



Rev. Cindy Garis August – cgaris@cpucc.org

“I look forward to connecting with many fellow clergy from Penn Central, Penn Northeast and Penn Southeast Conferences – and facilitating times of deeper connection with God, self and others. It will be a much-needed time of refreshment and renewal, laughter and rest.” - Cindy

Cindy loves prayer and introducing people to prayer in a variety of ways. She has incorporated spiritual practices in retreats with creative themes like The Wizard of Oz, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Winnie the Pooh. She feels that every person is a spiritual being and needs to connect with the Holy within themselves and beyond themselves.

Cindy grew up in the Brethren in Christ church in Souderton, PA (a small town between Philly and Allentown). She is a graduate of Messiah College, where she was a dual major in Christian Ed. And Marketing. Cindy received her Masters of Divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Cindy attended Lancaster Seminary and was ordained in February 1999 in the United Church of Christ. She has ministerial standing in the Harrisburg Association of the Penn Central Conference, served Pennsylvania churches in Lebanon, Penbrook, Abbottstown and New Cumberland in various capacities. Cindy served for 12 years as the Executive Director of Oasis Ministries for Spiritual Development (www.oasismin.org), and is a trained spiritual director and retreat leader. She was installed as Senior Pastor at Colonial Park United Church of Christ in November 2019.

Cindy is challenging, creative and authentic. Most deeply, she feels the church is (or can be) a place of wholeness, hope and healing. Cindy enjoys talking, listening, and thinking – as well as traveling and being outdoors. Recent joys in Cindy’s life? She and Liz got married in the past year, and Cindy has found a hobby besides work – paint-by-number! Cindy lives in Harrisburg, PA with her wife, Liz, and dog, Sophia.



Pastor Cindy's three favorite quotes are:

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that, if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone."

~ Thomas Merton

"Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer." — Rainer Maria Rilke

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours." — Teresa of Ávila