

# THE COMMUNICATOR

March 09, 2025



**Sunday, March 9, 2025**

**9:00 a.m. Traditional Experience**

**Prelude – “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”- Dr. Kim**

**Welcome/Announcements**

***Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days – UMH 269 vs. 1-4***

**Greeting**

**Opening Prayer – Frank Roberts**

**Psalm 91: 1-2; 9-16**

**Church of God – Victory Ringers**

**Children’s Message – Teratia Welch**

**“Take My Hand” – Chancel Choir**

**Luke 4: 1-13**

**Temptation – Pastor Marie Smith**

**Pastoral Prayer/Lord’s Prayer**

***What a Friend We Have in Jesus – UMH 526 vs. 2***

**Offering/Offertory - “ ’Tis a Gift To Be Simple” – Dr. Kim**

***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow – UMH 94***

***Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley – FWS 2112 vs. 1,2***

**Benediction**

**Postlude – “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place” - Dr. Kim**

## Letting Go and Cultivating: Temptations

Rev. Marie Smith

March 9, 2025

**Psalm 30: 5 “For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”**

**Luke 3: 22 “and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’”**

Why did Jesus need to go and be set apart for 40 days?

The devil tempts him three times, with physical temptations, power temptations, and privilege temptations.

Jesus didn’t give into this short-term pleasure; instead, he was fulfilling a long-term prophecy.

As we fast from the things that seek to destroy us, we can cultivate new and healthy things.

The devil must not have realized that Jesus already possessed this power.

Can we use a situation or person to our advantage? And is that healthy or hurtful?

We each have a privilege.

We don’t understand the temptation to misuse our privilege.

Letting Go & Cultivating:

1. Are you tempted by those physical things around you? Cultivate healthy patterns of fasting and praying, that feed your relationship with God.
2. Are you tempted to throw your hands up and give into helplessness? Instead of cultivating God’s perfect timing and goodness.
3. Are you tempted to use your advantage in life to further your agenda leaving others behind? Cultivate radical hospitality, invitational generosity in all that you do.

***For more information on programs offered at the church please contact:***

- **Worship Services – Office 740.474.4796**
- **Children’s Sunday School & Nursery – 740.474.4796**
- **Sermon Chat – Linda Kennedy – 740-248-3357**
- **Dimensions for Living Class – John Wysong – 740-601-3673**
- **The Explorers – Mark Denniston 740.474.4796**
- **Monday Evening Ladies Bible Study – 740.474.4796**

**Other programs:**

**Community Care Ministry – 740.474.4796**

**The Corner Closet – 740.474.4796**

**Bell Choir – Alice Chester – 740.474.4796**

**Church Choir – Alice Chester – 740.474.4796**

**Girl Scouts – Office 740.474.4796**

**Scouts – Robert Fanska-850.529.6724 or Joe McNemar-614.580.8074**

**Narcotics Anonymous – 740.474.4796**

**Quilters Group – Pam Patrick 740.412.7642**

**Joy Group – Linda Kennedy 740.248.3357**

**Christian Counseling – Dr. Nina Helene 614.906.6609**

Prayer List for Mar. 6, 2025

Joy Brooks  
Doug Sweazy  
Mary Harrison-Reed  
Tom Cooke  
Dick Patrick  
Mike Logan  
Jennifer Johnston  
Rob Skidmore

Carolyn Solt  
Kern Family - Passing of Neil Kern  
Amy Thompson  
Wysong Family -Passing of Hinton Waites  
Community of York, PA.  
George Heeter  
Adam Rogers  
Melissa Matz  
Stuckey/Smolinski Families - Passing of Beth  
Crist Family - Passing of Donald Crist  
Hayes Family - Passing of Lemoyne Hayes

**White roses on the altar are in memory of Donald Crist and Lemoyne Hayes.**

This is the link for Lemoyne Hayes obituary from New Mexico.  
<https://www.dentonwood.com/obituaries/lemoyne-hayes>



**We're Hiring**  
Applications for the open Janitorial position and Nursery Assistant are being accepted.  
Applications are available at the church office.

January & February Vision and Strategic Update

Dear Community UMC,

Back at the end of January we had a "Vision Sunday" where we shared with you the Big Audacious Vision of creating an exciting, relevant space for spiritually curious people to come and experience radical hospitality, intentional faith formation, connections with the community, and vibrant worship. We believe God is calling us to focus on families with children and youth. We have created a strategic plan to achieve this goal. Here are some updates to this goal.

