



March 2020 NEWSLETTER



LENT

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

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Kelsey Swanger: Sexton

Nancy Walter: Sexton

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, 10am

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9am to 2pm

UIC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lisa Rabuck - President	1 st term, ends 12/2021
Emma Danowsky - Co President	1 st term, ends 12/2021
Kathy Guffey - Vice President	1 st term, ends 12/2021
Ken Baker - Treasurer	1 st term, ends 12/2020
Cami Zimmerman - Secretary	2 nd term, ends 12/2021
Ken Criswell	2 nd term, ends 12/2022
Charlie Dinsmore	2 nd term, ends 12/2021
Amber Erb	1 st term, ends 12/2022
Jen Sheaffer	1 st term, ends 12/2022

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

SUN, MAR. 1

LENT BEGINS

TUE, MAR. 2

BOY SCOUT WENDY'S FUNDRAISER

WED, MAR. 4

BOOK STUDY BEGINS

WED, MAR. 11

OAKS SENIOR CENTER

SAT, MAR. 14

BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY

YOUTH TURKEY WAFFLE DINNER

SUN, MAR. 15

LAY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AT UIC

TUE, MAR. 17

COUNCIL MEETING

SAT, MAR. 21

SCOUT SPAGHETTI DINNER

MON, MAR. 23

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUN, MAR. 29

EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE

SUN, APR. 5

PALM SUNDAY

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

THU, APR. 9

MAUNDY THURSDAY

FRI, APR. 10

GOOD FRIDAY

SAT, APR. 11

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

SUN, APR. 12

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

EASTER BREAKFAST

FROM THE PASTOR



Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:3-11

Dear United In Christ,

I will readily admit that I am a quintessential over-packer. Whether I'm going away for a week or just one night, I always have to make sure I have an extra set of clothes, a few extra pairs of socks, and maybe another t-shirt or two, you know, "just in case." I make sure that there's always enough space in my bag for my book, my iPad, and even a game or two, just so that I have something to do if there's some downtime wherever I'm going. When all is said and done, by the time I'm actually packed up and ready to head towards the destination, my bag is so weighed down that just getting it out to the car is its own journey!

Thinking about it, though, that might just be the reason why I find this season of Lent so daunting. As we journey into these

forty days through the wilderness together, we are reminded that, in this voyage in this season of genuine repentance we might just be called to leave some things behind. These days of Lent are meant as a time for us to take honest stock of what all we've packed away to see that there might just be some things that don't belong in our bags. And I don't mean just the chocolate or soda or beer we've committed to staying away from until Easter. I'm talking about the often more insidious things – things that we didn't even know we packed – that rob us of living fully into the life and love to which God has called us *and* that stop us from seeing our neighbors as worthy of that same God's love.

See, in this Lenten journey, in seeking repentance and taking stock of the ways we have failed to live fully into our calling as disciples, we might just find that there are some systems, policies, practices, or assumptions that we need to die to along the way. As we seek to follow the path of discipleship that Jesus paved for us, a path predicated on a love for God and a love for neighbor, we may find that the systems of racism, sexism, homophobia, and xenophobia that have for so long told us how to see our neighbors have snuck into the bags we've packed, but really need to be left behind in the wilderness. We may find that we need to die to the grasps they hold on us to walk in the new path of repentance that this season offers.

I'll be honest, UIC, this may be intimidating work, but rest assured: it is the very work to which we have been called and the work for which we have been commissioned. Paul describes it well in his letter to the Romans above. In each of our baptisms, he says, we have been united to both the death *and* resurrection of Jesus Christ. This means that we have been buried, therefore, with him by baptism; our old selves – those parts that participate in the death-dealing systems of the world – have been crucified with Christ so that we may no longer be enslaved to such sin and brokenness. In turn, we are raised to new life in Jesus' resurrection so that we also may consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ.

