



AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER

DON'T STAY IN
the boat when
GOD IS CALLING YOU
to walk on water



UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

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WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, 10am

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday, 9am to 2pm

UIC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Cami Zimmerman - President	2nd term, ends 12/2021
Charlie Dinsmore - V. President	2nd term, ends 12/2021
Ken Baker - Treasurer	1st term, ends 12/2020
Lisa Rabuck - Secretary	1st term, ends 12/2021
Ken Criswell	1st term, ends 12/2019
Bob Swartz	2nd term, ends 12/2019
Kathy Guffey	1st term, ends 12/2021
Rick Whitesel	1st term, ends 12/2021
Emma Danowsky	1st term, ends 12/2021
Syann Steward	1st term, ends 12/2021

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, AUG. 3	FELLOWSHIP HALL PAINTING
SUN, AUG. 4	FELLOWSHIP HALL PAINTING
MON, AUG. 5	FLOORING PROJECT BEGINS
SAT, AUG. 10	BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY
MON, AUG. 12	FAITH AND FUN DAY
WED, AUG. 14	OAKS SENIOR CENTER
SAT, AUG. 17	ALL CHURCH PICNIC
SUN, AUG. 18	BACKPACK SUNDAY
MON, AUG. 19	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
MON, AUG. 20	PA SPECIAL ELECTION
WED, AUG. 21	COUNCIL MEETING
SUN, AUG. 25	BUFFALO VALLEY CONF.

INTERIOR DOORS

During the summer months, please remember to keep the sanctuary and narthex doors closed. When they are open during worship the cold air in the sanctuary is drawn downstairs and into the hallways. When the air condition is on in the fellowship hall please remember to keep those doors closed also.

- Property Committee

FROM THE PASTOR



Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” . . . Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2:37-39, 43-47

Dear United In Christ,

When God’s Spirit is on the move, it can be – confounding. It’s nothing new. We people have been confused by the movements of God almost from the very beginning. From the Church’s very foundation, God’s Spirit has drawn God’s people into strange and puzzling places. Just look at this episode from the book of Acts. This moment takes place just after the Holy Spirit fills the disciples, allowing each to be heard in the native tongues of the multitude gathered in Jerusalem. After the accusations of disorderly conduct, Peter levels an entire sermon for those gathered, articulating the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. It’s an incredible sermon (vv. 14-36, if you want to check it out) that leaves the people with just one enigmatic question: what should we do?

It's a dangerous question, really. It's dangerous because it might just lead us into unexpected territory. After all, as Peter begins to answer this responsive question, his first call is to simply repent—an action that inherently involves being turned in a new (and often unexpected) direction. The new trajectory is then followed by a call to baptism that will leave every one of those invited to the waters as changed individuals as they receive true and abundant gifts of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit in promises made to them, their children, and all whom God invites.

But that's not the dangerous part. The dangerous part is that being met with such radical and liberating gifts also invites God's people to a new and nearly unrecognizable way of living into the world. Take this first community from Acts. After all of these things, their new way of living led them join in a communal setting wherein all members sold their individual possessions to instead hold all things in common, sharing from their pooled wealth as each had necessity. It's a bold way of being community that flew in the face of good Roman sensibilities. Outside of the family, the world demanded a system of privilege and reputation that encouraged the lording of power (and wealth) over those in lesser stations. In such a world, this communal sharing subverted and rebelled against such systems to show a new way of living.

Two-thousand years later, how is it that we as a community are still being called to live in new ways? What are the radical and liberating responses to this dangerous question that God is providing? Where are the places where such life-changing gifts and promises as God offers are drawing us in to subvert and—maybe, just maybe— even rebel against the systems that drive the world with power and privilege? Can we find protest in offering the first fruits of ten percent of what we have been gifted when the world tells us to hoard all we can? Can we find subversion in the simple welcome of those who have been locked out from so many other communities? Can we, like the Church of Acts, live in ways that promote the well-being of all those whom God calls as children, instead of the ways that continue to subju-

gate our neighbors who act, look, speak, love, or worship differently from ourselves? The stakes are certainly high and the question is dangerous, but this is the challenge to which we are called. This, just as it has been since day one, is the challenge of what it means to be church.

