



The Courier



OCTOBER 2024



Church of Christ Uniting Kingston PA



thecourier@cocu4u.org

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The content of **The Courier** is only as good as your submissions. Articles and pictures must be received by Sunday **October 20th** at: thecourier@cocu4u.org for inclusion in the November 2024 issue. Thanks!

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Editor: Curt Schwarzwald

RALLY DAY AT COCU



Rally Day 2024 was a hit with the children, youth, and adults! We started off the day with hearing from our campers about their camp experiences. We heard from Owen and Parker Jones, Elise Elko, and Mimi Nankivell. They all had a great time at camp and thanked COCU for helping them attend. Also during the worship service, we dedicated the teachers and the children and prayed for a wonderful new year of learning.



When we moved to the celebration, the theme was "You are God's Masterpiece" and the children and youth were tasked with painting a canvas with a stained glass effect. We also asked everyone there to put a painted handprint on our sign to go on the bulletin board. Thank you to everyone who attended and who helped make the day a success! -Betsy Jones



The Courier is free via email - \$10 per year donation requested for print edition

PASTOR JANE'S MESSAGE



The fall season is here with all its beauty and splendor. The leaves are so colorful as they blanket our sidewalks and lawns. In the midst of this beauty, we Christians celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 6th. On this day, Christians experience their oneness and unity around the table of our Lord.

Churches of all denominations experience this awareness of one fellowship as the vast multitudes of believers all over the world respond to the request of Jesus Christ our Lord, who said, "Do this in remembrance of me". On this day we realize that all of us are bound to Christ by the strong bond of love and fellowship.

There is nothing more personal than communion. Each of us brings our own individualized offering to God. God wants our brokenness in order to make us whole again. Jesus wants our emptiness so that he can fill it for us. All Christ asks is that we come with a humble heart with the door unlatched so that Christ can truly sup with us. Then as we are renewed and invigorated, Christ calls us to go forth into our everyday routines with a renewed sense of forgiveness, hope and love that all the world can see and taste.

Come join us for worship on World Communion Sunday and every Sunday. May your faith be strengthened and may your life be about producing an abundance of fruit this fall. Blessings to everyone as the Lord does a mighty work in your life. -Pastor Jane



COMMUNION- Sunday, October 6th is World Communion. On this day, we celebrate our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. We will have a variety of breads available from around the world for communion, including gluten free. Communion will be served in the pews: First the bread will

be served and we will commune together and likewise with the cup. We ask that you sit in the main sanctuary downstairs on Communion Sundays. Thanks so much. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Giza or Pastor Jane.

Scriptures for the Month of October



Sunday, October 6th- 20th Sunday after Pentecost/World Communion
Job 1:1; 2:1-10, Psalm 26, Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16

Sunday, October 13th- 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Job 23:1-9 & 16-17, Psalm 22:1-15, Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31

Sunday, October 20th- 22nd Sunday after Pentecost/COCU 52nd Anniversary
Job 38:1-7 & 34-41, Psalm 104:1-9 & 24 & 35c, Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45

Sunday, October 27th- 23rd Sunday after Pentecost/Reformation
Job 42:1-6 & 10-17, Psalm 34:1-8 & 19-22, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52

WHAT'S ON THE PRESBYTERIAN CALENDAR?

October 1st- Mental Illness Awareness Month Begins

October 6th- World Communion Sunday. Encounter God through music, prayers and sermons from around the world.

October 6th- Peace & Global Witness Offering. This offering supports peacemaking and reconciliation ministries in our congregation and throughout the world.

October 14th- Indigenous Peoples Day.

October 16th- World Food Day. Lift up the reality of hunger in your community and around the world. Join others who are working for food justice.

October 20th- Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child, Transform the World

October 21st- Young Adult Volunteer Program. The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people ages 19-30 in sites across the US and around the world. They work to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation while exploring their Christian faith in community.

October 24th- United Nations Day

October 27th- Reformation Sunday



WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY AND LUNCH BUNCH- We are continuing our study of the Gospel of John on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings throughout the month of October. We are using our Bibles and some parts of "John: The Gospel of Light and Life" written by Adam Hamilton.