In this call, on this journey, parts of us might just die here in the wilderness – and that’s okay. Joined with Christ, we can bear the hope of finding a new way forward, a path shown for us in the life-giving ways Jesus had to offer. Joined together with Christ, we know that we are not alone on this journey. As we embrace this wilderness and its difficult and deadly terrain together this Lent, I hope that you will join us for the challenging road ahead. I hope you will join us for our book study this Lent as we walk with Rev. Lenny Duncan in *Dear Church* to hear the broken spaces of repentance we need to seek and the sinful practices to which we need to die in order to truly and genuinely greet the neighbors around us whom the Church has historically failed on the basis of race, sexuality, or socioeconomics. I hope you will join us in the oasis worship to hear the unfolding love of God delivered to rescue us from such ways of brokenness and find respite in the gifts of God out poured out for you. I hope you will find strength and courage for this journey of repentance to find the hope of a new way forward in God’s resurrection love for the sake of this world.

I hope, United In Christ, that you know how grateful I am for your accompaniment on this difficult Lenten journey. Together, I trust that we can head into this wilderness together, not undaunted, but rather encouraged by the work of our shared calling. Together, I know that we can leave some baggage behind and greet the joy of the Easter dawn that waits at this journey’s end. Now, let’s get going.

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".

STEWARD YOUR SOUL FOR A FULLER LIFE

Jesus teaches, “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?” –Mark 8:36, 37 (NIV)

Instead of the superficial “How’s it going?” a wise colleague asks friends, “How is your soul?”

The question requires effort. To answer it I must plunge deep inside -- below the constantly churning waters of everyday joys, hopes, ambitions, desires, anxieties and disappointments. These are so strong, especially our desires and ambitions, that if we are not careful they can absorb all our time and energy.

Jesus repeatedly warns us not to let our desires and our worries engulf us, keeping us from paying attention to the soul. Our soul is where we connect with God, the source of our greatest strength and truest identity. Without attention, our soul can dry up like a plant without water. As with all the treasures God has given us, we must be stewards of our souls.

The mystics of old and modern prophets (such as Richard Rohr, Marjorie Thompson or Howard Thurman) teach us to employ prayer, holy silence, and other spiritual disciplines to tend our souls and keep worldly worries and desires from overwhelming us.

This month, begin a daily practice of caring for your soul. You might begin with five minutes of spoken prayer followed by five minutes of silence. Or reflect deeply on a Scripture passage. Or try prayerful yoga. (Your pastor might be able to give you some resources or ideas.)

With a little practice and attention, you can become stronger, more centered and more spiritually resilient. How is your soul?

-Rob Blezard

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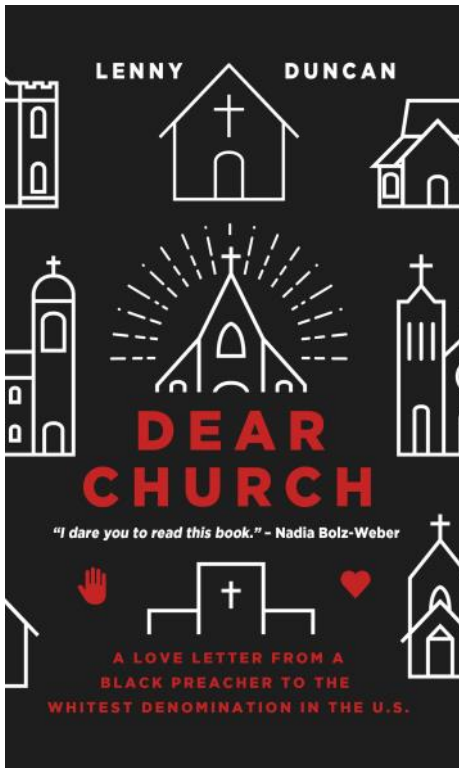
“DEAR CHURCH” BOOK STUDY

As we once again make our way into the coming Lenten season, a time of repentance and deep reflection, we will be starting a new book study here at UIC. Using The Rev. Lenny Duncan’s book, *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US*, we will encounter moving conversations around the role and tension of race within our own denomination that is 96% white. This challenging study will call us to encounter and seek repentance for the ways in which we participate in the systemic sin of racism, even when we don’t realize our own roles. There may be times when we are faced with our own discomfort and hesitation, but together, even in the midst of our own sense of conviction, we will hear voices of truth-telling to seek new paths of good news and reconciliation with our neighbors of color, even within the Church.

