



Cross Beams

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

September, September, 2026

Fall Is in the Air... and Ministry Is in Motion!

There are certain signs that tell us fall is on the way.

Children are heading back to school. College students are settling into dorm rooms and trying to remember where their classes are. Pumpkin spice has somehow found its way into just about everything. And, perhaps the surest sign of all, Spirit Halloween stores are popping up in every empty storefront they can find!

Yes, fall is upon us!

But here at Cedarville, fall means something more. It means that many of our ministries are getting back into full swing, and there are plenty of opportunities to Come, Grow, and Share together.

Over the summer, many of you signed up to participate in our ministry teams. Thank you! Those sign-ups weren't simply about filling spaces on a sheet of paper. They were about discovering ways each of us can use our gifts, our time, and our faith to be part of what God is doing through Cedarville.

As you read through this edition of *Cross Beams*, I encourage you to pay particular attention to the many opportunities for worship, fellowship, outreach, and ministry in the weeks ahead. Maybe you'll see something you've been involved with for years. Maybe you'll discover something completely new. Or maybe you'll find the opportunity that makes you think, "*You know, I could do that.*"

September gives us several wonderful opportunities to begin.

On Sunday, September 6, we will leave our usual Sunday morning routine behind and gather with our brothers and sisters from other area churches for Worship in the Grove at Shenkel UCC. There is something special about worshipping beyond the walls of our own building and being reminded that the Church of Jesus Christ is much bigger than any one congregation. (Continued on Page 2)

Then, on Sunday, September 13, we have *two* reasons to celebrate! We will celebrate the completion of our 250 Acts of Kindness Challenge. What began as an invitation to intentionally share God's love throughout our community has become hundreds of moments of kindness, generosity, encouragement, and grace. At the 9:30 service, we will also have our Blessing of the Backpacks, praying for our children, students, teachers, administrators, and everyone beginning another school year.

Finally, on Sunday, September 27, we will celebrate Ministry Celebration Sunday. This will be an opportunity to recognize and give thanks for the many people and ministries that make Cedarville such an active community of faith. During worship, we will also present new Bibles to children in our congregation, placing God's Word into their hands and promising to continue walking alongside them as they grow in faith.

All of these celebrations point toward something important: Church isn't simply something we attend. It's something we are part of.

Every prayer offered, meal prepared, child encouraged, visitor welcomed, song sung, meeting attended, act of kindness shared, and hour volunteered becomes part of our shared ministry. So yes, enjoy the cooler weather when it arrives. Have your pumpkin spice latte if that's your thing. And don't be surprised when Spirit Halloween suddenly takes over another abandoned store.

But as fall begins, I hope we'll also notice something else popping up everywhere:

Opportunities to serve. Opportunities to grow. Opportunities to share God's love.

I can't wait to see what God does through Cedarville this fall.

Blessings,
Pastor Mike



Worship in the Grove at Shenkel UCC, September 6, 10:00 a.m.

There will be a combined community worship serve at the Grove at Shenkel UCC, 1580 Shenkel Rd. Pottstown, PA. Bring lawn chairs, a finger food to share at Coffee Hour, your regular Cedarville offering and an offering for the Cluster.

There will be one service only at Cedarville that morning at 8:00 a.m. with Communion.



Backpack Give-Away at Mission First

Please join us on Sunday, September 13, when Clare Schilling shares pictures and stories about our recent back to school event at Mission First. This will be presented at all 3 services and Clare will be here between services to answer any questions.

Mission First!



As fall comes to Mission First, we are excited to announce our next community event! Please mark your calendars for Friday, October 9th when we will be hosting our first High Tea Fundraiser! There are only 40 seats available, so get your tickets soon. Contact Sue Meloy for details: 610-327-4196, SKMeloy@comcast.net.

Our last summer event was a huge success! We gave out over 200 backpacks stuffed with school supplies. Additionally, people lined up to get sneakers from AHARI, clothing from Highmark Whole Care, books from NAACP, hand



painted notebooks from Pottstown Community Arts, perfume from JWI and haircuts from Hair on Hanover. Everyone had a wonderful time picking out new supplies and snacking on pizza, popcorn and other treats. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, our community has all the supplies they need to start the school year.

While we look forward to fall, we are already starting to think about our Code Blue nights and the shelter that will be needed by our homeless neighbors. All of your donations are appreciated! Our clothing closet currently needs ChapStick and women's underpants. If you're able to help, stop by First, call Clare at 610-326-0560 or email Clare@missionfirstpottstown.org.



