



# Coventryville

United Methodist Church

**July 23, 2023**

## **THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*Established 1774*

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***Our Mission is to make disciples by connecting people to  
Jesus and one another.***

***Our Vision is to be a welcoming community that  
demonstrates its faith in Christ by extending to all God's  
love, acceptance and grace.***

Welcome to our fellowship as we gather to give thanks to the One who has given us Christ Jesus, and through him, all things. Our goal in Sunday worship is to begin each week in praise, to support one another in prayer, and to challenge all to live as God's children. If you are new to our community of faith, we hope you will consider making this your church home. If you are already a member, be sure to greet those around you. All are invited to greet the pastor before leaving. Those needing directions to any church facilities, or who would like a LARGE PRINT bulletin, should see one of the Greeters; they will be glad to help.

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TRADITIONAL WORSHIP  
10:30 AM

*Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time, I will tell the reapers, "Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." -Matthew 13:30*

**PRELUDE: *Inspiration*** (Liszt)

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to the Garden of Wheat and Weeds!

***We thought this was the church! How can Wheat and Weeds be here together?***

It's easy! God gives us Wheat as a sign of the seed of love within us!

***Then what does God teach us by putting Weeds among the Wheat?***

Weeds teach us lessons of perseverance. Admire the dandelion as it pushes through cracks in the pavement. Come now to worship and learn!

***God gives us much to learn from the gardens of life!***

**† HYMN – No. 185: *When Morning Gilds the Skies***

**CALL to RECONCILIATION and CONFESSION**

God calls each of us to join in the ministry of reconciliation through confession and acts of repentance. Come now to confess with all the people how we sometimes tear down rather than build up, harm rather than heal, and reject rather than welcome. Seek God's mercy to fill you with life, joy, and love in all things.

## † OPENING PRAYER of CONFESSION

*Holy Gardner, Maker of Wheat and Weeds, we must confess even if we don't want to own up to how we have failed you. We turn our backs on some in need. We seek power and control to be heard and feel important. But you know us far too well. You know what's planted in our hearts, spirits, and minds. You seek the best for us, wanting us to be fruitful plants in your garden. We're all Wheat and Weeds sometimes. So, be with us and forgive us when we fail to love and treat others with respect and compassion. Turn our thought to you, who always reaches us with healing and love. In the name of Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen. [Silent prayers of confession.]*

## Assurance of Forgiveness

In Christ, God sent redemption for all.

In Christ, God feeds our hungry souls.

In Christ, God quenches the thirsts of our hearts.

*We give thanks to you, O God, for everything: forgiveness, hope, and new life. Amen.*

## SHARING a SIGN of RECONCILIATION and FORGIVENESS

### PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

*Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see the light, in your truth we may find freedom, and in your will, we may discover peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

### A READING from Psalm 139:1-12

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**A READING from Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**HYMN - No. 186: *Alleluia* (verse 1)**

**PASSING of the OFFERING PLATES**

† **OFFERTORY: *Near to the Heart of God/Children of the Heavenly Father*** (arr. Adams)

Trombone/Piano duet with Darrell Weyman

**PRESENTATION of GOD'S TITHES and OUR OFFERINGS**

**RESPONSE – No. 95:**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**PRAYER of DEDICATION**

*O Lord, we give you thanks for all your gifts. Help us to be good seeds, bearing fruits of kindness, justice, and compassion. Keep us mindful of those for whom life is hard and unyielding, yet they persist in improving each day. Be in our hearts and in our lives always. Through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.*

† **HYMN – No. 474: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand***

**SERMON: “*There’s a Hot Mess in the Garden*”**  
by Pastor Bill Lentz

SERMON NOTES:

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## **THE APOSTLES' CREED (Unison)**

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered, under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; on the third day, he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence, he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## **SHARING OUR JOYS and CONCERNS**

