



# FEB 2021

# NEWSLETTER

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FOR  
GOD  
so loved the world,  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that  
whosoever  
believeth in  
Him should  
not perish,  
but have  
everlasting  
life.  
JOHN 3:16

# 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](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net)

**Marilyn Gresh: Music**

## DIGITAL WORSHIP

Sunday, 10am

[www.facebook.com/unitedinchristlutheran](http://www.facebook.com/unitedinchristlutheran)

[www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/sermons/](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/sermons/)

### UIC COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>Lisa Rabuck - President</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2021</b>
<b>Emma Danowsky - Co President</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2021</b>
<b>Kathy Guffey - Vice President</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2021</b>
<b>Ken Baker - Treasurer</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2023</b>
<b>Cami Zimmerman - Secretary</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2021</b>
<b>Ken Criswell</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2022</b>
<b>Charlie Dinsmore</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2021</b>
<b>Amber Erb</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2022</b>
<b>Jen Sheaffer</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2022</b>
<b>Kim Criswell</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2022</b>

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



*Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"*

*Joel 2:12-17*

Dear United In Christ,

Is it just me or does Lent feel a bit superfluous this year? I know Ash Wednesday is coming up this month on February 17<sup>th</sup>, but do we really need this reminder of our own fragile state? I mean, really; entering into the eleventh month of a global pandemic that has taken well over 400,000 people's lives across our country, do we really *need* to be reminded of our own ashy existence? As we've grieved for the loss of loved ones in our own families and communities, haven't we already borne the weighty reminder that we are but dust and to dust we shall return?

As we once again prepare to enter into the Lenten wilderness in our church year this month, in so many ways it feels like the Lententide has yet to end from *last* year. In a year that has caused so much disruption and demanded so many changes of patterned behavior,

it's easy to think that, unlike Madonna, we never did make it through the wilderness. We might feel as if we've simply continued on the journey, tentatively taking one step after another in pursuit of "getting back to normal," as if "normal" were some sort of promised land we might one day call home. As this state of global pandemic continues to stretch on, we might even be tempted to start to wonder why God hasn't shown up to put us back on track.

But why should it be said among the peoples, "*Where is their God?*" (Joel 2:17).

See, United In Christ, maybe we actually desperately need this Lenten season ahead. In a year where we have spent so much of our time and energy striving to "get back to normal" choosing to imagine the scope of our crisis as a short-term road bump that will surely give way to smoother roads soon, perhaps we've missed something. Maybe rather than racing to normal, we need to spend this Lenten season remembering just how devastating this wilderness journey can be. Maybe we need to remember that it's ok to not be ok and that the current state of affairs is *not* as it should be. Maybe we need to remember that the cost of nearly half a million lives is far too steep a price to place on the altar of normalcy. Maybe, rather than pressing our heads down and pushing on as if everything is already alright, maybe we need to sanctify the congregation and return to the Lord with all our hearts, even with fasting and weeping and mourning pouring out from hearts rent asunder for the ways in which things surely are *not* alright (v.12-13).

And maybe, even in marking this Lent with genuine grief and remorse, maybe we also need the reminder that, even here, God chooses to show up. "Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing," Joel tells the assembly (v.13). Even as we take honest stock of ourselves and our place in this pandemic, we are called upon to turn away from the idols we've been pursuing to instead be found by the grace and mercy that God carves into this world for God's people. Rather than pretend as if everything is fine eleventh months into this pandemic, here and

now, in *this* Lenten journey ahead, we can recall that *here*, even in the middle of this twisted and broken state of being, *here* is our God in the wilderness.

So let's return, United In Christ. Let us make use of this time of Lent gifted to us. Let us be honest with our whole selves and with the world. After all, there's no sense in pretending the wilderness does not exist. So instead may we bring our weeping and mourning into it. May we come rending our hearts and fasting in our grief. May we make a return that does not minimize the insurmountable loss that this year has brought. And there, in the midst of our vulnerable and even painful honesty, may we be met by the God who will *not* make that heritage a mockery (v.17), but comes and bears such grief with us. Come, and let us journey this wilderness *together*.

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".

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## Lenten Book Study – *Love is the Way*

Join us this Lent as we begin our next book study on *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubled Times* by Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Beginning on **Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** we will gather weekly on Wednesdays via Zoom to work through the book together. As with our last book study, any books purchased through the church will be ordered through Otto Bookstore in Williamsport to support small businesses in this time! The cost of the book is \$25 and can be paid with cash or check to the church in an envelope marked as "Book Study" or via our online giving platform [tithely](https://tithely.com) by selecting "Book Study" as the giving category from the dropdown toolbar. The book is also available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and for e-readers, if you'd prefer to order on your

