United Church of Christ Homes
FAITH • LOVE • COMPASSION

The Heartbeat of UCC Homes

Summer Edition 2026



In the Spirit of Christ's love, the ministry of United Church of Christ Homes is to provide care and service to elders through acts of love and compassion.

INSIDE

- **Resident Spotlight**
- **Staff Focus**
- **Meet a Resident**
- **Sun Protection**
- **Mission Support**

Please scan to visit our website ucc-homes.org

A MESSAGE FROM UCC HOMES PRESIDENT AND CEO MEREDITH SCHELL FIELDS

There is so much to celebrate at UCC Homes! From historic staff milestones and distinguished service awards to a record-breaking fundraising event and the launch of our new brand, the first half of 2026 has been truly extraordinary. Here are the highlights of what we accomplished together.

At our Annual Corporation Meeting we celebrated five employees who reached incredible service milestones, ranging from 25 to 30 years. Their commitment and compassion form the high-quality, person-centered care that our communities provide. This level of longevity reflects individuals who believe deeply in their work and in the people they serve.

Additionally, we presented five distinguished service awards to spotlight outstanding employees across our communities. These peer and supervisor nominated awards recognize excellence in five categories: Lifetime Achievement and Manager, Licensed Caregiver, Direct Caregiver, and Staff Member of the Year. Each recipient models exceptional dedication, compassion, and leadership that defines UCC Homes. It is an honor to work alongside such remarkable professionals.

We also celebrated the incredible turnout for our 30th Anniversary Helping Hands event, dedicated entirely to benefitting UCC Homes' Benevolent Endowment Trust Fund. Our benevolent program provides financial assistance to those in need and sustains our mission of serving elders through acts of love and compassion. This was a record year for us, raising over $39,000!

Following weeks of anticipation, we offically revealed our new logo on June 1, 2026. This refreshed brand reflects our rich history and bright future. As we expand our presence in aging services, we continue to be changemakers, innovators, and guardians of our mission.

On behalf of those we serve, thank you. We are deeply grateful to the congregations, families, and businesses whose partnerships allow our mission to flourish.

Please mark your calendar for UCC Homes
31st Annual Helping Hands Event on Saturday, May 1, 2027



Resident Spotlight on Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home

By Victoria Velez, Director of Public Relations & Fund Development

For more than 26 years, Mrs. Dale Hoyt, resident at Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home, dedicated her career to nurturing young minds as a preschool teacher, primarily working with children ages three and four, and as a Sunday School teacher for four and five year old children. She found great joy in working with kids and shared that the greatest thing they taught her was to laugh as much as you can.

That same loving and giving spirit of service continues today. Since 2019, she has served as President of the Resident Council at Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home. As council president, she advocates for fellow residents by sharing their concerns and suggestions with staff. She appreciates that team members listen carefully and genuinely care about residents' perspectives.

Faith has been the foundation of her life. An extremely devout Christian, she finds inspiration in sacred music and is an avid fan of Joyce Meyer. She admires Meyer for being down-to-earth and for sharing lessons drawn from her own life experiences. Dale believes Meyer practices what she preaches, making her messages both relatable and meaningful for her. Another person who made a profound impact on her life was "Grandma Doris," a kind woman from her church. Doris was someone she could always rely on – a trusted confidante and a wonderful example of how to build faith, serve others, and live with compassion.

Her faith continues to guide her involvement within the community. She leads a Bible Study group at Sarah A. Todd Memorial Homes on the fourth Sunday of every month, currently focusing on the 12 parables of the Bible. The opportunity to share her faith with others brings her tremendous fulfillment, allowing her to be an extension of God's love and encouragement to fellow residents.

Originally from upstate New York, she is the proud mother of one daughter and two sons and the beloved grandmother of seven grandchildren. Family and a love of humor have always gone hand in hand for Dale. Known for being a meticulous housekeeper and keeping all things in their right place, Dale laughs when recalling how her youngest son would intentionally move items around the house just to see if she would notice – which she always did!

When asked about her favorite part of living at Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home, her answer is immediate: the people. She speaks warmly of the nurses, caregivers, and staff members who make residents feel valued and cared for each day. She confidently expressed that residents receive the very best care and services here.

Dale embraces community life by participating in many activities, especially crafts. She finds that origami and other projects that require fine motor skills enhance her dexterity. She proudly displays many of the projects she has created in her room. In addition to community led events, she and two friends started an informal evening coffee gathering that has grown into a regular group of residents gathering together, creating opportunities for friendship, conversation, and connection.

Whether teaching children, leading Bible studies, advocating for residents, or simply bringing people together over coffee, Dale continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those around her. Her life is a beautiful example of faith, service, friendship, and dedication – a true blessing to the community of Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home.

