



September 2021 NEWSLETTER

Give
THANKS
to the **LORD**
for He
IS GOOD
His **LOVE**
endures
FOREVER
Psalm 107:1

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

WORSHIP: SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/sermons/

Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thr, Fri, 9am-3pm

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	2nd term, ends 12/2023
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.

Mark Your Calendars

- MON, SEPT. 6** **LABOR DAY: OFFICE CLOSED**
- SAT, SEPT. 11** **BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY**
- SUN, SEPT. 12** **SOUP ORDERING DEADLINE**
SOUP MONEY DEADLINE
- WED, SEPT. 14** **OAKS RESUMES**
- THU, SEPT. 16** **HAM AND BEAN SOUP PREP**
- FRI, SEPT. 17** **HAM AND BEAN SOUP COOK**
- SAT, SEPT. 18** **MILTON HARVEST FESTIVAL**
- SUN. SEPT. 19** **YOUTH GROUP BEGINS**
- MON, SEPT. 20** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- WED, SEPT. 21** **COUNCIL MEETING**
- SUN, OCT. 3** **BLESSING OF ANIMALS SUNDAY**
CONFIRMATION BEGINS
- SAT, OCT. 9** **FRANK DANOWSKY MEMORIAL**
- SAT, OCT. 16** **CLOTHING & SHOES DRIVE**

FROM THE PASTOR



[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

Dear United In Christ,

Can someone pass me the salt?

No, I don't need it to add to the kettles of ham and bean soup being churned out this month; I'm sure Mark has got that plenty covered! Instead, I could use a little dose of culinary flair that makes you *notice* when its present. That's the thing about salt, isn't it? When there's too little, the whole dish suffers for it. Too much and it becomes overwhelming, but when it saturates in just the right portions it has the potential to elevate everything else on the plate! On its own its overbearing and not altogether pleasant, but together with the rest of the offering, it can take the whole experience to new heights.

Likewise, a lamp lit inside an empty house doesn't seem to do anyone much good (some might even claim such a thing as a foolish fire hazard). Without anyone there to make use of the light, the illumination simply – is. A city resting atop a hill with no one around to take it in similarly serves little beyond its own

function. On their own, with nothing else present, this salt and city and light do little to serve themselves. But placed into the world, given the space for others to taste and see their presence, they have the capacity to change *everything* for the better.

And maybe that's what Jesus was trying to get at with these metaphors. Maybe the reminder he's providing to those who are listening is that if they are only looking to serve themselves, they don't offer much. Salt doesn't salt itself, after all. A city on a hill is only a beacon for those who can take it in. A lit lamp is only helpful if there's a room to take in and someone to bear witness to its light. In similar ways, maybe Jesus is reminding his followers – maybe Jesus is reminding *us* – that this path of discipleship isn't designed solely for us; the path of discipleship is found in bearing witness for others to see. Our calling as followers of Jesus isn't to serve ourselves, but to point to the one who reaches out into the world in divine compassion. *We* aren't the goal of faith, we merely salt the dish and point out the path!

I think that's partly why I am so excited about what is in store here at United In Christ. In a myriad of ways, it feels like we are leveraging new opportunities to season the dish, to light the house, *to shine atop the hill*. As we resume a year of programming this month, we are doing so with new spices and lights around us. This month Faith and Fun resumes with a new format; confirmation and youth group begin with new energy; our book study loaded with profound conversation comes out of hibernation; we will be present at community events and partnered worship services! In so many ways, the next few weeks provide ample opportunity to *share* this witness with our communities around us!

What's more is that we're even beginning to set up structures and patterns to share that light in new and exciting ways.