### **CLOSING PRAYER for OTHERS**

*O God, you draw us here where we find friendship, peace, and hope not only for our lives right now but for all the times to come. Get us ready to walk the pathways of service and hope. Warm our hearts with your love and lift our spirits as we pray: We ask you to heal all who struggle with illnesses of every kind, with feelings of loss, and for those in deep sorrow. We ask that your love be with all those who celebrate and rejoice and be with all the people and places whom we name to you in our hearts. Help us reach out to others in compassion and support, for we ask these things in Jesus' name, who reaches out to us daily. Amen.*

† HYMN- No. 413: *A Charge to Keep I Have*

## **DISMISSAL with BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE: *Song Of Rejoicing* (Hughes)**

## TWO WEBSITES FOR OUR CHURCH

**CoventryvilleUMC.org** – Our website for potential visitors and the community

**MyCUMC.com** – Our website for members

## FAITH MATTERS

### UPCOMING SCRIPTURES

Genesis 29:15-28 † Psalm 105:1-11, 45b  
Romans 8:26-39 † Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## SERVICE MATTERS

**MISSIONS: First:** Sales of water, soda, and iced tea in the silver refrigerator in our kitchen for Mission First, Pottstown. **Second:** the collection of quarters for laundering for the homeless and the ASP.



**FEED THE  
HUNGRY**

**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS:** Needed at this time: canned chicken, beef stew, 16oz size vegetables and fruit, single portions of fruit, cereal, Chef Boyardee pastas, packs of crackers, juice drinks, etc. Peanut butter, jams, jellies, 1lb boxes of pasta and 14-24oz pasta sauce are always needed. **No institutional size foods or foods with outdated “use by dates” can be used.** If you

won't eat it, then please don't donate it. Thank you! Questions? Please call the main office at 610-469-9350.

**CAN YOU HELP?** If you could drive someone to an appointment, pick up groceries, or prepare a meal, Contact the church at 610-469-9350 or Sandy Geisler at 610-804-2925.

## WORSHIP MATTERS

### ATTENDANCE

**July 16, 2023**

10:30 am

**37 onsite**

**17 online**

**Last Year:** 33 onsite/ 12 online

## TODAY'S FLOWER OR BULLETIN SPONSORS:

To sponsor flowers or bulletins, please call the main office at 610-469-9350.

If sponsors would like to donate the flowers, please contact Donna Jacobs at 484-680-3309. She will see that they go to a shut-in or nursing home.

## GIVING MATTERS

### GIVING ALTERNATIVES

*In addition to offering envelopes and loose plate giving, we offer two additional ways to financially support our church and its ministry. First is by signing up for e-Giving (instructions below). The second is by using your debit or credit card to make a donation on the iPad in the back of the Sanctuary.*

### E-GIVING MADE EASY:

Go to <https://cumc.gvtls.com> or scan the code and select the giving fund you want to contribute to, enter an amount and your preferred frequency of donating. Repeat the process for other funds you want to support. Then, proceed to checkout. An email address is required, along with contact information. Payment can be made through your checking account (preferred method because of lower cost or a credit card. Contact and payment information is stored to make future payments easier. For more detailed instructions, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yb442ylw>.



Questions? Contact Steve Gerhart at 215-375-2979.

## WEEKLY SUMMARY OF GIVING—July 16, 2023

<b>GENERAL and FUEL FUND GIVING</b>		<b>IMPROVEMENT FUND GIVING</b>	
Envelopes:	\$1,716.00	Envelopes:	\$50.00
E-Giving:	\$120.00	E-Giving:	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,836.00</b>	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
Weekly Need:	\$4,054.00	Weekly Need:	\$252.00
Giving Year to Date:	\$88,026.00	Giving Year to Date:	\$5,164.00
Year to Date Need:	\$121,922.00	Year to Date Need:	\$7,308.00

<b>MORTGAGE FUND LOAN BALANCE</b>	<b>WEEKLY NEED</b>
\$42,123.90	\$810.00

*Please consider purchasing food cards for Giant or Redners. The United Methodist Men make 5% on each purchase, with all proceeds going to support renovations, programs and ministries at CUMC.*

<b>FOOD CARD PROGRAM UPDATE</b>			
<i>as of July 9, 2023</i>			
	<b>This Week</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Profit YTD</b>
Giant Cards	\$2,850.00	\$30,625.00	\$1,531.25
Redners	\$325.00	\$3,575.00	\$178.75
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$1,710.00</b>

### ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Please put your DRY, clean and crushed cans in a plastic grocery type bag and drop them in the trash can behind the shed.



