



THE CALLER

December 2023

"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
Children's Director

Michael Brimmer,
Choir Director

Tara Zimmerman
Organist

Jennifer Trexler, Secretary

Contact Information

Office Phone: 717-272-0148

Pastor Deanna:
pastordeanna@outlook.com

Church Secretary:
cornwallumc@comcast.net

The Church Online

www.cornwallchurch.org

Facebook - Cornwall UMC

YouTube - Cornwall United
Methodist Church

Sunday Morning Schedule

Informal Service 8:00 A.M.

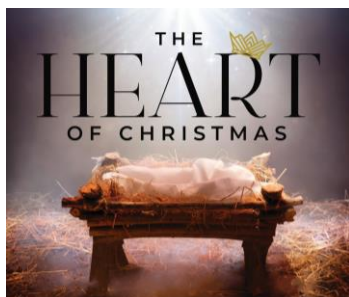
Contemporary Service 10:15 A.M.

Traditional Service 10:30 A.M.

Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00 A.M. —12:00 P.M.



From the Pastor....

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)*

It's beginning to look like Christmas! The lights, the displays, the sound of the jingle bells and the music that surround us. It is the most wonderful time of the year! At the writing of this letter, we are in the midst of Thanksgiving...a time to be grateful, a time to sit and ponder about the blessings we have received, how we have been blessed and, as such, how we are called to be a blessing to others, in the name of Jesus. The Advent is coming upon us and as you receive this letter, we will be in the season of Advent.

During the season of Advent, we are in the pivotal point of having received the promises of God as we wait and prepare for Christ to come again. During this season of Advent, take time to ponder and reflect on the promises of God. Take time to ponder and reflect on this journey of faithfully following Jesus. This is a journey that we, together as Cornwall Church, are on together. This is a journey that others were on. Mary and Joseph were on a journey to Bethlehem. The Magi were on a journey when they followed the star. Mary, Joseph, and the Magi were on a journey of faithfully seeking and following where God would lead them. The same is true for us, too. We are on the journey of seeking, searching, being transformed, and being renewed by the grace of God.

In this season, take time to pause and to "just be." Reflect on the love of God that came down at Christmas and that still continually surrounds us and sustains us. Take time to prepare your heart for Christmas. Take time to sit at the manger and reflect on that babe born in a manger so long ago. In this season, we worship the birth of our Lord and Savior. We worship that baby in a manger. We worship Emmanuel - God-with-us. This baby who grew up to be a man. This baby - God-incarnate - knew all about suffering. He knows our pains. He knows our trials. He knows our grief. He even suffered death on a cross because of His love for us and all people.

In a simple act of turning on the news, we are reminded over and over again that we live in a world that continues to live in darkness.

(cont'd on page 6)

December Mission of the Month

Greg & Anita Giagnocavo, Hands of Hope

How We Started

In 1998 our family Greg & Anita Giagnocavo and our four children moved from Pennsylvania to Guatemala. We started the Hands of Hope Ministry Mission (which is Manos de Esperanza, in Spanish) operating a mobile medical clinic to the rural poor in Guatemala.



In 2000, we built a 2,400 square foot medical clinic in the rural village we serve, near Sumpango/ Chimaltanango, Guatemala. There are so many needs among the very poor people that many times our clinic is barely large enough to accommodate the crowds of sick people.

We are a Christian, faith-based mission and we rely on donations from others to fund the needs of the clinic. However, we serve everyone equally without regard to their particular religious beliefs or non-belief. Hands of Hope is

a registered USA 501(c)3 non-profit and all donations in the USA and Canada are tax-deductible.

What We Do

Our mission and goal is to serve the very poor rural indigenous people while demonstrating the love of Jesus. Our 2,400 square foot permanent medical clinic is located in the mountains about 45 minutes from the town of Antigua, south of Chimaltenango. The nearest town is Sumpango. The medical clinic provides healthcare to approximately 10,000 people. It also provides community care such as bed, blanket and housing projects, basic health teaching, student sponsorships, nutrition programs, emotional care groups and more.

You can find additional information on Hands of Hope online at Hands-of-Hope.com and on Facebook.



Groceries Give Back



Just a gentle reminder. We still have a few cards for Weis and Sheetz available! We would love to deplete these remaining cards before starting a new program. With the holidays coming, I'm sure you know a deserving person who could use one of these cards. We have just a few Weis cards and lots of Sheetz cards (mainly \$100 cards). The Groceries Give Back program has had over \$487,335 in grocery and gas cards sales to date.