Between Youth Group, Confirmation, and a new worship service (technically in October), we will be exploring the ways in which we can leverage our saltiness with our Lutheran neighbors of the Milton Lutheran Parish to provide a witness of collaboration and presence in our communities. In the coming weeks, we will be exploring how the lamp that lights the house might today look more like an electronic tablet lighting the faces of beloved UIC members with limited mobility who will be able to digitally attend worship through new investments of technology. With our Fall studies, we will be exploring how to draw our light of welcome and hospitality out from underneath the bushel as we engage in conversations about the faithful inclusion of our LGBTQIA+ neighbors in our ongoing ministries and life together. With an even wider scope, in the coming months we will even be exploring how United In Christ can bear the vision of that city on a hill by serving as a place of learning and growth for a pastoral intern from one of our seminaries for a year! The road ahead is one *filled* with opportunities to point beyond ourselves to the greater whole that God has in store!

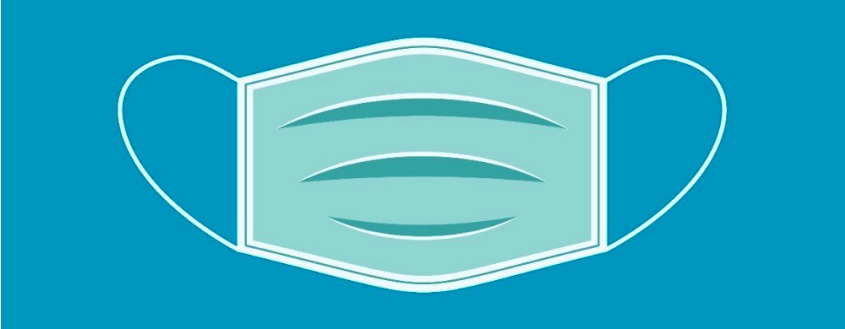
So pass the salt, UIC, and bring it on! *Now* is the time to bear witness! *Now* is the time to let our lights *so shine* that the world may catch a glimpse of the Jesus who sets our course! *Now* is the time to follow the billowing movement of the Holy Spirit into the courses ahead and, in so doing, give glory to the Father in heaven!

Now – more than ever, United In Christ – *now* is the time to come and see!

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".

UPDATED MASKING POLICY AT UIC



At its last monthly meeting, the United In Christ Congregational Council voted to adopt masking guidelines based on CDC guidance that counties experiencing substantial or high transmission of COVID-19 return to universal mask wearing while indoors. As Union County has moved from moderate to substantial transmission in the past week, we at UIC will once again move to the expectation that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks while in the building. Thank you for your continued commitment to these best practices for safety!

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.

Social Ministry

HELPING AREA KIDS



United in Christ continues to support its community through our annual Back-to-School donation drive for Milton Area School District.

Kathy Guffey and Terri Cromwell delivered over 40 backpacks, 26 lunch bags, and numerous boxes filled with pencils, pens, notebooks, crayons, markers, rulers, colored pencils, glue sticks, and erasers to Baugher Elementary school in Milton.

Thank you to everyone who donated!!

HAM & BEAN SOUP

Donations are needed to make ham and bean soup.
Signup sheets are on bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

We'll have a food booth at the Milton Harvest Festival
on Saturday, September 18.

Ordering and Money deadline is September 12.
Order forms at on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.
Quarts are \$5.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*Please signup on the sheets so we know
how many helpers we have.*

Thursday, September 16 at 5:30pm - We need prep people to clean and cut up ingredients, clean up the kitchen and get everything ready for cooking the soup on Friday.

Friday, September 17 from noon to 5pm - We need volunteers to cook, package the soup, and clean up the kitchen.

Saturday, September 18 - Volunteers are needed for the following:

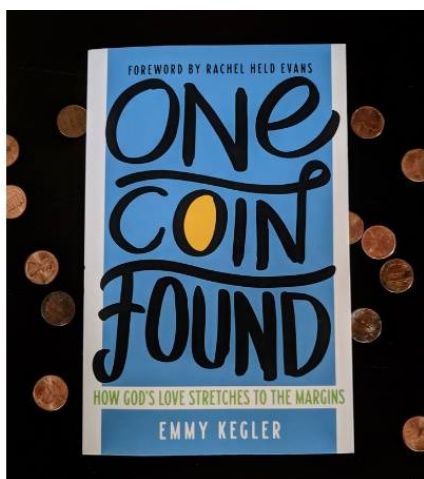
- Setup booth at Milton's Harvest Festival
- Sell soup throughout the day
- Tear down booth, 4pm. After a long day we could sure use extra hands to tear everything down!