These 21 chapters speak volumes about the Life, Death and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a great book to share with seekers of the faith. The purpose of the book is to prove conclusively that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in him will have eternal life. The first 12 chapters speak to the Message and Ministry of Jesus as the Son of God and Chapters 13 through 21 speak of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. John presents Jesus as the source of life and John wants to be sure we understand that. It is a powerful book that will enhance your faith and help you to better tell the salvation message to those you encounter along the journey of life. Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in Lukens Lounge and Thursdays at 11 a.m. in Lukens Lounge. All are welcome!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL is continuing with Season 2 of the video series *The Chosen*. *The Chosen* is biblically accurate and stays true to the real Bible. Each episode of *The Chosen* chronicles the ministry of Jesus Christ as he preaches, gathers disciples, cures the sick, and embodies several biblical narratives. The show follows the details that are in the text of the New Testament very closely. Season 2, episodes 7 & 8 will be watched and discussed on Oct. 1st and 8th. On October 15th we will begun a study on Zechariah. Do you have a particular theme or Bible book you would like to study? Please let Pastor Jane or the office know. Would you be interested in presenting a study for Sunday morning's Adult Sunday School? Please let Pastor Jane know or the church office.



"MARY'S" GROUP OCTOBER 2024 Luncheon Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 8th. Place: Adelina's Restaurant (South Mountain Blvd., Mountaintop.) Time: 1:00 pm for devotions followed by lunch and discussion of Chapters 9 – end of our study "Life is Messy, God is Good." RSVP: Donna Dickinson at 570-814-6713 (cell) or email donnajoydickinson@gmail.com by Sunday, October 6th. *"Each and every story we write in our lives-the big, small, funny, Ridiculous, mundane, and gut-wrenching-is a part of God's bigger Story. Because God is right there with us."* -Cynthia Yanof

THE WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER BREAKFAST GROUP meets at Ollies Restaurant 84 S. Wyoming Ave. in Edwardsville on Wednesdays at 8 a.m.

MEN'S BREAKFAST meets on the 3rd Saturday of each Month (in October it's the 19th) at The Scratch Kitchen, 1335 N. River Street, in Plains at 9 a.m. All Men are welcome to attend. If you would like to have more information, please feel free to contact Todd Swanson at 570-762-2887.



DINNER AND A MOVIE- On each 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:30 pm folks gather for a covered dish potluck meal, fellowship and a Christian movie. On October 13th we will be watching *Do You Believe?* Written by the creators of *God's Not Dead*. Call the church office 570-288-8434 for more information.



EXERCISE CLASS- Movement can be a 4-letter word, but it doesn't have to be. Tuesdays. 2PM in Fellowship Hall. Only 45 minutes. Gentle Stretching. Balance for safety. Gentle movement, as much or as little as you want/can do. Truly no judgement, no pressure. No jumping around or working on the floor. Very friendly. Very low key. No required cost, donations accepted but not required. Give us a try for 2 weeks and see how much fun can be had in gentle stretching and balance. Try us for 2 weeks and see how good you feel. Tuesdays. 2PM. Only 45 minutes. If you have questions, feel free to call Phyllis at 570-690-1342.



Do you or do you know someone who needs a wheelchair, cane or walker? If so, please let Pastor Jane know.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY TEAM- There is a live streaming sign-up sheet for upcoming services in the balcony. If you are interested in helping, please check the schedule for available dates. Contact Kristin Haas if you are in need of a refresher course or training for live streaming.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE- If you are thinking, "I would like to do the Children's Message," please let Pastor Jane know. It is always good to have different voices in worship to share God's message with our children on a Sunday. Please call either the church office at 570-288-8434 or the cell at 570-396-5883. Thanks in advance for volunteering!!!

