

## **Minutes**

### **Church and Community Connections**

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

#### **Fellowship Hall**

**Members: Suzy Coulson, Chaplain Donna Hale, Karen Byers, Jeff Noble, Greg Lewis, Sharon Shellenberger**

**Members unable to attend: Shelby Holley, Tanis Munroy, Don Mowery, Denny Minnich, Pastor Chris Schwab**

- 1. Opening Prayer—Greg Lewis**
- 2. August minutes—Motion by Karen Byers, second by Suzy Coulson—approved**
- 3. Informational items**
  - a. Advent Walk discussion—The consensus of our committee was to cancel this event for the upcoming holiday season—especially out of concern from our current pandemic**
  - b. Announcement of winter collection of clothes for Community Cares. A blue barrel has been placed across from the Office and such items as coats, hats, scarves, and gloves are suggestions for collection.**
  - c. Discussion of joining the Chamber of Commerce this year to be included as a listing for churches in its directory for \$260.00. The committee felt that in the past this inclusion has not provided attention to our Church or new membership and that the \$260.00 could be used in a more productive way to promote our community mission. However, it was felt that there may be other venues to promote our Church-- including the Downtown Carlisle Association and possibly the Carlisle Area Religious Council (CARC). Chaplain Donna felt that CARC usually does not promote Churches in this way but as a sitting member she will discuss this further with them. Suzy Coulson will communicate with the Downtown Carlisle Association to see if this may be another way to advertise our Church and will report back to our committee at our next meeting.**
  - d. It was noted that there will be a Candlelight Prayer Vigil on October 22 at 7 pm in Memorial Park for those lives lost due to violence. Attendees were asked to bring a chair.**
- 4. Old Business—none currently**
- 5. New Business—We discussed our plans for providing food for My Brothers Table on Sunday, Nov. 14 from 5 to 6 pm. One suggestion was to provide baked ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, and apple sauce with a cookie for dessert. Several questions arose about whether the meal would be inside or outside and how many meals should be provided. Greg will communicate with the Salvation Army to find out more. We will further do planning thru email correspondence and at our Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.**
- 6. A Covid update was given by Greg who noted that in the past 2 days the Cumberland County new cases were down under 100. However, the number of positive Covid tests were 13.1% (above a 5% threshold recommended by the CDC) and the incidence of new cases per 100,000 population was 259.3, which was well above the threshold of 50 per 100,000. He also noted**

that there were 102 people hospitalized in Cumberland County hospitals with 20 in ICU beds and 16 on ventilators. Approximately 20% of fully vaccinated individuals have been hospitalized—although as a rule they are not as sick and are less likely to be severely ill and less likely to be admitted to the ICU or to be placed on a ventilator. The CDC lists Cumberland County as a “high transmission location”. In the Carlisle School District there have been 130 cases of Covid since Aug. 25. 70% of people 12 and older have been fully vaccinated in our county.

Greg felt that because of the high numbers of Covid in Cumberland County that our Church should continue to mandate masks during in Church attendance and continue to promote safe distancing. The CDC has recommended that all persons get a flu shot this Fall. Booster shots have been recommended for the Pfizer vaccine and ongoing discussion is currently being held by the FDA about boosters for both the Moderna and J and J vaccine.

7. Our committee discussed picking a 2022 date to serve at My Brother’s Table and it was felt that a Spring date such as in April would be appropriate. We will further discuss this at our next meeting.
8. Adjourned at 8:15 pm

Submitted by Greg Lewis