1. **Children's Ministry** is currently working on moving their space to the third floor. The third floor is more secure, open and airy. Children's Ministry (Community Kids) happens during the 10:30am worship service that takes place on the lower level. There are some people who need access to the elevator, this means they are going through the children's area. We need the Children's Area to be completely secure, and no one who does not have a child in the ministry, a tag for a child or is a teacher will not have access to the area.
2. **Community Kids** has implemented a digital check-in system with name tags for parents and children.
3. The **Community Kids Vision Team** applied for and received two "Go Grants" from West Ohio Annual Conference. Go Grants are grants that help churches dream bigger and contribute financially to the vision.

- a. Community Kids applied for the Emerging Generation grant which reaches out to children and youth to engage them into the life of the church. We applied for resources to expand hospitality to new families, to new children, to purchase exciting new curriculum and to provide resources and training for teachers and the director. We received \$2500.
  - b. The second Go Grant was the Community Building Grant which adapts and updates church buildings to reach new people. The vision for this grant is to create a new creative environment in Children's Ministry area complete with updated paint, wall coverings, tables and chairs. We received \$4000.
  - c. The committees were so impressed with our grant proposal for the Community Building Grant, we were selected as a finalist for the Breakout vision of the year. We were second and received an additional \$2500.
  - d. Community Kids Vision Team is responsible to report our progress twice a year to the Annual Conference. We expect to have someone from Annual Conference to visit during our Grand Opening of the New Children's Area.
4. **Connections Ministry (Hospitality)** is currently working on scheduling and connecting with first time visitors coming to our church. We have an average of about 7 new people per month.
  5. **Connections Ministry** is also working on making our space accessible through signage both inside and outside the church. They have begun with inside signage. You may have seen their stand signs to help new people find the bathrooms and worship areas.
  6. Some other important things we have done in the last month.
    - a. SPRC hired a part time Youth Director. The primary focus of the director is to connect with our community which is essential for growth. Levi Graf is our new youth director. He is focusing on creating a youth leadership team to help expand the reach of this group.
    - b. The Staff as well as the program teams are all writing SMART goals that fit within the Strategic plan.
    - c. Both the Program Team and Church Council have met and the new system seems to be effective.
  7. **Our attendance** is reflective of our recent deaths, however, here are the attendance numbers for January & February 2025.
    - a. January 9:00am 77 - 10:30am 28
    - b. February 9:00am 83 - 10:30am 27
  8. **Our giving** in January was just 1% off from the desired 8%. We received \$31,186. Which is 7% of the budget needed.

Thank you for your support and your prayers. God is doing remarkable things through the church and through the ministries here at Community. Keep praying!!

Blessings,

Pastor Marie

### *Tell Me Why ... Hospitality 101*

**Why do we need special parking spots?** When people come to visit our church for the first time we certainly don't want them to change their minds because they can't find a parking spot. Having a designed parking spot for guests near the entrance signifies that we welcome and encourage new people to visit us. Be on the lookout for designated "Visitor Parking" signage/spaces in the Pickaway Street parking lot near Door A within the next couple of weeks.

**Why do we need Greeters at every door?** Our church has so many entrances for visitors to enter through and we want to make sure that whatever door (or elevator) they choose to enter through they are meet with someone to greet them and direct them to where they are going. This is also why we want to have Greeters at other events that take place at our church such as Funerals, Laughs and LEGOS, and Ash Wednesday service.

**Why the blue vests?** See! You've noticed them and so have our guests! They make us stand out to guests and represent someone that they can go to if they have a question. The same way you might seek out someone wearing a "uniform" at a place of business. While they aren't necessarily the latest fashion trend, they do serve a purpose when it comes to hospitality and allowing guests to easily identify someone they can go to for assistance.

**Why do Greeters give Connection Cards to guests?** If you are like most of us, we tend to forget someone's name as soon as they've told us. Greeters give a Connection Card with their name on it to guests as a way of introducing themselves and our church. It includes the church address, phone number, website and attendance QR code so that they may easily reach out to us after their visit with any questions or prayer requests.

**Why am I seeing so many new signs around the church?** You and I know where we are going. We know exactly how to get to the sanctuary, nursery, Sunday School classrooms, restrooms, The Point, etc. but without clear and effective signage, new guests might roam the halls looking for these areas. If you know of an area that needs better signage, please reach out to me so we can try to improve that!