LITURGIST- Anyone who is interested in being a liturgist, please call or text Diana Grinavich at 570-954-4525 or email dlg219@hotmail.com



FELLOWSHIP HOUR- We are attempting to have a Fellowship Hour each week after worship. Several of the organizations have been hosting. Parish Life hosts every 3rd Sunday. We are looking for others (a single person or 2 or more folks) who would be interested in hosting. Parish Life provides the tablecloths, plates, bowls and silverware, coffee ingredients, water and usually some juices. Please sign up on the poster in the narthex or see Peg Knapich or Phyllis Johnson.

FRIENDSHIP PADS are in the pews. The primary reason is not to take attendance, but to afford visitors and others in the pew a connection with the people they are sitting with. It is also important for us to realize who has been away from church so that we can find out if there is some issue that is keeping them from sharing in worship. I would like for us as a congregation to reach out to people who are experiencing difficulties with prayer, a visit, a note. Friendship pads are also a way to keep in touch with visitors. I can't always meet new people at worship. Friendship Pads are about connecting each other with Jesus and changing lives. Each Monday, I read the names of our attendees and pray for those individuals. Our receptionist on Mondays, Kay Smith, writes a note of welcome to visitors who share their address. Please sign in each week so that we can stay connected with each other. –Pastor Jane



MEET THE BISHOP- All Clergy and Laity are invited to join in **Connection, Conversation, and Communion** with **Bishop Burgos-Nunez** at the "C3 Tour on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at Clarks Summit UMC, 1310 Morgan Highway, Clarks Summit, PA. Time for Clergy: 1 p.m. till 3 p.m. Time for Laity: 6:30 p.m. till 8 p.m. Please come and welcome Bishop Burgos-Nunez to our District and to our Conference.

CHURCH CONFERENCE/ANNUAL MEETING- This year our Church Conference with our District Superintendent Rev. Judy Walker will be held at COCU on Sunday, November 3rd at 3:30 p.m. It will take place in our Fellowship Hall. It is a Church Conference so everyone is urged to attend. All members of our Congregation are invited and can vote. It is expected that all of our Ministry Team Chairs, Co-Chairs and members attend our annual meeting. Please mark your calendars. Thanks so much. –Pastor Jane

DISTRICT RENAMED- On September 15th 2024, both laity and clergy of the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre District gathered at Dorranceton UMC for our District Conference. It was a wonderful worship experience filled with Word, Sacrament, Service, Joy, Proclamation, Dancers, and an atmosphere of hospitality and love. As a result of the District Conference we now have a new name, **North Central Rivers District**. Our new name comes from the rivers that surround us: The Lackawaxen, Lackawanna and Susquehanna. Rev. Judy Walker shared, "When a river flows into another body of water it takes on a new name. The Lackawaxen becomes part of the Delaware, the Lackawanna becomes part of the Susquehanna, and the Susquehanna becomes part of the Chesapeake. Today, our congregations flow into one as we stand on the holy ground of the North Central Rivers District in the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church." We welcomed new clergy and lay supply folks. We commissioned our NCR District Committees: District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Committee on Building and Location, Committee on Superintendency. Now we go forth to put our hands to the plow to provide laborers for the vineyard in the North Central Rivers District.

