



MESSIAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CIRCUIT WRITER



New things are happening in 2026!

Dear Christian friends,

It seems as if 2025 went by so quickly. The pace of change reminds us that God is always leading us into new seasons; each filled with its own set of challenges and blessings. As we embrace this new year, let us open our hearts to the possibilities before us. Trusting that with faith and unity, we can build upon the foundation already laid. Together, we will step forward with hope, eager to see how God will use each one of us to make a lasting impact in our church family and the wider community. As we reflect on the journey that has brought us to this point, God's guidance has been evident every step of the way. Through all the changes and new beginnings, we remain committed to nurturing a spirit of unity and gratitude, remembering that each step forward is an opportunity to grow together in faith. As we move into this promising season, let us encourage one another, share our stories of God's faithfulness, and inspire hope within our church and community. Our journey ahead is shaped not only by the plans we make but also by the love and dedication we bring to each moment, trusting that God will continue to guide and sustain us every day.

Now, as we stand at the threshold of 2026, our hearts are filled with anticipation for what is ahead. We are not only looking forward to the fresh vision and new opportunities in ministry, but also to exploring innovative approaches that will help us strengthen our connections and serve one another with greater purpose. This year, let us continue to lean on one another, celebrate our growth, and seek God's direction as we strive to make a meaningful difference both within our church and beyond. Many of you have asked me how do we make this "vision thing" work? Well, if you look around you will find that there are many things that we are doing that are evident that God is moving in our church.

In 2026, however, we are going to be more intentional on communication. We are committed to listening closely to your feedback as we implement these changes, ensuring that every voice in our church family is valued and heard. By fostering open channels for dialogue, we hope to strengthen trust and unity, making it easier for everyone to participate, share ideas, and contribute to the life of our congregation. This intentional approach to communication will keep everyone informed and help us to respond more effectively to the needs and concerns of our members as we journey together into this new chapter.

As I have spoken to many of those in our congregation, they have been frustrated with the level of communication from the leadership team, Pastor's, and Admin office.

Recognizing the need for improvement, we are dedicated to making communication a priority by introducing practical solutions and embracing fresh ideas. Our goal is to foster a culture where everyone feels informed and included, and where concerns can be addressed promptly and respectfully. As we move forward together, these efforts will play a crucial role in deepening our sense of belonging and strengthening our shared mission, ensuring that every member—whether new or longstanding—has a voice in shaping the future of our church community.

Are we Moving forward to make the communication around the happenings of our congregation more transparent. In addition to these technological advancements, we will also be encouraging more frequent face-to-face gatherings and small group discussions to complement our digital initiatives and nurture authentic connections. By balancing innovation with personal interaction, we aim to create an environment where everyone feels welcomed, included, and equipped to participate fully in the life of our church. Together, these efforts will help us move toward a future where communication is not only more efficient but also more meaningful, deepening our relationships with one another and with God as we continue to grow as a unified and caring community.

This means embracing a culture of patience and adaptability as we learn and grow with these new systems. Recognizing positive change often requires time and collective effort. As we step into these updates together, let us encourage one another to try out the new tools, offer helpful feedback, and remain open to adjustments that may arise along the way. By working collaboratively and supporting each other during this transition, we can ensure that our communication becomes more dynamic, inclusive, and responsive, paving the way for a stronger and more connected congregation in 2026 and beyond.

As we embrace these enhancements, we encourage everyone to approach these opportunities with openness and enthusiasm, recognizing that our collective engagement will be key to their success. By staying receptive to new methods and sharing your experiences, we can adapt together and ensure that these tools truly meet the needs of our congregation. Our commitment to intentional communication reflects our desire to grow closer as a church family, empowering each member to participate meaningfully in the vibrant life and mission of our community.

The first of these initiatives is the Digital Office.

Alongside the launch of the Digital Office, we are excited to introduce regular updates and resource guides to help everyone navigate these new tools with confidence and ease. Training sessions and support will be available for those interested in learning more or who may need assistance getting started, ensuring that no one feels left behind as we make this transition. By equipping our church family with the knowledge and resources needed to use these platforms effectively, we hope to foster a greater sense of engagement, unity, and shared purpose as we step together into this new era of communication and connection.

The digital office is a space where we can communicate through text messages, enhanced emails, and through our website.

Our hope is that by embracing these digital tools, every member will feel more connected and empowered to participate in church life, whether through sharing prayer requests, joining ministry opportunities, or staying informed about upcoming events and initiatives. With greater access to timely information and opportunities for involvement, we can cultivate a more vibrant, engaged, and supportive church environment where everyone's contributions are valued and celebrated, all while deepening our collective commitment to serve Christ and one another.