So, United In Christ, what should we do?

Yours, united in Christ,

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

BUFFALO VALLEY CONFERENCE

For over a year now, the Upper Susquehanna Synod has been considering mission and ministry within the synod. It began with a discussion of how the synod is currently perceived, as well as what the congregations feel they need from the synod. At last year's Assembly roundtable conversations provided facilitators with information from which goals were developed. This year's Assembly took things a step further by defining and discussing three areas of focus through which our congregations can develop relationships among their members. These Areas of Focus include:

Church/Unity – We are Church; We are Church Together; We are Lutheran; We are Church for the sake of the world. We are *only, holy, catholic and apostolic* Church. How will we be church and enhance our unity?

Support/Presence – We are a church in relationship with God, each other, our church partners, and the world. How can we deepen these relationships?

Discipleship/Leadership – We are a church called to lead others to the profound grace of Jesus. How do we recognize leaders in our congregations and beyond?

The discussions of the Areas of Focus took place by conference. The Buffalo Valley Conference (comprised of congregations from the Warrior Run, Milton, Lewisburg, and Mifflinburg school districts) had a great brain-storming session and many good ideas were put forth such as implementing a conference newsletter, joint worship services (e.g., Ascension Day), pulpit exchanges, and shared youth group activities among many others.

One of the best suggestions was to have an all-conference meeting of interested persons to begin conversations on how we might share together in mission and ministry to our communities. This initial meeting will be **Sunday, August 25, 6:00 PM** here at United In Christ! While members of our Congregational Council have been asked to represent us at this meeting, there is no limit on how many people from a congregation may attend! For questions or additional information, please contact Pastor Justin. Let's see what God is up to in the Buffalo Valley Conference!

DIGITAL CHURCH DIRECTORY



Take the directory with you! If you have an Android or iOS device, you can download the directory. Please see the instructions that have been inserted in to your newsletter. Each UIC family have been given a unique access code. You will need this code in order to create a login with the app. If you have any questions please call

the office. Terri would be more than happy to help you install and create a user account.

RENOVATIONS

The Paint Penny Challenge has ended. You voted by placing money toward whichever paint color you liked most for the walls in the fellowship hall. Here are the results.

1ST PLACE	AGREEABLE GRAY	\$54.90
2ND PLACE	CHATROOM	\$23.13
3RD PLACE	SEA SALT	\$21.80
4TH PLACE	QUINOA	\$12.00
5TH PLACE	ACCESSIBLE BEIGE	\$2.00

Money collected will go toward paying for paint and supplies.

FELLOWSHIP HALL PAINTING

- Saturday, August 3 - we need people to roll on the 1st coat of paint. We will begin painting at 9am.
- Sunday, August 4 - we need people to roll on the 2nd coat of paint. We will begin after worship.

IF YOU HAVE ROLLERS, PLEASE BRING THEM.

***We must have
everything painted
before August 5,
which is
when the flooring
gets installed.***





Ken Criswell and Frank Danowsky got rid of the overgrown bushes. Now both Pastor Justin and Terri can see out their windows. Thank you guys!!



Someone donated \$3200 for the new air conditioner in the Fellowship Hall. The person wishes to remain anonymous. You know who

you are, we can't thank you enough!!



The Floor Campaign has almost reached its goal.

Thank you to everyone that helped us get here!!



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Wednesday, Aug. 14

10:00 am - Social Hour

11:00 am - Free Bingo with Prizes

12:00 pm - Free Lunch

1:00 pm - Bird Presentation



Allen Schweinsberg, professor at Bucknell and member of Seven Mountains Audubon, will give a presentation on BIRDS.



