



DEC 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: Pastor

Terri Cromwell: Office Administrator and OAKS Coordinator

Office: 570-568-2254

Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Marilyn Gresh: Music

DIGITAL WORSHIP

Sunday, 10am

www.facebook.com/unitedinchristlutheran

www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/sermons/

UIC COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

FROM THE PASTOR



Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

Matthew 2:13-15

Dear United In Christ,

When my dad took a new call to serve as pastor for a congregation two hours away from where my family lived, I thought it was the end of the world. It was the summer between sixth and seventh grade for me when my family found out we would be relocating from Ashland in Schuylkill County to little old New Tripoli in Lehigh County. The move meant changing school districts halfway through my grade school career, which meant all new systems with all new teachers. It meant having to leave my friends to begin the arduous work of making new ones. In more than a few ways, it meant starting over. It meant giving up everything I knew as "normal" to have to venture into the terrifying reality of the unknown.

Ok, sure, I may have been a bit of a melodramatic pre-teen, but who among us hasn't faced the daunting reality of having to take on pathways into the unknown? Maybe it's been the unknowns that surround the job change or the move to unemployment. Maybe it's the unknown of stepping out on our own away from home to further our own education or enter the workforce in a

new place. Maybe it's the unknown of watching our family grow and step out away from the nest, not knowing what an emptier house will bring. Maybe it's the unknown that accompanies coming *back* home to take care of a family member. Maybe it's the unknown of facing a new diagnosis or relearning how to ask for help.

Whatever the “unknown” may be, it can be intimidating, even terrifying, to consider. In its magnitude, it might cause us to question our capacity to handle it. Like a middle schooler thinking the world is ending with an imposing move, it can make us believe that we will *never* make it through, that we will never become so familiar with what's next that it might just become “known” to us. It can make us feel isolated and alone, as if we are left to our own devices to simply figure it out.

I have to imagine it's how Joseph and Mary must have felt as well in those early days of parenthood. I mean, just think about it: not only have they suddenly been told that they are going to be responsible for raising the presence of God in the flesh of humanity, not only are they displaced from home when the actual birth takes place, but *now* they are told that they have to flee the region because a murderous and paranoid narcissist of an oligarch is on a hell-bent rampage to kill all the children under the age of two in his territory, just because he is afraid one of them might grow up to threaten his own position of rule (Matthew 2:16-17). It's as if the unknowns just keep adding up! Contrary to what we may be used to, seeing the Christmas story from *this* vista might make us wonder just how Mary and Joseph managed in the first place! Facing so many unknowns, how could they *possibly* find the means to carry on?

And maybe, United In Christ, maybe that's the question you're wondering as well. In a time and place where each day seems to bring a whole new myriad of unknowns that might make us feel isolated and alone, maybe you're wondering how to simply carry on. In the face of a global pandemic that continues to plague us,

in a time where our physical isolation might give way to a sense of being genuinely alone, during a journey when none of our normal ways of operating are at our disposal, you too might be struggling with finding the means to carry on to what's next. As we grapple with the acute effects of COVID-19, now more dramatically impacting our own communities and our own families, each day seems to carry with it the daunting reality of not knowing what will come next.

Which is maybe why we need to hear this part of the Christmas story this year. Maybe this year we need to remember not just our idyllic scenes of a bunch of serene animals watching over a calm baby in the manger (like what decorates my Advent calendar), but the mess of an unknown situation into which God enters. Here, with a family on the run, a tyrant on a rampage, and a vast uncertainty as to what comes next, God steps into humanity to bear the promise of Emmanuel. Here, God bears the promise of a God who *is* with us.

See, the Christmas promise of this messy scene is that God does *not* leave God's people alone. God does not abandon God's people to face the unknown on their own. When God arrives in our midst, it is precisely where the world seems to be at its most dire. Here, God makes certain that where the unknown future threatens to overwhelm, where it feels like the world is ending, that is where God will be. *That* is where God arrives to make certain God's promises of life and love for you. That is where God makes certain that you are not alone.