To make the most of these advancements, we encourage everyone to actively engage with the tools provided, whether by responding to important messages, participating in online discussions, or utilizing the untapped resources designed for your convenience. As we collectively embrace these innovations, our goal is to foster a more responsive, transparent, and supportive church environment where every member is not only informed but deeply involved in shaping the ongoing life and ministry of our community.

Additionally, we are exploring ways to make our communication channels even more accessible, such as implementing mobile notifications and offering step-by-step guides for new members to get acquainted with all available platforms. By integrating these user-friendly solutions, we aim to ensure that everyone, regardless of their level of tech experience, can stay connected and engaged with church news, ministry opportunities, and important updates. Our ongoing commitment to clarity and openness will help foster a spirit of collaboration and transparency, further strengthening our church family as we continue to grow and serve together in 2026.

Whether you are a longtime member or new to our congregation, we invite you to make use of these digital resources and stay connected with all that God is doing in our midst. By engaging with the website and calendar, you will find up-to-date information on events, volunteer opportunities, and ministry highlights, helping you stay informed and involved throughout the year. Your participation and feedback will be essential as we work together to create a more inclusive, communicative, and vibrant church community for 2026 and beyond.

In God's Service
Pastor J

Follow-up Note from Office

As we continue to keep up with communications we have sent an email from our Servant Keeper program/Messiah UMC.

PLEASE look in your email, junk or spam folders for this email and follow the instructions to verify your email address for Messiah UMC.

This will be submitted back to Messiah SK and will have you listed on our email address list.

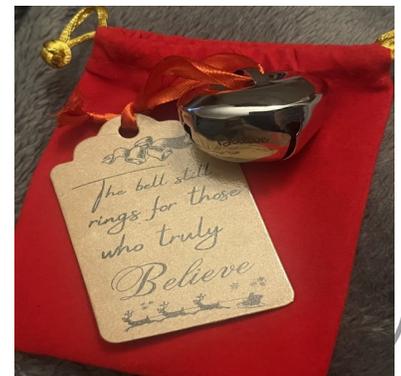
THERE ARE STILL SOME WHO HAVE NOT RESPONDED, PLEASE CHECK AGAIN.

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THIS EMAIL PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW, AND WE WILL RESEND.

Thank you.

Messiah Youth

Movie Night at Messiah was a great ride on the Polar Express, with candy cane pretzels, hot chocolate, with lots of toppings, plenty of snacks and fun!



Sweet Shop for the Youth Group was a great success, they collected over \$700, they all worked hard and had a great time, see you next year.



**FAMILY FUN
ICE SKATING**

**TICKETS
ARE LIMITED**

ICE SKATING
party

JANUARY 31ST
3:00 - 5:00 PM

FLIGHT ON ICE

4901 WEST CHESTER PIKE
NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA 19073

TICKETS ARE LIMITED

Messiah Fall Festival

Fall festival was a huge success. We were blessed with a beautiful day full of games, food and fun. Activities included a photo wall, pumpkin relay, stuff the scarecrow contest, arts and crafts for adults and children and face painting for all. If you missed it you missed a great time - hope to see you next year.



Sunday School at Messiah for Christmas

Our Sunday School continues to flourish as we learn about the Lord and his goodness. We have learned about Noah and Jonah as well as trust in the Lord and thankfulness for all he does for us. The children love to learn through a number of different mediums including Pictionary, bible matching games and puzzles. The Sunday School also celebrated Jesus' birthday by co-hosting hospitality after service on December 21 and making Christmas ornaments for the congregation. We are currently learning about David and will continue to study other heroes of the bible in the months ahead. We would love to have your children join us.



Bible Studies at Messiah

**Monday evenings at 6pm for Women in the Word
Luncheon will be on Sat, Mar 28th at Messiah**

Pastor Bible Study Wednesday nights, 7pm.