OAKS SENIOR CENTER IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

AUGUST WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

	Aug. 4	Aug. 11	Aug. 18	Aug. 25
Altar Guild	J. Mertz	S. Keifer	C. Troxell	C. Zimmerman
Greeter	Ken Baker	E. Brown	K. Noll	B. Keifer
	R. Baker	S. Brown	S. Noll	S. Keifer
	R. Kling	L. Rabuck	P. Swinehart	K. Guffey
Acolyte	D. Sheaffer	K. Swanger	L. Warren-Lee	G. Heckman
Asst. Minister	S. Bingaman	C. Zimmerman	A. Baker	T. McPherrin
Lector	T. McPherrin	Jen Sheaffer	M. Shearer	B. Swartz
Comm. Asst.	S. Danowsky	Ken Baker	B. Swartz	Jen Sheaffer
	A. Baker	C. Troxell	M. Baker	M. Shearer
Usher	W. Wirth	K. Koch	E. Brouse	L. Rabuck
	D. Baker	S. McPherrin	R. Kling	M. Rabuck
	Karen Baker	J. Mertz	L. Caris	T. Swartz
	B. Koch	D. Shearer	Jen Sheaffer	B. Troxell
Guest Rel.	K. Noll	M. Rabuck	B. Troxell	G. Weiser
Offering Counter	W. Wirth	K. Guffey	M. Rabuck	J. Sheaffer
	M. Shearer	C. Zimmerman	K. Guffey	T. Snyder
Bread/Wine	J. Mertz	S. Noll	J. Sheaffer	M. Shearer
Social Hour	E - K	L - R	S - Z	A - D

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.

MEMBER UPDATES

Happy Birthday

AMY DANOWSKY 8/2

PEG SWINEHART 8/3

JEN SHEAFFER 8/4

LEANNE LARSON 8/10

DUSTIN KEMPER 8/11

AVA HAUCK 8/12

HERB MARSH 8/12

DAVE BAKER 8/13

STEVE SHEARER 8/13

BOB TROXELL 8/19

MARIE TANNER 8/19

TERRY SNYDER 8/21

SONJA NOLL 8/23

JUSTIN COOLEY 8/24

SHARON BYERLY-LARSON 8/28



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

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORIES

Vivian Marsh, new email address

vmarsh369@gmail.com



Change of
Address

Bob and Sue Keifer
4925 Paradise Road
Milton, PA 17847

Matt and Wendy Wirth
4925 Paradise Road
Milton, PA 17847

DECEIVED BY ‘THE LIE OF *MORE*’

And Jesus said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ -Luke 12:15

“The Andersons” looked uncomfortable as they explained why they couldn’t give more. “We’d like to,” Mrs. Anderson said, “but we’re getting *killed* with bills.” Mr. Anderson added, “We barely make ends meet.”

Swimming with stagnant wages against a tide of rising costs, millions of working families struggle to find even enough, but the Andersons’ plight is different. They are blessed with excellent jobs and generous incomes. Sadly, they fell prey to “the lie of *more*” that drives our consumer culture.

“The lie of *more*” deceives us into thinking that true happiness, true peace, true contentment is within our grasp – if we only have a little “more.” So we grasp for more stuff, more wealth, more experiences. We often end up not only drowning in debt, but also less happy, less peaceful and less content.

People of all incomes can become ensnared in “the lie of *more*.” In its trap we squander our abundance for scarcity. Instead of living in the freedom and joy that Jesus spoke about in John 10:10, we live in the bondage of debt and stress.

Here are some ways to free yourself from “the lie of *more*”:

- Pray regularly over your finances, thanking God for your income (whatever it is) and asking for wisdom and strength to live within your means.
- Use a household budgeting tool or work with a friend who is good with numbers to come up with a plan to immediately match your income with your bills.
- Develop a longer-term strategy to pay off credit cards.

