Heart Is in My Hands

By Pam Frame

Psalm 24:10...Who is he, this king of Glory? The LORD Almighty—he is the King of Glory.

My path is rough, the pleasures few--I stumble as I roam.
My Heart is in My Hands today. I'll bring My people Home.

The pain of Sin and Cross I bear. I struggle as I walk.
My earthly burden scars My Soul. The crowds have come to gawk.

But my heart is in My Hands today—As bravely on I plod.
I carry Peace and Love and Hope—From Our Triumphant God.

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My Heart Is In My Hands – Continued

They nailed Me up and walked away. They thought The Light had gone.

But I returned enrobed in Love—And I will carry on!

My Love cannot be trampled on—Or stabbed or nailed or lost.

It carries on in Silent Trust—Shouldering all the cost.

They sent Me off; they thought I'd gone. They left the world askew.
But I returned to claim My Own—And I'll come back for you!

Easter Sunday

My Heart is in My Hands today. God's Glory shines above.

I welcome you with open arms—To God's Eternal Love.



March Worship Helpers

Worship Leaders 8:00

1 – Anna Taylor
8 – Dale Sharrock

15 – One service only at 10:00 a.m.

22 – Judy Pfeffer
29 – Pat Goshert

Worship Leaders 11:00

1 – Richard Work
8 – Velva Zarley
15 – Elaine Lambert (10:00 service)
22 – Lisa Harner
29 – Patti McClimon

9:30 Scripture

Readers

1 – Diane Cherico
8 – Sandie Armstrong
15 – One service only at 10:00 a.m.
22 – Emilie Crowle
29 – Clare Schilling

Ushers 8:00 Worship

1 – Will & Linda Knox
8 – Saritha Devathala, Eliza Mann & Denise Reagan
15 – One service only at 10:00 a.m.
25 – Gale & Glenn Nester
29 – Will & Linda Knox

Ushers 11:00 Worship & 10:00 service on March 15th

Tom & Elaine Lambert
Rob Mutschler
Bill Whitlatch

CedarKidz/Cedar Tweenz Teachers

1 – Crissy Fiorani

8 – Susan Morris
15 – Diane Cherico
22 – Sandie Armstrong
29 – Diane Cherico

Children's Message

1 – Caleb Work
8 – Susan Morris
15 – Diane Cherico
22 – Sandie Armstrong
29 – Caleb Work

Flowers – Flower donors are needed – sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.
Cost is \$55.00



Cedarville U.M. Church
1092 Laurelwood Rd.,
Pottstown, PA 19465

Office Phone:
610-326-4173

www.cedarvilleumc.org

Rev. Michael S. Remel,
Pastor

717-405-0659 |

mike@cedarvilleumc.org

Rev. Pat Goshert, Assoc.
Pastor

610-858-4839 |

pat@cedarvilleumc.org

Susan Morris, Church
Administrator

610-326-4173 |

susan@cedarvilleumc.org

Leadership Board Email
leadershipboard@cedarvilleumc.org