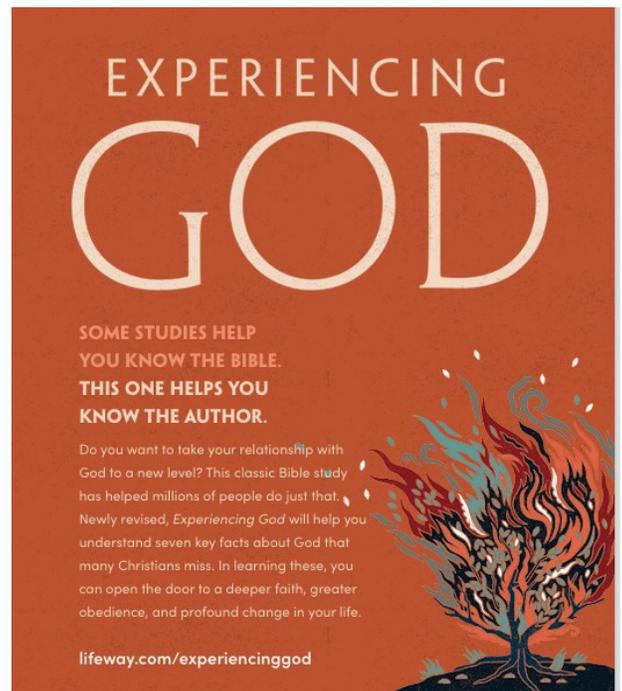
Monday, Wednesday & Friday evenings,
Pastors prayer time on-line at 7pm



MESSIAH UMC
Women in the Word
Fall/Winter Bible Study
The Gospel of John
Mondays, 6:00-7:00 PM via ZOOM
Nov 17, 2025 - Mar 16, 2026

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87936413987?pwd=8rjFYpRD2VIpiIakbNfJiCfv69VFTs.1>

For info contact: **Kim Charleston**
messiahumc.events@gmail.com
Charleston.kimberly@yahoo.com



EXPERIENCING
GOD

SOME STUDIES HELP
YOU KNOW THE BIBLE.
THIS ONE HELPS YOU
KNOW THE AUTHOR.

Do you want to take your relationship with God to a new level? This classic Bible study has helped millions of people do just that. Newly revised, *Experiencing God* will help you understand seven key facts about God that many Christians miss. In learning these, you can open the door to a deeper faith, greater obedience, and profound change in your life.

lifeway.com/experiencinggod

Pastor's new Wednesday Bible Study, will be on Wednesday, **February 25th**, at 7pm

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A BOOK PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW OR YOU CAN GO TO LIFEWAY.COM AND ORDER YOURSELF.

BOOKS ARE \$21.99 EACH.

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/experiencing-god-bible-study-book-with-video-access-P005831467>



MESSIAH UMC PRESENTS

7PM
PRAYER

MONDAY
WEDNESDAY
FRIDAY

WWW.MESSIAHMETHODISTCHURCH.COM

Messiah Christmas to Easter

Christmas Worship

He came back, but did not still a thing!



The youth did a great job at decorating the cross, with lights and garland. At Christmas with glow sticks and candy canes



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 7PM
WITH SIMPLE SPAGHETTI DINNER AT 6PM.
SEE HEATHER BELFORD
FOR VOLUNTEERING TO HELP
SIGN UP IN WELCOME CENTER**

January Dates	Worship Leader	Usher/Greeter	Hospitality Host	Counter
1/4	Kim Charleston	Gary & Ben	Please Sign-up	Sandi Smith
1/11	Kim Charleston	Gary & Ben	Tina, Helen & Gary	Sandi Smith
1/18	Brenda R& Benson	Gary & Ben	Please Sign-up	Frank Sylvester
1/25	Dave Belford	Gary & Ben	Charleston Family	Sandi Smith

PLEASE PRAY AND CONSIDER HELPING OUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE, BY SIGNING UP TO BE A WORSHIP LEADER TO ASSIST PASTOR AND FOR HOSPITALITY TO ENJOY FELLOWSHIP TIME AFTER WORSHIP.

February Dates	Worship Leader	Usher/Greeter	Hospitality Host	Counter
2/1	Kim Charleston	Gary & Ben	Please Sign-up	Sandi Smith
2/8	Kim Charleston	Gary & Ben	Kim, Sharion, Dawn, Yvette, Brenda & Ben	Sandi Smith
2/15	Brenda R& Benson	Gary & Ben	Patrick Family	Frank Sylvester
2/22	Brenda R& Benson	Gary & Ben	A-Taste of our Cultures	Sandi Smith

MISSIONS AT MESSIAH

Colonial Neighborhood Council (helping our neighbors in many ways).

ALWAYS NEEDS: Gift cards (\$20 ONLY) WaWa and Giant and non-perishables.

All items may be placed on Mission Hutch in the Welcome Center, Gary & Ben will deliver.



Monthly Community Homeless Outreach

This will continue on the **THIRD** Saturday of every month, **next Jan. 17th & Feb. 21st.**

The Colonial Area Anti-Racism and Social Equity Alliance continues a monthly outreach to people at the Norristown Transportation Center. See Cameron Smith for information.