Staff Focus on The Lebanon Valley Home

By Victoria Velez, Director of Public Relations & Fund Development



For 57 years, Mrs. Linda Dubbs has built a remarkable legacy of love at The Lebanon Valley Home. Through decades of dedicated service, she has touched countless lives while forming deep connections with residents, families, and coworkers who, in turn, have profoundly shaped her own life.

After losing her mother at the age of eight, Linda and her younger sister, Sharon, moved to the Quincy Orphanage. Linda found comfort and hope through Mrs. Dorothy Umberger, then the Assistant House Mother who eventually welcomed the girls into her own home. Linda credits Dorothy as her saving grace and lovingly considers her a sister.

Linda first stepped into The Lebanon Valley Home right after Dorothy's wedding. Dorothy had worked there in 1965 and 1966 and to share part of her special day with beloved residents and staff, the entire wedding party walked through the community. With interest in becoming a nurse, Linda applied for an aide position at The Lebanon Valley Home. She was interviewed by Mr. Earla Enck, Director of Nursing, and hired. Until she earned her driver's license, Linda recalls how the RN Shift Supervisor, who lived across the road, kindly picked her up for work and brough her home each day.

Although she enrolled in nursing school, life led Linda in a different direction. She married the love of her life, Rodney, and together they raised two wonderful sons. Throughout her life changes, Linda remained devoted to The Lebanon Valley Home and in 1984, she was instrumental in opening the Personal Care unit, where she currently serves.

While Dorothy remains the person who had the greatest impact on her life, Linda recognizes the immense love and extraordinary influence of the residents she has cared for over the years. Reflecting on her journey, she shares, "The residents helped me as much as I've helped them. They raised me by serving as mentors, sharing their wisdom and guidance through all stages of my life."

One of Linda's proudest accomplishments came later in life when, at the age of 55, she returned to college and earned an Associate Degree in Gerontology and General Studies. During that experience, she formed a meaningful connection with her Gerontology professor. Together with that professor and several classmates, Linda helped develop a new Gerontology Certification program for Harrisburg Area Community College. Another proud achievement for Linda was passing the Personal Care Home Administrator certification course in 1999.

Linda's coworkers describe her as a deeply caring team leader with boundless energy. She describes herself simply as a kind person with a good heart – qualities that shine through not only in her work, but also in her family life. Linda carefully documents the activities and milestones for each of her four grandchildren in personal diaries, creating treasured keepsakes filled with memories they will cherish for years to come.

Much has changed throughout Linda's tenure at The Lebanon Valley Home but one thing has remained constant: its mission of compassionate service. Linda considers it a privilege to continue serving others with love, humility, and a true servant's heart.

Through her outstanding dedication, Linda has created more than a career – she has created a lasting legacy of love that continues to inspire everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Sun Protection: Facts That Could Save Your Skin

By Tempest Gagnon, Director of Clinical Services and Education



Sun protection is vital to maintain healthy skin, preventing damage caused by ultraviolet (UV) light. While there are many forms of sun protection, the two most important are sunscreen and sunblock.

Sunscreen is chemical defense that absorbs ultraviolet light. Sunscreen should be applied evenly to all exposed skin 15 minutes before going outside. Reapply as directed by the products' instructions; no later than two hours after the first application and after swimming, toweling off, or sweating.

Sunscreen products vary based on the formulation and are meant to reduce UVA and/or UVB rays' exposure.

- UVA rays may lead to skin damage, wrinkles, and/or cancer.
- UVB rays cause sunburn.
- SPF (Sun Protection Factor) assigns a number for how well the sunscreen prevents UV rays, with the higher the number the more protection.
- Broad spectrum indicates that the product prevents both UVA abd UVB rays.
- Water resistent indicates that the product is water resistant for 40 to 80 minutew before reapplication is required.
- Read the label to make sure you get the product that is right for you.

Sunblock is a physical defense that reflects UV light and is applied to the skin as a barrier.

Most skin cancers are influence by excessive skin exposure to ultraviolet rays. Ultraviolet rays can affect skin cell DNA. Damage is cumulative and impairs the body's ability to repair the skin. Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States and most cases of skin cancer occur in older adults 65 years and older. Preventative measures started early in life can help lower your risk of developing skin cancer.

Sun protection is important all year long. Ultraviolet rays can reach you on cloudy or cool days and can be reflected off water, sand, snow, or cement. In the United States, ultraviolet rays tend to be strongest from 10am to 4pm and it is recommended to limit your time in the sun during this time frame.

Other ways to protect yourself include avoiding direct sunlight, sitting in the shade, wearing long sleeves, pants, brimmed hats, and sunglasses.

Using a combination of these strategies provide the best prevention. Consistent sun protection helps maintain healthy skin and reduces the risk of long term damage.