Coming in October – Lumos Candlelight Experience Concerts on Friday, October 2, 4:30, 6:30 & 8:30



We are excited to announce that Lumos Candlelight Experiences has chosen Cedarville as a venue for their concert.

At Lumos, they believe music should be more than just heard, it should be felt. Their candlelight concerts transform timeless classics and modern favorites into unforgettable live experiences. Each show is designed to move hearts, spark memories and create moments you'll never forget.

Each venue they choose is handpicked for its character, charm, and atmosphere. Whether it's a grand theatre, a hidden gem, or an historic church, the glow of thousands of candles turns into a place where music

feels truly magical.

Their mission goes beyond music. Each month, they support a charity whose work makes the world brighter, from protecting animals to tackling global challenges. By joining them, you're not only experiencing something beautiful, but also helping them make a difference.

Tickets can be purchased by going to the website: <https://www.lumos-experiences.com/event/a-queen-vs-elton-john-candlelight-experience-in-pottstown-pa-friday-october-2nd/> Note: You will need a ticket to attend the concert – it is not a free concert at Cedarville. Lumos is paying Cedarville to use our facility.

Note: I am looking for volunteers to be parking attendants for the concerts. If you would be willing to help with parking at any are all the concerts, please contact me: Susan@cedarvilleumc.org. Thanks!



Chancel Choir
Rehearsals
Begin Thursday,
September 10, 2026
7:15 p.m. in the Parlor
Anyone who loves to
sing is welcome to join
us!!

Come TRY the
Handbell Choir! Thursday,
September 3 - 6:30
Meet a Handbell and the
Choir, and see if you want
to join the fun!



Handbell Choir Members
Needed: Rehearsals are
Thursdays from 6:30-
7:15 Anthems are on the
2nd Sunday of each
month from Oct-May -
Questions? Contact Lori
Snively -
snivman@gmail.com



Fall Bible Studies

Monday Evening Study

Will begin the first Monday in
October – October 5, 7:00 p.m.
 Topic TBD.

Wednesday Morning Study:

10:00 a.m. in Room 103

This Study will resume on
 September 16th. Topic will be
 announced.

Wednesday Afternoon Study:

1:00 p.m. in Room 103

In our Wednesday afternoon
 class, Frank Cebular will be
 leading an 18-week study of
 Romans. The first class will be
 September 16th. He will be
 using NT Wright's Bible Study
 Guide for Everyone, "Romans",
 which is available on Amazon
 for about \$8. You do not need
 to purchase the book to attend,
 as long as you read the
 session's scriptures prior to
 class. We will start the first
 class with Romans 1:1-17, and
 a weekly reading list will be
 handed out for the subsequent
 sessions. If there are any
 questions, please contact Frank
 at webedancing@yahoo.com.

New Wednesday Night Study:

Begins on September 9, 6:30
 p.m. in Room 103: **New**

Members' Bible Study:
Discover the Big Picture of
God's Story - Have you ever
 wished you better understood

how all the parts of the Bible fit
 together? Join this 14-week
 journey through Scripture, from
 Genesis to Revelation, using **A**
Brief Survey of the Bible by
 John Walton and Mark Strauss.
 Designed especially for new
 members—or anyone seeking a
 fresh start in understanding the
 Bible; this study will help you
 see the big picture of God's
 story and how it continues to
 shape our faith and lives today.

Thursday Afternoon Study:

1:00 p.m. in Room 103

This study will resume on
 September 17. They will be
 studying the book,
Unspeakable Courage, by
 Max Lucado.

Thursday Night Study:

5:30 p.m. in Room 103

This study will resume on
 September 3. On September 3
 and 10, they will be finishing the
 study, "**The Awe of God**" by
 John Bevere. A new study will
 start on September 17, "**The**
Great Omission" by Dallas
 Willard led by Denny Emrick.

Friday Morning Study:

9:00 a.m. on Zoom

This study will resume on
 Friday, September 11. The
 study will be on the book,
Unbreakable Courage by Max
 Lucado. Contact Pastor Pat if
 you would like to join, so she
 can share the link with you –
pat@cedarvilleumc.org, 610-
 858-4839.

Adult Sunday School – **Sunday's - 9:30 a.m. -**

Fellowship Hall – Meets all
 year, following official Methodist
 curriculum. Sept.-Oct. –
 Hebrews. Adults Welcome!



School is back in session and everyone needs some extra blessings, whether you are a student, teacher, aide, parent, bus driver, school nurse, cafeteria worker, maintenance worker, or have any job related to school in general.

Please join us in worship with your backpacks on Sunday, September 13th, as Pastor Mike offers blessings on backpacks and on those who are involved in starting our children off to a stellar school year. This will take place at the 9:30 Contemporary service. It takes a village to help raise our kids, and Cedarville UMC is a wonderful village!



**Appreciation
Sunday
September 27, 2026**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 27. At all 3 services, we will have a time of acknowledgement, celebration and thankfulness for all of you, our volunteers, for the work/service you've all done this past year.



A free monthly night to connect with friends, grow in faith, and have fun together

2ND SUNDAYS | 4:30-7 PM | CAMP INNABAH

Sept 13 • Oct 11 • Nov 8 • Dec 13
Jan 10 • Feb 14 • Mar 14 • Apr 11

Looking for a place to connect, have fun, and grow in your faith? Youth Nights are a **free monthly gathering** for youth ages 10–18 featuring worship, food, games, and meaningful conversations. Join us on the **second Sunday of each month**, September through April, from 4:30–7:00 pm at Camp Innabah.



A GriefShare seminar will be offered beginning September 9th 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



**Women's Retreat
September 18-20
Kenbrook Retreat Center**

The ladies are all looking forward to another inspiring retreat this fall, led by Lydia Work, where the world asks: *Where is God?*

Room assignments have been made and everything is ready to go! Also, this year we will again be offering yoga sessions with Amanda. Please bring along a yoga mat if you'd like to joins a session, which requires a mat.

We're looking forward to a great time of learning, fellowship, nature, and good food! We hope you will come away feeling peace and empowerment in knowing God is with us!



High Tea

Mission First is having a High Tea fundraiser at 414 E High St on Friday, October 9th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

What makes high tea special? Service and selection. China, silverware and linen. Assorted loose leaf brewed teas. Assorted tea sandwiches. Multiple dessert choices. And fresh baked scones, warm from our oven, waiting for butter, jam or lemon curd. Sample one of everything!

High tea became a custom in the Victorian era, and was appreciated as much for the company as the meal. Mission First would like to extend the charm of that age by slowing life down to a gentler form of me-time.

Donation will be \$30 per person, so gather friends and book a table for four or six.

Reservations are a must so we do not exceed our seating

capacity, and may be made by contacting Sue Meloy.
skmeloy52@gmail.com

We hope you will choose to indulge in this anachronistic bit of nostalgia with us as you support our MISSION.



Attic Treasures

Attic Treasures will be back this year along with the annual Holiday Craft Bazaar on November 7th. We will start collecting your items on October 1 in Room 102 (below the Family Life Center). Items must be clean and working condition. We ask that there be NO drop off of: Old computers, monitors or TV's, clothing or shoes, refrigerators or dehumidifiers, baby cribs or cars seats, exercise equipment, large pieces of furniture, stuffed animals, textbooks of any kind, VHS or cassette tapes, and record albums. Most of these items rarely sell and we do not have a place to dispose of them after the sale (in addition to the costs we might incur to have them picked up by the trash hauler.)

We will also be seeking volunteers to help us. We need help on Saturday, October 31, starting at 10:00 a.m. to clear out rooms and move stuff from Shephelah over to the FLC classrooms. On Sunday, Nov. 1

we need help to set up tables and move donated items to the various rooms and then through November 5 to move, sort, display, and price the donated items. We will also need volunteers on November 7th (the day of the bazaar) to help with the various aspects of the sale from 7:00 a.m. until around 3:00 p.m. (for clean-up). If you are willing to help (or have questions about items to donate), please reach out to either Elaine Lambert, 610-286-6874 or catchacat2@aol.com or Sally Harpold (610-547-0556). Let's make this another successful sale for Cedarville.

2027 Travel Opportunities with Boscov's Travel Circle

Presentation at Cedarville, Thursday, October 1, 11:00 a.m. in the FLC

Join Boscov's Travel Circle for a presentation highlighting the exciting lineup of 2027 group trips, including a Brooklyn Chocolate day trip, Brooklyn Pizza day trip, Nashville, TN tour, Connecticut Cameos tour, Mackinac Island tour, a day trip to the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre for A Christmas Carol, and a Grand Illumination of Colonial Williamsburg tour. The travel presentation will focus on trip highlights, itineraries and inclusions. Learn about everything these incredible travel opportunities have to offer at the upcoming travel presentations.



Thank You!