Sunday Mornings:

Regular worship begins 10:30am

Nursery - for ages newborn to 4 yrs. old. **LOOKING FOR HELP**

Sunday School - Ages 5—10 at 9:45am

Youth - meets on 4th Sundays

Junior Church – **LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Children's Time - is with the Pastor during worship

Masks are optional in the church building during worship, if you feel the need, masks are available by back door.

Worship will continue to be streamed live on Facebook and YouTube. Recordings of past services are on Website, Facebook and YouTube.

Trustees Page



Sprint time can't come fast enough for us and our youth to start our planting in our new garden. Special thanks for Mark Rooney and his Boy Scout Troop along with Bobby Hutchinson for their hard work to make this mission for our community come alive, see you in the spring.

Financial Corner



Our final 2025 Member Plans-for Giving numbers:

2025 Pledge Card Amount: \$163,000
2025 Actual Amount Collected: \$172,567

Another Strong Year-End

This is a record in collections for Messiah.

2025 Profit/Loss:

Total Income: \$237,727
Total Expenses: \$256,877
Net Income: -\$19,150 **(Lots of BIG UNEXPECTED EXPENSES)**

Congratulations to the Congregation on the Strong Year-End finish.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ho Chang



We Support Our World With:

**THESE ARE OUR PRAYERS—LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS
PLEASE HELP THE OFFICE KEEP THIS PRAYER LIST UP TO DATE.**

PRAYERS:

JOY: **Marie** (friend of R. McGee) successful surgery.
Rene Anderson, Berni (friend of Barbara Stone) undergoing chemotherapy, **Nancy Bischoff** (friend of C. Smith) stroke, **Regina Brennan** (Joe Meiers sister) breast cancer has returned, starting chemo., **Brown University shootings, Debbie Campbell** (friend of Josie) cancer beyond treatment, **Carole E.** (friend of Dalene) continued prayers, **Christian, (Y. Cahur), Charleston family** for the passing of Lafayette's Uncle, **Joe Craig, David** (L. Patrick's brother) nose cancer surgery upcoming, **Karen Davis** (friend of Dalene) continued prayers, on hospice, **Dean family** (friend of Hepburn's) passing of Michael, **Tammy Edwards** (friend of D. Carroll) continued prayers, MS is progressing now in wheelchair, **Kate Fabio** (friend of Mindy) double mastectomy surgery, **Patty G** (friend of Barbara Stone) surgery for throat cancer, **Gary** (L. Patrick brother-in-law) prostate cancer, **Tempa Ghee-Ayuk** (Roslyn McGee) open heart surgery, recovering, **Dee Graham, Jasmine Harris** (friend of Roslyn McGee) needs double lung transplant, **Sue Haven** (friend of Josie) bladder surgery, **Adam Hearlson** (friend of D. Barbay) spine cancer, **Homa family** (friends of Hepburn's) passing of Chris, **Hunt Family, Tina Hutchinson** (friend of Josie) cancer returned, **James family for the passing of Mary** (friend of M. Wismer) diabetic diagnoses, husband on hospice, granddaughter born w/o esophagus, surgery coming, **Maurice,** (friend of the Johnson family), **Laura** (friend of Plummer) breast cancer treatment, **Lori LaBelle** continued prayers, **David Loften** (friend of Teddy), **Neil Mengel** (Josie's son-in-law) continued prayers for healing after tumor removed from spine, **Cherly McClean** (friend of Charnita) recovering from surgery, **McKinney family** (friend of Hepburn's) passing of Jen, **Ray** (Sandi nephew) job loss & separation from wife, **Kevin Patterson** (Y. Cahur) starts chemo, **Paulette Robinson** terminally ill, **Roseann & Joe** (friends of Dalene) continued prayers, **Sullivan family** (cousin of S. Smith) passing of Mike, **Harold Thompson** (friend of Teddy) **Logan Washington**(Lafayette C.) 8 yr. old organ shutdown, **Josie Weaver** diet better, **Bob Weaver** (Josie's brother) prostate cancer, **Wilson Family** difficult times, **Bill Young** (friend of Dalene) Dementia.

