



DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

★
JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE
THANK YOU

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: Pastor

Cell: 610-973-4052

Email: pastor.justin17@gmail.com

Terri Cromwell: Office Administrator and OAKs Coordinator

Church Office: 570-568-2254

Cell: 570-850-5730

Church Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Marilyn Gresh: Music

Home: 570-473-9406

Email: marilyngresh@hotmail.com

Terry Snyder: Sexton

Cell: 570-238-4666

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, 10am

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9am to 2pm

UIC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Cami Zimmerman, President	1 st term, ends 12/2018
Charlie Dinsmore, V. President	1 st term, ends 12/2018
Annette Baker, Secretary	2 nd term, ends 12/2018
Ken Baker, Treasurer	1 st term, ends 12/2020
Ken Criswell	1 st term, ends 12/2019
Amy Danowsky	2 nd term, ends 12/2019
Frank Danowsky	1 st term, ends 12/2018
Marianne Murray	2 nd term, ends 12/2019
John Sheaffer	2 nd term, ends 12/2018
Bob Swartz	2 nd term, ends 12/2019

Council Members are elected for a term of three years and no more than 2 consecutive terms.

United In Christ's Mission Statement:

Led by the Spirit, we follow Christ's call to honor God and neighbor through worship, learning, service, prayer, stewardship and invitation.

Mark Your Calendars

SAT, DEC. 1	CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP
SUN, DEC. 2	ADVENT BEGINS AED TRAINING
SAT, DEC. 8	BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY
SUN, DEC. 9	POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE
WED, DEC. 12	OAKS
SAT, DEC. 15	YOUTH WORSHIP REHEARSAL
SUN, DEC. 16	CAROLING
MON, DEC. 17	JAN. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
WED, DEC. 19	COUNCIL MEETING
MON, DEC. 24	CHRISTMAS EVE 7PM SERVICE CHRISTMAS EVE 11PM SERVICE
TUE, DEC 25	CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED
WED, DEC. 26	OFFICE CLOSED
TUE, JAN. 1	NEW YEARS DAY OFFICE CLOSED

FROM THE PASTOR



And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Luke 1:46-55

Dear United In Christ,

What are *you* expecting to find in the manger?

It's easy, I think, to get caught up in our own anticipations. In fact, I think it's completely natural to do so! As we move into the season of Advent this month, we begin a season of preparation, a season where it is easy to let our anticipations and our expectations build. We put up our trees, we light the candles around the wreath, we set out the Nativity set all while we wait for the baby to arrive in the manger. As the tension continues to build in the waiting of this season, it necessarily begs the question: what are *you* expecting?

I think a lot of us, myself included, expect all those feel-good moments that seem to come with the season. We expect the joy to the

world that comes with the greeting of this newborn Savior. We expect the jubilation that comes with the announcement from the angels we have heard on high. We might even expect to catch moments of peace that come out of such a silent night. Whatever our expectations may be, for as varied and diverse as they are, it seems that we've got a lot riding on what is tucked in there so far away in a manger.

Now, to be fair, Mary also had her own great expectations about the child she carried. What's more is that, like so many great and gifted people throughout the centuries, she put those expectations to song. Here, in the Magnificat, Mary exclaims her hopes and dreams for her child, the same hopes and joys found in God her Savior. Looking over her words, though, we'd be hard pressed to find the images of tranquil serenity we often imagine. Instead, the expectations that burst forth from Mary seem so – *disruptive*. As the proud are scattered in the thoughts of their hearts, as the powerful are brought down from their thrones, and as the rich are sent away empty, we hear expectations of a rather unsettling nature. Mary, it seems, expects things to soon be shaken up!

But you know, I think Mary's expectations might just be the reminder we need as we head into these upcoming seasons of preparation and celebration in Advent and at Christmas. I think there is a real temptation to believe that this season is only about embracing as many warm and fuzzy feelings as we can. Our Hallmark sensibilities make us think that this is a time to spoil one another and bask in a dream-like joy of company with each other. Believe me, these are things that I cherish in this season just as much as the next person, but Mary's expectant reminder is that this world, in all of its anticipation, is soon to be shaken up like a snow globe plucked from the shelf. Her song makes clear that soon and very soon, things are going to change.



