



NOVEMBER 2025 ISSUE 63

MINISTRY MATTERS

The Newsletter of Christ United Methodist Church
Owen Brown Interfaith Center, Columbia, Maryland



IT'S STEWARDSHIP TIME AT CUMC!

It's autumn—the days are shorter, the air is cooler, and Olaf and Oline sightings are on the rise. That can only mean one thing: it's Stewardship Time!

At its heart, stewardship simply means taking care of something that's been entrusted to you. In the Christian sense, it's our responsibility to use wisely the gifts God has placed in our hands. Here at CUMC, stewardship is how we share our time, talents, and treasure to support the operations, ministries, and mission of our church family.

Believe it or not, all of that—the worship, service, outreach, and care we offer—is reflected in one document: our Annual Budget. Now, I know what you're thinking: "Budget? Ugh—boring!" But hear me out.

A budget isn't just a list of numbers; it's a statement of faith. I like to think of it as an aspirational plan for the year ahead—a reflection of what we believe God is calling us to do. Pastor Angela calls it a faith document that we must live into. And I can tell you from years of experience, no matter how ambitious our hopes have been, CUMC has always risen to meet them.

By now, you should have received your stewardship packet in the mail. If not, please let me know right away and I'll make sure you get one. Take time to read it carefully, pray over it, and consider how you can respond with your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Our goal this year is to fully fund our budget through pledged giving—so that any extra can go directly to expanding mission and ministry. We're asking members to consider increasing their 2025 pledges by 10%. Never pledged before? This is a wonderful time to start!

Whatever you can give—whether in service, skill, or financial support—done prayerfully and with love, is enough. Together, we can continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community and beyond. —Kevin Swanson



CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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The Reverend Angela Wells (she/her), Pastor



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CLERGY CORNER

Rev. Angela



Our stewardship theme this year is Stepping Up. Colloquially, we use the phrase “stepping up” to talk about rising to a challenge or increasing effort to take on a specific task or responsibility. Literally, we use the phrase “stepping up” to refer to climbing a ladder or staircase. We literally step up, one step at a time. As we age, we find it’s unwise to try skipping steps! Metaphorically, we envision a lot of hard tasks as steps—that we also climb one at a time. One foot in front of the other is the only way to get from point A to point B, especially when point B feels far out of reach.



During this stewardship season we are considering how we might step up together to pledge our time, treasure & talents to God and one another as this beloved community called Christ UMC. It’s more than checking off a list of what we’re willing to do and filling in the blank of what we’re willing to give. It’s an invitation to step back a moment to think about why it is we do what we do. Yes, it turns out before we can step UP, we’ve gotta step BACK to see the big picture.

On October 19th we celebrated Laity Sunday and were blessed by the reflections by CUMC members on the questions: Why do we follow this Jesus guy anyway? Why do we specifically choose to be United Methodist? And why do we call Christ UMC our church home? I hope these poignant reflections prompted you to ask the same questions of yourself. Why Jesus? Why UM? Why CUMC? Then take that “why”—that motivation, that purpose, that meaning—and ask where you fit into the big picture. How are you called by God to contribute to the mission of our church? What brings you closer to God? What unique gifts do you have that help build up the body? What new way is the Spirit nudging you to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God?

The invitation for this stewardship season is to “step up” in your pledged giving by 10%. If you gave \$10 a week in 2025, what if you gave \$11 a week in 2026? If you gave \$500 a month in 2025, what if you give \$550 a month in 2026? If you gave \$4,000 for the year 2025, what if you pledge \$4,400 in 2026? We grow in our giving just like we grow in any other area of life—one step at a time. We have big dreams for our little church and those dreams—that mission, those ministries—require funding and staffing. We will not dramatically change our financial status overnight or in one stewardship season, but how is it that we can stretch—just a little—to help inch us towards our goal of sustainable, growing mission and ministry? I don’t extend challenges that I’m not willing to take on myself. So, my family will be the first to sign on to the 10% step up challenge. Will you join us?