COCU Calendar - October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>-LOCATIONS:</p> <p>CR= CONFERENCE ROOM</p> <p>FH= FELLOWSHIP HALL</p> <p>LL= LUKENS LOUNGE</p> <p>S= SANCTUARY</p>		<p>1</p> <p>9:30AM LECTIONARY ZOOM MEETING</p> <p>2PM EXERCISE CLASS -FH</p> <p>6PM FRONTIER GIRLS -FH,GRIEFSHARE -LL</p> <p>6:30PM PERSONNEL TEAM -CR</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8AM PRAYER BREAKFAST-OLLIES</p> <p>12-2PM FOOD PANTRY & CLOTHES RACK -FH</p> <p>6:30PM BIBLE STUDY -LL</p> <p>7PM CHOIR REHERSAL -FH</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11AM LUNCH BUNCH -LL</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 World Communion</p> <p>10AM WORSHIP -S -COMMUNION</p> <p>11AM FELLOWSHIP HOUR -FH</p> <p>11:15 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL -LL</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30AM LECTIONARY ZOOM MEETING</p> <p>1PM MARY'S GROUP -ADELINA'S RESTAURANT</p> <p>2PM EXERCISE CLASS -FH</p> <p>6PM GRIEFSHARE -LL</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8AM PRAYER BREAKFAST-OLLIES</p> <p>12-2PM FOOD PANTRY & CLOTHES RACK -FH</p> <p>6:30PM BIBLE STUDY -LL</p> <p>7PM CHOIR REHERSAL -FH</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11AM LUNCH BUNCH -LL</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>10AM WORSHIP -S SUNDAY SCHOOL FAITH SNAPCHAT</p> <p>11AM FELLOWSHIP HOUR -FH</p> <p>11:15 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL -LL</p> <p>1:30PM DINNER AND A MOVIE -LL/FH</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Columbus Day</p> <p>5:30-8:30PM WOMEN'S CLUB BOARD MEETING -FH</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30AM LECTIONARY ZOOM MEETING</p> <p>2PM EXERCISE CLASS -FH</p> <p>6PM FRONTIER GIRLS -FH,GRIEFSHARE -LL</p> <p>7PM ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM -CR</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8AM PRAYER BREAKFAST-OLLIES</p> <p>12-2PM FOOD PANTRY & CLOTHES RACK -FH</p> <p>6:30PM BIBLE STUDY -LL</p> <p>7PM CHOIR REHERSAL -FH</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11AM LUNCH BUNCH -LL</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11AM WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BOARD MEETING -CR</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST -SCRATCH KITCHEN</p> <p>2PM COSTUME GIVEAWAY -FH</p>
<p>20 Anniversary Sunday</p> <p>10AM WORSHIP -S</p> <p>11AM FELLOWSHIP HOUR BY WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP -FH</p> <p>11:15AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL -LL</p> <p>11:30AM-1:30PM CONFIRMATION -FH</p>	<p>21</p> <p>4:15PM STEPHEN MINISTRY -LL</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30AM LECTIONARY ZOOM MEETING</p> <p>2PM EXERCISE CLASS -FH</p> <p>6PM GRIEFSHARE -LL</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8AM PRAYER BREAKFAST-OLLIES</p> <p>12-2PM FOOD PANTRY & CLOTHES RACK -FH</p> <p>6:30PM BIBLE STUDY -LL</p> <p>7PM CHOIR REHERSAL -FH</p> <p>EDUCATION ZOOM MEETING</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11AM LUNCH BUNCH -LL</p> <p>7PM PARISH COUNCIL -FH</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 Reformation</p> <p>10AM WORSHIP -S SUNDAY SCHOOL FAITH SNAPCHAT PRAYER NOW</p> <p>11AM FELLOWSHIP HOUR -FH</p> <p>11:15AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL -LL</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:30PM WOMEN'S CLUB -FH</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30AM LECTIONARY ZOOM MEETING</p> <p>1PM STAFF MEETING -CR</p> <p>2PM EXERCISE CLASS -FH</p> <p>6PM GRIEFSHARE -LL</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8AM PRAYER BREAKFAST-OLLIES</p> <p>12-2PM FOOD PANTRY & CLOTHES RACK -FH</p> <p>6:30PM BIBLE STUDY -LL</p> <p>7PM CHOIR REHERSAL -FH</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Halloween</p> <p>11AM LUNCH BUNCH -LL</p> <p>12PM MEALS ON WHEELS -CR</p>		

SUNDAY 10AM WORSHIP AVAILABLE IN PERSON OR ONLINE LIVE AND ON DEMAND LATER

MEET OUR COCU YOUTH- Each month, we'll interview one of our children or youth, so we can all get to know them a little better! This month's interview is with Alex Berger!



Name: Alex Berger

Age: 14

Grade: 9th

Favorite Subject in School: Phys Ed is my favorite subject because we are able to go outside and play sports during the school day.

What do you do outside of school?: I like to play soccer and video games sometimes. I also go around the neighborhood and ride bikes with my friends.

Favorite holiday: Christmas because of the time off school, presents you get, and seeing family.