Her song reminds us that when God steps into this world, *nothing*

can stay the same. As Mary proclaims the one who chooses to reach out with a strong arm to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things in the remembrance of mercy, she paints a picture of a world turned upside down and reordered. It may be disconcerting to consider a God who would bring such upheaval, but maybe the God who steps into humanity by becoming a baby *should* make us feel a little uncomfortable in this season. After all, the one who is heralded by angels and who makes a divine entry in the vulnerable space of a feeding trough makes it clear that our normal expectations of strength and power are *not* where God decides to dwell. Instead, God chooses to inhabit the weakness and frailty of this human existence. In stepping into the brokenness of this world, God in Christ Jesus comes to take on and upend all notions of power and might. It may be completely unexpected, but it is most assuredly good news!

See, all of this reordering, all of this discomfort, all of Mary's expectations of reversal, it's all done *for you*. The infant Jesus for whom we expectantly wait *is* the Jesus who comes for you. By stepping into this world, God reorders the whole landscape so that God may draw you close. No longer will the conventional "powers that be" keep you from the love that God bears for you. No longer will the ordering and values of the world dictate *your* value in this world. Instead, the God who casts down the mighty to lift the lowly does so in order that you might always know your place with the God who remembers God's mercy and promises for all people. There's joy, you see, in the disturbance coming to greet us. Whether expected or not, the proclamation of this season is that to *you* is born the child who will upend this world to greet you.

So, United In Christ, have a wonderfully merry Christmas. I hope you get a little shaken up.

Yours, united in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Justin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Pastor Justin".

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP



Join us on **Saturday, December 1** here at UIC for our first ever free community Christmas Workshop!

We will gather starting at 10am to make all sorts of Christmas crafts for the kids, sing some carols, and of course have plenty of cookies and cocoa! We are still looking for some thrifty folks to help lead a few craft stations and supply baked goods for the day, so if you'd like to put that Pinterest board or recipe box to good use, please talk to Pastor Justin! We hope you can join us! Come and see!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Please help us fill the sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias in memory or honor of those loved by members of the congregation at United In Christ. After brightening our sanctuary, these beautiful plants can be taken home or you can choose for them to be delivered to members of our congregation who are unable to make it to church.

COST IS \$5.50

DEADLINE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Dedicate a poinsettia by submitting an order form, along with payment. Order forms are in the fellowship hall.

**Poinsettias are a beautiful gift to our Lord
and a wonderful expression of our love for God
and all he has given us!**

ATTENTION AMAZON SHOPPERS

This holiday, make a difference while you shop

Shop for holiday gifts and supplies at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates

You shop. Amazon donates.




What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a website owned and operated by Amazon. The AmazonSmile website has the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon. The difference is that when you buy through AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchases to the charitable organization of your choice, at no cost to you!

A few tips, if you use the Amazon app to do your shopping you can browse and add any items to your shopping cart, but before you pay/checkout on the app open your browser and go to the AmazonSmile website to checkout. Once you sign-in all of your shopping cart items will appear on the AmazonSmile website. As long as you checkout through the AmazonSmile website, .5% of your purchases will be donated to whichever charity you have selected.

This holiday season, don't forget to make your purchases through smile.amazon.com/ch/23-3079221 and AmazonSmile will donate to United In Christ Lutheran Church.

Christmas Eve Services

"To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." Luke 2:11-12

We hope that you will join us this Christmas Eve to gather around the manger to celebrate the birth of the Savior. Worship opportunities this Christmas Eve include:

- * 7:00pm Traditional Service
- * 11:00pm Christmas Unplugged

While both services will include Holy Communion and candle lighting, they will be led in two different styles. The 7:00pm Traditional Service will be musically led with our Christmas hymns and anthems played from the piano and organ. The 11:00pm Christmas Unplugged service will be musically led with songs and carols played from acoustic guitar.



Know that however and whenever you decide to worship, all are welcome here at United In Christ. Come and see!

"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made know to us." Luke 2:15

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Starting Sunday, December 9, if you have a church mailbox, you'll find your 2019 offering envelopes in your mailbox. If you do not have a mailbox, you'll find your 2019 offering envelopes in the fellowship hall. If you do not get offering envelopes, but would like to, please see Terri in the office.