Together—one step at a time—we can step up to the challenge of building a sustainable future for Christ UMC!



WORSHIP

Upcoming Worship Opportunities

November 2nd: On All Saints Sunday we'll consider the theme Giving Generously as we contemplate the gifts of our spiritual ancestors who have made it possible for us to be who we are today.

November 9th: On Pledge Sunday, we'll consider the theme Serving Joyfully as we turn in our Time, Talent & Treasure forms (mailed mid-October also available on side counter) to indicate the ways we are committed to give and serve in 2026.

November 16th: The lectionary (assigned reading) text for the day is from the prophet Isaiah about the New Creation. In the midst of the hard realities we face on a daily basis in our families, community, nation and world, how can we stretch our imaginations with Isaiah to imagine the Kin-dom of God?

November 23rd: We'll celebrate the Festival of the Christian Year! This lessons and carols style service walks through the liturgical seasons for the year. When else can you sing your favorite Christmas carol and favorite Easter hymn on the same Sunday! Join in this fun service and learn about the themes, colors, and meaning of each season.

Advent Series: What child IS this?

November 30th - December 21st we'll mark the season of Advent with the tradition of the Advent Wreath and its corresponding themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. This year's advent series is called "What child IS this?" asking the question from the beloved carol. This year we'll let this question take us beyond the lullaby into the difficult socio-economic context of the first Advent in Palestine. God's Love made flesh wasn't born just any old time, Jesus was born in the midst of a very specific context that greatly shapes the story itself as well as the theological significance of the incarnation. What child IS this after all? Maybe it's worth re-asking the question.

The series was designed by Dr. Marcia McFee and will incorporate familiar carols into the advent wreath lighting, communion, and even the children's time. Hear what Dr. McFee has to say about the season:

"Advent is usually about waiting. But we cannot wait to have hope; it is essential now. We cannot wait to work for peace; lives are at stake. We cannot wait to embrace joy, even and especially when it seems in short supply. We cannot wait to love, most of all, because we are the ones who follow the saving love of Jesus Christ, God-With-Us."



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Please remember **Sofi Flanagan-Wells** with your prayers as she continues her hospital treatment.
- **Emma Angelo** is now at home recuperating from a long hospital stay and needs our support and prayers.
- Prayers and support for **Dea Atkins** who returned to the hospital for further care and is now resting at home.
- Many of our homebound friends would enjoy brief visits so call ahead to visit **Janis Battle, Catherine Messenger, Joanne Piersall, Siah Johnson** and **Emma Angelo**.

Happy Birthday!

Deadra Atkins
Carol Meyer
Fred Mueller
Kevin Fitzgerald
Dominic Mello
Joe Farmarco
Judy Pittman



CUMC CARES

Missions and Community Ministries Matter

Potential Volunteer Ministry

CUMC is interested in organizing a once-a-month volunteer project starting in the new year. These projects would be for anyone in the congregation to join and would happen during the weekends. This is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors and deepen our bonds with each other. If you are already involved with an organization that would welcome a group of volunteers, please let Katie Weston know at KtPenn@gmail.com. We are also soliciting a name for this ministry!

Katie Weston, Council of Ministries

Supporting Cradlerock Elementary School

Our Community Missions team has been supporting Cradlerock Elementary School (CRES) with much needed supplies for their students, many of whom are living with limited income families.

Many times when you donate, it is what you don't see that is important as what you do see. Underwear is more than keeping dry and warm. It is vital for basic health and hygiene. It is needed year-round and helps the child, caregiver or family.

The Coordinator at CRES reached out to CUMC to request help to replenish the school's emergency clothing bins with **girls' and boys' underwear**. Please consider purchasing packages size 5-12, girls or boys, and donate at church any Sunday in November.

Your donations and caring are greatly appreciated as so many need these items.

Lillian Lehnert and Kevin Swanson

On Going Collection Items Are Always Welcome!