This has earned the church over \$22,019 to fund mission projects, funding to date \$19,800! If you have any questions, please call Tanya Voris – 717-813-8500. Please stop by the church office Monday through Friday from 9:00 - 12:00 to purchase cards. Thanks again to those supporting this program.

Special Services *On December 24th*

Morning Unity Service

Sunday, December 24, 10:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary

Join us for this joyous celebration of the season as all children in the service are invited to take part in a spontaneous Christmas pageant. Following the pageant the children will head downstairs to have a birthday party for Jesus. During this service the cantata choir will also present this year's Christmas Cantata, **"Emmanuel, God With Us"**.

Evening Services

Sunday, December 24

Contemporary Service - 7 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall

A contemporary service including music, candle-lighting, and the sermon, "Jesus Is the Heart of Christmas" which will conclude the Advent series, The Heart of Christmas.

Music Recital - 10:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary

Come listen as musicians from the church present musical preludes leading up to the 11 P.M. Candlelight Service.

Traditional Candlelight Service - 11 P.M. in the Sanctuary

A traditional Candlelight Service including Christmas carols, the choir, candle-lighting and the sermon, "Jesus Is the Heart of Christmas" which will conclude the Advent series, The Heart of Christmas.

****All services will be livestreamed on our YouTube page, Cornwall United Methodist Church. A link will also be provided on our church Facebook page, Cornwall UMC.****

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25th, Tuesday, December 26th and Monday January 1st to allow our staff some well-deserved time off during the holiday season.



Missionary Addresses

If you would like to send a Christmas card or note of encouragement to our missionaries, please use the addresses below:

Hands of Hope

Greg & Anita Giagnocavo
PO Box 7556
5771 Johnson Street
Hollywood, FL 33081

DiscipleMakers

TJ & Kate Renninger
548 Easterly Pkwy
State College PA 16801

Rob Donley

710 South Lincoln Ave.
Lebanon, PA 17042
-or-

Friends in Action

Rob Donley
PO Box 323
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

CUMC Goes Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 3, 2023 @ 5:30 P.M.



Everyone is encouraged to join in this awesome Christmas tradition. This year we will be caroling for some of our shut-ins as well as a few other friends. We will meet at the church at 5:15 P.M. and use the church bus to travel to our local shut-ins to bring them some Christmas cheer. After we have sung until we can't sing anymore, everyone is invited to come back to the church for cookies and hot cocoa. Please plan to join us for this wonderful event.



Christmas Eve Music Recital

Singers and instrumentalists are wanted to perform a song during the 10:30 P.M. Music Recital on Christmas Eve prior to the 11 P.M. Candlelight Service.

Sign the sheet outside of the choir room by Sunday, December 17th if you would like to perform. It is important for us to know as soon as possible who will be performing. If you have any questions, contact:

Jennifer Trexler in the church office at 717-272-0148 or at cornwallumc@comcast.net.



December Events

SPONTANEOUS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS!

Christmas Eve Morning Service - Sunday, December 24, 10:30 A.M.

We will start the service together and have a Spontaneous Christmas Pageant before the Christmas Cantata, and then children will be dismissed to a Birthday Party for Jesus!

We look forward to celebrating the Christmas Story with the Children!



I want to wish everyone a very Happy & Blessed Christmas Season!

Thank you all for such a wonderful year!

Love to all, Amanda

Upcoming Events

January – 1st Communion Class



Youth Group

December Schedule

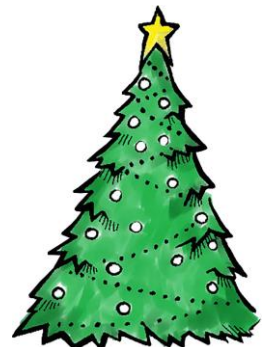
- Dec. 3** - Youth Sunday School; Youth Group Christmas Caroling 5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
- Dec. 10** - Youth Sunday School; Youth Group
- Dec. 17** - Youth Sunday School; Youth Group Christmas Party.
Students are to bring a \$5.00 gift for a gift exchange game.
- Dec. 24** - Youth Sunday School; No Youth Group
- Dec. 31** - Youth Sunday School; No 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





New Heart & Hand Fundraiser: Cookies for Construction

The Heart & Hand team would love to introduce you to our new fundraiser: **Cookies for Construction**. Let our team of highly-trained cookie experts help you this holiday season by baking your holiday cookies for you. Be on the lookout for an order form in the bulletin with a selection of delicious cookie options. If you would like to help us with baking or have any questions, please contact Amanda at 717-228-8139 or Andrew at 717-507-8205.