NEW FELLOWSHIP HALL FLOORING

At our Nov. Congregational Meeting we voted to move forward with a recommended proposal to replace the carpeting in the fellowship hall with sectional floating laminate flooring. This new flooring would come in multiple pieces that interlock together, but can be replaced in sections should a portion get ruined at any point.

After receiving multiple quotes from three separate companies, we voted to pursue a quote of **\$15,000** (materials and labor) from Oberdorf's that involved a heavily discounted rate on the flooring material itself. To obtain this rate, however, we must be able to make a deposit of \$3,994 (50% of material cost) by the end of the year with the remaining material balance of \$3,994 paid by the end of January 2019. While our Congregational Council has been setting funds aside monthly into a Capital Expense Fund to take on improvements like this, we could definitely use some extra help in tackling this project! Starting this month, we will be setting out pink special envelopes which can be used to contribute to this project beyond our regular Sunday Offering.

As you feel called and are able, you are invited to simply place your cash or check in the envelope with your name and write "Fellowship Hall Floor" on it. In the days ahead, we will be putting a display up to help us track our progress for the project. If you have any questions about the project along the way, please feel free to touch base with any member of the Property Committee or Congregational Council! We look forward to seeing the fruits of our labor as our space gets a bit of a face lift and is equipped with sustainable materials to last for a long time into the church's future!

Thank you for your support!

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Our Members: Lisane Snyder, family and friends of Gerald Baker, Kathleen Noll, George Rice, Mac Keifer, Becky Carl, Gerald Baker Jr., Ruth Stump.

Family and Friends: Betty Blyler, Art Keister, Donny Ritter, Margaret Barnes, Ed Harper, Linda Geyer, David Geyer, Bill Krause, family and friends of Leigh Perry, Ruth Miller, Mya Cromwell



Are you or a loved one in need of prayer?

Submit your prayer request by calling 570-568-2254 or emailing it to office@unitedinchristlutheran.net. We will email your prayer request to UIC's prayer chain. We'll also print your prayer request for 4 weeks.

**Church Office will
be closed on
December 25 and 26,
and January 1.**



DECEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

* Please remove from newsletter and post on your fridge.*

	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23
Altar Guild	S. Keifer	K. Guffey	J. Mertz	C. Zimmerman
Greeter	E. Brown	Ken Baker	Youth	K. Noll
	S. Brown	R. Baker		S. Noll
	R. Kling	E. Brouse		P. Swinehart
Acolyte	K. Swanger	A. Danowsky	Youth	E. Danowsky
Asst. Minister	B. Swartz	M. Shearer	Youth	T. McPherrin
Lector	T. McPherrin	S. Keifer	Youth	Ken Baker
Comm. Asst.	D. Shearer	C. Zimmerman	Youth	Ken Baker
	A. Baker	D. Baker		W. Wirth
Usher	K. Arndt	Karen Baker	Youth	R. Kling
	O. Arndt	K. Criswell		L. Rabuck
	L. Caris	B. Koch		M. Rabuck
	S. McPherrin	J. Mertz		K. Koch
Guest Rel.	B. Troxell	G. Weiser	Ken Baker	F. Danowsky
Offering Counter	K. Guffey	C. Zimmerman	M. Shearer	W. Wirth
	M. Rabuck	J. Sheaffer	T. Snyder	J. Sheaffer
Bread/Wine	R. Baker	W. Wirth	V. Marsh	C. Zimmerman
Social Hour	S - Z	A - D	E - K	L - R

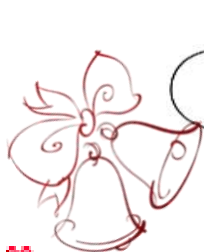
If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, please try to trade with someone on the schedule and then notify the office of the change. If you are unable to trade with someone, please call Terri Cromwell at the church, 570-568-2254, and she will find a replacement for you.

DECEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

* Please remove from newsletter and post on your fridge.*

	Christmas Eve, 7pm	Christmas Eve, 11pm	Dec. 30
Altar Guild	C. Troxell S. Keifer	C. Zimmerman	K. Guffey
Greeter	B. Swartz T. Swartz P. Swinehart	Ken Baker R. Baker	J. Snyder T. Snyder N. Walter
Acolyte	D. Sheaffer	L. Shearer	L. Warren-Lee
Asst. Minister	A. Baker	C. Zimmerman	A. Baker
Lector	Jen Sheaffer	M. Shearer	R. Baker
Comm. Asst.	M. Baker K. Koch T. Snyder		M. Murray S. Danowsky
Usher	W. Wirth B. Troxell E. Brown S. Brown	Ken Baker R. Baker	K. Arndt O. Arndt B. Troxell C. Troxell
Guest Relations			M. Mertz
Offering Counter	K. Guffey M. Rabuck	M. Shearer C. Zimmerman	W. Wirth T. Snyder
Bread/Wine	K. Guffey S. Keifer	S. McPherrin	J. Mertz
Social Hour			S - Z

MEMBER UPDATES



HAPPY
Anniversary

Rob and Teena Zimmerman 12/21/02



Happy Birthday

McPherrin 12/3

Martha Ketchem 12/14

Jeff Snyder 12/5

Tina Snyder 12/14

Jane Mertz 12/6

Frank Danowsky Jr. 12/16

Nicole Cooley 12/7

Zoe Scott 12/19

Ken Baker 12/8

Syann Stewart 12/21

Bob Keifer 12/9

Dylan Sheaffer 12/25

Karen Hauck 12/11

Ed Snyder 12/30

Ginny Criswell 12/12

Nancy Baker 12/31



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office with these dates.

IN MEMORIAM



Gerald G. Baker Sr., 78, of rural Lewisburg, passed away Thursday, October 25, 2018, at his home.

Born in Lewisburg on March 8, 1940, he was a son of the late W. Glyn and Kathryn (Ale) Baker. He was married to the former Carolyn F. Walls. Together they celebrated 56 years of marriage.

Gerald was a graduate of Lewisburg High School and served in the US Army from 1959 to 1962. He retired from PennDOT in 1999 after 33 years of service.

He was a member of the Mifflinburg VFW, New Berlin American Legion, Patriotic Order of Sons of America the F & AM Charity Lodge 144, Zafar Grotto Rafaz Club in South Williamsport, Friendship C.B. Radio Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles in Milton, ASCME where he was president of the Foreman's Union for 18 years, and United In Christ Lutheran Church in Lewisburg.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by four children, Gerald G. Baker II, Korena K. Vargo and her husband Troy, Jesse J. Baker, and Timothy J. Baker and his wife Jamey; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Larry Baker and Russell Baker; and a sister, Cheryl Baker.

A Masonic service began at 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, October 30, followed by a public viewing from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Shaw Funeral Home, 400 N. Front St., Milton. Funeral services was at 6 p.m. with the Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter officiating. Burial with military honors was held at 1 p.m. Thursday, November 1, in the Church Hill Cemetery, Lewisburg.



**Older Adults
Kickin' it up!
Monthly Senior Center**



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12, 10am-2pm



10:00am - Social Hour

11:00am - Free Bingo with Prizes

12:00pm - Free Lunch

12:30pm - Favorite TV Shows



PASTOR APPRECIATION



As a church family, we expressed our gratitude to Pastor Justin for his commitment to serving the Lord and all of us at United In Christ. Members of the church gave Pastor Justin cards and notes expressing how he

has made a difference in their lives.



Thank you to everyone for all of your cards and gifts for Pastor Appreciation day! Kelsey and I are incredibly grateful for this community and feel so blessed to be here! Your generosity is overwhelming, but we certainly feel loved in this place! THANK YOU! ~ Pr. Justin

Social Ministry



DONATE A GIFT



Annette Baker has a list of 9 residents at Country Comfort that won't be getting any gifts this year, as they don't have any family. If you would like to bless one of them with a gift, please see Annette after church.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



All are welcome to join us on Sunday, December 16 at 5pm for an evening of Christmas Caroling!