Favorite color: blue

Favorite snack: Snickers

Favorite Bible character or story: David and Goliath

What do you enjoy most about Faith Snackchat: The snacks and fun activities.

What do you want to be when you grow up: An entrepreneur who owns his own business.



HALLOWEEN COSTUME GIVEAWAY- We will be hosting our 3rd annual Halloween Costume Giveaway on October 19th from 2-4 pm in Fellowship Hall. In order to make this event as successful as in previous years, we need costumes! We are kindly asking for donations of new or gently used Halloween costumes from toddler to adult size. You can drop off your donations in the church office or give directly to Betsy Jones or any member of the Education or Mission Outreach Teams. We thank you in advance for supporting this outreach into the community! If you have any questions, let Betsy Jones know. She can be reached at 607-215-5382 or at htebazile724@yahoo.com.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES ARE HERE! The 2024-2025 Class includes Kensie Haas and Owen Jones. We are so excited for them as they begin their Confirmation journey in faith. Sundays after Fellowship Hour seems to be the best choice for their schedules at this time. Dates of classes so far include Sunday, October 20th, Sunday, November 3rd, and Sunday, November 17th 11:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please keep Kensie and Owen in your prayers as they embark on their Confirmation journey. -Pastor Jane and Betsy Jones



THE EDUCATION TEAM has a card writing ministry to our college students to give them a reminder of home and let them know that we're thinking about them and praying for them. In order for this to work, we need to know who our college students are! In the narthex are half sheets of paper to provide names, addresses, and a little bit about the students - like their year in college, what their major is, etc. Thank you for helping us make this project a success!



BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS will be held on Tuesday, October 22nd from 9 am to 11 pm at the Wilkes-Barre Boscov's. Purchase a coupon for \$5.00 to receive 25% off most purchases. All monies raised will stay at the church. You can purchase your coupons from Michelle. Coupons are available now.



WBS PENGUINS Faith & Family Night: November 2, 2024 at 6 p.m. at the arena. Get tickets online or by calling the arena box office.



BUS TRIP- You're invited by the Women's Fellowship of Church of Christ Uniting to a Bus Trip on November 13th 2024 to see *A Playhouse Christmas* at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, NJ. There is something for everyone – traditional holiday favorites, pop Christmas hits, seasonal spirituals, and spectacular dance numbers. Price \$135.00 (Includes Bus, Show, Lunch & Driver Tip.) Please send your check to: Kay Smith (570-288-0889) 673 Swallow St. Edwardsville PA 18704. Please arrive at 8:00 a.m. Bus leaves Church of Christ Uniting at 8:30 a.m. No Refunds - Seating First Paid First Seated. Make Check Payable To: Women's Fellowship or call Beverly Sobocinski (570-696-2239.)



NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR COCU FOOD PANTRY- Please help keep our pantry stocked. We are accepting the following donations of food items: peanut butter, jelly, mac and cheese, boxed cereal, shelf milk, juices, pasta and sauce, canned meats, canned soup, tuna, mayo, boxed Hamburger, Chicken or Tuna Helper, boxed potatoes, canned fruits and veggies. Please be sure that all food donations *are not* out of date. Monetary donations are also welcomed and checks are payable to **COCU Food Pantry**. Food will be distributed on Wednesdays between 12:00 and 2:00. If you have any questions, please feel free to give Dave or Jan Oriel a call. If you know someone in need, have them call the church office at 570-288-8434. Thank you. The Food Pantry is a church-supported mission to help members of our community.



MEALS ON WHEELS at COCU is in need of volunteer drivers to deliver meals throughout the week. They are in need of volunteers especially when the regular drivers go on vacation or are ill. Please contact Amy at 570-288-1023 for more information about being a volunteer driver for MOW. Thanks in advance for your time.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO FEED DINNERS TO KIDS- The Ollie's Program, Dinners for Kids, is in need of 2 teams of 2 people to deliver meals to needing children. Two meals to each child of a needing family is delivered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Volunteers are scheduled for the month. You, as a volunteer, are asked what days you are unavailable to deliver the next month. The schedule is made based on when teams are available. You are usually asked to deliver the meals for only two or three times a month. On your day for delivering, you will be picking up the meals at Ollie's Restaurant in Edwardsville about 2:30 p.m. again on your Monday, Wednesday or Friday assigned day. The route sheet has the address, the number of children, (two meals are in each bag and each child gets a plastic bag.) There are directions from one home to the next home of the next recipient. See Charlie Dancheck if you have questions and are interested.

