

**United In Christ**



**Lutheran Church**

---

**2019**

**Bulletin of Annual Reports**

## 2020 Congregational Council

Ken Baker, *treasurer*

Ken Criswell

Emma Danowsky†, *co-president*

Charles Dinsmore

Amber Erb

Kathy Guffey, *vice president*

Lisa Rabuck, *president*

Jen Sheaffer

Rick Whitesel

Cami Zimmerman, *secretary*

\* *denotes council member in their second term*

† *denotes youth council member*

## Pastor's Report

Dear United In Christ,

Can you feel it? There's something in the air here at United In Christ. It's been building all year. I can feel a dramatic sense of anticipation at hand that, to me, seems like it's about to burst! The past year has been *full* of moments when it seems that God has carved new ways forward for us as a congregation and community. It has felt as if the Holy Spirit has been paving a trail for us to set out on into God's shared future and I couldn't be more excited about it! From what I've seen, this past year has reinforced so many truths about what excites me in this community. 2019 has been be a grand exhibition of all that this community is about and what this community can accomplish for the sake of living out it's witness into the world.

So what am I talking about? Well, for starters, I'm talking about the fact that no matter what seeming curveball or outlandish idea comes your way, you continue to impress me with your commitment to being a community that genuinely desires to gather *together*. This past year, you have stepped up and stepped out to be a visible community in so many cool and exciting ways! First, as we once again encountered last January, and again in December, you are a community so grounded in worship that to miss it for the sake of snow is inconceivable! Given multiple Sundays of inclement weather in 2019, you continued to gather in digital spaces (*and used those spaces effectively*) to create community when even at a physical distance from one another. This included, for the first time, having a concurrent in-house worship service with a live-streamed video being broadcast to those in the safety of their homes! In fact, you have used



*UIC member, Wade, enjoys Snow Day Worship from the comfort of home with jammies and waffles! – 1/20/19*



these digital spaces so well that our service from last January has had over 430 views (now whether or not they watched the *whole* service is a different story).

But even beyond worship, this year you also demonstrated your earnest appreciation for one another by taking the time to gather as community in new spaces beyond the church. In March, over *thirty* people from UIC gathered together to simply go bowling as a group over in Milton! Later in August, over *sixty* of us got together at R.B. Winter State Park, just for the sake of enjoying one another's company surrounded by the joy and fun of God's creation! Last Fall, we even braved the chilly changing seasons to get together and tackle the Corn Maze at Ard's Farm! Over and over, you demonstrated the strength of God's Spirit moving among God's people. As a community gathered together in these visible spaces, you shined a light of what joy-filled unity can be for our world and in our time!



*UIC at Imperial Lanes for Rock & Bowl – 3/8/19*

Yet, even with all of that, your sense of community pushed the boundaries to explore new ways of gathering with the neighbors around us. This past year, we even stepped out from our spaces to seek being community in new ways with new neighbors in our area. In November, we gathered to give thanks to God for the communities of faith between the Twin Churches.



*Members gather across the street at St. Peter's UCC as part of our joint service celebrating 200 years of worship on the hill! – 11/17/19*

Gathering with our neighbors at St. Peter's UCC, we worshiped together to celebrate 200 years of worship here on the hill! Then, again, this past December you embraced a new formation of community as we held our first joint "Blue Christmas" service with the faith community at Saint Paul's UCC in West Milton. This service gave us the opportunity to recognize and create space for the fact

that the holiday season is not always one of comfort and joy, particularly for those who mourn the loss of loved ones or are faced with complicated and painful relationships during the holidays. Together, we stepped out from our space to create a new community of meaning making as we honored the difficulties of the season at Saint Paul's.



Not only was it a blessing for us to be welcomed in new places this year, but as we continue seeking to be a community of faith present for the world around us, we also had the opportunity to welcome others into our own space over the course of the year. In August, we hosted the inaugural Buffalo Valley Conference Lay Gathering here at UIC. This gathering was a product of decisions made at June's Synod Assembly and served as the first opportunity for the members of many ELCA congregations in our area to come together and discern new ways of being Church together in our territory. Due to its initial success, this group has continued to meet quarterly and has some great plans in place for joint ministry efforts across our region. Additionally, this past December we had the privilege of hosting a community vigil for the victims of the Sandy Hook School shooting seven years ago. As we gathered together with members of our surrounding community, we engaged in the somber, but sacred work of remembering and honoring the victims of that tragic shooting. By welcoming community members, we shared with them the gifts of comfort and sacredly held grief with which we, as a community of faith, have been equipped.



*Twenty-seven candles lit in memory of the twenty-seven victims of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary with backpacks collected for local area students during the Sandy Hook Vigil – 12/3/19*

Yet, for all of these ways of *being* community, what continues to impress me more and more here at UIC are the ways in which you continue to *use* those communities for the sake of building God's kingdom and reaching out to our neighbors in wonderful and life-giving ways. I



*UIC youth and chaperones help clean out UIC's sponsored cabin at Camp Mount Luther before campers arrive for the summer – 5/19/19*

saw it again this year as you worked to feed the hungry in our midst through the efforts of Harvest Home Sunday and the ongoing support of area food-pantries. I saw you give voice to those same hungry by setting your feet into motion during the annual CROP Walk, which additionally helped raise funds to meet the needs of those around us. I saw you engage in multiple days of service over the year to care for the ministry of Camp Mount Luther by going and cleaning cabins and clearing landscaping so that countless students from across the state may find their *own* sense of community grounded in God's love through camp!





This year, your continued commitment to mission and service even took on new forms as you pioneered new avenues of advocacy and service for the sake of many neighbors whom we may never meet. For example, last May I had the joy of accompanying Ruby Baker on a trip to Harrisburg for the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania’s (LAMPa) sponsored Lutheran Advocacy Day at the state capitol. The day was full of learning opportunities and training events that equipped us to later go meet with the office of state representatives to encourage legislation on important food funding bills that creatively benefited both local farming operations while also finding ways to feed the hungry in our counties. In this way, we were able to put our faith into action in the context of our larger world in order to faithfully lift up the neighbors in our midst!



*Pr. Justin and UIC member, Ruby, at the capitol building for the Lutheran Advocacy Day in Harrisburg – 5/20/19*

This year also saw the return of a well-established tradition of service at UIC with this past July’s week-long service trip to Buffalo, NY. Sending a group of six folks to the city, our crew engaged in a myriad of service opportunities for the residents there.



*UIC crew of Walt, Sherry, Ed, Pr. Justin & Amber after a work day with Habitat for Humanity and w/ Pr. Jeremiah after their 3-mile Burrito Project walk.*

They travelled the city filling “tiny libraries” maintained by a network of community churches. They spent two days working on homes in the city with Habitat for Humanity that will go to help lift those caught in economic insecurity out of its vicious cycles. In fact, the house our team worked on is being turned over to its new owner this very month! Perhaps most meaningfully, however, they spent half a day working with our host congregation, Parkside Lutheran Church, by purchasing the ingredients for, cooking, packaging, and then ultimately distributing over 100 burritos as part of a local “Burrito Project.” The project saw this team then walk through the streets of the city and set up a base at the local bus terminal to feed *and* walk alongside those residents experiencing homelessness. This experience not only eye-opening for our team, but it allowed us to join in genuine community with individuals who they may otherwise never have had the opportunity to encounter over the simple things of food and hot coffee. Incredibly, the trip was made possible by the funds

received in memory of Lisane Snyder after her passing, allowing her legacy of care for those around her to live on. In all, the week was a wonderful display of the values of this community to be with and serve *all* the neighbors around us.



Undoubtedly, 2019 was a full display of your values of mission and service grounded in God’s love here at UIC. Yet, just as exciting as seeing these long-held values take on fresh forms



*Students help package up comfort bags donated to Children and Youth for our neighbors in difficult times during – 7/8/19*

is the way that you have pioneered new avenues of community this past year. Nowhere has this been on better display than in your whole-hearted embrace of our new “Faith and Fun” programming for our students. It all started last summer when we introduced our “Faith and Fun Days” series. This was an opportunity for our younger students to gather together over five days across the summer for faith formation through fun, education, music, crafts, and



*Faith and Fun Day students monkeying around at Milton State Park – 7/22/19*

more! Each day we built upon the story of the Good Samaritan and learned about who our neighbors are around us. Then, we took our whole crew out into our communities to actually meet our neighbors by going to a different local playground each session! On the whole, our program was a wonderful success that gave us the opportunity to engage with almost every UIC student from pre-k through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and many of their friends!

But it turns out that the joy of Faith and Fun could not be contained to just one summer! Seizing on the momentum of these days, last Fall we piloted a new “Faith and Fun Worship” service! This service was designed to bring elements of our traditional Sunday School faith



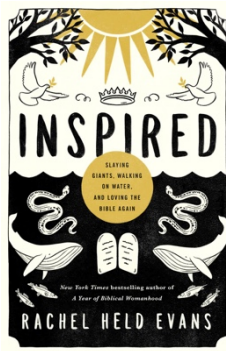
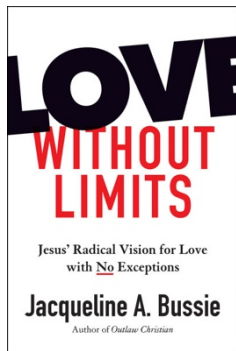
*Faith and Fun Worship in action on Reformation Sunday – 10/26/19*

formation *into* our worship time and space. Each service brings with it multiple opportunities for our students to hear and reflect on the good news of God’s love present in the lesson for the day by reinforcing it through activities, objects, and interactions! As we seek to maintain these opportunities on a near-monthly basis, it is so encouraging to see our members not only welcome, but thrive in this student-driven service. There can be little doubt that the Spirit is on a whirlwind journey in these services! It has been an absolute

privilege seeing you embrace this faithful experiment that reflects your priority of best serving our students through this new service. And, as for me, these services have quickly become one of my favorite parts of ministry in this community! I’m personally grateful for the ways you equip and journey with these students!



As if your commitment to supporting our students with these new avenues of ministry weren't enough to show your hope for the future, this past year put on display all the ways in which you remain committed to the future of God's ministry through this community. Your commitment was first made readily apparent in the ways you came out in full force for our multiple book studies this year. Averaging well over twenty people on any given night, you showed that you are passionate about the ways God continues to move among us by taking the



time to earnestly listen for God's continued voice. As we dove into Jacqueline Bussie's *Love Without Limits*, we heard how Jesus widened the assumed bounds of God's love to embrace those never before thought worthy of God's love. Together you embraced the challenging call to consider how God continues to widen the bounds of that love today. Later in Fall, we gathered around Rachel Held Evans' *Inspired* to consider how we, as Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, can most responsibly attend to and claim the

heritage that scripture has given us with the myriad of genres, styles, authors, and purposes found in the pages of the Bible. These studies served as incredible opportunities for questions and reflections on our faith and showed how seriously this community takes the call to discipleship that Jesus sets before us as we lean into the future!

At the same time, the deep intrinsic work of these studies was matched with an equal dedication to the future of our physical space this past year. Following the challenge we set at the November Congregational Meeting of 2018, this year you came through and completed a \$15,000 project to renovate our Fellowship Hall. The dedication and effort you exhibited throughout this process was nothing less than astounding and spoke volumes about the ways in which you are committed to the future of this place. Through the offering of your time, talents, and financial resources, you managed to strip the room of outdated infrastructure, paint a fresh look into the space, and bring in a new floor that will sustainably last long into the years ahead. As a result, you have created a magnificent space for building and strengthening genuine community here at UIC! It's a space that now authentically reflects the innate giftedness of this congregation to come together in joy to become a community united in Christ.



*A brief snapshot of the blood, sweat, tears and laughter that went into renovating our Fellowship Hall.*





Even while making this physical investment in our shared future, this past year you took the time to hear what God's call into that future may look like. After a year of working together, the UIC Vision Team presented a short-term strategic plan to the congregational council titled "Vision 2020" that now serves as a resource to guide our focus and investment as a congregation



*UIC members gather for the first of our Cottage Visits at the home of Ken Criswell – 11/8/19*

in the near future. Taking seriously the gifts with which God has equipped this community and the passions that are held here, "Vision 2020" will enable our leadership to be the best stewards of this congregation and God's plan for it in the years ahead. At the same time, you showed your shared commitment to that vision during our first ever Cottage Visits this past Fall. Gathering together in small groups, you spent valuable time heeding God's call for this congregation and faithfully considering the paths of discipleship that we set out

upon in this life together. I hope that you came away as encouraged and energized as I did from this intentional time together! These visits gave me great hope about all that is to come for this community!

Now can you feel it, United In Christ? Can you feel God's Spirit stirring up this community? I am ecstatic to report that this past year has been a wonderful exhibition of how God continues to move among this community. You have shown your continued commitment to one another as community that quickly grows into family; you have shown your commitment to lifting up the neighbors around us through continued support and service; you have shown your commitment to the ongoing mission of God that calls us into a future full of new opportunities and challenges. Walking with you this past year as your pastor has left me feeling more excited than ever about what God is up to here at UIC. I hope that you have similarly felt that excitement greeting you in our shared life together. And if, like me, 2019 excited you – if hearing all of these movements again gets you as energized as it does me – then get ready. For all that 2019 had to offer, I am convinced that 2020 will see that energy unleashed. There's something holy in the air and I couldn't be more thrilled by it.

So, United In Christ – what's next?

Yours, united in Christ,





## United In Christ Lives in Transition

### 2019 Baptisms

Ella Jo Wondoloski	02/03/19	John Heckman	05/12/19
--------------------	----------	--------------	----------

### 2019 New Members

Sherry Bingaman	Brian Heckman
Donna Byerly	Jolynn Heckman
Jeff Byerly	Gabrielah Heckman

### 2019 Funerals

Nelson Minium	d. 01/12/19	Ginny Criswell	d. 08/23/19
Mel Baker, Jr.	d. 08/10/19		

---

## Property Committee Report

### *Maintenance Items Completed in 2019:*

1. Parking Lot restriping.
2. LED lighting upgrades - As current lighting fails, have been upgrading to LED
3. Boss Roofing made 2nd roof repair to men's room roof. Current rubber roof membrane is failing and should be replaced in near future. Boss quoted \$34,000. Need additional competitive quotes.
4. Elevator Inspection - Passed hydraulic test. Replaced batteries in emergency alarm & light.
5. Shared \$270 cost of highlift with St Peters to remove birds nest from downspout by church office.
6. Removed overgrown shrubbery and railroad ties from front of SS addition, and planted lawn.
7. Weeded and mulched shrubbery / flowers, and removed room dividers from Fellowship Hall.

### *Projects Completed in 2019:*

1. Fellowship Hall flooring replacement & repainting - \$15,000. Flooring has been discontinued. Purchased remaining stock for \$423.00 for maintenance and for Narthex and Elevator Hallway.
2. Installed air conditioner / heat pump in Fellowship Hall - \$3,200 anonymous donation. Should consider 2nd unit for high temperature days.



*Planned Projects for 2020:*

1. Landscaping Replacement - Received 2 bids to replace railroad ties with architecture stones, plant lawn, and replace shrubbery. Low bid was \$20,000. Have \$10,000 anonymous donation.
2. Paint and install vinyl floor in Narthex and hallway to elevator. Have flooring on hand.
3. Repair SS Addition roof gutters
4. Restore Brick Road Sign
5. Install interior & exterior signage
6. Complete parking lot lighting
7. Replace water heater timer
8. Replace vestibule heat timer
9. Replace missing siding on elevator tower
10. Replace toilets as needed

*Future Projects to Consider*

1. Increase door glass size - 3 doors - Fellowship Hall, 2 doors to Office Hallway
2. Steeple Clean / Repair
3. Polish / Seal Basement Floor
4. Paint Exterior Woodwork
5. Paint Interior Walls / Woodwork
6. Remodel Kitchen
7. Paint heater covers in Fellowship Hall. Received bid for \$400 - \$500.

*Submitted by Ken Criswell*

---

## **Worship and Music Committee Report**

Throughout 2019, the Worship and Music Committee and Altar Guild continued the practice of changing our sanctuary to reflect the themes and images of the changing church seasons. From changing to colors of the paraments on the altar, to setting up the tomb for Holy Week and Easter. Through Lent we stepped deeper into the season with the changing cloth on the cross and with the presence of ashes in the baptismal font.

We also did a fair amount of experimenting in worship this year. In May, we welcomed members of the Milton Legion for a service that remembered those who gave their lives in service to our country. In September and October, we tried our first "Faith and Fun Sundays" to get our kids totally involved throughout worship. Throughout the month of October, we also experimented with a new format of using the projector to display the words for worship for people to follow without the need of a bulletin. Finally, in November, we got to try worship in *two* spaces during our joint worship service with our neighbors across the street at St. Peter's.

*Submitted by Sharon Weiser and Pastor Justin*

---



**Finance/Audit Committee Report** - *Addendum coming 2/23.*

---

**Social Ministry Report**

The Social Ministry Committee collected canned goods and monetary donations for the SOUPer Bowl totaling \$108 in cash and 450 individual food items donated to the Milton “Panther Packs” student food program. We also sent a total of \$85 worth of gift cards to our college student and military personnel in the month of February. There is an ongoing food collection which is sent out monthly to local food banks. In June, we helped sponsor a week of the summer “Lunch and Learn” program by packing and delivering 30 lunches to students. In August, 40 backpacks and tons of school supplies were collected through the congregation and donated to Milton School District. This collection also took place with the joint “Faith and Fun Days” project of collecting donations to fill and donate 30 comfort bags to Children and Youth to give to children when they intervene. In October, we had 8 members take part in the Lewisburg CROP Walk and then 18 join the St. John’s, Potts Grove, hay ride (which had 185 total people attend). In December, several members of the church purchased Christmas gifts for certain residents of Country Comfort Alternative Living in New Columbia. Funds from the budget were also used to purchase personal care items for the residents as well.

*Submitted by Annette Baker and Kathy Guffey*

---

**Stewardship Team Report**

In 2019, we held our first earnest conversations surrounding holistic stewardship here at UIC in a number of years. To do so, we held a series of Cottage Visits throughout the Fall where people could gather in informal settings to hear from the congregational leadership and have conversations guided by the insights and questions of those in attendance. At these meetings, we were able to present a narrative budget that tells the story of what is done through the financial resources of this congregation. We also were able to engage in conversations about our calling as a congregation, defining just what it is that keeps us coming back to the life of this church. At the same time, we were able to name some of the challenges we have experienced in the last year or so, but then we engaged in conversations of discipleship about *how* we can set out in confidence and hope to tackle those challenges as God’s people. Each session was a *wonderful* opportunity to not only learn, but to share our joys and hopes about our church.

In fact, our Cottage Visits were so life-giving that we intend to hold them again in 2020. To do so, we are looking for members who would be willing and interested in assisting in the setup of these visits. If you have a heart for what God is up to here at UIC and are energized by the possibilities of what lies ahead, then this would be the team for you! Please let me know if you would be interested in serving on the Stewardship Team this year!

*Submitted by Pr. Justin*

---





## Office Administrator's Report

2019 was another busy year at United In Christ. I am so very grateful to be able to serve God through this position at UIC. One of the biggest projects for me this year was designing the Church Directory. I love when I get to create graphics. I also got a new computer. It took a bit of time transferring files and installing software. It is so much faster than the previous computer. At the end of 2019 we transitioned from reusable bulletins to weekly bulletins.

We gained 8 new worship volunteers in 20019; Gabbie Heckman, Sherry Bingaman, Maiya Hauck, Pam Hauck, Rich Whitesel, Mike Ketchem, Kelsey Swanger, and Connie Shreck. Every worship service has 17 volunteer positions; 1 Altar Guild, 3 Greeters, 1 Acolyte, 1 Assistant Minister, 1 Lector, 2 Communion Assistants, 4 Ushers, 1 Guest Relations Person, 2 Office Counters, and 1 Bread and Wine Person. We had 56 worship services in 2019. That is 952 volunteers! If you would like to volunteer your times and talents, please let us know!

*Submitted by Terri Cromwell*

---

## Rich Huff Committee Report

In 2019, the Rich Huff Committee gave out 15,680 diapers through the monthly "Baby Steps Diaper Pantry." The money for this ministry came from the donations and money earned through the annual Silent Auction that raised a total of \$7,785 last year. In addition to the diapers, funds were used last year to award four \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors in our area, to purchase 25 backpacks for kids in our school districts, to purchase tents for the Boy Scout Troop at UIC, and to sponsor lunches through the local lunch and learn program.

*Submitted by Shirley McPherrin*

---

## Kitchen Committee Report

This past year, the kitchen committee dispersed funds to purchase two brand new stoves after having replaced the kitchen flooring last year. Over the year, we helped coordinate and serve three funeral luncheons at the church as well as serving during other ministry functions, including the Rich Huff Silent Auction.

*Submitted by Sharon Weiser*

---

## Sewing Ministry Report

The sewing ministry continues to plug away at sewing quilts on Thursdays from 9am-11am. This past year, we have made lap robes, quilts, Linus blankets, and baby blankets! We are always looking for additional hands to help out with our projects!

*Submitted by Sharon Weiser*



# OAKS SENIOR CENTER

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

**INCOME**

CommunityAid Bin	\$604.93
Meal Donations	\$593.20
Sunday Offerings	\$25.00
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,223.13</b>

**EXPENSE**

Activity/Presentation	\$21.18
Bingo Prizes	\$278.31
Food	\$417.43
Supplies	\$300.44
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$1,017.36</b>

We closed the year ahead by \$205.77, but this doesn't take in to account all of the food donated by the committee and UIC members that made food for us or the bingo prizes that were donated to OAKS. Without your help OAKS would not be thriving like it is!

OAKS Senior Center had a name and logo change in 2019. Older Adults Kickin' it up! Monthly Senior Center got simplified to OAKS Senior Center. A new logo was also created. I incorporated United In Christ's logo in with the new OAKS new logo.



We had 15 new seniors attend OAKS this year. In 2018 our average attendance was 42, in 2019 it dropped to 34. The decline is because some seniors that are no longer able to attend because they have either moved out of the area to be closer to family or have moved in to assisted living or they have passed away. One of our goals for 2020 is to start advertising OAKS again. We had stopped advertising in 2019 because our attendance was up for 2018. All of our newbies have come to OAKS by invitations from current seniors. It's great to hear they are spreading the news about OAKS.



We gained 2 new committee members in 2019, Lisa Rabuck and Sherry Bingaman. I am very grateful for the 7 volunteers that make up UIC's OAKS Committee. They are Sherry Bingaman, Ted and Shirley McPherrin, Jane Mertz, Lisa Rabuck, Tina Snyder, and Nancy Walter. OAKS would not be possible with these people!





They set up the bingo prize table and tear it down, prepare the meals, serve the food, and cleanup after lunch. It's a lot of work and we are always looking for helpers, even if you can only help one time.

Bingo is always a huge hit at OAKS. A few of our committee members are also members of the Milton/Warrior Run Kiwanis. The Kiwanis group recently purchased a large bingo set. Kiwanis only need to use the bingo set a few times a year. The rest of the time it will be here at the church for OAKS to use at our senior center.

**PRESENTATIONS:** Peru, How to Achieve Our Goals, Visiting Angels, China, Birds, Mifflinburg Buggy Museum, Susquehanna Valley in 1790, and the Women of Weikert.  
**ACTIVITIES:** Chair Volleyball, Pictionary, Christmas Crafts.

