

TOM'S CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

October Pastor's Pen



Everywhere people ask me what my schoolwork is about. Since October 4th is World Communion Sunday, this month I'll share a little of my homework. The picture is from my first day, and the following is my first assignment to "Share your research publicly and invite others into it." I know it is not our usual newsletter kind of conversation, but I believe you and I are important agents for this work. Let me know if you'd like to talk more about this!

-Pastor Mike

We are Members

As a musician, I'll sporadically read about anatomy and exercises for healthy playing and singing. I'm learning how the body works, as a whole; how bones, muscle and fascia pull and push in support together crafting all that the body participates in, experiences, or produces.

It's had me thinking about the global Body of Christ and what efforts we put into learning about how we work together, for good or bad. Our impact in public space may be dangerously unexamined and unchecked if too many of us are as sporadic in paying attention to this holistic health and work as I have been with one musician's body! These readings show me how some of my muscles work against others, and those battles work against the music I'm trying to share. Perhaps much of the world's discord is, similarly, tense and fearful work *between* and *against* different parts of the Body of Christ.

"There's still research needed on the subject of support and breathing, and how this relates to us as musicians, as this is a complex interaction and in a partly invisible area of movement that happens deep inside the body."

The metaphor forms questions for our convulsive Body of Christ. ***How can we research the subject of support and breathing, allowing the filling and guiding of the Holy Spirit into such a broken and disjointed body? What are the supports we need to pay attention to together? What practices and learning can both strengthen and grow our actions and participation—our fruitfulness and faithfulness, our courage—as Christ's body in the public space?***

Through God's marvelous and mysterious designs, we are here together. And the human family inevitably bears the burdens and the bruises of all that our Body of Christ gets tangled up in too. But the Body of Christ is a child in this human family with great potential for healing and fruitful participation in the wider world. Like the lessons around the musician's anatomy, there's still research needed around support and breathing for us as the Body of Christ, and the complex interaction... in a partly invisible area of movement that happens deep inside...

As a student of research, I share a commitment to be part of this study, conversation, the *reformation*, and the ongoing participation with the global Body of Christ toward working together more faithfully, fruitfully, and courageously through the power and leading of the Holy Spirit. I invite you to join me in these questions.

Even on the front end of this work, I see growing values and abilities in the digital humanities sectors opening potential spaces for generative, collaborative work and input across the global Body of Christ.² Plus, we will learn from one another across our vastly different disciplines as well. This first blog post is both my first work with coding and also a small effort to broaden the conversation beyond the academy or clergy.³ It is crucial to hear disciples of diverse voices from across the world for this growth. Your constructive input toward helping us work more faithfully together in Christ's Spirit is welcome here too!

Imagine the glorious music and healing arts the Holy Spirit might help us perform together as we give ourselves to this learning and growth. And... *the creation waits with eager longing!* (Romans 8:19)

Mike Cantley is a PhD student in "Public Theology and Witness" at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, PA.

¹ Tina Margareta Nilssen, Unleashing the Potential of the Musician's Body : Timani: Anatomy and Exercises for Healthy Playing and Singing (Chicago, GIA Publications, Inc., 2021), 249.

²For example, we can openly recognize and honor those collaborators bringing their skills for digitization that facilitate our engagement, communication, and data collection. This interdisciplinary collaboration exemplifies some of the better directions Digital Humanities (DH) as a field is growing into as we learn and move away from old practices of separating and making highly visible scholarship over the much more invisible labor and skills of digitization. When we know better, we can do better. "As Patrick Svensson writes, 'What seems uncontroversial from an internal perspective, can be exclusionary from an outside perspective.'" Astrid J. Smith and Bridget Whearty, "All the Work You Do Not See: Labor, Digitizers, and the Foundations of Digital Humanities" in Matthew K. Gold and Lauren F. Klein eds. Debates in the Digital Humanities (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2023), 31.

³This initial effort at elementary coding is new to me, but it is my initial steps in working toward an open access public theology project with genuine collaboration and benefit from and for all the diverse population that is the global Body of Christ.



The **Christian Education Team** needs teachers and helpers.
Contact **Trudy** at 717-337-2897 for information or questions.
Contact **Heather Fitzgerald** to get approved by our Safe Sanctuary

TCUMC Note Cards- 8 cards for \$25. All proceeds go to the Church. There is still a basket on the lobby table with notecards in it. Make checks out to "TCUMC" and give them to **Mary Harner** or **Judy Coleman**.