We hope you can join us for this meaningful and world-shaping study. This study provides a critically important voice for us as we seek to be the Church today and live into the diverse world God has gifted to us. We will gather weekly starting on **Wednesday, March 4th at 6pm** and continuing throughout the season of Lent. Copies of the book are \$15 each, but assistance is available if the purchase would prevent participation. Please see the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall to add your name to the list! If you have any questions, please see Pr. Justin.

*All are welcome and we hope you will join us
for this important work!*

Come and see!



From the publisher: Lenny Duncan is the unlikeliest of pastors. Formerly incarcerated, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make all the headlines, but Duncan sees something else at work—drawing a direct line between the church's lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. The problems the ELCA faces are theological, not sociological. But so are the answers.

Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, *Dear Church* offers a bold new vision for the future of Duncan's denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. *Dear Church* rejects the narrative of church decline and calls everyone—leaders and laity alike—to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice.

It is time for the church to rise up, dust itself off, and take on forces of this world that act against God: whiteness, misogyny, nationalism, homophobia, and economic injustice. Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus.

LAY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

UIC is hosting the Buffalo Valley Conference Lay School of Theology from 2-5:30pm on Sunday, March 15.

It will feature workshops and educational opportunities surrounding scripture, sacraments, and current events. Each workshop session will feature four workshops and there will be two time slots. Between sessions, Holden Evening Prayer will be done.

The conference extends an invitation to all to participate in this day of learning and conversation. Continuing Ed contact hours available for Authorized Lay Worship Leaders. You may direct further inquiries to Rev. John Yost, 570-837-9232, prjohnyost@gmail.com. Freewill offering will be collected for refreshment costs. Advanced registration is helpful but not necessary. Call 570-837-9232 or 570-524- 9778.



Baby Steps DIAPER PANTRY

NEXT DIAPER PANTRY

March 14 ~ 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.



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Wednesday, March 11

10:00 am - Social Hour

11:00 am - Free Bingo with prizes

12:00 pm - Free Lunch

1:00 pm - Lifeline Presentation

Continue living in the comfort of your own home!



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

MARCH WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

	Mar. 1	Mar. 8	Mar. 15	Mar. 22	Mar. 29
Altar Guild	K. Guffey	S. Keifer	J. Mertz	C. Troxell	C. Zimmerman
Greeter	Ken B.	M. Ketchem	B. Swartz	B. Keifer	K. Noll
	R. Baker	R. Whitesel	T. Swartz	S. Keifer	S. Noll
	G. Weiser	P. Swinehart	E. Brouse	K. Guffey	L. Danowsky
Acolyte	K. Swanger	L. Warren-Lee	E. Danowsky	G. Heckman	D. Sheaffer
Asst. Minister	M. Shearer	B. Swartz	C. Zimmerman	A. Baker	S. Bingaman
Lector	S. Keifer	T. McPherrin	J. Mertz	M. Shearer	B. Swartz
Comm. Asst.	K. Koch	K. Swanger	Jen Sheaffer	S. Danowsky	S. Keifer
	D. Shearer	C. Troxell	S. Weiser	D. Baker	W. Wirth
Usher	B. Koch	Jen Sheaffer	K. Criswell	E. Brown	E. Brouse
	K. Koch	K. Arndt	J. Mertz	S. Brown	A. Baker
	R. Kling	L. Rabuck	S. McPherrin	T. Swartz	Ken B.
	L. Shearer	M. Rabuck	D. Shearer	W. Wirth	L. Caris
Guest Rel.	T. McPherrin	M. Rabuck	K. Noll	M. Rabuck	B. Troxell
Offering Counter	M. Rabuck	J. Sheaffer	M. Shearer	M. Rabuck	W. Wirth
	C. Zimmerman	K. Guffey	C. Shreck	C. Zimmerman	P. Hauck
Wine <small>(no bread)</small>	S. Noll	J. Sheaffer	M. Shearer	T. Snyder	P. Swinehart
Social Hour	S - Z	A - D	E - K	L - R	S - Z

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.

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Our Members: Frank Danowsky, Marie Tanner, Sonja Noll.

Family and Friends: Greg Seibert, George Guffey, Harold Snyder, family and friends of Bill Krause, Colette Richards, Dick Durling, Carlie Shaffer and baby Abi, Pat Thomas.



**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.

MEMBER UPDATES



FRANK AND BERTIE DANOWSKY 3/12/67

ALLEN AND KATHY LOSS 3/16/01

JEFF AND DONNA BYERLY 3/18/15



Happy Birthday

ROB TROXELL 3/1

KRISTA WIRTH 3/2

IRENE STARK 3/9

WADE COOLEY 3/9

MICHAEL KETCHEM 3/15

GRACE YOST 3/15

GLEN VAN DYKE 3/18

ALLYSSA STARK 3/26

CHAD CROMWELL 3/29



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



EASTER FLOWERS

Easter flowers serve as a beautiful reminder that Easter is a time for rejoicing and celebrating.

Order forms will be in the Fellowship Hall soon!

**DEADLINE
SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

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

YOUTH AND FAMILY

TURKEY WAFFLE DINNER

Signup sheets are in the Fellowship Hall on the Announcements Bulletin Board for items needed for this year's turkey waffle dinner. Please check it out.

There are also extra flyers hanging on the bulletin board if you would like to take one and hang it somewhere in the community to help us spread the word about the dinner!

Also, please share the Facebook Event with your friends.

Together we can make this annual fundraiser a success!

TURKEY AND WAFFLE DINNER



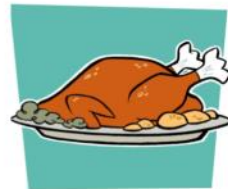
We'll be serving mashed potatoes and waffles with turkey and gravy, corn, applesauce, drinks and an assortment of cakes and pies for dessert.

Saturday, March 14, 4-6:30 p.m.

\$8 Adults

\$4 Children 12-6

Children under 6 Free



Help send UIC Youth to CML and to the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Take-outs are available!

NEW UIC JUNIOR GROUP

As we seek to create community for all of our students here at UIC, this month we will be launching a new opportunity for gathering and faith formation! Beginning on **Sunday, March 8th at 5:00pm** we will welcome our students in 4th-6th grade for a time of fun and faith formation! This time with our Junior Group will be led by the members of our Youth Group (grades 7-12) with additional adult chaperones present as well. We will plan for our Junior Group to continue meeting every other Sunday from 5pm-6pm through the Spring as we try this new opportunity.

Mark your calendars now for the first two gatherings of Junior Group on March 8th and March 22nd. If you have a student who would like to be a part of this Junior Group, please reach out to Pastor Justin!

Boy Scout Troop #600 Wendy's Fundraiser

When: **Tuesday, March 2 5:00pm - 8:00pm**

Where: **Wendy's in Lewisburg**



Wendy's will donate 10% of all sales.

Please help support the Boy Scout Troop that meets here at UIC!

BOY SCOUT TROOP 600

SPAGHETTI DINNER

March 21 ~ 4pm-7pm



\$8 Adults

\$5 Children 6-12yrs.

Children under 6 Free

Take-outs are available!

Social Ministry

Thank you to each of you that helped make Souper Bowl Sunday a success! You donated over 1100 food items which will be used for Panther Packs. You gave \$192 which will be used to buy food for Community Meals.

Thank you so much for your generosity and giving!



**The winners
were the
Kansas City
Chiefs!**



**SAN
FRANCISCO
49ERS**



VS



**KANSAS
CITY
CHIEFS**

**Food: 220
Money: \$15**

**Food: 693
Money: \$87**

We also received an additional \$90 for Souper Bowl of Caring.

VALENTINE GIFTS



\$140 was given in monetary donations and 13 gift cards were also donated. We split them evenly between our 4 members; Brandon Wirth (military), Amy Danowsky (college), Alli Arndt (college), and Dalton Shearer (college).

Thank you for helping us bless our members that are in the military and away at college.

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

Canned Spaghetti Sauce

Sweet Cereal

Noodles

Instant Mashed Potatoes

Canned Tuna

Brownie Mix

Canned Chicken

Sugar (small bag)

Chef Boyardee

Flour (small bag)



Upper Susquehanna Synod

God's work. Our hands.