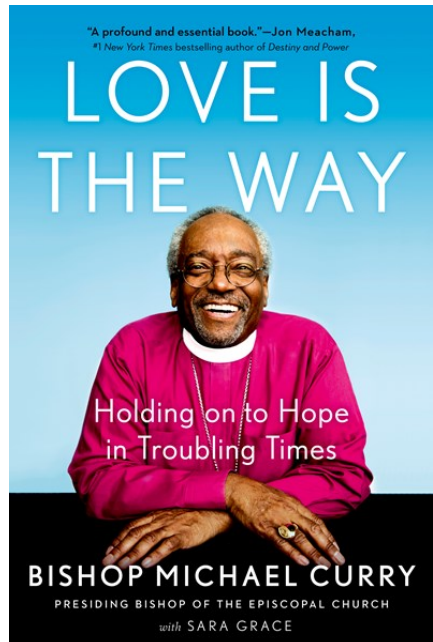
own. If the cost of the book would prevent anyone from otherwise joining us for the study, please reach out to Pastor Justin as sponsored books are available! To sign up, simply email Pastor Justin to let him know you'd like to join! We look forward to joining together in this study!

*From the publisher:*

**Walk the path of love with one of the warmest, most beloved spiritual leaders of our time, and learn how to put faith into action.**

As the descendant of slaves and the son of a civil rights activist, Bishop Michael Curry's life illustrates massive changes in our times. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life. Through the prism of his faith, ancestry, and personal journey, *Love Is the Way* shows us how America came this far and, more important, how to go a whole lot further.

The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions, competing claims to speak for God. This book will lead readers to discover the gifts they need in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence, and unshakable regard for human dignity.



# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

## **Feb. 14**

Jen Sheaffer  
Dylan Sheaffer  
Ken Baker  
Kathy Guffey  
Sherry Bingaman

## **Mar. 7**

Dalton Shearer  
Emma Danowsky  
Mary Lou Keifer  
Ted McPherrin  
Annette Baker

## **Mar. 28**

Kyle Swanger  
Michelle Shearer  
Gabbie Heckman  
Theresa Furman  
Bob Swartz

## **Feb. 21**

Kyle Swanger  
Michelle Shearer  
Gabbie Heckman  
Theresa Furman  
Bob Swartz

## **Mar. 14**

John Sheaffer  
Amy Danowsky  
Cami Zimmerman  
Jane Mertz  
Ruby Baker

## **Feb. 28**

Kamden Swanger  
Charlie Dinsmore  
Larissa Shearer  
Jeff Byerly  
Donna Byerly

## **Mar. 21**

Jen Sheaffer  
Dylan Sheaffer  
Ken Baker  
Kathy Guffey  
Sherry Bingaman

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## PRAYER LIST

Glen Van Dyke, Gladys Fawcett, family and friends of Pete Shearer, Tom Burns, Megan Brodsky, family and friends of Bob Berger, Shirley Hauck-Troxell, Ryan Caris, family and friends of Frank Danowsky, Gretchen Becker, Deb Fern, Kay Keister, Annette Baker, Courtney Price, Cami Zimmerman, Helen Barsh, Jamie, Matt Koch, 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](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net). We will email your prayer request to UIC's prayer chain.

# MEMBER UPDATES

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Frank  
Danowsky

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## Happy Birthday

*Larissa Shearer 2/3*

*Dalton Shearer 2/4*

*Delroy Caris 2/5*

*Jeffrey Snyder 2/6*

*Rick Whitesel 2/8*

*Maiya Hauck-Dabney- 2/12*

*Eleanor Brouse 2/14*

*Annette Baker 2/19*

*Elwood Brown 2/19*

*Gwen Murphy 2/19*

*Mary Lou Keifer 2/21*

*John Heckman 2/25*



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



# HAPPY Anniversary

*Mel and Nancy Baker 2/14/03*

*Jack and Cheryl Stiber 2/26/65*

*Herb and Vivian Marsh 2/28/59*



On December 13, 2020 we welcomed 13 new members!

Starting at the top left we welcome Tara Condit and her daughter Kendall, Dale and Cheryl Robuck, Mary Lou Keifer, Bob and Theresa Furman, Ron and Linda Mowery, and Chad, Terri, Mya, and Dylan Cromwell

# *Franklin Danowsky Sr.*

*July 23, 1947 - December 26, 2020*



Franklin "Gene" Danowsky Sr., 73, of rural Lewisburg, entered into rest Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020, at Evangelical Community Hospital, Lewisburg.

Born in Lewisburg on July 23, 1947, he was the son of the late Daniel S. and Verna (Snyder) Danowsky. He was married to his beloved wife, Roberta (Hauck) Danowsky. Together they celebrated 53

years of marriage.

Gene was a 1965 graduate of Lewisburg High School and had served in the PA National Guard. He had worked for Con Agra for 46 years, retiring in 2011, and worked on the family farm. He was a member of United in Christ Lutheran Church, Lewisburg.

He enjoyed farming, working on tractors, going to tractor shows, camping and traveling. He also enjoyed, after retiring, spending time drinking coffee with his former co-workers at the local coffee shops; but especially loved spending time with his grandchildren and family.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Franklin E. Danowsky Jr. and wife Sherrie, and Scott A. Danowsky and wife Colleen, all of Lewisburg; five grandchildren, Jonathan and Daniel Danowsky, Amber Erb, Megan Snyder and Marianne Murray; five great-grandchildren, Cooper, Henry and Adaline Danowsky, Elaina and Paul Snyder; two brothers, Harold Danowsky of Lewisburg and Wayne Danowsky of Harrisburg; and a sister, Marlene Baker of Lewisburg.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Arlon and Charles Danowsky; and four sisters, Charlotte Hartranft, Eleanor Mil-

ler, Evelyn Kratzer, and Phyllis Snyder.