**Please come out,
even if for only one hour!**



Fall Book Study: *One Coin Found*

Join us for our Fall book study of *One Coin Found: How God's Love Stretches to the Margins* by Rev. Emmy Kegler. This five-week study will dive into the journey of Rev. Kegler, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Northeast Minneapolis, as she leads us through her wrestling with Scripture and being found in God's unfolding narrative of love over the years. As we build on conversations begun last Spring at UIC about the welcome and inclusion of members of the LGBTQIA+ community within our communities of faith, Rev. Kegler's voice will provide us a remarkable opportunity; as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community herself *and* as a pastor with deeply faithful convictions, her voice offers us a deeply personal look at how God's ongoing narrative of redemptive love found her and embraced her alongside countless other queer Christians. You won't want to miss out on this opportunity for learning and discussion! All are welcome to join in the conversation!



This weekly study will begin on Wednesday, September 15th at 6:30pm and will run through Wednesday, October 15th. We will plan to gather in-person in the fellowship hall with a Zoom login available for those who would prefer digital access. Copies of the book can be ordered individually or through the church for \$15. [Click here to sign up and order copies](#) or check out the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall after worship!

From the publisher:

The stories of Scripture are for everyone. No exceptions.

Emmy Kegler has a complicated relationship with the Bible. As a queer woman who grew up in both conservative Evangelical and progressive Protestant churches, she knows too well how Scripture can be used to wound and exclude. And yet, the stories of Scripture continue to captivate and inspire her--both as a person of faith and as a pastor to a congregation. So she set out to fall in love with the Bible, wrestling with the stories inside, where she met a God who continues to seek us out--appearing again and again as a voice, a presence, and a promise.

Whenever we are pushed to the edges, our voices silenced, or our stories dismissed, God goes out after us--seeking us until we are found again. And God is seeking out those whose voices we too quickly silence and dismiss, too. Because God's story is a story of welcome and acceptance for everyone--no exceptions.

Kegler shows us that even when we feel like lost and dusty coins--rusted from others' indifference, misspent and misused--God picks up a broom and sweeps every corner of creation to find us.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

	Sept. 5	Sept. 12	Sept. 19	Sept. 26
Bread/Wine	S. McPherrin	H. Marsh	J. Mertz	S. Noll
Altar Guild	K. Guffey T. Cromwell	S. Keifer T. Cromwell	C. Troxell T. Cromwell	C. Zimmerman T. Cromwell
Digital Host	M. Shearer	K. Guffey	K. Lingenfelter	O. Hauck
Greeter	M. Ketchem R. Whitesel R. Kling	Ken Baker R. Baker S. Brown	K. Guffey ML Keifer G. Weiser	T. McPherrin K. Noll S. Noll
Acolyte				
Lector	T. McPherrin	M. Shearer	B. Swartz	C. Zimmerman
Comm. Asst.	A. Baker ML Keifer B. Swartz	D. Shearer C. Troxell S. Weiser	Jen Sheaffer M. Shearer C. Zimmerman	S. Danowsky D. Baker M. Baker
Guest Rel.	B. Troxell	M. Rabuck	G. Weiser	K. Noll
Offering Counter	M Shearer C. Shreck	ML Keifer L. Rabuck	C. Zimmerman M. Rabuck	Ken Baker P. Hauck

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.