CUMC CARES

Mission and Community Ministries Matter

Volunteer Opportunity for ALL!

Sunday November 9th from 3 to 4:30pm there is an opportunity to participate in a hub service project at Glenelg UMC. (13900 Burntwoods Rd., Glenelg 21737) This is an introductory event for our hub which is a group of 10 local UM churches who will be collaborating on different projects, worship, meetings etc.

Together with other churches we will be making hygiene kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Commission on Relief.) There will be worship, fellowship time, and kit assembly time. (Consider arranging carpools...the church is approximately ½ hr. from CUMC). This is being sponsored by CUMC's Council of Ministries. Please see Rev. Angela if you have any questions.

Howard County Food Bank

A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING DONATION: The following items are requested for **Second Sunday Stock-Up, November 9**, to make Thanksgiving meals for our hungry neighbors. Donations can be deposited in the back of the church in the bin.

Some non-perishable item suggestions for donations are canned vegetables and fruit, gravy, French fried onion rings, cranberry sauce, applesauce, macaroni and cheese, potato mixes, canned pumpkin and more!

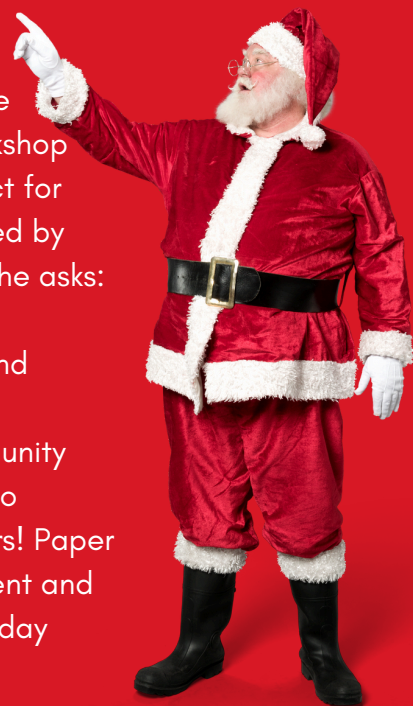
Donations are ongoing throughout the year, and all are important, but some have special meaning. It may be a moment, a day, an idea, a cause, or in this case, a holiday. Whether they eat turkey or another type of meat is also not important. The very idea of Thanksgiving embodies all that we hope to instill in ourselves and others. So Thanksgiving can also be THANKS (for) GIVING!

Lillian Lehnert, Missions Team

Santa's Workshop

This Christmas season we are reaching out to our larger community to celebrate together! On December 6th from 10am-12pm we'll join in the fun of Santa's Workshop providing free photos with Santa, free Christmas themed family portraits perfect for Christmas cards, and free snacks, crafts, music and more! This effort is organized by the Community Ministries Team but involves the whole congregation. Here are the asks:

1. **Are you willing to volunteer on December 6th?** Wear your CUMC t-shirt and Santa hat and help! Contact Kevin Swanson if you're willing to help out.
2. **Spread the word!** This event only serves our community if we tell our community about it. While Community Ministries has publicity plans in place, we are also dependent on your spreading the word to your friends, family, and neighbors! Paper invitations will be available on the side counter as we approach this fun event and the digital copy ready to text/email to folks will be available in the Wednesday email. Together we can make this community event a success!



Join in the fun of...

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Free fun for the
whole family!

- Picture with Santa
- Family portrait
- Crafts
- Snacks
- Storytime

**SAT
DEC 6
2025**

10AM-12PM

Owen Brown
Interfaith Center
2nd floor
7246 Cradlerock Way

 **SPONSORED BY:**
CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
www.cumcobic.org



A collage of hands holding various books, including Bibles, against a blue sky background.

LEARNING FOR ALL

Education Matters

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School for preschoolers thru HS age:
Each class has 2-3 adults and leaves for class approximately 15 minutes into our regular worship service and returns near the end of our worship time. In addition to their Biblical story and discussion, the younger children usually do a craft activity.

SOMETHING NEW FOR THE NEW YEAR

NEW STUDY SERIES: EXPLORING COMMUNITY

Join us in January and February for a six-session journey into the meaning and power of Community. Together we'll explore what brings people closer, what holds us together, and how we can help build the kind of beloved community God intends for us.

Our conversations will draw on ideas from Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of the Beloved Community, the Hidden Brain podcast episode "Relationships 2.0," the documentary "Join or Die," and James Rouse's dream for Columbia, Maryland. The sessions will include short readings, videos, and plenty of time for open, thoughtful discussion. We'll also practice good listening, deepen our understanding of one another, and consider how Christian community can thrive in today's world.

Time: Sunday afternoons 1:30 to 3:00 beginning January 11

Place: The Messengers' 7661 Sweet Hours Way, Columbia

All are welcome—whether you're new to church life, a long-time member, or simply curious about what community can mean at its best.

Watch for opportunities to sign up in December!



"Stewardship is the management of a that God has generously given us."

—Brad Adelaja

FELLOWSHIP

Matters

DOES CUMC ENJOY EATING??

Check out any **First Friday** and the answer will be very obvious. This monthly social gathering involves each family bringing one dish to contribute to the potluck feast... and then lots of good conversation, getting to know others, fun and “connections.”

Nov. 7 First Friday will be at the home of Mary Jo and Scrib Messenger, so let them know of your plans to attend by Tues. Nov.4.



MANY THANKS!

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage month, more than 20 folks gathered at the Lindberg kitchen last month where Chefs Hilda Gomez and Rev. Angela Wells demonstrated how to make pupusas and tostones. Each person gave it a try and enjoyed a special Hispanic lunch. Many thanks go to our Chefs and the Lindbergs for hosting this special treat!

LINGER OVER LUNCH

The CUMC women's Lunch Bunch has been going on for years. The monthly event is a time to enjoy a great potluck lunch, and even more importantly a time to “connect” and catch up with church friends. Always on the second Thursday of the month, we will gather at the home of Lillian Lehnert at noon on Nov. 13. Please let Lillian know of your plans to attend by Mon. Nov.10 and consider inviting someone from church who has not shared this fun experience!



JUSTICE FOR ALL

Matters





CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

Matter

Immigration Rights: UM Social Principles on Immigration

We affirm the dignity, worth, and rights of migrants, immigrants, and refugees, including displaced and stateless people. In so doing, we acknowledge that the world today is facing an unprecedented crisis related to the displacement of vast numbers of people due to such factors as ongoing wars and other hostilities, foreign interventions, widespread famine and hunger, global warming and climate change, and the failure of nation-states to adequately protect and care for their people. We recognize that displaced people are particularly vulnerable as their in-between status often provides them with few protections and benefits, leaving them open to exploitation, violence, and abuse.

We urge United Methodists to welcome migrants, refugees, and immigrants into their congregations and to commit themselves to providing concrete support, including help with navigating restrictive and often lengthy immigration policies, and assistance with securing food, housing, education, employment, and other kinds of support.

We oppose all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize, or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants, or refugees. Additionally, we decry attempts to detain displaced people and hold them in inhumane and unsanitary conditions. We challenge policies that call for the separation of families, especially parents and minor children, and we oppose the existence of for-profit detention centers for such purposes.

Immigration Rights FAQ

Immigration Rights Team Chairpersons

Alfredo Santiago | alfredo_baltimore@hotmail.com

Rev. Cassandra Nunez | cassy.nunez.89@gmail.com

Resources

- Immigration Update: A Webinar On Birthright Citizenship : In response to the recent Supreme Court decision related to Birthright Citizenship, an alliance of United Methodist general agencies, the United Methodist Council of Bishops, and partner organizations hosted a live webinar focused on the latest relating to the : Impact of the Supreme Court decision related to Birthright Citizenship, Tactics employed by ICE, Travel ban and traveling in general.
- Know Your Rights Cards: In eight languages to help families prepare for possible interactions with ICE.
- Know-Your-Rights Videos: Tutorials in seven languages to prepare for ICE encounters.
- Legal Services Directory: Find non-profit legal services providers nationwide.
- Past resources: <https://www.bwcumc.org/article/immigration-outreach-resources/>
- Training Tuesday Webinar



The information above is from the Baltimore-Washington Conference: <https://www.bwcumc.org/immigration-rights/>



PARTICIPATION MATTERS

November 2025

Date	Events
11/1	Annual Church Conference 2:00 p.m.
11/2	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m. All Saints Sunday
11/5	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
11/6	Justice for All* 7:00 p.m.
11/7	First Friday 6:30 p.m. at the Messengers' RSVP by Nov. 4
11/9	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m. Pledge Sunday Second Sunday Stock-Up: Items for Thanksgiving
11/12	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
11/13	Lunch Bunch 12:00 p.m. hosted by Lillian Lehnert RSVP by 11/0 SPRC* 7:00 p.m.
11/16	Sunday Service*
11/19	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
11/20	Ad. Board* 7:00 p.m.
11/23	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m. Festival of the Christian Year
11/23	Newsletter Deadline
11/26	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
11/27	Happy Thanksgiving to all!
11/30	Sunday Service* First Sunday of Advent

*To join services or meetings connect through Zoom link on the front page of the CUMC Website: cumcobic.org

November Donations: Tabs, eyeglasses, sneakers, and children's underwear size 5 – 12 **any Sunday in November.**
On November 9, please bring non-perishable items for Thanksgiving such as canned vegetables and fruit, gravy, French fried onion rings, cranberry sauce, apple sauce, macaroni and cheese, potato mixes, canned pumpkin, etc.

November 2025

Please find the new updated Worship Volunteer Instructions on the CUMC website at this link:

<https://cumcobic.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/volunteer-instructions.pdf>.

Position	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
Liturgist	Katie Weston	Lee Klinkenberg	Kevin Swanson	Lillian Lehnert	Nadia FW
Reader	Bob K	Jeanette	cristin	Dennis	Rob Rosenberger
Acolyte	Mi Amor	Emily	Luke	Miguel Angel	Emily
Altar Flowers					
Tech					
Ushers 1	Jeanette	Hilda	Phyllis	Becky	Lee
Ushers 2	Rob	Lillian	Warren	Fred	Toni
Altar Set-up	Mary Jo Messenge	Karen Ohlrich	Kelleys	Karen Ohlrich	Duggans
Communion & Set-up	Duggan	Mary Jo	James	Becky	Kelleys
Counters 1	Becky	Natalie	Greg	Kevin	Becky
Counters 2	Phil	Kevin	Warren	Lee	Phil
Nursery Volunteer					
Refreshments	Toni	Kelley	MJ Messenger	Lillian	James
Sunday School Assist	Kevin Swanson	Don James	Karen Ohlrich	Don James	Kevin Swanson

BUSINESS CORNER

Financial Information - September 2025

Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget
Revenue	\$ 85,188.62	\$ 79,198.50
Expenses	\$ 85,577.26	\$ 93,849.36
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (388.64)	\$ (14,650.86)
Surplus or (Deficit) Per Week	\$ (7.47)	\$ (281.75)

Ad Board Minutes: October 16, 2025

Council of Ministries Minutes: September 10, 2025

*“Living in a state of
gratitude is the gateway
to grace.”*
— Arianna Huffington

CELEBRATE CUMC!!

This month CUMC is 51 years old! Three locations, twelve clergy, hundreds of folks thru our doors. From week 1 some basic worship practices remain... weekly communion, 13 worship volunteers each service, appreciation of worship music, love of and involvement of children. And that doesn't begin to add the programs,

Sunday School, “connection” events and the volunteer leadership that makes it all work! Thanks to YOU for being part of CUMC!



Annual Church Conference In-Person Session

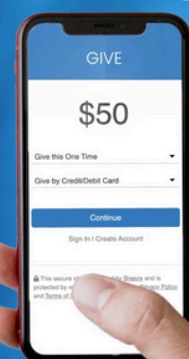
Join us on Saturday Nov. 1 for our Annual Church Conference which is being held in person at Colesville UMC, 52 Randolph Rd., 20904 Silver Spring (just past Burtonsville) at 2pm. It is the annual business meeting of our church conducted by senior members of our BW conference, and your vote on important issues for CUMC matters.

**CUMC Now Has On-Line
Giving! Use QR Code or
click on the photo to the
right to mke a contribution.**

**GIVE.
ANYWHERE.
FROM ANY
DEVICE.**



cumcobic.org



BUSINESS CORNER

Matters

Year-End Charitable Giving Consider The Possibilities...

A year end gift now can provide you with a feeling of personal satisfaction and demonstrate your belief in the mission of our church. It may also result in a more tangible return—in the form of desirable tax benefits. Charitable contribution deductions on your current income tax return and capital gains tax savings are two possible benefits. Future estate tax savings may also result from your gift. There are many questions on charitable giving for you to consider before this year draws to a close. They are: When should you give? What should you give?

Gifts of Securities

One possibility is a gift of Stock that has grown in value, and you have held for more than one year. This can become a substantial gift, made at a low net cost to you. You still receive a charitable deduction for the donation of these assets, and it's based on their fair market value on the date of the gift. But there's a bonus—you avoid all federal capital gains tax that would otherwise be due on a sale of the assets.

CUMC's unique partnership with the Mid-Atlantic Faith Foundation gives you the opportunity to transact this gift at no cost. To consider the possibility and receive detailed information on how to complete a transfer, call the Foundation's office: 267-449-0577 or email tracybrown@midatlanticfoundation.org

Deadline: 12/05/2025- after this date 2025 clearing cannot be guaranteed.

Natalie Swirdovich, Finance Committee Chair



**Thank You to all who ordered Memorial Plaque
Name Plates!**

For Inge Hyder: Nancy and James Stevens,
Rebecca Reese, Jane Joffe, Norma Byers, Kathleen
Parker, Eileen McIntire, Norma Gates, Edward
Gaddy, Cynthia Wood

For Carolyn Capizola: Nancy Prince

For Sylvia Jo Hazzard: Norm Hazzard



CALENDAR

Click on the calendar to go to the interactive calendar on the website.

Today		<	>	November 2025		  	
SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 31	SAT Nov 1	
2 more	● 6:30pm Comr		● 8:15pm Prayer		Halloween	● 2pm Church C	
2 2 more	3	4 Election Day	5 ● 8:15pm Prayer	6 ● 7pm Justice F	7 ● 6:30pm First I	8	
9 2 more	10	11 Veterans Day	12 2 more	13 2 more	14	15	
16 ● 10am Worship	17	18	19 ● 8:15pm Prayer	20 ● 7pm Admin B	21	22	
23 ● 10am Worship	24 ● 6:30pm Comr	25	26 ● 8:15pm Prayer	27 Thanksgiving D	28 Black Friday	29	
30 ● 10am Worship	Dec 1	2	3 ● 8:15pm Prayer	4 ● 7pm Justice F	5 ● 6:30pm First I	6	
Christ United Methodist Church, Columbia, MD GMT-04							

At Christ United Methodist Church, all are invited to experience God's love, build beloved community, and pursue justice for absolutely everyone. We welcome, celebrate, and affirm the sacred worth of people of every race, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, nationality, physical and mental ability, level of education, family structure, and every economic, immigration, marital, and social status. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed; as such, we have committed to being an Anti-Racist church. At CUMC, believers, seekers, and doubters join together to grow in our love for one another, creation, and the Divine through worship, small groups, advocacy work, and mutual support as we strive to be the church God calls us to be!



Christ United Methodist Church
Love. Justice. Community.
Black Lives Matter