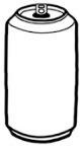


COCU CLOTHES RACK- We are happy to announce that our Clothes Rack has expanded and is now offering a "Housewares Section". This means that in addition to offering gently used clothing of all sizes we now have the additional items of gently used towels, sheets, blankets, and dishes available to those in need. We are grateful for your contributions. Our hours remain the same (Every Wednesday from 12noon until 2:00pm)

HOYT COMMUNITY CLOSET- Our neighbors at the Hoyt Library have asked that we share with you the news of their newly formed Community Cabinet. It's mission is to "create a supportive environment in which no young person must grapple with a lack of access to the essential personal care products of adolescence because of financial limitations." Ways to contribute to this project are gifts of money or products. Checks can be made out and sent to the Hoyt Library with the notation that it is meant for the Community Cabinet. Products can be dropped off at the Hoyt Library front desk. Examples of products to be contributed are shampoo, body wash, dental supplies, ChapStick, hand sanitizer, and feminine hygiene supplies. Contributions for this endeavor are welcome and will make a meaningful difference for those in need.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY TEAM We meet once each quarter on the 2nd Sunday. Our next meeting will be on November 10th right after worship in the conference room. We focus on keeping in touch with our members we don't see very often. Currently we are preparing for the Christmas brunch on December 15th after worship. We will also be sending Christmas cards to those members we don't see very often. If you would be interested in preparing the cards to send, please let Peg Knapich or Phyllis Johnson know. If you have an idea of an activity or event for the church family, please let us know that as well.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED PROJECT OCTOBER 2024- Each month we ask for certain items. Boxes will be in the narthex & reception office. October collection: Personal Care and Cleaning necessities – Shopper's choice.



ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION- Keep them coming! We are collecting aluminum cans to help support our many ongoing projects- Heifer, the Food Pantry, the Clothes Rack and more. There are containers in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall where you can drop your clean cans. 100 pounds of cans is approximately 2,900 cans. We will keep you updated on our progress. Thank you for supporting our projects.



RECYCLE YOUR OLD INK CARTRIDGES- Please bring in and deposit in our recycling box all of your used ink or laser cartridges. We get reward \$\$\$ at Staples monthly with your help and our turn in.

THINKING OF YOU... THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH!- The Parish Life Ministry Team is sending 25-30 "thinking of you" greeting cards each month to homebound, inactive and hospitalized COCU members. The cards are available in the Narthex before worship for everyone to sign. Please join us in this ministry each month in an effort to keep our COCU family close in our thoughts and prayers. If you would like to donate "blank or hello/thinking of you" cards to the team, please leave cards in the church office.

CHURCH FRIENDS UNITING- The Parish Life Ministry Team has an outreach program to identify church members who would benefit from a phone call or visit. Our hope is to maintain and strengthen the connection these members have to COCU. This effort would further support our monthly "thinking of you" card ministry. If you are aware of someone who could use an uplifting card, please contact us. To learn more about this project, please contact any of the following members of the Parish Life Ministry Team: Phyllis Johnson (570-690-1342), or Judy Vanderburg (570-270-6647)

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY- Do you like to knit, crochet, sew or not sew or quilt? Here is a ministry opportunity for you that will bring a smile and warmth to someone's heart. Prayer shawls, blankets, lap robes, pocket prayer shawls or even the cross in your pocket are made with love and prayer. These items have been made for centuries to symbolize an inclusive, unconditionally, loving God. Those who receive these gifts have been uplifted and prayed for by the maker. The gift then has one final blessing at worship before the recipient receives it. What are the gifts used for? Folks undergoing medical procedures, as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress, during bereavement; during an illness or recovery, or when someone just needs to know that they are wrapped in prayer. If this is a ministry you would like to get involved in, please let Pastor Jane know.



DEVOTIONAL LINE- 570-288-2334. Don't forget to start or finish your day by listening to our church members and staff share their thoughts and prayers. Each volunteer records daily devotions for Sunday through Saturday for one week.



GRIEFSHARE- No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful process.

We are writing to let you know about our GriefShare grief support group for people dealing with the death of a family member or friend. GriefShare is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Over 13 weeks, you'll find relief and comfort as you learn what to expect in the days ahead and how to navigate your personal grief process. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. Topics include how to manage grief-related emotions such as loneliness, anxiety, sadness, anger, and regret; how to cope with the changes in your life and relationships; how to recognize what's normal in grief; and what to do if you feel stuck or hopeless. At a weekly GriefShare meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, teachers, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics. After that is a small-group discussion for sharing, support, and personal application of what you learned on the video. You will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating your personal grieving process. Please join us every Tuesday through Dec 10th from 6 - 8 pm at Lukens Lounge at Church of Christ Uniting. Feel free to contact Peg at 570-239-7189 or the church office 570-288-8434, or visit www.cocu4u.org for more information. Registration is on the website www.griefshare.org/findagroup



STEPHEN MINISTRY PRAYER NOW- On the last Sunday of each month, two Stephen Ministers will be available in front of the sanctuary to pray with you about anything weighing on your heart. It could be for you, a loved one, a friend, a co-worker, a neighbor, etc. The remaining 2024 dates are October 27, November 24 and December 29. As a reminder, our Stephen Ministers are Wendy Harrison, Dave

& Jan Oriel, Todd & Barb Swanson, and Lisa Wren. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Donna Dickinson, Stephen Leader at 570-814-6713.



STEPHEN MINISTRY CARDS are in the pews. Please share them with a friend.

COCU's Stephen Ministry program provides lay people one-to-one Christian care in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Stephen Ministry is confidential. The identity of those receiving care and everything they discuss with a trained Stephen Minister remains private. Could you benefit from this kind of one to one care? Do you know someone, perhaps a co-worker, relative, friend or neighbor who could benefit from this ministry? If so, please take the card and pass it to them. Questions, please contact Donna Dickinson at 570-814-6713 or Pastor Jane at 570-288-8434.

ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUP- Do you have a family member or friend who has Alzheimer's disease? Do you know someone who may be struggling because their loved one has Alzheimer's? There is a support group that meets the 1st Thursday of each month at the Dallas Leggio's Restaurant. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. and is facilitated by Lois Reese who for years took care of her husband. Some people stay and have lunch but that is optional.

–Donna Dickinson



THE CARING CONNECTION is Ready to Serve You! If you need transportation to and from worship, doctors or shopping, wish a home visit, would like communion at your residence, could use a meal due to a family illness, please call the church office at 570-288-8434 (preferably before noon.) Give your name, the request and your contact number. Someone from The Caring Connection will be in touch.

IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE ARE ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL Please call the Church Office at 570-288-8434. In an emergency, if you cannot reach Pastor Jane, please feel free to call her cell at 570-396-5883 or give a call to our Pastoral Care Visitor, Cheryl Fuller at 570-954-8877.

EPILEPSY RESOURCE CENTER IN KINGSTON- The Michael P. Loughlin Epilepsy Community and Resource Center opened in January at 845 Wyoming Ave. Rena Loughlin, wife of Michael and Mary Loughlin, mother of Michael are heading up the Resource Center. The center provides education and other resources for those living with epilepsy and their families. Phone number: 215-629-5003.