A private service will be held at the convenience of the family with the Rev. Justin Lingenfelter officiating. A public Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date due to the current COVID-19 crisis.

The family would like to thank the doctors, nurses and staff at Evangelical Community Hospital for their excellent and compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Gene's memory can be made to United In Christ Lutheran Church, 1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

Arrangements were under the care of the Shaw Funeral Home, 400 N. Front St., Milton.

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## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

The following memorial donations have been given in memory of a dedicated member whose generosity, faithfulness and love will live on through the ministry of this congregation well into the future.

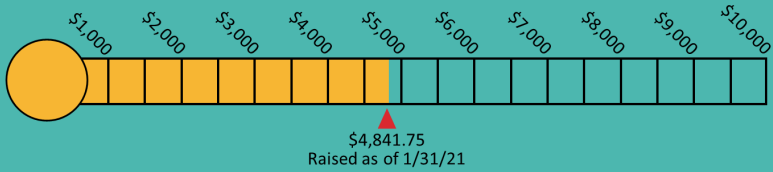
### *Frank Danowsky*

*Jeff and Cindy Bringer, Timothy and Rosemarie Stitzel, Woodmen Life Lewisburg Chapter, Mary Lou Keifer, Ann and Jeffrey Danowsky, Charles and Susan Dinsmore, James and Carolyn Schade, Leona Martin.*



**These memorial gifts  
will enable the ministry  
of this church to continue  
in a strong and  
vibrant way.**

# LANDSCAPING CAMPAIGN



- Stone retaining wall will replace the rotting railroad ties
- Pavers to replace macadam pathway
- New plants around front of church

## 2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you still need to pickup your offering envelopes please call the church office to setup a time for contactless pickup.

You can email Terri at [office@unitedinchristlutheran.net](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net) or call her at 570-568-2254.

We will not be mailing offering envelopes.

## 2020 ADVENT

Our 2020 Advent offering went to ELCA Good Gifts. Below is the list of items purchased and advent donations which will be given to ELCA Good Gifts.



6 - school supplies	\$60.00
2 - goats	\$100.00
1 - food for orphan	\$25.00
Cash donation	\$879.60



# OAKS SENIOR CENTER

OAKS continues to handout meals 11am-12pm on the dates listed below. We are averaging 55 meals a month.

## OAKS Senior Center dates for 2021

FEB. 9	MAY 11	AUG. 10	NOV. 9
MAR. 9	JUN. 8	SEP. 14	DEC. 14
APR. 13	JUL. 13	OCT. 12	



## Baby Steps DIAPER PANTRY

In 2020 the diaper pantry handed out  
17,000 diapers!

January's diaper pantry handed out  
1,240 diapers.

### UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

Feb. 13 and Mar. 13  
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.



# Upper Susquehanna Synod

God's work. Our hands.

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February first...and the snow is falling, quite steadily. Typically, this would be a day when I would call my office colleagues to say that the office is closed – a snow day as we would say. But in these days of COVID-19, even the excitement of having a snow

day off has changed. When I woke this morning, I looked out and saw the snow, put a pot of coffee on and then walked

to our front room which now serves as my home office... Yes, the pandemic has even changed how we experience snow days.

Change – it's the word I keep hearing that people don't like. Well, more than the word, they simply do not like when things change. And yet, life is about change.

I grew up in a nursing home environment, with cottages, assisted living and full care for residents. We moved there when my father was called to serve as assistant director and chaplain. I was six years old. Over the next fourteen years, I experienced multiples of "grandparents" who taught me so much about life, and death. As they watched me grow, I watched them change, their abilities and their needs. I wouldn't trade those life experiences for anything, changes included.

Change is a huge component of my life journey and has become my hope for the church. Not to say that I hope all churches change, for the sake of change, but that we live together as a church that embraces the life of change. Change isn't merely about something dying, it is about moving toward something new. As the church, I would hope we see God leading us into that "something new." If this pandemic has taught

us anything, it has taught us how to adapt, how to be creative, how to do things differently...and yes, how to let go of what was in order to move toward what is to be.

I don't know what is "to be" for the church, for our congregations. But this I do know: I trust the one who will lead us into that new thing. That is the most valuable lesson I learned from all those "grandparents" – to trust God through all of life's changes. Every day we live with change. Every day we live in the midst of something new. My prayer is that we, as God's church, will embrace every step of the journey toward becoming something new.

I believe I will go out for a bit of fun in the snow now, since it is a snow day!

Shalom,

Rev. Barbara J. Collins, Bishop

Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

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# THANK YOU

Thank you to whoever plowed the church lot in December!



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](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net)  
Website: [www.unitedinchristlutheran.net](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net)