**Why are we not raising the wall into the Welcome Center after the 9:00 service?** There has been a lot of conversation about the pros/cons of raising the wall. From a hospitality standpoint, we want to greet and connect with each and every person who worships with us. When the wall is raised, it's easy for people to enter/leave the sanctuary through the large opening without ever having contact with someone. New people might not get a bulletin or be unsure where to sit. While it does tend to slow people down while exiting after the service, it does intentionally make us interact with other congregation members and give us the opportunity to introduce ourselves to new guests instead of hurrying to leave. This may change in the future but for now we are finding that keeping the wall down serves as another way for all of us to connect with each other.

**What are we currently doing to follow up with new guests?** Once we identify a guest on Sunday mornings, we make every effort to introduce them to several members of the congregation who are nearby, get their contact information (name, address, email and phone number) and give them a small gift of appreciation for worshipping with us. Within the next day or two, we reach out either through a personal note mailed to them, email or text to again thank them for joining us, invite them to return the following week, ask for any prayer requests that they might have and if they've provided a mailing address, send them a "coffee on us" voucher to a local coffee shop.

Hopefully by answering a few of these questions, you are beginning to see that we are being intentional and radical about how we welcome, interact and follow-up with guests. Let me know if you have questions you would like for me to answer in a future article.

Until next week! Julie Farthing

### **What's in a Name?**

Since I arrived at Community seven + years ago, the ministry I have overseen has been referred to as "Outreach." For the most part, our common understanding of the emphasis of the ministry has been to serve those in need (i.e. "mission"). While that is extremely important work, reality dictates that we need a group to spend additional efforts in reaching out into our community to bring more individuals into the fold. Therefore, after much discernment, the team formerly known as "Outreach" will divide into the following:

**"Community Builders"** - While all of our responsibility, this team will be charged with inviting individuals into the church and a life of discipleship through large events, smaller activities, small group participation, and personal relationships.

**"Merciful Hearts and Hands"** - This team will plan and implement activities and efforts aimed at helping the less fortunate of our community, state, nation, and world.

We would love to have you join one of our teams! If interested, please contact me at 740-500-2688 or [mark.denniston@circlevillecumc.org](mailto:mark.denniston@circlevillecumc.org). Mark Denniston, Congregational Engagement Director

**CULTIVATING  
& LETTING GO**

Letting go of the weeds that destroy  
Cultivating new seeds that give life

### Lenten Schedule

<p><b>Lent Services</b></p> <p>Ash Wednesday March 5, 7pm Community UMC</p> <p>Maundy Thursday April 17, 7pm Circleville Presbyterian Church</p> <p>Good Friday Stations of the Cross April 18, 12pm At the Court House</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>Lenten Lunches</b></p> <p><b>Worship 12:10-12:30, Lunch 12:35-1pm</b></p> <p>March 12 Trinity Lutheran- Billy Barbo (135 E. Mound)</p> <p>March 19 Circleville Presbyterian- Mark Noda (134 E. Mound)</p> <p>March 26 Good Shepherd UMC - Marie Smith (310 E. Main)</p> <p>April 2 Vineyard Church- Kenn Barton (911 S. Pickaway)</p> <p>April 9 St. Joseph Catholic- Fr. Ramon Owera (134 W. Mound)</p>
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New to Medicare? Have questions? Come to the

## “Medicare 101” class here at CUMC

**This educational class covers:**

- Current Medicare Part **A,B,C, & D** benefits
- When to safely delay taking Part B benefits
- Advantage & Traditional Medicare pros and cons
- Time for your questions, avoiding penalties, & more

Class materials provided for attendees. (Free. No sales. No obligations.)

When: **Thurs, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 6p - 7:30p** (Pickaway St. entrance)



# WHAT'S NEXT? in youth ministry 2025

February	March	April
Feb. 2- 5pm Parent Mtg about Confirmation	March. 2- 5pm Confirmation	April 6 - 6-8 Youth Group
Feb. 2- 6-8pm Youth Group	March 2 6-8 Youth Group	April 20 9 or 10:30am Join the church
Feb 16- 5pm Parent Mtg about Confirmation	March 9- 6-8pm Confirmation	April 27 6pm- 2pm End of the year party
Feb 23- 12:30-7pm Tubing @ Mad River	March 28-30 6pm- 2pm Confirmation Retreat	

May's meetings will be preparations for  
the mission trip in July.

What does the movie "The Wizard of Oz" and brunch at CUMC have in common?  
.... Stay tuned.....more details to come....



Don't forget to set your clocks forward Saturday night.