# PRAYER MATTERS

## OUR JOYS

**BIRTHDAYS:** July 16- Jerry Fitzgerald; 26- Hayden Guest; 27- Ken Moses, Jr.; 29- Leslie Mertz

**ANNIVERSARIES:** 23- Warren & Heather Hampton; 25- Kathy & Pastor Bill; 26- Brad & Felicia Macy

*Today's altar flowers are in honor of  
Kathy and Pastor Bill Lentz's Anniversary.*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

*Skip Booker* - healing from an infection

*Lynn Hess* - upcoming medical tests

*Little Learners Preschool* - successful opening

*Gay Fries* - continued healing

*Sally* (long time mate of Keith Heller, Ruth Ann's Son) - healing

*Lynn* (Friend of Cindy Cooper) - healing

*Connor Marr* (Grandson of Ann, Gay Fries' sister) - brain tumor treatment

*The family and friends of Joan Guest*

*Dianne Ela* - healing

**OUR SHUT-INS:** Beatrice Dunn, Marian Hildenbrand, Mary Dunlap, Kim Porter

**THOSE SERVING TO KEEP OUR COUNTRY SAFE:** Doug Booker (*Military*), Justin Walton (*PA State Trooper*), Joseph Wysocki

# CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday's services are live streamed on [YouTube](#)



## **SUNDAY, JULY 23**

10:30am Worship Service with Pastor Bill

## **Monday, July 24**

6:00pm Little Learners Preschool Committee Meeting

7:00pm Trustees Meeting

## **Tuesday, July 25**

12:00pm Eastern PA Conference Prayer Meeting-Zoom

4:00-6:00pm Wawa Food Giveaway

## **Wednesday, July 26**

## **Thursday, July 27**

## **Friday, July 28**

No events scheduled.

## **Saturday, July 29**

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift Shop

## **SUNDAY, JULY 30**

10:30am Worship Service with Pastor Bill

To discover more about upcoming events at CUMC,  
visit [MyCUMC.com/calendar/](http://MyCUMC.com/calendar/).

# CUMC NEWS & EVENTS

## WEEKLY NOTES

Be "in the know"! Our interim pastors, Pastor Bill Lentz and Pastor Jeff Raffauf, have started sharing Weekly Notes to keep everyone informed of Pastoral decisions. Stay tuned for clarity on changes relating to worship, policy, practice, and/or governance. A page has been created on the MyCUMC.com website to provide digital access to the notes. For this past Sunday's edition, please visit <https://mycumc.com/2023/07/20/pastors-weekly-notes/>. Feedback is welcome!

## THANK YOU

Dear Coventryville UMC Family,  
Thank you so much for your gift to me! I love my new Bible so much. It is a wonderful addition to my bookshelf/end table. I look forward to turning to it in times of strength and need.  
Best, *Kylie Hershey*

## THRIFT SHOP

CUMC's Thrift Shop will be open for business on Saturday, July 29th, from 9:00am-12:00pm. Stop by and put your bargain-hunting skills to good use. The friendly staff will be happy to help you make selections from clothing, dishware, jewelry, accessories, home goods, games, books, and more. Check it out!

## COMMUNITY COOKOUT

CUMC's Outreach Ministry will be hosting another FREE Community Cookout (rain or shine) on Wednesday, August 9th. The fun starts at 5:00 PM under the pavilion and runs until 7:00 PM. Come for the food. Stay for the fellowship. Volunteers are welcome. See Laura Guest for details or contact Maggie in the main office at 610-469-9350 or [church@coventryvilleumc.com](mailto:church@coventryvilleumc.com).