- Pray over every expenditure: Is this a *necessity* or a *want*? Will this *really* bring me happiness? Does this fit into my budget strategy?
- Work towards a faith plan for your income, such as 10-10-80: Give away 10 percent, save 10 percent and live on 80 percent.
- Explore “financial literacy.” Perhaps you could encourage your congregation to sponsor classes!

As you started with prayer, continue to pray regularly over your finances.

No matter what our income, our lives are fuller and richer when we confront “the lie of *more*” and focus on the sources of true happiness: Our loving relationship with God and neighbor.

--Rob Blezard

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Pastor Blezard serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org.

He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.

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.

There are lots of open slots to order flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special event. The flowers are yours to take home after worship! Altar flowers cost \$30

Flower Chart is located in the Fellowship Hall.

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Our Members: Willard Hauck, Peg Swinehart, Alice Snyder, Kathy Loss.

Family and Friends:

Anthony DeLong, Derick Hunter, Eden, Mary Lou Russell, Russ Baker, Evelyn Peters, Charlie Fegley, Glen Van Dyke, Terry Tanner, Dorie Minium, Joan Rearick, Dennis Rearick Jr, Trisha Miller, George Zeyn.



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 print prayer requests for 4 weeks.

PRAYER CHAIN

Scripture instructs us to lift one another up in prayer. The prayer chain takes two forms: telephone or email. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please let Terri Cromwell know. Make sure you tell her if you would like a phone call or an email.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

WHO IS *my neighbor?*



We are excited to continue summer series of “Faith and Fun Days” here at UIC! Our “Faith and Fun Days” serve as opportunities of fun faith formation for students from K-6th grade. Each day our students will gather at the church for stories, songs, and crafts grounded in the free ELCA curriculum titled “Who Is My Neighbor?” After spending the morning together at the church, each day we will then take a field trip to a

neighborhood playground in the Susquehanna Valley for some time of fun and games! Students are invited to bring a packed lunch and join us for any or all of the days scheduled throughout the summer!

Mark your calendars now for these great opportunities!

Monday, August 12th: 10am-2pm

Saturday, August 17th: - 10am-2pm (all church picnic)

Churchwide Picnic



Saturday, Aug.17
Halfway Dam
10:00am

Our whole UIC family is invited to join us for our last day (Saturday, August 17th) where we will spend the whole day out at Halfway Dam! The day will begin at 10am.

Watch for signup sheets.



Thanks to our young Faith and Fun day participants, UIC's generosity, and a Thrivent grant, we were able to fill 30 comfort bags for Union County Children and Youth services. We will bless these bags on Backpack Sunday, August 18.



GRADUATES SUNDAY ~ JULY 14

Congratulations to our youth that graduated this year, Amy Danowsky, Dalton Shearer, and Dustin Kemper (not pictured).

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

~ Jeremiah 29:11



HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY ~ JULY 21

You can listen to Pastor Justin's sermon by visiting the "Sermons" page on our website. Stop by Facebook or click on "Church News" on our website to see more photos from Holy Humor Sunday!



Help Us Support Area Students in Need!



UIC is collecting the following school supplies for children in the Milton School District.

- ◆ NOTEBOOKS
- ◆ BINDERS
- ◆ LUNCH BAGS
- ◆ BACKPACKS
- ◆ GLUE STICKS
- ◆ CRAYONS
- ◆ RULERS
- ◆ PENCILS
- ◆ PENCIL BOXES
- ◆ ERASERS



**Please drop off school supplies
in the collection box in the
Narthex by August 16th.**

We will be blessing these items on
**Backpack Sunday,
August 18.**



Baby Steps

DIAPER PANTRY

840 diaper were given out at July's diaper pantry.

NEXT DIAPER PANTRY

August 10 ~ 10-11:30am

1 bag (40 diapers) per child.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Worship Volunteers, please give the office **any dates in September** which **you will NOT be available** to serve during worship.