Meet A Resident of Ephrata Manor

By Victoria Velez, Director of Public Relations & Fund Development

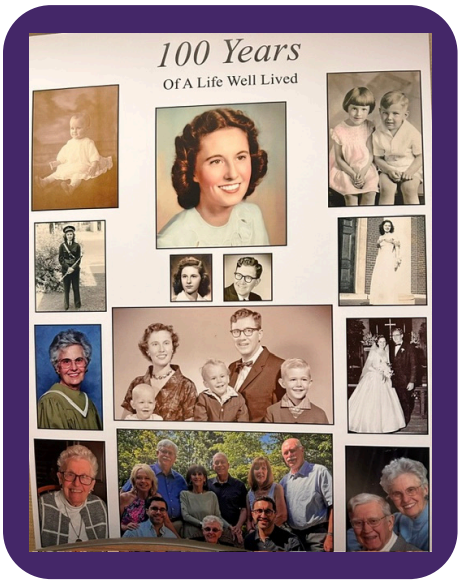
Family is what Mrs. Marie Bade, resident at Ephrata Manor, values most in life. After undergoing hip surgery and requiring rehabilitation, Mrs. Bade and her family, knew that Ephrata Manor would provide her with the highest quality of care in a loving and compassionate environment. This confidence came not only from its excellent reputation, but also from its recognition as a ministry of health and welfare within the United Church of Christ.

Mrs. Bade grew up in a family deeply rooted in the Evangelical and Reformed Church, a predecessor of the United Church of Christ. Her father, uncles, and brother all served as Evangelical and Reformed pastors. Guided by a strong faith, she actively volunteered in youth ministries throughout her life. After graduating from Elmhurst University in Illinois, she continued to work with youth. She met her future husband, Carl Bade, through their youth ministries work, a passion they both shared.

They married in 1954 and proudly raised three sons: Steven, Paul, and David. Devoted to a life of service, Mrs. Bade supported her husband and worked alongside him , as he was called to serve on the UCC Board of Homeland Ministries. He was instrumental in launching their Voluntary Service Program, which became a major focus of his career. They were active members of Shenkel UCC in Northern Chester County in the Pottstown area for over 70 years. Being musically gifted, Mrs. Bade served as the Choir Director at Shenkel UCC, leading both the adult and children's choirs while directing amazing church pageants. While she appreciates all types of music, hymns remain her favorite, especially *We Would Be Building*.

The Bade family traveled on beloved vacations to visit family in St. Louis, Chicago area, and Southern Illinois. They also were fortunate to accompany Mr. Bade on business trips, including a memorable one to the Badlands, Black Hills, and Estes Park. Even before marriage, Mrs. Bade demonstrated her adventurous spirit by traveling by steamship to India for an International Conference related to her work in youth ministries, breaking from the tradition of traveling with a companion. On her return trip, she traveled to Bombay, across the middle east countries, Holy Lands, and Egypt. She had a profoundly emotional experience in the Garden of Gethsemane. One of her favorite adventures took place in Egypt, where she found exploring a burial chamber inside one of the pyramids fascinating and even rode a camel for the very first time!

A self-described people person, Mrs. Bade has formed friendships with others at Ephrata Manor. She participates in activities, particularly enjoying Bingo, and loves working on all kinds of puzzles from jigsaw to crosswords. She treasures visits from sons Paul and David, who live in California, and her adult grandsons.



In June, Mrs. Bade turned 101 years young! To celebrate, she and her family returned to her home church, Shenkel UCC, for an outdoor service and rededication of the church's outdoor pavilion, followed by a special fellowship time. Honored by family and uplifted by her faith, Mrs. Bade feels blessed to live such a wonderful life.

Words of wisdom from this centenarian, "Make friends with people, understand and accept them for who they are and the gifts they bring."

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Community Locations

The Lebanon Valley Home
550 East Main Street
Annville, PA 17003
717-867-4467

Thornwald Home
442 Walnut Bottom Road
Carlisle, PA 17013
717-249-4118

Ephrata Manor
99 Bethany Road
Ephrata, PA 17522
717-738-4940

Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home
1000 West South Street
Carlisle, PA 17013
717-245-2187

Kindred Place at Annville
One Kindred Place
Annville, PA 17003
717-867-5572

Kindred Place at Harrisburg
4700 Oakhurst Blvd.
Harrisburg, PA 17110
717-657-7900

Yes, I want to support the Mission of UCC Homes!

Charitable giving is essential to fulfilling our mission. We invite you to visit our website at ucc-homes.org or scan the QR code below to explore ways in which you can join us in our ministry with a charitable gift.

If you prefer to write a check for your donation, please make it payable to UCC Homes and designate your contribution for one of the following funds:

- ◯ Benevolent Fund
- ◯ Benevolent Endowment Trust Fund
- ◯ Endowment Fund

Please indicate if you gift is a tribute:

- ◯ Memorial
- ◯ In Honor Of

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Thank you for your support!