August 29 “Down East Boys” Concert

The Tom's Creek family hosted the “**Down East Boys**” for a concert at The Promised Land pavilion on August 29th and what a nice evening it was! The weather was perfect. The food was delicious and the fellowship between our church family and our many



guests was so nice to see. There were many people who worked hard to make the evening great. We want to thank **Judy** for doing the advertising and getting the word out to the community; all who helped prepare the food, especially **Jim Cramer** for making his famous cole slaw and **Greta** for making her kale salad (which was a hit with **Ricky**); **Mary** and **Dennis Harner** for the beautiful sunflowers that decorated the tables and all who helped in any way. A special thanks to **Pastor Mike** for all of his support and his witty introduction of the “**Down East Boys**”! And a huge thanks to **Curtis** and **Pat** for all they did in chairing this event. The following is the Thank You note that **Pastor Mike** read at the beginning of the worship service on the morning following the concert. **Thank YOU!**

Neighbors, thank you. You who hosted the Down East Boys and the neighbors last night. And prepared a beautiful space like an amphitheater; picnic tablecloths and sunflowers in mason jars and milk jugs; and not just food made with love but a whole line of loving folks waiting behind every dish to serve us, and a roaming ice cream station bringing goodies to every place on that hill!

That joint overflowed with the kindness and love of Christ.

Thank you for extending the Lord's life and love with us—and with me—last night.

We are experiencing— I am experiencing—God's very Spirit here, when we brush up against you.

Thank you.
Pastor Mike Cantley

August 30 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Message: "The Privilege of Progress"

Lay Reader: David Wantz

Special Music: Pam, Mary, Carol, Debbie, Marney, Chris



Pastor Mike
teaching the
Young Disciples



September 6 Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

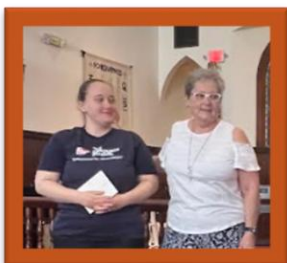
Message: "Good Heat"

Lay Reader: Jaime Rickell

Communion Helpers: Brooke and Kathy



Pastor Mike with Young Disciples



Tom's Creek UMC awarded two \$500
Scholarships to Those Pursuing Higher
Education

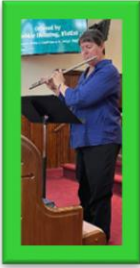
Many thanks to the contributors and Greta for
chairing this committee.

L-R: Amber Price (Recipient), Susan Trice, Greta Nettleton and Dawn Long-accepting for her daughter, Madelyn (Recipient)

September 13 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Message: All Clear

Flutist: Debbie Henning / Guest Organist- Bonnie Fuss / Lay Reader: Pat Brabson / Choir



Left below: We blessed the gifts to **Chris** and **Stacey**
for their twins: **Jackson Elijah & Savannah Rose**



Right below: **Pastor Mike** with
Young Disciples



September 13 Ice Cream Social at The Promised Land



September 14 Prayer Partner Reveal

After a meal at 6pm on September 14, 2026 we finally found out who has been praying for us all year long. There were 21 ladies who participated in 2025-2026 prayer partners. We have 4 new ladies joining us for 2026-2027. It's a wonderful feeling knowing that a lady from Tom's Creek is praying for you all year long.

Submitted by - Mary Harner

Many thanks to Mary for Chairing this Committee!



September 16th Bibles for Prison Ministry



32 Bibles were delivered to the Prison Ministry in Hagerstown, MD. Pastor Mike delivered them.

Tom's Creek UMC,

I can't thank you enough!
Thank you for showing the Light
of the World to the darkness of
prison.

Your brother in Christ,
Mike Martino
Mt. Hope Prison Ministry



September 17 Oldies & Goodies

The Oldies and Goodies gathered at the church on September 17th for their monthly get together. **Bonnie** thanked everyone for coming. **Mike** thanked **Bonnie** and all who helped with today's meal. He then led the group in prayer. Many people raved about the dish **Brooke** brought, New Orleans Shrimp and Corn Bisque. Here is the recipe for those who asked: <https://laurenfromscratch.com/new-orleans-louisiana-shrimp-and-corn-bisque/>. There were 3 beautiful mum centerpieces that were given away. The winners names were drawn from a basket - **Sandy Negro**, **Roy Chapman** and **Anita Hill**. Congratulations! The winners of **Trudy's** first game, a True/False game, were **Brooke**, 1st, and **Butch and Jim Cramer**, who tied for 2nd. **Trudy's** second game was a version of Family Feud. The two "families" chose their names, the Winners and the Greatest. The Winners were the first to get to 200 points so they really were the winners! A huge thanks to **Trudy** for preparing and emceeing the games every month!! The next meeting of the Oldies will be on October 15th. Watch the bulletin for details. Everyone is always welcome!



September 20 Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Message: Lord, don't leave us where we are!

ROUND-UP SUNDAY – A CELEBRATION OF THANKS

Tom's Creek Church enjoyed a wonderful "round-up" of worshippers gathered in western gear to offer praise and thanksgiving to God on Sunday, September 20th.

Pastor Mike shared our welcome and a *Howdy!* to all visitors and friends who joined this western-themed worship service.

Two music selections by our Tom's Creek Ringers, directed by Debbie Henning, enhanced our worship with joyful sounds as they offered, "It Is Well with My Soul" and later in the service they shared the hymn, "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee."

Our young disciples were "rounded up" to hear Pastor Mike ask them to solve an imaginary problem: How would they help a monkey if it was stuck in a tree and couldn't get down? Several suggestions were shared: Using a ladder, offering the monkey a banana to help it get down, or just encouraging it to swing down from the tree. Everyone agreed that they would offer help to those who need aid in our local communities. The youngsters were given a cute toy monkey to help them remember to be someone's helper.

