

# The Beacon

The Latest at **CHRIST UMC** | JANUARY 2025

## January Beacon

Kicking off 2025!



**A Campaign to Restore and Renew: Securing Our Church's Future**

Our church has always been more than just a building; it's a place where life happens. From the sacred moments of baptisms and weddings to the joyful gatherings at barbecues and community events, our church has been the heart of countless cherished memories. But now, we face a significant challenge—our roofs are over 25 years old, and it's time to act to ensure that this sacred space continues to thrive for generations to come.

With bids from three reputable companies, we've estimated the cost of replacing the remaining roofs with commercial-grade, 30-year materials at approximately \$100,000. While we've worked hard to maintain our reserve funds, we aim to avoid depleting them entirely. Instead, we are turning to our community for support.

Starting in January and running through March, we are launching "Under This ROOF", a campaign to raise \$100,000 to replace the aging roofs on our church campus. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we've already raised over \$10,000, giving us a strong start toward our goal.

This isn't just about replacing a roof; it's about preserving the life and legacy that happens under it.

By contributing to this campaign, you are ensuring that future generations will have a place to worship, celebrate, and gather as a community of faith.

### How You Can Help

\* Pray: Pray for the success of this campaign and for the future of our church.



\* Give: Every gift, no matter the size, brings us closer to our goal. Your generosity will directly impact the future of our church.

The roof over our heads is more than just a structure; it's a symbol of God's provision and the love that binds our community together. Join us as we restore and renew our sacred spaces, ensuring that they continue to serve as a beacon of hope and love for all.



# JANUARY 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 5 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship in Person & Online at www.Christumc.org 10:30am Adventure Kids Fellowship after Worship	6 7pm AA Meeting	7 3am Feed the Hungry 5:30pm Choir	 1 Office Closed Happy 2025	2 10am Christ Quilters	3	4 5:30pm Possibilities Plus Pool Luck
12 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship in Person & Online at www.Christumc.org 10:30am Adventure Kids Fellowship after Worship 12pm Youth Group	13 7pm AA Meeting	14 10am Circle One 10am Preschool Connection 6:15pm Operators Mtg. 6:30pm Freedom Circle	15 10am Hope Circle 10am Preschool Chapel 5:30pm Choir 6pm Messy Church	16 10am Preschool Singing 10am Christ Quilters	17 5pm Girls Scouts	18
19 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship in Person & Online at www.Christumc.org 10:30am Adventure Kids Fellowship after Worship	20 Office Closed 5:30pm Possibilities Plus 7pm AA Meeting	21 6pm Conscious Training	22 10am Preschool Chapel 5:30pm Choir	23 10am Preschool Singing 10am Christ Quilters	24 5pm Girls Scouts	25 10am Estate Planning
26 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship in Person & Online at www.Christumc.org 10:30am Adventure Kids Fellowship after Worship 12pm Youth Group	27 1pm Congregational Care 7pm AA Meeting	28 10am Preschool Connection Craft 6pm Kwanza Concert	29 10am Preschool Chapel 5:30pm Choir	30 10am Preschool Singing 10am Christ Quilters 1pm Church Book Club	31 5pm Girls Scouts	

**CHRIST United Methodist Church**  
 400 Penman Rd, Neptune Beach, FL 32266  
 (904) 249-5370 • christumcnb.org

in this issue

PAGE **2 & 3**  
**Coming up**  
 and soon!

PAGE **4 & 5**  
**2025 Operations Team**  
 with R-Coordinators.

PAGE **6 & 7**  
**December Photo Review**  
 plus Thank You's.

NEW YEAR, NEW FRIENDS

# United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith warmly invites you to any of our upcoming gatherings!

**Hope Circle** will meet Wednesday, January 15, at 10am in Wilson Hall.

**Circle One** will meet Tuesday, January 14, at 10am in Wilson Hall.

The United Women in Faith Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, at 10am in the parlor.

**Freedom Circle** will meet Tuesday, January 14, at 6:30 pm in the kitchen.

There will be NO January unit meeting.

COMING SOON

## Estate Planning

On Saturday, January 25th, 2025, Laura Fannin Jacqmein, an estate attorney with FisherTousey, will present a morning program on estate planning for the young and old. We will start at 9am with light refreshments and begin the program at 9:30. Estate planning

is not just for senior citizens. It affects who will take care of your children if anything happens to you. And it affects how you will be cared for and by whom, and who will get your "stuff". Join us on Saturday, Jan 25th. Call Cindy Kastner, 904-221-4103, for more information.

TURNING OVER A NEW... PAGE

## Book Club is Open to All

Join us for our upcoming Book Club discussions, all at 1:00pm:

January 30: Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese

February 27: The Women by Kristin Hannah

Can't make it to the meetings? We'd still love to hear from you! Email your comments to playswithblocks@gmail.com or peggyadolphson@gmail.com, and we'll share them with the group during the discussion. Happy reading!

ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE

## Donations for Christmas Rummage

As you begin to put away your family's Christmas decorations, bring the Christmas items you no longer need to Wilson Hall during January. There will be a collection table on the North wall, and the UWF will store them. We are planning on another Christmas Rummage Sale in the Fall! Questions? Contact Johnna Ware.

SAVE-THE-DATE

## The Nomads Are Coming

The NOMADS are coming! Yes, the NOMADS are coming back to work on our church for the 9th time. Our project runs from February 17- March 6. Stay tuned for complete information in next month's Beacon. Spoiler alert, NO fundraising is necessary for this project, YEA!

CUMC FAMILY

## January Celebrations!

### Birthdays

- 3 Vida McCullough
- 5 David Crockett
- 6 Arlyn Celino
- 8 Carolyn Galphin
- 9 Lio Berry
- 12 Elizabeth Dupuis  
George Pringle

- 13 Landyn Santacrose
- 14 Rosie Tallent
- 18 Claudia Cornwall
- 19 Lenora Rath
- 23 Jacquie Berry
- 31 Jami Spruance

### Anniversary

- 26 Charles and Michelle Forwood

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

## Thank You's Are in Order!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## MEET Steffanie Stuart

She keeps Mondays organized in the office, and our weekly bulletins and our monthly Beacons filed. Every week, she refills our connect cards and our giving envelopes. Steffanie steps in whenever someone is needed; Beam Thanksgiving baskets, collecting for Beam shoes and socks, and more! She is also one of our amazing quilters making things all year for our preschool teachers and US veterans. We all love and need a Steffanie in our life! Steffanie we are so thankful for you!

THE ELVES HAVE BEEN BUSY

## Stockings for Veterans

Our Christ Quilters are an amazing group of women. Christmas 2024 they made stockings for our Veterans again. Every year they devote so much time to give our service men and women something to know they are never forgotten.

"Holiday for Heroes" is a local campaign to care for and honor our dedicated military members and veterans. Every year, the American Red Cross of North Florida leads a series of projects throughout the holiday season, beginning on Veteran's Day and

continuing through the New Year.

Thank you and your group for making the beautiful stockings again this year! (Pictures on page 6)

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

## Everyone's Favorite Luncheon!

A big "Shout Out" and Thank You to Freedom Circle of the United Women in Faith for hosting a wonderful Christmas luncheon on Saturday December 14. A good time was had by all – good food, good holiday singing, and great fellowship! Thank you "flamingo ladies". See you next year! (Pictures on page 6)

## Night to Shine Prom is Almost Here!

Night to Shine, an incredible event for guests with special abilities (ages 14+), was started in 2014 and is sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. This year, we're thrilled to celebrate being an official church for Night to Shine, recognized on the foundation's website!

Our event is specially designed for guests with sensory

sensitivities—no flashing lights, loud music, or big crowds—making it a welcoming and joyful experience for all.

### Volunteers Needed!

We're looking for volunteers to help make this event a success. Please note: January 31 is the last day to sign up to volunteer. On February 1, a MANDATORY training will be held from 10am to noon at the church, with

brunch provided. This training will prepare volunteers to serve our guests with confidence and care. For more information or to volunteer, contact:

Cathy Klein: 904-477-9510 | Ccklein68@gmail.com  
Hanna Thomas: 904-612-7286 | Helpfulhannajax@gmail.com

Join us in making this night truly special! February 7, 2025 | 7-9pm | Wilson Hall

## December in Photo Review



## SECURITY CORNER Safety in 2025

Happy New Year from your Security Task Team! Let's discuss how we are starting the new year on the right foot.

CUMC has 16 security cameras that catch all activity outside and inside many rooms on campus. We are also adding a camera to Wilson Hall early this year since we often have large groups of people there.

The six members of the Security Task Team monitor these cameras on a rotating basis weekly or sooner if an event needs to be reviewed and reported. We recently needed to check camera footage due to a

trespasser.

Our custodian reported someone had spent the night outside the Wilson Hall door by the Prayer Chapel. We reviewed the footage and found a good picture of this person leaving with his bike. A person has been spotted multiple times in this area by the trash and human waste left behind.

The Neptune Beach Police Department was contacted via email with a picture of this individual. NBPD is now shining a spotlight down this hallway nightly as well as doing drive-by surveillance and even checking doors. If this person comes

back, they will be arrested for trespassing.

We don't need people sleeping or lurking on our property. Not only do we have concerns for the church, but we also have concerns for the Preschool. Partnering with NBPD and the use of our security cameras is a best practice we will continue.

This new year you can feel confident the Security Task Team will continue to keep CUMC a least likely target.

Stay Alert Stay Alive  
Bob Strachan Chair, CUMC Security Task Team

### COMING UP

## Messy Church: Kicking off a New Year!

Messy Church is January 15, 2025 from 6pm til 7pm. This is the first Messy Church of 2025 so let's make it big! Our theme is Family, and dinner will be cozy baked pastas; yum!

