



January 2020 NEWSLETTER

“*For Nothing*
is
impossible
With
God.”

LUKE 1:37

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

Office: 570-568-2254

Cell: 570-850-5730

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

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	2nd term, ends 12/2022
Amber Erb	1st term, ends 12/2022
Kathy Guffey	1st term, ends 12/2021
Jen Sheaffer	1st term, ends 12/2022
Rick Whitesel	1st term, ends 12/2021
Cami Zimmerman	2nd 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

- WED, JAN. 1** **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
OFFICE CLOSED
- WED, JAN. 8** **OAKS**
- SAT, JAN. 11** **BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY**
- TUE, JAN. 14** **PASTOR JUSTIN OFF UNTIL**
JAN. 21
- SUN, JAN. 19** **GIVING STATEMENTS READY**
- WED, JAN. 22** **COUNCIL MEETING**
- MON, JAN. 20** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- SUN, JAN. 26** **SCOUT SUNDAY**



FROM THE PASTOR



Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.” When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.”

Esther 4:10-14

Dear United In Christ,

Stop reading this and go read the rest of the book of Esther.

Alright, did you finish? What did you think? It’s an incredible story, isn’t it? It’s an epic of cunning and inspired persistence as we watch young Esther get thrown from her place of quiet reserve to royal prominence after a campaign by the more-than-slightly-sexist-king-turned-megalomaniac to replace the queen he dismissed with a “beautiful young virgin” (v.2:2). We watch with a feeling of sleaziness as Esther is then entered into his harem, but uses her newfound station to play on the king’s own ego to thwart a genocidal plot by that king’s racist advisor and, in turn, has that advisor hung on the very gallows he built to hang Esther’s cousin out of jealousy! Whew! The folks over at The

Young and the Restless couldn't write a plot with more intrigue or twists and turns! And that's not to mention the names! I mean, King Ahasueres (or Xerxes, depending on your translation), Queen Vashti, Mordecai, Haman son of Hammadetha the Agagite? I mean come on! J.R.R. Tolkien couldn't match these characters!

More than just being a captivating story, though, this story of Esther tells us a great deal about how God is at work in even the most unexpected places. Despite the fact that God is not explicitly mentioned at any point in the story, God's hand is undeniable seen at work in the myriad of instances where seeming coincidence and shrewd positioning rescue God's people. What starts as a tragic tale of a young woman being stripped of her agency for the pleasure of a king quickly becomes the telling of how one well positioned voice of resistance and persistence can turn the tides of silence that would have otherwise led to the extermination of an entire people at the whim of one bad character. It's the story of one brave heroine standing in the face of danger and threat of death to recognize her unique and unexpected position "for just such a time as this" (v.4:14).

As we turn the page to a new year and a new decade, I can't help but think that this might just be our clarion call as well. As we look headlong into 2020 and beyond, we might be intimidated by all that seems to be working around us: diminishing church attendance across the country, the ceding of a public voice to those with other moral and theological compasses, the secularization that we feel as a threat towards obsolescence, a deeply divided culture that has created seemingly irrevocable chasms between neighbors. We might just fear that our places will be lost to a new age of division and relegation. We might have the doubts that Esther herself expresses, doubts that would stop us from boldly living into the world to embrace a quiet role of flying safely under the radar.

But something tells me this is not the whole truth. Sure, the challenges may be real, but so are the opportunities. After all, you have already been through so many such challenges as a community and look where you've landed; from navigating the choppy waters of merging congregations over fifteen years ago to living through decisions that tore communities and families apart, you have charted new and bold courses to define what it means to be in authentic community with one another. In the two and a half years we have been together now, I have grown increasingly confident that this community has a story to be told, a story that needs to be heard. Yours is a story of radical welcome and inclusion, paired with the God-given vulnerability to admit that we don't always have the right answer. It's given you a unique courage to face the unknown and audaciously say "hey, let's give it a shot!" Together, these have carved opportunities to let the Holy Spirit work renewal and vigor into this community in exciting ways.