So Merry Christmas, United In Christ. Amid the unknowns of the world, may you hold fast to this Christmas promise, knowing full well that you yourself are already held fast by the one whose arrival is certain.

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".

United In Christ YouTube Channel

Trouble logging in to Facebook? Want to join for worship, but can never remember the church's website? Fear not! United In Christ now officially has its very own YouTube channel! Each week, we will be uploading worship to the channel by 10:00am Sunday morning for folks to be able to join in the service. Simply click [here](#) or go to www.youtube.com and search "United In Christ Lutheran Church" to find our channel (look for the tree logo)! From there you can easily access not only the most recent Sunday's service, but a whole back catalog of services as well! While you're there, go ahead and subscribe to the channel so that you receive alerts when new services are posted to the channel! Check it out!



960 diapers were handed out at
November's diaper pantry.

UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

Dec. 12 and Jan. 9 ~ 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

OAKS has changed our monthly meals to pick-up instead of delivery. Meals can be picked up on the day of OAKS from 11am-11:30am. If you are not able to come pick up your meal please call us and we will deliver it to you.

When arriving at the church, please enter at the lower end of the parking lot, by the clothing collection bin. Drive straight and enter the cemetery, follow it around, it will make a U shape. You will stop at the side door where we will ask you to roll down your passenger side window so you can tell us where you would like us to put your meal(s), backseat or trunk.

Starting January 2021 OAKS Senior Center is changing days. Instead of the 2nd Wednesday of the month, OAKS will be happening on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

OAKS Senior Center would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!

OAKS Senior Center dates for 2021

JAN. 12

MAY 11

SEP. 14

FEB. 9

JUN. 8

OCT. 12

MAR. 9

JUL. 13

NOV. 9

APR. 13

AUG. 10

DEC. 14

MEMBER UPDATES



HAPPY
Anniversary

Rob and Teena Zimmerman 12/21/02



Happy Birthday

Ted McPherrin 12/3

Tina Snyder 12/14

Jeff Snyder 12/5

Frank Danowsky Jr. 12/16

Jane Mertz 12/6

Zoe Scott 12/19

Nicole Cooley 12/7

Syann Stewart 12/21

Ken Baker 12/8

Dylan Sheaffer 12/25

Bob Keifer 12/9

Ed Snyder 12/30

Karen Hauck 12/11

Nancy Baker 12/31

Martha Ketchem 12/14



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

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

No worship volunteers on December 27

DECEMBER 20

Donna Byerly
Ken Baker
Charlie Dinsmore
Gabbie Heckman
Amy Danowsky

JANUARY 17

Kamden Swanger
Charlie Dinsmore
Larissa Shearer
Jeff Byerly
Donna Byerly

DECEMBER 24

Ted McPherrin
Bob Swartz
Cami Zimmerman
Michelle Shearer
Dylan Sheaffer

JANUARY 24

Dalton Shearer
Emma Danowsky
Mary Lou Keifer
Ted McPherrin
Annette Baker

JANUARY 3

Jen Sheaffer
Dylan Sheaffer
Ken Baker
Kathy Guffey
Sherry Bingaman

JANUARY 31

John Sheaffer
Amy Danowsky
Cami Zimmerman
Jane Mertz
Ruby Baker

JANUARY 10

Kyle Swanger
Michelle Shearer
Gabbie Heckman
Theresa Furman
Bob Swartz

*Be on the lookout for a message from
Pastor Justin to set up a recording time.*

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Frank and Bertie Danowsky, Gretchen Becker,
family and friends of Doreen Tucker,
Deb Fern, Kay Keister, Annette Baker,
Danielle Baker, Kristen Durling, Courtney
Price, Cami Zimmerman, Family and friends
of Wayne Kratzer Jr., Fred and Pat Blyler,
Rachel Peters, Helen Barsh, Kathy Guffey,
Rick Guffey, Family and Friends of Joe Moyer,
Jamie, Matt Koch, Melody Erb, Thomas Burns,
Cindee Long, Paisley Marie, Bob Keifer, Peg Swinehart.



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 8 weeks.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the prayers and check-ins after Bob's stint in the hospital!

~ Sue and Bob Keifer

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

As we prepare for Christ's arrival this Christmas, this year we will have TWO worship opportunities to mark the season!

First, UIC will be hosting an online worship service that will be made available beginning at 10:00am on Christmas Eve. Gather with your household (or synchronize and share from a social distance across households) at whatever time suits your schedule throughout the day! Much like our Sunday morning services, this service will premiere on our Facebook page and website at 10:00am, it will be available any time afterwards for families to worship amid their holiday celebrations!



UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE

CHRISTMAS EVE (ONLINE)!

Available beginning Thursday, December 24th at 10:00am
Join us on Facebook or at
www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/sermons

Second, at 7:00pm on Christmas Eve, you can join us in the parking lot of the church building and tune your car radio to 87.9FM for a candlelight service of Holy Communion! As we journey through a year unlike other, together we will celebrate God's arrival into this world in a way unlike any we've had before! This short service will be an opportunity for our community to gather safely together as United In Christ and mark this promise of God breaking into our midst! Look for more details in the weeks ahead and know that we will have volunteers available to help provide direction on Christmas Eve itself. in the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions about this service along the way!





Upper Susquehanna Synod

God's work. Our hands.



Stir up your power, Lord Christ...
Stir up our hearts, Lord God...
Stir up the wills of your faithful people,
Lord God!

I know these are the traditional words for our Advent prayers calling us to be stirred, keep watch and be hopeful. But I don't know how much more stirring we can all take. We have been living in the reality of our whole world being stirred up in different, challenging ways these past nine months...and it continues. But that, of course, is reacting more to the external sense of "stirring."

The internal stirring is still, and ever will be needed. And so we will continue to pray these words.

But allow me to share an observation of the stirring that has taken place since the onset of the coronavirus. I have observed a wave of adaptation by our leaders like I have never witnessed before. It wasn't just one, or two individuals that moved into a new, technological way of being the church, it was a number of leaders – in particular, our rostered leaders! They took on the challenge to learn how to video record a sermon and then moved on to record the whole service. They learned how to edit and piece together segments of the worship that were pre-recorded by members of their congregations. They purchased ZOOM accounts and created Facebook accounts in order to Livestream their services and bible studies and morning prayer and...

And by doing so, the church – our congregations – continued to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ while keeping people safe.

I've watched our rostered leaders go over and beyond with this "behind the scenes" work. At first, it was their way of staying connected with folks when visitation wasn't possible. And folks responded with gratitude...and they also learned how to connect to this new way of being the church through technology. Together they learned how to make it all work and stay connected.

Month after month after month this pattern of recording and editing and livestreaming has continued, even when in-person worship was also taking place. Week after week after week these rostered leaders put in overtime to make all of this happen, in ways that appeared seamless. Yes, the power and the hearts and the wills have been stirring in our rostered leaders and I am grateful! But I also see these leaders getting tired and I believe they could use some assistance.

So now, along with our Advent prayers for Christ to stir up his power, our hearts and our wills and come, I pray that there will be other individuals in every congregation who will be stirred up to help their rostered leaders with these tasks using technology. I pray that other individuals will learn how to record and edit and host zoom meetings. And I pray that we will all see that this way of being the church through technology is not a passing fad, but is how we need to be the church going forward. It is the way to connect with the unchurched, those seeking hope, those of all ages.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God...

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God!

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. Amen.

Shalom,

Rev. Barbara J. Collins, Bishop

Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Terri will be at the kitchen entrance on the side of the building to give you your 2021 offering envelopes.

**PICKUP MONDAY, DECEMBER 21
4PM-6PM**

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 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.

2020 GIVING STATEMENTS

All 2020 offerings must be received by Monday, December 28. Anything given after December 28 will be entered as a 2021 offering.

Statements will be mailed by January 22.

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

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1875 CHURCHES ROAD
LEWISBURG PA 17837

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Office Phone: 570-568-2254
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Website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net