The Christian Education Committee, along with Pastor Mike celebrated the Lord's work done by teachers and TCUMC staff who were presented certificates to thank them for their efforts in growing disciples young and old.

Certificates of recognition were also awarded to our young disciples for their participation in our Sunday School programs. Mayva Russo and Taylor VanGarven are entering the "Little Buckaroos Class" for Pre-Schoolers. Jayce Russo and Dominic White will be in the "Trail Blazers Class for Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Ryan VanGarven and Christian Kendall are entering the "Buckaroos Corral Class." A certificate of attendance was presented to Christian Kendall who attended Sunday School over 80% of the time. We congratulate all our young disciples for their participation in Sunday School activities and learnings.

Pastor Mike refreshed our understanding of Matthew 20:1-16, Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard, through his dramatic interpretation of the story as it would appear in today's working world. The delivery Pastor Mike gave of the grumbling worker who labored all week and who received the same pay as the new laborer who worked less, brought the theme and lesson of the parable to life. Thank you, Pastor for your engaging dramatic interpretation of scripture!

As part of our favorite hymn sing during September worship, everyone joined in praising the Lord with uplifting songs including: "Marching to Zion," "When We All Get to Heaven," and the classic hymn, "How Great Thou Art."

Our pianist played "Happy Trails to You," as an added postlude, and at the invitation for everyone, folks "boot-scooted" down to join in our special "chuck wagon" meal while we shared fellowship with one another.

Thanks to everyone who made this Round-Up Sunday a great success, with joyful worship, warm greetings and a delicious meal!

We invite everyone to "saddle up" and join Tom's Creek on our continuing journey of faith and fellowship.

Written by Carol Hipp



Middle school Sunday school class. Talking about how God created the earth. Ryan and Christian were able to be Creators too.



Recognizing Sunday School Teachers and Nursery Workers



Many thanks to the following: **Linda Myers, Pat Baughman, Roy Chapman, Pat Chapman, Heather Fitzgerald, Dave Guthrie, Carol Hipp, Donna Hanning, Trudy Price, Heather Fogle, Phyllis Kelly, Freda Boller, Terry Boller, Greta Nettleton, Mike Wivell, Neil Price, Brooke Cantley, Kathy Amoss, Marney VanGarden, George Tuggle, and Beverley Tuggle.**

September 27 Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Message: Wrestling with God by Dr. Tracy Radosevic



Pictures from the Trail Blazers Sunday School Class. K-3rd grade.

Led by **Trudy Price**



**"Health Reminder: Updated COVID and flu shots are now available.
Consult with your health care provider or pharmacist."**

Thank you notes:

Dear Tom's Creek United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for the generous gift of \$500.00. This money has helped to decrease some of the financial burden I have due to seeking higher education. I also want to thank you for your continued support and prayers as I continue my path.

Sincerely,

Amber Price

Dear Tom's Creek United Methodist Church,

I would like to thank the church for the generous scholarship. I will be able to use these funds to assist me with furthering my education and my goal of becoming a nurse. Thank you for supporting me in my education at Salisbury University!

Sincerely,

Maddy Long



Upcoming Events:



October 3rd, Saturday: Relay for Life of Carroll County

From 11:00-3 at West Middle School, 60 Monroe St., Westminster, MD. Donations to support the TCUMC Team will be accepted through **the end of October**, online (Relay for Life of Carroll Co.) or by check (American Cancer Society) to **Carol Hipp**. Join us at the event or in prayer for loved ones.

October 6th and 7th (2 pm to 8:30 pm) New Directory

Please join us in making the new photo directory after nine years! Also, friends and family can take advantage of our photographers on-site. There's no charge for your photo or your new picture directory. Everyone is offered the opportunity to buy photos or Christmas cards.

You can schedule your photo appointment by using the easy Online Scheduling Instructions at www.ucdir.com. (Church code: MD229 User password: UMC229) The website shuts down on weekends so on Monday or Tuesday, you can select a time for the 6th or 7th. You can also schedule your appointment today, October 4, in the lobby following the service. If you absolutely cannot make either day, please let Phyllis know. If you have any questions, contact **Phyllis Kelly** at 717-253-2074.

Operation Christmas Child – Join us in this ministry to help brighten the life of a child this Christmas—pack a shoebox. Shoeboxes and pamphlets with information on how to pack a shoebox are available in the Parlor. The filled boxes must be returned to the Church by November 15. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Harner.



Can you guess who is celebrating an October anniversary from this beautiful picture? (We will share a blessing for them in church this month!)

BRAVO to Neil Price completing training and recertification. "All this year at the age of 61, I have recertified on Interior firefighting,



Haz Mat Ops, and vehicle rescue, on driving our engine, tanker and brush truck. I also trained on one of Gettysburgs engines in the event they would need back up drivers."

God bless you, Neil, serving in the community. *This is neighbor love in action!*