## **CUMC & WAWA PARTNERSHIP**

CUMC continues to partner with WAWA for their “Let nothing be wasted” program, a Food Donation Connection. Every Tuesday, CUMC gets surplus frozen breakfast sandwiches, burritos, rolls, and more from WAWA. The items are available to you and the surrounding community for free by picking them up from our church on Tuesdays from 4:00-5:30 PM. You may select for yourself, a friend, a neighbor, a shut-in, the sick, the elderly, etc. See Laura Guest to learn more about this outreach program or to let her know you'd like to help in some way.

## **LITTLE LEARNERS PRESCHOOL NEWS**

Little Learners Christian Preschool is offering a 5-day Pilot Program beginning in September 2023. 11 students signed up for the 2023-2024 school year. There are 2 job openings and 5 volunteer positions available now for the start of school in September. Please share this information and pray for these open positions to be filled soon. Questions? See Laura Guest or call the school number at 484-985-8163.

## **FOOD CARD PROGRAM**

Using Giant and Redner's gift cards from church when grocery shopping helps financially thanks to the stores' rebate programs. Please contact Marlin at 610-469-6671 to make a purchase. Drop-off or pick-up arrangements can be made. Shop and donate...thanks!

## **METAL RECYCLING**

The CUMC recyclers collect all metal, some appliances, electrical wiring, and all metal cans (emptied and rinsed out). This generates income for the church. Deliveries can be dropped off behind the shed in the cemetery or in the recycle bin in the church parking lot. If pick-up arrangements are needed, please call Janice Camaho (610-469-6141) or Lowell Fries (610-323-4227).

## **CEDARVILLE UMC YOUTH MINISTRY**

Cedarville United Methodist Church is seeking a Youth Leader / Director of Youth Ministries to create programming and outreach focused on engaging the youth at Cedarville UMC and nurturing the development of their Christian faith and participation in organized youth events. Develop a positive, trusting relationship with youth and creatively engage them with opportunities for fellowship and service in alignment with the mission and values of the church. This is a part time role averaging 8 hours per week. To apply or ask questions, please email [Cedarvillecareers@gmail.com](mailto:Cedarvillecareers@gmail.com). The job description can be found at <https://www.epaumc.org/south-district/youth-leader-director-of-youth-ministries-cedarville-umc/>.

## **DAILY READINGS**

- **Mon, July 24:**  
Psalm 139:13-18; Genesis 32:3-21; Revelation 14:12-20
- **Tues, July 25:**  
Psalm 139:13-18; Genesis 33:1-17; Galatians 4:21-5:1
- **Wed, July 26:**  
Psalm 139:13-18; Genesis 35:16-29; Matthew 12:15-21
- **Thurs, July 27:**  
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Genesis 29:1-8; 1 Corinthians 4:14-20
- **Fri, July 28:**  
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Genesis 29:9-14; Acts 7:44-53
- **Sat, July 29:**  
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Genesis 29:31-30:24; Matthew 12:38-42



# INTERIM PASTORS' WEEKLY NOTES - July 23, 2023

By: Pastor Bill Lentz

Pastor Bill - 484-767-2352 or [pastorlentz@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlentz@gmail.com)

Pastor Jeff - 610-223-4234 or [jraffauf@comcast.net](mailto:jraffauf@comcast.net)

## Grace and Peace to You!

Kathy and I thank you for warmly welcoming us to CUMC last Sunday. It was thrilling to worship with you and Pastor Jeff. We enjoyed the fellowship time afterward. The treats were delicious!

I'll **tentatively** be available for pastoral conversation, meetings, or visitation this week **on Thursday, July 27**. Please make your needs known to me as soon as possible. We can meet your needs if you can help us by communicating effectively. Please don't wait for us to discover your needs or hear them through the grapevine. Call us with all the details when you're facing a hospitalization, and we will visit you. Call us when you're in a crisis, and we'll schedule a talk. When you're confused or have a question, please call us, and we'll work to clear the air. Please help us help you!