After you are scheduled it will be your responsibility to trade with

someone else on the schedule if you are not available to serve that day.

Any articles, events, photos and/or thank you notes you'd like to have printed in the September Newsletter need to be in the office **by Monday, August 19.**

A PASTOR'S "RULES" FOR WORSHIP

Living Lutheran, July 2019



I recently read a list of “20 rules of etiquette for attending worship” shared by a clergyperson (not of my denomination). They were things people needed to do if they wanted to do worship “right”—such as never giving kids snacks; never looking at cell phones; bowing, sitting, standing and kneeling at all the right times; dressing in a certain way, etc. In response, I thought I’d share my own clergy list of etiquette.

1. I assume that, when you walk into church, you feel weighed down by the world. You probably had a hard week at work or failed on your diet or argued again with your spouse or have had it up to here with the kids. I could be wrong, but I assume you need a break. My job is to smile and welcome you. Your “rule” here is simply to walk in the door, if you choose.

2. As our guest of honor, you are in church to be served. This means you do not come to serve God or anyone else. Before you worry that this will make you feel entitled, remember that the gathering commonly called “mass” was renamed “service” by Martin Luther, who said God is the one serving. God is lavishly serving you in word and sacrament. This is not to make you feel

entitled but to make you feel loved and free to love others. (You will know when God puts it on your heart to serve others, prompted by your overflowing love.) So your “rule” here is to try to open your heart to God, who will serve you as you worship and praise God. It’s not really a rule but a good idea. You’ll get more out of things this way.

3. The music is always nicer if you sing along. The prayers are more powerful if you join your voice in the ancient rhythm created by billions of people over thousands of years. You’ll get more out of the sermon if you listen. So your “rule”—let’s call it a suggestion—is to involve yourself in what we call “the work of the people,” which is what “liturgy” literally means. It’s not a requirement, though. If what you need to do is sit in silence, cry, meditate, whatever—have at it.

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS WON'T SAVE
YOU, ME OR ANYONE. SALVATION WAS,
AND IS, A GIFT FROM THE CROSS.

4. Parents and grandparents, we give you all the breaks you need. Jesus loved kids and loves yours. Feed them Cheerios, give them toys—yes, quiet ones would be nice—step out of the sanctuary if you want, utilize the nursery and Sunday-school options, and ask your neighbors for help. Many of us have been there, and you’re doing great. (I can preach with kids in the room. I just get louder!) If they are loud, do your best—but know that we love you and we love them.

5. The table is owned by Jesus Christ. He called you and all people to join in Holy Communion. I will never withhold the sacrament from anyone. (It’s not mine to withhold.) Don’t feel worthy? Well, Jesus fed Judas. It’s not about worthiness; it’s about God’s love for you. Feel better? Good. Get up here and let me put bread in your hand!

6. Ask me anything about worship that you want to understand but know that it all unfolds over time and that we all grow, as we should, over a lifetime.

7. Cell phones are best kept quiet—but hey, pull it out to tweet an interesting sermon note (I do say some tweet-worthy things sometimes). Record, go “live,” spread the gospel in new ways. No rule here either.

8. Wear whatever you want. This is the most irrelevant thing in the history of ever.

9. Your love of God pales in comparison to God’s love of you. If you are a persistent troublemaker, I’ll let you know. But regardless of your culture or background, if you are wounded, broken, anxious, insecure, depressed, or unsure if you even believe in God, you will not be judged by God or our congregation. Bring your authentically human self to the worship service—and see how much God serves you in profound and soul-healing ways.

10. Relax.

Rules and requirements won’t save you, me or anyone. Salvation was, and is, a gift from the cross. If any of us could have earned salvation by being the perfect churchgoer, the cross wouldn’t have been necessary. I assume that we’re all trying our best with what we know. But our trying is nothing compared to God’s love. The mercy flows from God into our hearts.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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