Staff Christmas Gifts

The Christmas season will be here before we know it! The Staff Parish Relations Committee would like to continue honoring Pastor Deanna and the rest of the church staff with a monetary Christmas gift. If you wish to contribute, please put your contribution in an envelope (attention Jean Bonneville) in the Sunday offering, drop it off at the office, or it may be mailed to Jean Bonneville, 57 Strathford Drive, Lebanon, 17042 on or before December 18th. The gifts will be presented on Sunday, December 24th during the 10:30 A.M. Unity Service. **Make checks payable to Jean Bonneville**. Checks should **NOT** be made payable to Cornwall United Methodist Church. This voluntary gift is not tax-deductible.

Thank you.

Deb Boyer
Staff Parish Relations
1-570-847-9193



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

There are so many people who are grieving, who are hurting. May we be a people who will reflect the light of Christ into the world. May we serve people with the same love of Christ. May we provide comfort and hope to the afflicted. May hope, peace, joy, and love abide in our souls and may it overflow into our communities and beyond. In this season, may we remember the greatest gift given which is Jesus, the Christ. May we be awestruck in wonder and glory this season.

Advent Blessings,
Pastor Deanna Geiter



It's hard to believe the season is upon us already. Advent begins on Sunday, December 3. Advent is a time of preparation. Many of us prepare for Christmas by cleaning, decorating, baking and of course, shopping, but how are you preparing your heart? How are you preparing for the coming of Christ? Pick up one of the Advent devotionals in the first floor foyer next to the elevator and take time each day to pause and reflect on how you will make room for Christ, not just in the season of Advent but in your life.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting following the late worship services on Sunday, December 3 to receive an update on the progress of possible disaffiliation and how we are moving forward together as the people called Cornwall. Lunch will be provided! If you have any questions, contact:

Pastor Deanna (717-989-0333)

Chris Ritchie (717-350-2883)

Bob Sutherly (717-304-2599)



2023 Altar Flowers

The 2024 flower calendar is now posted in the first-floor link. If you would like to sponsor the altar flowers, sign up for the Sunday you would like and the secretary will contact you close to your date to get your information. The cost is \$30. If you are not currently attending church in person but would like to sign up for a specific date or if you have any questions, please contact the church office at cornwallumc@comcast.net or at 717-272-0148.



Soup and Bake Sale

Thank you to the soup cooks, bakers and food sellers who helped with our Fall 2023 Election Day Soup and Bake Sale. We sold 161 quarts of soup and LOTS of baked goods. Everything sold out well before the polls closed. We profited just over \$1,700 that will go to the church's General Fund.



Preserving the Past, Preparing for the Future

Building & Grounds Improvements Campaign

OCTOBER 2023 MONTHLY UPDATE

PURPOSE: To fund significant building and property projects with a 5-year campaign from 01/2019 thru 12/2023.

DONATIONS: 2 months left! Over \$291K in donations, 97.1% of our \$300K goal, leaving \$8.6K to go.

PROJECTS COMPLETED: Total expended to-date is just under \$249K.

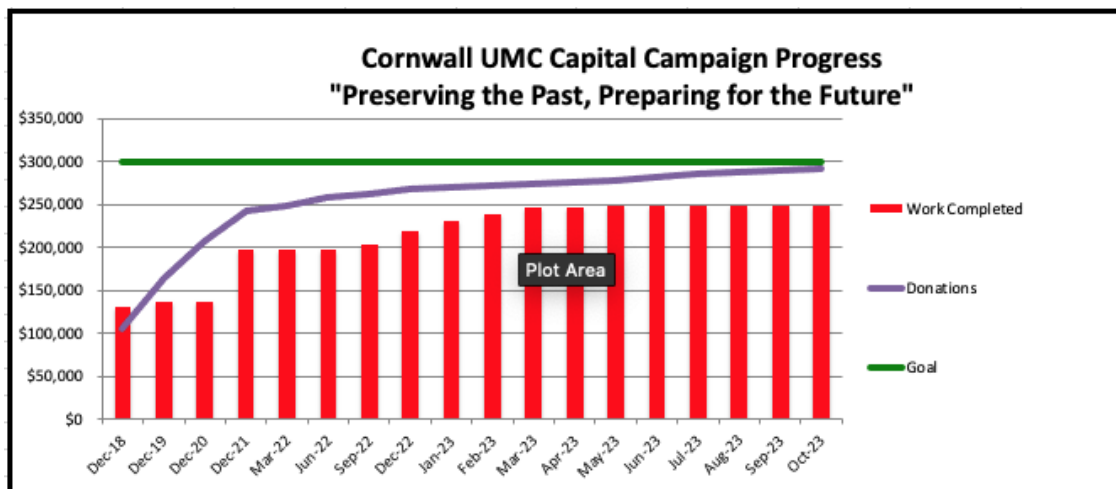
QUESTIONS: Pledges--Stewardship Chair is Chris Tompkins (tbredchris@aol.com)