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS

Messiah's Birthdays

IF YOU DON'T SEE SOMEONE, PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 02-Patty Rooney
- 04-Ethan Sylvester
- 05-Betsey Paluszka
- 17-Emily Bertram
- 27-Ho-Tae Chang
- 28-Elias Chang
- 29-Lori Lorenz
- 30-Greg Nester



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 05-Gary Ober
- 07-Camille Sherlock
- 11-Ruth Snively
- 12-Heather Belford
- 15-Georgette Fischer
- 16-Steve Lorenz
- 18-Kristen Moser
- 23-Kent Barbay
- 26-Nolan Helffrich



January 2026



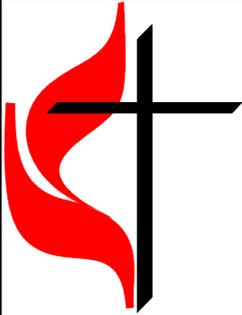
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Mornings: Sunday School at 9:45am Regular Worship at 10:30am						
4- Worship Leader: Kim Charleston Greeters: Gary & Ben Counters: Sandi Smith Hospitality Hosts:	5- 6pm WitW, Book Club w/ Kim Charleston	6	7- Pastor's Bible Study	8	9	10
11- Worship Leader: Kim Charleston Greeters: Gary & Ben Counters: Sandi Smith Hospitality Hosts: Tina, Helen & Gary TRUSTEES MEETING	12- 6pm WitW, Book Club w/ Kim Charleston	13	14- Pastor's Bible Study	15	16	17- HOMELESS OUTREACH
18- Worship Leader: Brenda Roberson Greeters: Gary & Ben Counters: Frank Sylvester Hospitality Hosts:	19- 6pm WitW, Book Club w/ Kim Charleston	20- LEADERSHIP MEETING 7pm	21- Pastor's Bible Study	22	23	24
25- Kim Charleston, Guest Preacher Worship Leader: Dave Belford Greeters: Gary & Ben Counter: Sandi Smith Hospitality Hosts: Charleson Family	26- 6pm WitW, Book Club w/ Kim Charleston	27	28- NO Bible Study	29	30	31

February 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Sunday Mornings: Sunday School at 9:45am Regular Worship at 10:30am</p>						
<p>1-Communion Sunday Worship Leader: Kim Charleston Greeters: Gary & Ben Counters: Sandi Smith Hospitality Hosts: Please sign-up!</p>	<p>2-6pm WitW, Book Club w/ Kim Charleston</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4- Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8- Worship Leader: Kim Charleston Greeters: Gary & Ben Counters: Sandi Smith Hospitality Hosts: Kim, Sharion, Dawn, Yvette, Brenda & Ben</p>	<p>9-6pm WitW, Book Club w/ Kim Charleston</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11- Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14- </p>
<p>15- Worship Leader: Brenda Roberson Greeters: Gary & Ben Counters: Frank Sylvester Hospitality Hosts: Patrick Family</p>	<p>16-6pm WitW, Book Club w/ Kim Charleston</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18- ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7PM & DINNER 6PM</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21- HOMELESS OUTREACH</p>
<p>22- Worship Leader: Brenda Roberson Greeters: Gary & Ben Counters: Sandi Smith Hospitality Hosts: A-Taste of our Cultures</p>	<p>23-6pm WitW, Book Club w/ Kim Charleston</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25- Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

MESSIAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Messiah United Methodist Church
527 Ridge Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

(Church office hours are Mon.—Fri., 8:00am—11:30am)

Church Office: 610-828-0118, Church Fax: 610-828-2463

Church email: messiahchurch@verizon.net

Pastor email: revrlj1@gmail.com

Website: www.messiahmethodistchurch.com

Pastor: Rev. R& Bent L. Johnson

Music Director: Danielle Whitman

Choir Director: Kristen Moser

Admin. Assistant: Mary Basmajian

Nursery Attendant:

Sexton: John Basmajian



If you have an article or announcement about yourself, your family, or church activities for a future issue of The Circuit Writer, please submit it to the church office, via email/US mail or hard copy in bin on door of office, by no later than the **15th** of the month. If you have changes of address, phone, or email, please help us communicate with you better, by sending the church office these updates via email or phone.

Our Mission Statement

*Sharing Faith,
Spreading Hope,
Serving God.*

Our Vision Statement

We are a church family devoted to building and encouraging a passionate, spiritually healthy community. We are dedicated to embracing change, equipping followers of Jesus Christ and preparing leaders for the future.

We are also fully committed to serving others by sharing the abundance God has given this community.

Focused on the needs of those we may not know, engaging the poor, improving education and spreading hope -- believing that Jesus himself set such an example of service, that we've been given the responsibility to follow it.

Messiah United Methodist Church
527 Ridge Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Sent with a prayer to: