



THE CALLER

February 2024

"The Stone Church with a Warm Heart"

Ministry Staff

Deanna Geiter, Pastor

Chris Ritchie &
Harrison Schappell
Contemporary
Worship Leaders

Jon Simpson, Youth Director

Amanda Hollich
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Michael Brimmer,
Choir Director

Tara Zimmerman
Organist

Jennifer Trexler, Secretary

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The Church Online

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Facebook - Cornwall UMC

YouTube - Cornwall United
Methodist Church

From the Pastor....

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken. Psalm 62:1-2

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are now in the thick of winter. The temperatures have plummeted, the winds have come, and it has snowed. At the time of this writing, we just experienced a weekend full of strong winds and just the other day we received several inches of snow. What is it like for you when the storms come? When the winds blow and the temperature is frigidly cold? Truth be told, we know what it is like to bundle up and confront the weather when it is time to get the shovels and snow blowers out to remove the snow. But, each of us has experienced and weathered winds and storms in our lives through loss, grief, change, trials, conflict, hardships, doubts, and so much more. Take time to reflect on the storms that you have encountered. During those times, how did you weather the storm? What did you learn? How did you continue to move forward?

About six years ago, a massive wind storm came through the area where we were living. Through the storm, several trees could not withstand the wind and they fell down to the ground. Thankfully, the trees fell away from the house. I remember looking out of the kitchen window and seeing the massive roots of the tree facing me. It was a disconcerting sight to see. It was a truly a frightful sight to see. Through experiencing and seeing this, I began to wonder about rootedness and what it means to be rooted. Likewise, when we are rooted and steadfast, we can be unshakeable. And, that is what we are being called to do...to be unshakeable.

There will be storms we experience where we might feel overwhelmed, rattled, and flustered; there will be times where we might be pruned. Despite that, we are still able to grow, blossom, and flourish if we are deeply grounded and rooted because we are unshakeable.

Right now, we are in the middle of a sermon series as we look at a faith statement that was drafted by a team of people from the church to reflect our core beliefs. These core beliefs are the bedrock to our faith. They affirm who God is and who we are as sons and daughters of God and as the church together. In each of our lives, we have experienced much transition over the past several years, and, as such, it is important for us to dive deep into the core of our faith,

(cont'd on page 2)

Sunday Morning Schedule

Informal Service 8:00 A.M.
Contemporary Service 10:15 A.M.
Traditional Service 10:30 A.M.

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 A.M. — 12:00 P.M.

February Mission of the Month

Agape Family Shelter, submitted by Kathy Snavelly, Champion

God creates miracles at Agape Family Shelter every day! Here are the stories of two women and their families, and how your prayers and financial support enable their growth and stability.

Michelle, 54, came to Agape Family Shelter after losing her job and home due to health issues. She had recently found a new job at a doctor's office, but did not have the resources for a deposit on an apartment. After a few months at Agape, however, Michelle had saved a large enough nest egg to find a place of her own. She made some supportive new friends at work and felt ready to live independently again. Michelle moved out of Agape in November to live in her own new apartment. Ashley, 23, came to Agape Family Shelter six months pregnant and with a 3-year-old son. She had no support from her family, no



savings, and had lost both her job and the apartment she struggled to rent after her relationship with her son's father ended. Ashley was depressed and struggling with her responsibilities as a parent. She needed stability, a fresh start - and time to work on her parenting and housekeeping skills. After several months at Agape, Ashley found a job and started to build her savings. She gave birth to a second son and had a safe home to which to bring him.

Ashley moved from the shelter in December with a job, two happy, healthy children and enough money to start a new life.

Please continue to pray for these two families. Thank you for your commitment to creating an environment with the support where these families can thrive – in Jesus' name!!



From the Pastor (cont'd)....

which comforts us, supports and sustains us, and keeps us unshakeable by the grace and love of God. When the storms of life come, rest in God and trust that God is at work in your life, working to make all things good, right, holy, and just, in the name of Jesus. Trust in Christ, and in Christ alone. Stand upon the rock, for He is steadfast and true. He is our shield and protector; He is our fortress. With God on our side, for what should we be afraid? Nothing, absolutely nothing because you are held in the palm of God's hand.

One of those trees that fell down stayed rooted but the tree snapped upon falling. Since the tree was still rooted, branches and leaves grew on the tree. It was truly fascinating to see how the tree resprouted and grew. It was beautiful. The same is true for each of our lives. Through Christ, we can do all things. Through Christ, we are unshakeable. This year, let us explore our faith together and continue to grow in faith. I am looking forward to how the grace of God will continue to be revealed in each of our lives and in the life of our church. Be blessed and thank you for being a blessing!

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Deanna Geiter



Groceries Give Back Gift Cards

We still have a few cards for Sheetz available, nine \$100 cards to be exact! We would love to deplete these remaining cards before starting a new program. Please stop by the church office Monday through Friday from 9:00 - 12:00 to purchase these last few cards. Thank you for supporting this program.



February Events

Congratulations to the children who attended our 1st communion class! Each child will be taking their first communion with their families on Sunday, February 4th.



Upcoming Events

Cornwall UMC's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 10 A.M. in the grove!

Be on the lookout for announcements for VBS 2024!

Be sure to check out Gretna Glen's website to get information on Summer Camp 2024 and get your registration early!



Youth Group

February Schedule

February 2nd - 4th - Youth Winter Blast at Gretna Glen. You must register with Gretna Glen for this event; see January email for more information. Drop off and pick up at Gretna Glen. Friday 7 P.M. drop off, Sunday 11:30 A.M. pick up.

February 4th - No Youth Sunday School; Youth Group

February 11th - Youth Sunday School; Youth Group Super Bowl Party/Board and Card Game Night 5:30 - 8:30 P.M.

February 18th - Youth Sunday School; Youth Group, at Gretna Glen Free Youth Event 4:00- 6:30 P.M. Drop off at church at 3:40 P.M., return at 6:45 P.M.

February 25th - Youth Sunday School; Youth Group

Times (unless listed otherwise):

Sunday School 9 - 10 A.M.; Youth Group 6 - 8 P.M.

Need to contact Jon?

email: js200@cairn.edu, cell phone: 717-202-7789

Scout Sunday

Join us in worship on Sunday, February 11th for Scout Sunday.

This is a great chance to see some of the scouts that meet at our church and find out about the things they do.





Unity Service/Celebration

Sunday, February 18
10:30 A.M.

We will be holding a Unity service on Sunday, February 18 at 10:30 A.M. as we celebrate the successful end of our 5-year-long Capital Campaign. There will only be one service on this day. A cupcake social and meeting will be held following the service.

Friendship Connections....

Souper Supper



Our next Friendship Connections event will be our annual Souper Supper on Friday, February 9th. **Everyone** is invited to join us for an evening of soup to warm your body and fellowship to warm your soul. Following dinner, you can sit back and relax while the Cornwall UMC staff entertains you with their many musical talents.

Date: Friday, February 9th

Time: 6:15 P.M.

Where: CUMC Fellowship Hall

Program: Cornwall UMC Staff Talent Show

Bring your favorite SOUP or DESSERT to share.
(Bread and Salad will be provided)

Don't worry if you no longer cook or bake there's always plenty to go around.

The church bus will pick up at Gateway,
Bradley and Laurel Place at 6 P.M.



Where: Mt. Gretna UMC
4th St & Boehm Ave.
Mt Gretna, PA 17064

When: Wed., Feb. 14
7 P.M.

This year we will be at Mt. Gretna UMC for our combined Ash Wednesday service. Chaplain Dave Harris will be preaching. The Sacrament of Communion, as well as the Imposition of Ashes, will be offered. Cornwall Manor will be providing transportation for manor residents who sign up.

Mid-Week Lenten Services

Mid-Week Lenten services will be held Wednesday evenings at 7 P.M. beginning Wednesday, February 21 at Rocherty UMC. Cornwall UMC will host the service on Wednesday, February 28. These services will be hosted by various area churches. Schedules and more information will be available in the bulletins and website in February.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Lenten devotionals are now available in the 1st floor foyer in the display by the elevator.

The Honeybees have a Valentine's Date

We'll meet at the church on Wednesday, February 14 at 11:15 A.M., when bus driver Bob will chauffeur us to the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center's Hilltop Café to enjoy lunch together. We really enjoyed our event there last year (in spite of Louise Hostetter and Kathy Snavely leaving with each other's debit card). Please call/text Kathy at 717-507-2667 by February 7 to make your reservation.



For the past four years our shut-ins have enjoyed receiving valentines from the church. We would like to continue this tradition. Use your own materials or pick up materials in the foyer to color or make valentines. Materials in the foyer will include: blank cards, colored hearts, stickers, ribbons, doilies, Bible verses and phrases. Not crafty? You may also purchase Valentine's Day cards to fill out. Return completed valentines to the box in the foyer or the church office, no later than Sunday, Feb. 11th so we can distribute them. If you have any questions, contact the church office at 717-272-0148.



Needed

Volunteers to deliver the valentines on Wednesday, February 14th. Contact the church office if you can help!



Faith Meetings

Have you read the Faith Statement/Who We Are paper that was presented in December? Pastor Deanna will be hosting two gatherings in her office for anyone who would like to talk about the paper. These will NOT be formal meetings, but simply a chance to talk with Pastor Deanna about any questions or concerns you have.

Tuesday, January 30 at 11 A.M.

Tuesday, February 13 at 6 P.M.

Extra Faith Statement/Who We Are papers are available from the ushers in each service. If you would like to talk but are unable to attend either gathering, contact Pastor Deanna at 717-989-0333 or dgeiter@outlook.com.



Thank You....

... to Louise Hostetter, Jean Ladd, Sue Brimmer, Terry Gutshall, Anne Miller, Jon Simpson, Jason Sweigart, Amanda Hollich and the Youth for their help in making the Soup Social possible. Many people enjoyed a small cup of soup while visiting the Youth Room on Sunday, January 21. Everyone's hard work was greatly appreciated.

...to all my Cornwall UMC family who provided meals, cards and emails regarding my recent shoulder replacement surgery. I am especially grateful for the many prayers for the success of the surgery and rehab. I am very blessed to be part of this family of God's people.

Chris Tompkins



Year-end statements are available in the first-floor elevator foyer. If you cannot find yours or if you have any problems or questions, contact Jamie Martin at 717-277-7434 or at [jamartin32@comcast.net](mailto:jmartin32@comcast.net).



From Finance....

We have a new General Fund budget for 2024. Note that the General Fund budget does not include special mission giving. Usually we talk about numbers so here they are:

Projected Income for 2023:	\$398,724	Actual Income for 2023:	\$386,317
Projected Expenses for 2023:	\$394,436	Actual Expenses for 2023:	\$362,139
Projected Income for 2024:	\$402,017	Projected Expenses for 2024:	\$395,224

Here is how the expected income for 2024 breaks down:

Giving: \$354,817 Fund Raisers: \$5,700

Interest: \$41,500 Interest income continues to grow. In 2023, our interest income was \$33,418.

Next month I will place a graph/chart in the Caller to show the breakdown of expected expenses for each of our major areas of ministry.

Hope you have picked up your 2023 monthly giving statements and remember, if you have not yet submitted a General Fund pledge card for 2024, it is never too late to do so.



Preserving the Past, Preparing for the Future

Building & Grounds Improvements Campaign

DECEMBER 2023---FINAL UPDATE

December 31st marked the end of our CUMC Capital Campaign. Thank you so much to everyone for your time, contributions and prayers as we worked to “Preserve the Past and Prepare for the Future”. I’d also like to take a minute to remember someone who helped to launch this campaign and provided me and the group with a lot of guidance. Thank you to Bob Ladd; we know you’re with us in spirit to celebrate this great journey.


We close out the campaign with \$295,948 of the \$300,000 goal. I feel this is a success given that we have altered some projects to come in under the initial budget and didn’t spend the campaign fundraising fees that were budgeted. With all of the hard work by Trustees there is \$46,992 left over for capital projects after repayment to the Long Term Repair Fund.

Thank you all for everything you’ve done. We’re planning a celebration ceremony Sunday, February 18 with some small refreshments after the service. Please mark your calendars and we look forward to you joining us.

Mark Snavelly



February 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 BSA Roundtable 7pm Choir 7:30pm	2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Youth at Gretna Glen through Sunday morning</div>	3 Praying Hands 9:30am
4 Communion VBS Planning mtg after services Girl Scouts 3-4:30, 6-7:30pm Youth Group 6pm Men's Group 7pm	5 Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	6 Women's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts 7pm	7 Women's Bible Study at Gretna Glen	8 LCCM noon meal Choir 7:30pm	9 Souper Supper 6:15pm	10
11 Scout Sunday Youth Group Super Bowl party 5:30pm	12 Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	13 Faith mtg. 6pm Women's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts 7pm	14 Women's Bible Study 10am Ash Wednesday Service @ Mt. Gretna UMC 7pm	15 Trustee mtg. 7pm Choir 7:30pm	16	17
18 Unity Service 10:30am Social/Meeting following the service Girl Scouts 3-4:30, 6-7:30pm Youth Group 4pm Men's Group 7pm	19 Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Finance mtg. 7pm 	20 Women's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts 7pm	21 Women's Bible Study 10am Mid-Week Lenten Service @ Rocherty UMC 7pm	22 Choir 7:30pm Thrivent Event 6pm	23 Pinewood Derby setup in the FH	24 Pinewood Derby in the FH
25 Cont. Worship team mtg 11:45am Youth Group 6pm Men's Group 7pm	26 Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm Ad. Board 7pm	27 Women's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts 7pm	28 Women's Bible Study 10am Mid-Week Lenten Service @ Cornwall UMC 7pm	29 Choir 7:30pm		

Rethinking Retirement Tax Planning with Tax Expert Ed Slott

Sponsored by Thrivent

While your retirement savings make up a majority of your net worth, a meaningful portion of those funds may not be taxed. You need to be proactive to reduce or eliminate a big tax hit later.

Tax expert Ed Slott will share how strategies like the Roth IRA and Roth conversions can help you prepare. Learn effective ways to manage your retirement accounts, RMDs and the importance of beneficiary planning which can help loved ones minimize taxes too.

Attend this free event (watch party) on Thursday, February 22 at 6 P.M. by registering here:



https://bit.ly/Ed_Slott_at_Cornwall

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FEBRUARY

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