## Last Week This Week!

Last Sunday, both pastors led worship, with Pastor Bill as preacher and Pastor Jeff as liturgist. Pastor Bill played lead pastor this week, attending the Little Learners Ad Hoc Organizing Committee and the 250th Anniversary Committee meetings on Thursday evening; he also made a pastor call at Manatawny Manor and did some pastoral calls by cell phone. Pastor Jeff was also available by phone, text, and email to offer pastoral guidance on several matters that arose.

I think restarting the *Little Learners Christian Preschool* and the 250th Anniversary upcoming in 2024 are two endeavors that could **unite** the congregation in ways that are critical for the church's future success. Your pastors will have much more to say about this in the coming weeks.

## **Help Us Help You!**

A bulletin insert with 5 Questions for Coventryville Church is given to solicit your help. We invite you to answer the questions to let us know what you think about your church. The questions are: What is going well at Coventryville Church? What is not going well at Coventryville Church? What barriers need removal to inspire your participation in the life of Coventryville Church? What role at Coventryville Church would you like to take on? What needs in the church and the community are new opportunities for Coventryville Church? Your answers will be helpful to us. Please take some time to answer as many as you can. Please email Pastor Jeff or me your answers or turn in your completed sheet. Thanks!

## **Let Us Pray!**

Pastor Jeff and I will pray for you each day. We will pray for growth and healing. We will pray for God's guidance over the next 11 months. We will pray that all of us will take responsibility and be accountable for moving CUMC forward to be even more vital in God's mission of pointing people to Jesus Christ for transforming the world. We are praying for you. Please pray for us.

Let us pray

Lord, we pray for unity in the Body of Christ. Help our congregation to serve you with joy and gladness. Help us to build up one another and to grow in our faith together as a community for your honor and glory.  
Amen.

[Garments of Splendor](#)

# PARABLE OF THE WEEDS WORD SEARCH

Based on Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

I R E H T A G Q Y S L W F R P  
O M G I B T T D Y H Z N R A B  
V G D W R E I J O M B Y I C N  
Q W H E A T O Q F B P P B G U  
H F D E E S D O O G S L E P T  
Z A T Z B J T R V S J Z G R O  
E H R A F Z A I B V H W Y G F  
N A E V R I N L S O G B P N L  
E W P K E E E S E L D N U B L  
M B Z K K S S L V J N R U B M  
Y P C Q E Z T S D J E M Y G S  
U E C J F K R T M E U W B Z Z  
K I N G D O M O F H E A V E N  
A S Q B J C P F A A W U D J F  
N D E W O S I A Z W D M A N P

BARN  
BUNDLES  
BURN  
ENEMY  
FIELD  
GATHER  
GOOD SEED  
HARVEST  
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN  
MAN  
SLEPT  
SOWED  
TARES  
WHEAT

## CHURCH AND STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

### Interim Pastors:

Rev. Dr. Bill Lentz

[pastorlentz@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlentz@gmail.com)

484-767-2352

Rev. Dr. Jeff Raffauf

[jraffauf@comcast.net](mailto:jraffauf@comcast.net)

610-223-4234

**Bishop:** John Schol

**District Superintendent:**

[Evelyn Kent Clark](#)

### Music Director:

Karen Finkbiner

610-495-5906

### Office Administrator:

Maggie O'Malley

Tuesdays: 6:00-9:00 PM

Thursdays: 6:00-9:00 PM

### E-mail:

[church@coventryvilleumc.com](mailto:church@coventryvilleumc.com)

**Little Learners Christian Preschool**

[littlelearnersprekschool@gmail.com](mailto:littlelearnersprekschool@gmail.com) | 484-985-8163

**Coventryville United Methodist Church**

1521 Old Ridge Road, Pottstown, PA 19465 | 610-469-9350