We will gather together at UIC and then head out to visit and

sing with the residents at Rockwell Retirement Center in Milton. We will then form a caravan or two to go old-school door-to-door caroling to some of our homebound members who might not otherwise make it out for the season. We will wrap up the evening back at the church with some cookies and cocoa to share together. Whether or not you can keep a tune, you are invited to come and spread the joy of the season with us! **We hope to see you there!**

Go **tail** it on the mountain.



Each year, Americans spend over \$300 billion on Christmas shopping. Imagine what would happen if even a fraction of that amount of money was spent to combat global hunger! With ELCA Good Gifts, you

can do just that! Choose from over 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of loved ones – from goats to water wells, school uniforms to food for refugees. All of these gifts can be given in honor of friends or loved ones as remarkable Christmas gifts.

Here at UIC, we will set up a Good Gifts Tree in the fellowship hall, with ornaments for all sorts of gifts. If you would like to purchase one of these Good Gifts for someone, simply take the ornament of the corresponding gift and place the designated payment in one of the pink special offering envelopes (checks payable to United In Christ), marking it with the type of gift you are purchasing. Then place the envelope and payment in the box beside the tree.

At the end of the season, we'll gather the orders and send them to ELCA Good Gifts.

You can also always purchase through the ELCA Good Gifts website at ELCA.org/goodgifts.

PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know that here at UIC we have a group of dedicated individuals who are always at the ready to pray on your behalf? If you ever have a need or concern you can call the office with as many or as few details as you'd like and we will notify the members of our prayer chain who will lift up your concerns in prayer to God.



If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, you can touch base with Linda Caris or leave a note for Terri in the office.

MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION



The Social Ministry collects non-perishable food items each month. Your donations get delivered to Maz-eppa Manna and HandUP on an alternating basis. Both organizations are especially in need of cereal, peanut butter, tuna, mac & cheese dinners, ketchup, canned fruit, pasta, sauce, and boxed mixes.

**Place these items in the baskets
located in the Narthex.**

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles, events, photos and/or thank you notes you'd like in the January Newsletter need to be in the office by **Monday, December 17**. **Worship Volunteers**, please give the office **any dates in January** which you **will not be available** to serve during worship. After you're scheduled it'll be your responsibility to trade with someone else on the schedule if you are not available to serve that day.

2018 GIVING STATEMENTS

All 2018 offerings must be handed in to the office by Sunday, December 30. Anything given after December 30 will be entered as a 2019 offering.

Statements will be ready for pickup on Sunday, January 20. Any statement not picked up on Sunday, January 20 will then be mailed out.

If you have recently moved, please make sure the office has your new mailing address.

ALTAR FLOWERS



Altar flowers are a beautiful gift to our Lord and a wonderful expression of our love for God. It honors loved ones and gives thanks for special people and events in our lives.

The cost is \$30 and you may take your flowers home with you after service!

AED TRAINING

*If someone in church suddenly collapsed,
would you know what to do?*

If you would like to learn how to use UIC's AED machine, go to the church library immediately following worship on Sunday, December 2. Jen Sheaffer will hold a training class to teach you how to use the machine and she'll be able to answer any questions you may have.

**You Have the Power
to Restart a Heart.**
We Can Show You How.



Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death among adults over the age of 40 – and it's a "healthcare crisis," affecting more than 300,000 people every year, according to the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation.

Even the fastest paramedics could take 8-12 minutes to get to a patient after he or she collapses. Quick access to an automatic external defibrillator, or AED, could increase the odds of survival from about 5% to 40% and higher!

What is a Defibrillator (AED)?

A defibrillator is a small, lightweight device that allows quick-thinking citizens and co-workers to treat sudden cardiac arrest by delivering a shock to the victim's chest, ideally re-starting his or her heart. There is no danger of harming a patient who might not need defibrillation because an AED diagnoses dangerous heart rhythms and responds accordingly. AEDs are user friendly and even "talk" the user through the process.



Baby Steps

DIAPER PANTRY

800 diaper were given out at
November's diaper pantry.

NEXT DIAPER PANTRY

December 8 ~ 10-11:30am
1 bag (40 diapers) per child.

**I know what I'm doing
the next time it snows**



UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1875 CHURCHES ROAD
LEWISBURG PA 17837

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Location: 1875 Churches Rd., Lewisburg, PA
Office Phone: 570-568-2254
Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net
Website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net
Office Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.