Campaign--Campaign Chair is Mark Snavely (snavelym@harringtonhoists.com)

Projects--Trustee Chair is Anna Starner (trusteescumc@gmail.com)

[Give as your finances allow.]

(Stonework \$52,865 was funded by our "Long-Term Reserve Fund" which is to be reimbursed as part of the \$300K goal.)



From Stewardship....

Greetings in the name of our Savior & Lord Jesus Christ. May our Father God and Savior Jesus continue to bless all of us as His family of believers at Cornwall UMC. On November 8th the 2024 General Fund Pledge Cards along with a Sharing Our Time and Talents survey were mailed to all CUMC members. If you have not already done so, please prayerfully consider the amount of weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual support you will provide for the ministries and operating expense of our church. As stated in the letter provided with these items, you can mail both of those items in the enclosed envelope or drop them off at the office at any time. If you did not receive these items in the mail or by delivery from a church member, please contact the church office or Chris Tompkins (484-802-8272) and we will be sure to get them to you.

Thank you for all you do to the glory of our Father God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Chris Tompkins
Stewardship Chairperson



Offering Envelopes

Your 2024 offering envelopes are available for pick-up in the first-floor foyer. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. Save us the expense of mailing your envelopes by picking them up before the New Year. Instructions for using the envelopes are in each box. If you can't find your box or if you have any questions contact Chris Tompkins at 484-802-8272.



December 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<div>Due to the Holidays, some groups may not be meeting. If you are unsure, please check with your leader.</div>					1	2 Praying Hands 9:30am Cantata Practice 9:30am
3 Communion Church mtg after late services Girl Scouts 3-4:30, 6-7:30pm Christmas Caroling 5:30pm Men's Group 7pm	4 Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm Ad Board 7pm	5 Women's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts 7pm	6 Women's Bible Study at Gretna Glen	7 BSA Roundtable 7pm Choir 7:30pm	8	9 Cantata Practice 9:30am
10 Youth Group 6pm Men's Group 7pm	11 Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	12 Women's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts 7pm	13 Women's Bible Study 10am	14 LCCM Noon Meal Trustee mtg. 7pm Choir 7:30pm	15	16 Cantata Practice 9:30am FH reserved for outside event 7am - 5pm
17 Girl Scouts 3-4:30, 6-7:30pm Youth Group Christmas Party 6pm Men's Group 7pm	18 Boy Scouts 7pm SPRC 7pm	19 Cub Scouts 7pm	20	21 Choir 7:30pm	22	23 Cantata Practice 9:30am
24 Unity Service 10:30am with Children's Pageant & Cantata 7pm Contemp. Service 10:30pm Recital 11pm - Trad. Candlelight service	25 <div>Office Closed</div>	26	27	28 Choir 7:30pm	29 <div>Youth Room Reserved</div>	30
31						

Community Food Drive Follow Up

Generosity is alive and well! Thank you to everyone who participated in the Community Food Drive on Saturday, November 18. We collected 374 lbs. of food and received a \$50 donation. This will have a big impact into our community. In addition, 50 health care bags were assembled by those in attendance at the event. These bags were donated to Jubilee Ministries for use in their prison ministries program. Mark from Jubilee was very grateful and said that fit right in with what they needed when they first intake an inmate.



Thank you to Thrivent for sponsoring this event with us. Thrivent will be continuing their efforts throughout the community. If you see a need please contact Jim Serafin at james.serafin@thrivent.com or 717-433-5553 so that we can help meet the need in our next outreach.



P.O. Box 687
Cornwall, PA 17016