ALTAR FLOWERS- If you would like to place flowers on the altar or on the side credence tables to remember or honor a loved one or special event, please contact Lois Giza at 570-287-0617 or at sandlgiza@verizon.net. You can check the floral calendar in the narthex for available dates and to sign up. The cost is \$30. You can send your payment to: COCU, 190 S. Sprague Avenue, Kingston PA 18704. Attn: Altar Guild. Thank you to everyone who provides our flower arrangements each week! Any flowers not taken home by the donors are given to our homebound, those in assisted living, or members who are in the hospital.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Under the direction of the Altar Guild, poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas. The cost of each plant is \$8.00. Window arrangements are \$35.00. The deadline for flower orders is Sunday, November 24th. In order to accommodate the Greenhouse deadline, **NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Payment must accompany your order. Please make your check payable to COCU Altar Guild. Orders may be placed in any offering plate or mailed to Barbara Swanson, 215 Noxen Road, Harvey's Lake, Pa. 18618 or to Michelle Giza, 86 E. Vaughn Street, Kingston, Pa. 18704-4818.

IN HONOR OF

GIVEN BY

IN MEMORY OF

GIVEN BY

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make checks payable to COCU Altar Guild.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE COURIER? When you open up **The Courier**, is there something you would like to see in our monthly edition that you do not see now? Please share your thoughts and ideas with Pastor Jane.

Offering Envelopes for 2025

You only need to complete this form if you are making a change.
Please leave the form in the offering plate or church office by OCTOBER 14.

_____ At this time, I **DO NOT** receive envelopes; please send them for 2025

_____ I currently receive envelopes; but, I do not want them for 2025

_____ **Automatic Deduction (EFT-electronic funds transfer/ach):** COCU, via PNC Bank, will automatically deduct a one-time, monthly offering, on the 15th of each month from your savings or checking account. Please call Barb Swanson, Bookkeeper, if you are interested in enrolling: 570-288-8434.

NOTE: *If you are already participating in the automatic deduction plan, **do nothing**. If you wish to change your giving amount, you can do so on Stewardship Sunday/the Estimate of Giving Card.*

Name & Phone # _____

PECAN SALE DEADLINE- The Annual Pecan Sale runs through October 6th 2024. The pecans are the same fresh crop Mammoth Pecans that you've come to love. The 2024 price will remain at \$13 for a 16 oz. bag. Proceeds of this sale will benefit the **COCU Camp Fund**. Each Sunday through October 6th, a volunteer will be available in the Narthex before worship service to take your orders. Please note that **full payment must accompany each order**. There will be **NO** additional bags available for purchase after October 6th. So please plan ahead to determine your baking needs. We will notify you when the pecans are received in November. They will be available for pick-up at the church or by special arrangement.
Sincerely, Evelyn Kersey

PRAYER

Wonderful Creator God,
Through scripture, you assure us:
That although we may consider outward appearances
You do not—
It is the heart that you consider.
Through the psalms, you tell us:
That although we may pre-judge others,
We are wonderfully made,
Lovingly stitched,
In your tapestry of love.
We are each of us wonderful and beautiful.
Help us remember that.
And to accept responsibility when our failure to recognise your love in others causes harm.
Help us to love ourselves as you love us.
Amen.

"A Prayer for Anti-Racism," *United Church of Canada.*

COCU CRAFT FAIR – September 28th 2024



-Submitted by Michelle Giza

Members of COCU and the Parish Life Team from left to right: Michelle Giza, Bill Femea, Beth Evans, Francine Lewis, Diana Grinavich, Karen Whipple, Phyllis Johnson and Pastor Jane Pykus. Absent from the photo: Peg Knapich, Judy Vanderburg, Wendy Harrison, and Kim Giza.

Submissions: thecourier@cocu4u.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST UNITING

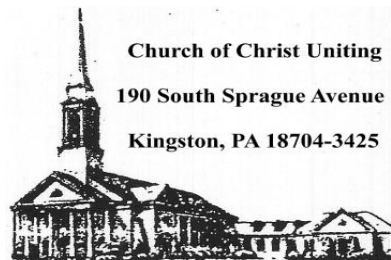
Come share our Joy!

Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Rev. Jane M. Pykus, Senior Pastor

Dr. Cheryl A. Fuller, Pastoral Care



📱 COCU Online: [YouTube channel](#) - [webpage](#) - [Facebook page](#) 📱

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