Messy Church is just one hour during a busy day to enjoy dinner, music, crafts, laughter, fun and God's love no matter what your "mess" may be. This outreach is designed to let everyone know that they are loved no matter what. We embrace each other at our "messiest" or even if your "mess" is under the surface. Wherever you fall in life, Messy Church is for you. We can't wait to see you there! Contact Sally Ogburn 904-703-3424 | Srogburn@comcast.net, or Kathy Scott 904-612-4361.

### GET INVOLVED

## Community Youth Group

Our community youth group is open to all students in grade 5 and up—no church affiliation required! We meet every other Sunday from noon to 2 PM in Wilson Hall, with lunch provided.

Upcoming Dates are January 12, January 26, February 9 & 23.

This is an amazing group of youth who love spending time together, and we're excited to start new studies in the New Year!

Want to help? We're looking for volunteers to provide lunch or assist with Bible study. Contact: Hanna Thomas, Youth Leader, at 904-612-7286 | Cumcnbyouth@gmail.com.

## Meet Your 2025 Ministry Team Leaders

These volunteer \*Ministry Coordinators (R-Coordinators) work *with you* to establish and grow the ministries of the church.

**REACH** Ministry Team helps people discover the church and helps us reach out to others.



Aaron Brunner  
REACH Ministry Team



Sally Ogburn  
REACH Ministry Team



Hanna Thomas  
REACH Ministry Team

**RELATE** Ministry Team helps new people connect and relate to one another through intentional caring and fellowship.



Jennifer Land  
RELATE Ministry Team



Becky Osborne  
RELATE Ministry Team

**RAISE UP** Ministry Team helps us raise up to become disciples and grow in our faith through worship and study.



Teddy Broker  
RAISE UP Ministry Team



Brittani Laski  
RAISE UP Ministry Team



Eileen Sloth  
RAISE UP Ministry Team

**RELEASE** Ministry Team helps us coordinate all the ways we give back to the community.



Johnna Ware  
RELEASE Ministry Team



Sonni McEvoy  
RELEASE Ministry Team

## Other Committees

**Anti-Racism:** Jacquie Berry, Kathy Klein, Wanda Lee

**Preschool Board:** Wanda Lee, Sonni McEvoy, Steffanie Stuart

**Historian:** Debi Franke

**Nominations:** Led by Pastor **Members:** Nancy Russell (others to be named)

**Day Trippers:** inactive

**Work Teams:** The following groups are open to anyone who wishes to volunteer. Please reach out to the persons listed below for more information.

**Altar Guild:** Sonni McEvoy

**Ushers:** Eileen Sloth

**Liturgists:** Bob Strachan

**Counters:** Debbie Santacrose

**Office Assistants:** Mary Muratore

**Prayer Team:** Sonni McEvoy

**Compassionate Care Team:** Sonni McEvoy

**Greeters/Information Table:** Jennifer Land

**Fellowship Hour:** Becky Osborne, Laura Williams

**Quilters:** Karen Long

**Other church positions not named above:**

**Church Treasurer:** Mary Muratore

**Financial Secretary:** Debbie Santacrose

**Recording Secretary:** Mary Muratore

**Membership Secretary:** Mary Muratore

**Campus Ministries Rep:** Hanna Thomas

**Camps and Retreats Rep:** Hanna Thomas

**\*Lay Delegate to Annual Conference:** Jim Schrader

**\*Youth Ministries:** Hanna Thomas

**\*United Women of Faith President:** Carla Philcox

\*Indicates persons holding these positions are voting members of the Church Council, which is led by the Lay Leader.

## Meet Your \*Operations Team Leaders



Nancy Russell

Lay Leader

Our \*Operations Team oversees the day-to-day operations of the church finances, campus maintenance, security, personnel, communications, and nominations. This team is chaired by our Lay Leader, Nancy Russell, whose term concludes at the end of 2025. Leaders serve for three years.

(\*Indicates persons holding these positions are voting members of the Church Council, which is led by the Lay Leader.)

Class of 2025

Finance



Chair

Mike Chambers

SPRC

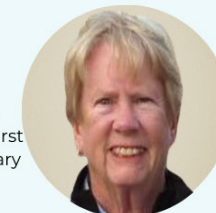


Chair

Karen Long

Trustees

Chair elected at first meeting of January 2025



Cindy Kastner

Class of 2026



Stacy Schrader



Cathy Klein



Brian Land

Class of 2027



Wanda Lee



Phil McCurdy

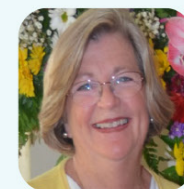


Rick Terry



**CHRIST UNITED  
METHODIST PRESCHOOL**

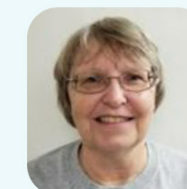
The Preschool Board works with the Preschool Director, Assistant Director, teachers, parents, and the Operations Team to oversee our Preschool.



Sonni McEvoy  
Chair



Wanda Lee



Steffanie Stuart



Lindsey Smedley and Laura Cote