

COLEMANVILLE COMMUNICATOR

Your Monthly Newsletter of Happenings at
Colemanville United Methodist Church



December 2025

Colemanville
United Methodist Church
"To Love Others, As God Loves Us"
210 Colemanville Church Road

Conestoga, PA 17516

(717) 872-7951 — Church

Manuel P. Cruz, Jr., Pastor

Church E-mail: Colemanvilleumc@outlook.com

Website: colemanvilleumc.org

Colemanville United Methodist Church
210 Colemanville Church Road
Conestoga, PA 17516

Address Services Requested

Worship Service:

Worship Service
8:45 a.m.
Sunday School
10:15 a.m.

COLEMANVILLE COMMUNICATOR

Monthly Newsletter of the Colemanville United Methodist Church

December 2025

Our Mission: To love others as God loves us... To be a lighthouse radiating God's love



An Advent Meditation on Waiting and Coming

In the present collective fears, anxieties, despair, and outrage that powerfully permeate our inhospitable society, the season of Advent offers us fresh possibilities of hope, peace, joy, and love as we contemplate on its theme of waiting and coming. On the one hand is our anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation in Jesus that brings healing and wholeness. On the other hand, there is the arrival of God in human flesh and of the Risen Christ in his cosmic reign. But what takes place between our waiting and Christ's coming is most crucial for the well-being of our personal and communal life. Our waiting, Henri JM Nouwen reminds us in his book *The Path of Waiting*, should be open-ended. For him, "to wait open-endedly is an enormously radical attitude toward life. It is trusting that something will happen to us that is far beyond our own imaginings. It is giving up control over our future and letting God define our life. It is living with the conviction that God molds us according to God's love and not according to our fear."

Amid self-centeredness, indifference, greed, cruelty, and violence against the humiliated, violated, and mutilated body of God—our sacred planet, God persuades us to live a life of pro-active humility, compassionate restraint, and joyful letting go. It is the voice of the Spirit calling us all, who are entangled in the complex web of life and interrelationship, to sacred and merciful acts of waiting for Jesus' coming. The coming of Christ's coming is the full enfolding of God's presence in the "in between times" with God's whole body, while our waiting speaks of the full hope we have in the Risen Christ, who liberates and transforms everything that is not life-giving. Christ's

coming is deeply connected to our waiting. Our waiting, as it

unfolds in our day-to-day relationship with God, human, non-human, and the Earth, is to be transfigured into our moment-to-moment experience of Christ's coming with us.

This image of coming and waiting resonates with what Richard Rohr's calls "to be present in the now." Our "being fully present with Christ" recreates us to be more open-hearted to have an "enormously radical attitude toward life." A radical attitude toward life as a relational act of waiting and a deep experience with the cosmic Christ demonstrates this three-fold characteristic: First, pro-active humility. It is a mindful and empathetic acceptance of our collective moral responsibility not only to human communities but also to the entire circle of life. Second, compassionate restraint. It is a lifelong practice of using everything God has given us with care and respect, and of taking only our share so that all may live abundantly. Third, joyful letting go. It is a conviction that both our personal and collective joy is found not in gaining and having more but in losing and self-emptying for the sake of Christ.

Our Advent preparation invites us to deep reflections on waiting and coming in Christ. May the joy of Christ fill us all as we courageously wait for the coming of the Immanuel who is immensely, graciously, and lovingly present with us and all of creation.

Have a joyous Christmas!

Pastor Manny Cruz





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Events Happening at Colemanville UMC

December 2nd 6:30 pm – Church Council Meeting

December 3rd 6:30 pm– Advent Soup & Bread
Meditation Gathering 1

December 7th – Red Bird Items Due

December 8th – UWF Meeting and Christmas Party

December 9th 6:30 pm – Finance Meeting

December 10th – Community Meal & Card Making

December 24th 7 pm – Christmas Eve & Candlelight
Service

December 30th 4 pm – Outreach Meeting

Events Happening at Boehm's UMC

December 7th 12 pm – Christmas Pizza Celebration

December 7th 3 pm – Annual Advent Vesper Service at
Boehm's Chapel

December 17th 6:30 pm– Advent Soup & Bread
Meditation Gathering 2

December 24th 10 pm – Christmas Eve & Candlelight
Service



A short meeting will be held before the UWF
Christmas party on **December 8th** at 12 pm. Any
woman who would like to attend is welcome. Please
sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Questions/Concerns can be addressed with UWF board
members: Judy Rambo- President, Pat Collins- Vice
President, Darlene Hunsberger- Secretary, Donna
Eshleman- Treasurer

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A table is just a table until we all sit together.
A church is just a church until we fill every pew.
The greatest gift of all came without a bow.
Denny Miller



PRAYER LIST UPDATE

We have created a new prayer list and are looking at
some ways to be in contact with our church family
members.