From the family of Robert 'Bob' Sands:

Many thanks to our Cedarville Family for all your prayers during Bob's illness. We were overwhelmed by all your expressions of sympathy and cards of condolence after Bob's passing. Special thanks to Clare, and the Mission First Volunteers, for their help during the luncheon after Bob's Celebration of Life Service.

We ask for your continued prayers as we go through the difficult days ahead.

Sincerest Thanks,
The Family of Bob Sands

Dear Cedarville Family,
Thank you all so much for the cards, calls, visits and support I received, during my recent knee surgery and recovery. I am so appreciative of all the caring and love shown to me during this time.
Blessings,
Kathy Ballein

Dear Members,

Sending a prayer of thanks to God...and a note of thanks to you. My heart is hugging each and every one! Thank you for caring.

God Bless
Shirley Patterson

From UMCOR

Dear Friends in Ministry, Thank you!

*The dear people you just helped with your gift of \$180 to UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery, may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be – **Thank you!***

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

Roland Fernandes
General Secretary of UMCOR

From: Pottstown Cluster

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$200 received in July.

Patricia Shepherd
Executive Director

Rides needed Occasionally for 9:30 Church Service

Brad Shupinski's parents occasionally need a ride to the 9:30 service. If you would be available to give them rides, please let Susan, in the church office, know you

would be willing to do this and allow her to give them your phone number so that they can call you when they need a ride. Thanks for considering! (They live at the North end of Hanover Street in Pottstown.)



Turn Hunger into Hope With Your Own Two Hands

Do you have 2-1/2 hours to make a difference in children's lives? Feed My Starving Children is having a MobilePack event at **Berean Bible Church** in Pottstown from **Thursday, September 24, through Saturday, September 26**. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC), a Christian nonprofit, estimates that at least **6,200 children die each day** from undernutrition-related causes. **WE CAN HELP.** Pack meals of rice, soy, vitamins, and dried veggies which will be donated to partners overseas to feed children facing food insecurity. Our goal is to pack over 750,000 meals!

Please go to [2609-094MI Pottstown PA Pottstown - Campaign](https://www.feedmystarvingchildren.org/2609-094MI-Pottstown-PA-Pottstown-Campaign) to see session times and to register online. To register by phone, call Donna at (610) 413-4384.

Walter Mouse Devotional

Psalm 48:14...God is our God forever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.

We passed a canoe recently. It was strapped on top of a car, probably headed for a placid river or lake somewhere. It brought back pleasant memories of canoeing at camp when we were younger. Paddling along on top of the peaceful water always seems like the height of serenity to me.



But I remember another aspect of canoeing: portage. This means carrying your canoe and supplies overland as we travel between two bodies of water. It was always hard work and I recall and invariably over rough terrain. It always worked out, though because our guide led us safely forward and those following us carried our loads as faithful as we could.

Life's a lot like canoe trips at times. Sometimes we glide serenely along, expending minimal energy and enjoying the trip. At other times, we find ourselves carrying heavy burdens over uneven ground, following Someone we can't always even see. But life, too, works out as long as we follow

our Guide and do the best we can at the time.

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September Worship Helpers

Worship Leaders 8:00

6 – Anna Taylor
13 – Dale Sharrock
20 – Karen Baum
27 – Judy Pfeffer

Worship Leaders 11:00

6 – Worship at Shenkel, 10:00
13 – Elaine Lambert
20 – Kristyn Kaari
27 – Patti McClimon

9:30 Scripture Readers

6 – Service at Shenkel
13 – Marilyn Knight
20 - Curt Erb
27 – Rich Adamson

Ushers 8:00 Worship

6 – Will & Linda Knox
13 – Saritha Devathala, Eliza Mann & Denise Reagan
20 – Ken Good

27 – Gale & Glenn Nester

Ushers 11:00 Worship

6 – Worship at Shenkel, 10:00
13 – Rob Mutschler, Jill Kinney, Sandy Eckert & Gayle Fryling
20 – Eric Kaari, John Thiessen, Rob Mutschler and Gayle Fryling
27 – Jill Kinney, Patti Kinard, Mary Viera and Gayle Fryling

CedarKidz/Cedar Tweenz Teachers

6 – Worship at Shenkel
13 – Sandie Armstrong
20 – No Sunday School
27 – Diane Cherico

Children's Message

6 – Worship at Shenkel
13 – Sandie Armstrong
20 – Caleb Work
27 – Diane Cherico



**Cedarville U.M. Church
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www.cedarvilleumc.org