HAPPY *Anniversary*

Charlie and Susan Dinsmore 9/4/93

Rick and Jackie Russell 9/4/93

Woody and Celia Warren 9/11/71

Justin and Nicole Cooley 9/20/14

Chad and Terri Cromwell 9/22/01



Happy Birthday

Evelyn Baker 9/1

Sue Keifer 9/17

Matt Wirth 9/03

Christine Aucker 9/19

Terri Cromwell 9/07

Dawn Warren 9/23

Kamden Swanger 9/08

Karen Baker 9/23

Lou Swanger 9/10

Don Byerly 9/23

Peyton LeBarron 9/12

Curtis Zimmerman 9/25

Scarlette Cooley 9/11

Kim Criswell 9/26

Susan Dinsmore 9/13

Cami Zimmerman 9/26

Willow Lebarron 9/17

Pam Hauck 9/29



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

Frank Danowsky Memorial



Bertie, Frank Jr., and Scott Danowsky would like to invited everyone to the memorial service for Frank Danowsky at United In Christ on Saturday, October 9 at 4pm.



Baby Steps DIAPER PANTRY

UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

September 11, 2021 10-11:30am

1 bag (40 diapers) per child. Newborn to size 6

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

Flower Chart is located in the Fellowship Hall.



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

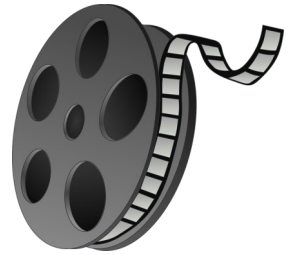
Tuesday, Sept. 14 ~ 10am-2pm

10:00 am - Social Hour

11:00 am - Free Bingo with Prizes

12:00 pm - Free Lunch

12:45 pm - Movie Trivia



UIC asks that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks while in the building.



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

YOUTH AND FAMILY

YOUTH GROUP RETURNS!



Sunday, September 19

Our first gathering together this school year, we will meet at United In Christ at 6:00pm for pizza and a night of games as we get to know each other! Youth Group is open to all students in grades 7-12 and typically runs for about two hours! This year, we will be partnering with the youth at the Milton Lutheran Parish for many of our activities together! If you are or have a youth member interested in being part of Youth Group, please reach out to Pr. Justin and we'll get you connected!



Pet Blessing

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

MILTON STATE PARK
205 PA-642, MILTON, PA

Together in partnership, United In Christ Lutheran Church and the Milton Lutheran Parish invite you and Fido to join us anytime between 6-7 P.M. Look for our tent when you arrive. Donations of pet food and supplies are being accepted for the Danville SPCA!



All things of creation are children of the Father and thus brothers of man. God wants us to help animals if they need help. Every creature in distress has the same right to be protected.

St. Francis of Assisi

Together with Pr. Gary Schaeffer and the community of faith at the Milton Lutheran Parish, we will gather to give thanks for the blessing of all God's creatures. Traditionally falling close to the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, this time will be an opportunity to give thanks for the creatures and critters in our own lives! All are invited to stop by the park any time in that hour window with their four-legged friends to receive a pet blessing! If Fido or Snowball can't make it, feel free to bring a collar, food bowl, or picture as we give thanks for the blessings they are in our lives! In addition, we will be collecting pet food/litter/supplies that will be donated to the Danville SPCA as we seek to reciprocate the blessing that these critters provide in our lives! Come and see!

CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION

As we wind up for a new year of programming at United In Christ, we are very much looking forward to the opportunity of starting a new Confirmation class this year! Confirmation (or Catechetical Instruction/Catechism as it was once called) is the process by which students in our communities of faith take on the promises made by their parents and sponsors at their baptisms for themselves as they become maturing young adults within the congregation. It is a two-year process that culminates with their “Confirmation” in worship, at which point they become full adult members of the church as they walk in this new maturation of understanding! Typically, we invite students entering into 7th and 8th grades to be a part of this instruction as they enter into this new role in the affirmation of their faith!

This year we will be holding our confirmation instruction together with the community at the soon-to-be-renamed Milton Lutheran Parish! Their new pastor, Rev. Gary Schaeffer, recently met with Pr. Justin to begin setting up plans for the program, but here is a quick overview of what the process will look like for our Confirmation students.