- To add a name to the prayer list, please call Michelle Smith (717)872-7951 during office hours. Outside of office hours, please call Pat Collins (717)575-1852 or Dave Topper (717)984-7600.
- Only the requested information from the individual can be shared.
- We are trying to involve other committees already in place.
- We are looking for a core group of people to commit to praying daily, occasional visits, cards, and phone calls to help those from our church family on the list. If you are interested, please call Kathy Rankin (717)872-2923 or Omie Zecher (717)284-2320.

We will continue to see how we can improve.



RED BIRD MISSION

Hats, scarves, gloves/mittens, as well as small
toys/books, will be collected for and mailed to children
served by Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. These items
may be placed on/under the Christmas tree in the
sanctuary until December 7th.



COMMUNITY MEAL

Our Church Outreach community meals are growing,
and we want to be able to serve you better. We ask that
you please reserve your meal by the date below:

Deadline:

December 7th

Meal Date:

December 10th

To make your reservation, please call (717) 872-7951
Take-outs will be available from 4:30 to 5 pm for shut-
ins only. Dine-ins will be seated from 5:15 to 6:15 pm.
Following the meal, for anyone who wishes to join us,
we will be making handmade cards.



"Your kind and thoughtful expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged."

Church Family

Charlie loved his church and enjoyed the fellowship with all that he was involved with. He was there to help when he could.

He enjoyed all the cards, calls, and visits.

You were truly family to him.

Love,

Sue, Heidi & Scott



COMMUNITY AID DONATIONS

Community Aid: Please give our Partner number #40101 when dropping off clothes at the Columbia Avenue/Good Drive location. Colemanville UMC will receive six cents per pound in donations. Donations are typically accepted Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



PENNY JAR

The Penny Jar is located on the table in the Narthex. Funds collected through December will go to The Loft.

Thank you, from the Mission Committee.



CONESTOGA FOOD BANK

Items needed: Spaghetti Sauce/Pasta Sauce, Canned fruit (ie. apple sauce, pears, peaches), canned creamed soup, canned hearty soup (ie. beef stew), white rice, flavored potatoes (ie. boxed scalloped potatoes), Stove Top Stuffing, Instant Pancake Mix, canned meat (ie. chicken, tuna, ham), canned pasta (ie. Ravioli), Canned Chili with no beans, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, Chicken Helper, Pop Tarts, Instant Oatmeal, pudding. Please, no expired items, they cannot be accepted.

ONE A-CHORD EVENT

One A-Chord community choir presents "Prince of Heaven" Free admission

Sunday, December 7th at 6 pm – Reamstown Church of God – 400 Pfautz Hill Rd. Stevens

Sunday, December 14th at 4 pm – Junction Center – 1875 Junction Rd. Manheim

HELPING PENN MANOR FAMILIES

There are gift tags and a sign-up sheet in the narthex to help Penn Manor families in need this holiday season. Please select a gender and age range you would like to shop for and write your name on the line next to the corresponding number of the tag. Gifts are to be between \$30 and \$40. Do not wrap the gifts. All gifts are due by December 7th. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call Jean Garrett (717)284-3606.

MINCEMEAT 2025

THANK YOU everyone who assisted with Mincemeat 2025 -- from set up, selling, ordering, making, baking, and clean-up! This project was absolutely a group effort!

On Wednesday, 41 people (11 fewer than last year) helped make thirteen batches of mincemeat, equaling approximately 700 quarts. On Thursday, 45 people (7 fewer than last year) assisted with baking 1,200 pies. At the time of writing this article, 27 pies and 13 quarts of mincemeat were still available to purchase. Thank you, God, for once again providing the workforce for us to complete this task!



Thinking of You:

Sue Rineer

Tillie King

Our Shut-Ins:

Grace Aukamp

Edie Harrington

Get Well Wishes:

Canan Booth

Erika Breneisen

Justine Olsham

Linda Reburn

Matthew Hsia

Michelle Hsia

Nicole Graby

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Church Council Meeting 6:30 pm	3 Joint Advent Soup & Bread Meditation @ CUMC 6:30 pm	4	5	6
7 Annual Advent Vesper Service at Boehm's Chapel 3:00 pm	8 UWF Meeting & Christmas Party	9 Finance Meeting 6:30 pm	10 Community Meal	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Joint Advent Soup & Bread Meditation @ BUMC 6:30 pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve & Candlelight Service 7 pm @ CUMC and 10 pm @ BUMC	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Merry Christmas

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

ANGELS
HOLY SPIRIT
LAMB
SAVIOR

BETHLEHEM
INN
MANGER
SHEPARDS

BIRTH
JESUS
MARY
STAR

FRANKINCENSE
JOSEPH
MYRRH
VIRGIN

GOLD
JOY
REJOICE
WORSHIP