As we continue to listen to the movement of the Spirit and the calling of God in this place, I am confident that, given its history and track record, this community is well-equipped for what lies ahead. I am encouraged by the bold steps I hear as desires for this community from each of you. I trust that God has equipped this community with the means to be a powerful witness to the world. I am genuinely excited about the possibilities and directions we will be pursuing throughout 2020 and beyond.

Perhaps, United In Christ – perhaps this is the new year we need to see God's mission thrive. Perhaps this is the moment of challenge and opportunity to live the old, old story of God's love for this world.

Perhaps you have been prepared for just such a time as this.

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 text.

PASTOR JUSTIN OFF



Pastor Justin will be taking some time off beginning Tuesday, January 14 and returning on Tuesday, January 21.

If you need pastoral care while he is off, please call the office during office hours, 570-568-2254.

After office hours please call Terri Cromwell on her cell, 570-850-5730. Terri will let the supply pastor know of the need.

MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION



The Social Ministry collects non-perishable food items each month. Your donations get delivered to Mazeppa Manna and HandUP on an alternating basis.

If you are able, please purchase any of the following items and place in the wicker baskets in the Narthex.

Peanut Butter

Sweet Cereal

Instant Mashed Potatoes

Brownie Mix

Sugar (small bag)

Flour (small bag)

Canned Spaghetti Sauce

Noodles

Canned Tuna

Canned Chicken

Chef Boyardee



Baby Steps DIAPER PANTRY

The United In Christ Baby Steps Diaper Pantry was created in October 2016.

Since then, our Diaper Pantry has given out 49,840 diapers!

NEXT DIAPER PANTRY

January 11 ~ 10-11:30am

1 bag (40 diapers) per child.

Newborn to size 6

Baby Steps Diaper Pantry is for families-in-need living within the Milton, Warrior Run, Mifflinburg, and Lewisburg school districts.

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Our Members: Frank Danowsky.

Family and Friends: Matthew Koch, Bill Krause, family and friends of Lucille Harvey, Nancy Danowsky.

**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 6 weeks.



LET US KNOW



Please let us know when you are in the hospital or have an upcoming surgery. Call the church office at 570-568-2254 or Pastor Justin at 610-973-4052 to let us know. Please do not assume that if you tell someone in church that the office or pastor will find out.

Because of confidentiality issues, it's best if you contact Pastor Justin or the church office directly.

JANUARY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Scout Sunday Jan. 26
Altar Guild	S. Keifer	J. Mertz	C. Troxell	C. Zimmerman
Greeter	B. Swartz T. Swartz G. Weiser	K. Noll S. Noll E. Brouse	D. Baker Karen B. S. Keifer	Scouts
Acolyte	E. Danowsky	G. Heckman	K. Swanger	D. Sheaffer
Asst. Minister	S. Bingaman	A. Baker	T. McPherrin	M. Shearer
Lector	M. Hauck	C. Zimmerman	S. Bingaman	Scouts
Comm. Asst.	Ken Baker R. Kling	K. Koch B. Swartz	C. Troxell S. Weiser	Jen Sheaffer D. Shearer M. Baker
Usher	A. Baker K. Guffey E. Brown S. Brown	K. Arndt K. Criswell L. Rabuck M. Rabuck	Ken Baker R. Kling B. Koch K. Koch	Scouts
Guest Rel.	T. McPherrin	M. Mertz	K. Noll	M. Rabuck
Offering Counter	J. Sheaffer K. Guffey	M. Rabuck C. Zimmerman	W. Wirth P. Hauck	M. Shearer C. Shreck
Bread/Wine	W. Wirth	S. Bingaman	R. Baker	C. Zimmerman K. Criswell
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.