Saturday, Mar. 21 - Weaving Memories and Making Stories

“Reframing, Reclaiming and Proclaiming With Art” Led by Rev. Lori Kochanski at Susquehanna University, the day will include formal presentation, conversation and prayer. Participants will also practice using art in the work of spiritual formation. In particular, learning more about storytelling and weaving. Participants will need to bring 1-3 items of clothing that they no longer wear, but they keep because the item has sentimental value. This clothing will be used in a piece of woven art. This is an inter-generational program and is suitable for adults and confirmation age youth who are 13 or older. Registration will be available on the USS website and is limited to 36, so register early. Pastor Lori Kochanski is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), an artist and a spiritual director. Pastor Kochanski currently lives in Albany where she has a fiber arts studio called “The Riparian Zone” (riparianzonestudio.com).

Saturday, Mar. 21 - Faith, Hope & Love

St. Paul Lutheran Church - 910 Marne Hwy, Hainesport NJ

Building Safer and More Welcoming Congregations for LGBTQ+ Youth The subtitle says it all: this is a day to help equip congregations around issues of safety and welcome for LGBTQ+ youth! This is an event for Senior High Youth, Pastors, Youth Leaders, Parents, and other Congregational Leaders. Faith, Hope & Love 2020 will be held March 21, 2020, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hainesport, NJ. The cost: \$20 (Scholarships available).

For more information, visit https://1b825a80-a708-400a-b161-63a929d4ef02.filesusr.com/ugd/6a8946_c2c0ea425b0346f5b184d4a7d8fc1c94.pdf



CHURCH COMMUNITY UPCOMING EVENTS

Here's what's happening within our district.

**Easter Candy Sales - Through March and beginning of April
Christ's United Lutheran - 13765 Old Turnpike Rd, Millmont**

Chocolate covered Peanut Butter and Coconut Cream Eggs: \$1 each or \$5 for a tray of 6 eggs. Chocolate covered Pretzels: \$2.50 per bag. Place order by Sunday at noon for next day pick-up. Pick-ups are at 7:30pm on Monday March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6. Call the church office at 570-716-4336 to place your order.

Lenten Breakfasts - Through March - 8am

Christ's United Lutheran - 13765 Old Turnpike Rd, Millmont

Four Bells invites everyone to attend their annual non-denominational Lenten breakfasts. Breakfast begins at 8am and each meal will have a guest speaker.

Saturday, Mar. 7 - Community Meal - 11am-12:30pm

1st Evangelical Lutheran Church - 404 Market Street, Mifflinburg
Every 1st Saturday of the month

Sunday, Mar. 22 - Concert Choir - 3pm

First Baptist Church - 51 South 3rd Street, Lewisburg

Inaugural Concert from Mansfield University will be performing at 1st Baptist. Free admission, donations accepted. Dr. Peggy Dettwiler, Conductor.

Thursday, Mar. 26 - Community Meal - 4:30-6pm

St. John's Delaware Run - 6590 Musser Lane, Watsonstown
Every 4th Thursday of the month

IMPORTANT LINKS



For easy access, bookmark these pages on your computer or add the page to your tablet or smartphone's home screen.

UIC's website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net

Newsletter Archive: Read current and past newsletters.
www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/newsletter

Church Calendar: Stay up-to-date on everything that's happening at UIC and Sunday's Worship Volunteers are listed each week under each "worship" event.
www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/calendar

Sermons: Listen to a sermon you may have missed or just listen to it again and see the readings for that Sunday.
www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/sermons

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Worship Volunteers, please give the office **any dates in March** 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 March Newsletter need to be in the office **by Monday, February 23.**

THANK YOU

Dear Congregation of United In Christ Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for your very generous donation of many bags of food to the Panther Packs Ministry at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church. This is the fifth year that Panther Packs Ministry has prepared nutritious weekend meals for students at the Milton Elementary Schools. Close to 350 students continue to be served by this ministry because of the kindness of folks like you. Thank you again for your donation. God's work, done God's way, will never lack God's supply.

Sincerely,
Mary Richie
Treasurer



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.