MEMBER UPDATES



HAPPY *Anniversary*

TED AND SHIRLEY MCPHERRIN 1/3/76
WALT AND SHERRY BINGAMAN 1/7/89
JIM AND KATHY ARNDT 1/18/92



Happy Birthday

TEENA ZIMMERMAN 1/4
JULIE HAUCK 1/4
CAROL TROXELL 1/5
ALLI ARNDT 1/11
BRANDON WIRTH 1/13
LINDA DANOWSKY 1/15
SHANNA MARTZ 1/16

JOSH MARTZ 1/21
DONNA BYERLY 1/23
LAYLANYA OLDS 1/24
SANDRA BROWN 1/25
WILLARD HAUCK 1/25
MAHALA KEMPER 1/27



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

**The following people have changed their
email addresses. Please update your records.**

Colleen Danowsky - colleendanowsky@gmail.com

Scott A. Danowsky - sdanowsky@gmail.com

Kyle Swanger - kyle.d.swanger@gmail.com



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Wednesday, Jan. 8

10:00 am - Social Hour

11:00 am - Free Bingo with prizes

12:00 pm - Free Lunch

1:00 pm - The Miller Center for
Recreation and Wellness

Come learn about what the Miller Center in Lewisburg
has to offer older adults.



OAKS IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

GROW IN THE SNOW 2020 REGISTRATION FORM

All participants need a signed registration form

Congregation: _____

Youth Grade: _____ or Adult _____ (circle gender) Male Female

Adults are asked to pay the full registration fee (we encourage churches to pay for their leaders). It is requested that adults have their required state clearances as required by law.

Name _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Permission to take part in program: I am interested in the policies, goals, and programs of Camp Mount Luther and the Upper Susquehanna Synod and hereby give consent and give permission to participate in this program. My child may be driven by an insured adult and will be restrained while in the vehicle by a seat belt. Any photos or video recordings taken in which I or my child might appear may be used for promotion of the camp/synod free of any claims. I authorize emergency treatment as necessary in the event that I cannot be contacted immediately, should the need arise. Prescription medicine will be handled by the person designated by a child's parent or legal guardian. Adult Supervisors cannot give other medications or medical treatment, other than that which may be deemed necessary in an emergency and will not be held liable. If my child misbehaves, I authorize the adult supervisor to contact me and I will pick up my child from the activity.

Emergency Phone Number: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Health Insurance Provider _____

Policy/Group Identification Number _____

Known Allergies/Restrictions/Dietary Needs/Special Diet:

Signature (of parent/legal guardian if under 18):

_____ Date _____

*Total registration fee should be paid when you register. Questions?
Contact Camp Mount Luther for more information.*

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



We took the joy of our community on the road to visit and sing carols with some of our members who aren't able to join us on a Sunday morning!



KIDS WORSHIP TAKEOVER



Our hearts are full after the incredible day we had here at United In Christ on Sunday, December 15!

It all began when our youngest students (5th grade and under) shared the gifts God has given them by leading us in worship from the beginning to the end of the entire service!



Troop 600 had a Christmas celebration December 16. The scouts made Christmas cards for Janet Weis Children's Hospital, had an ugly sweater contest, and played some holiday games. Great Job ASPL Jordan Battenberg organizing the celebration.



2019 GIVING STATEMENTS

Statements will be ready for pickup on Sunday, January 19.

Any statement not picked up on
Sunday, January 19 will then be mailed out.

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Worship Volunteers, please give the office **any dates in February** 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 February Newsletter need to be in the office **by Monday, January 20**.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you have a church mailbox, you'll find your 2020 offering envelopes in your mailbox. If you do not have a mailbox, you'll find your 2020 offering envelopes in the fellowship hall. If you do not get offering envelopes, but would like to, please see Terri in the office.

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the cards, thoughts and prayers we received following my fathers passing. This church once again showed it's a loving community.

Sincerely, Shirley and Ted McPherrin

Thank you Kimberly Criswell for making the intricate shapes we needed for the Christmas cards at OAKS Senior Center this month!

~ Terri Cromwell



*Each new year brings us
new opportunities to know Him more,
to walk in faith, and grow by His
grace. May your year be blessed!*

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.