- We will hold Confirmation instruction (led by Pr. Justin and Pr. Gary to start) on the first Sunday of every month at 5:00pm.
- We will be holding Youth Group (grades 7-12) on the first and third Sundays of each month beginning around 6:00pm and ending by 8:00pm.
- Youth Group will begin with a meal for students, so those attending confirmation beforehand will have dinner provided those evenings.
- **The first launch date will be our first night of Youth Group on Sunday, September 19th at 6:00pm! The first formal Confirmation class will then be Sunday, October 3rd at 5:00pm.**

In addition to these regular gatherings and regular attendance in Sunday worship, we will be setting up a few other opportunities for our Confirmation students including helping to lead faith formation instruction for our younger students at UIC and summer trip opportunities to either the ELCA National Youth Gathering or on a service trip.

More details on those to come, but for now we are excited to get started! If you are or have a student who would like to be part of this year's confirmation class, please reach out to Pr. Justin!

FAITH AND FUN WITH FRIENDS!

Faith and Fun is back this October!

Beginning on Sunday, October 3rd, Faith and Fun will add a new format with a post-worship gathering of students from pre-k through middle school! This one stop shop will be a chance to engage in a craft, game, song, or other activity tied to the lessons heard in worship each week! Each session will last approximately 20 minutes, so families can still leave with plenty of time to make it to Sunday brunch! Be sure to stop by for this fun shape of faith formation!

In addition, while Sherry Bingaman is spearheading the lessons each week, we are still looking for a number of adult volunteers to help out by being an extra helper in the room. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Pr. Justin or Sherry and we will get your name added to the list. *If you have not previously volunteered with children at UIC, we will need to get a copy of your clearances to have on file here at the church.* Touch base with Pr. Justin if you need help figuring out how to receive that necessary paperwork!



CLOTHING and SHOES DRIVE

October 16, 12pm-4pm

Cleaning out your closets? Have a pile of things you don't want anymore? Save those shoes and clothing for our first Bi-Annual Clothing Drive!

UIC will hold a clothing/shoes drive twice a year, one in spring and one in fall. All proceeds will go to OAKS Senior Center here at UIC. Please make sure your clothes and shoes are bagged and bring them to the church on Saturday, October 16 from 12pm-4pm.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Worship Volunteers, please give the office **any dates in October** which **you will NOT be available** to serve during worship. After you are scheduled it will be your responsibility to trade with some-

one 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 October Newsletter need to be in the office **by Monday, September 20.**



We need additional volunteers for two worship roles.

Altar Guild is in need of more volunteers to help! Altar Guild is responsible for setting up communion changing paraments, and filling candles.

Training is available and anyone may serve: women, men, or couples. If you are interested in serving please let Pastor Justin or Terri Cromwell know immediately as there is training currently going on.

Spiritual work behind the scenes!

We have a new role during worship that needs volunteers, **Digital Host**. The Digital Host is responsible for holding the phone which broadcasts our worship service to Facebook. We need volunteers for this new role. Please let us know if you would like to be added to the Digital Host worship volunteer rotation!



CHURCH COMMUNITY UPCOMING EVENTS

Here's what's happening within our district.

DANDELION TRAIL RUN AT CML

Camp Mount Luther will be holding a 5k and 10k trail run race at the camp on **Saturday, September 4, 2021**. The run was named in memory of the Rev. Glenn Heasley, whose favorite "flower" was the dandelion.

This is an entry-level trail race on Mount Luther grounds with proceeds going to the camp. The start time for the race is 9am. Runners decide on race day if they want to do a 5k or 10K (a double loop of the 5K) run.

**You must be Pre-registered by August 8 by 6pm
to receive the free duffel bag.**

Registration is \$35 and must be received by September 1. Register here, <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Mifflinburg/DandelionRun5k10kTrailRace>.

SINDR MISSION TRIP

Susquehanna Interfaith Network for Disaster Response (SINDR) is planning a mission trip from October 24-30, 2021, to assist homeowners recovering from flooding in New Bern, North Carolina. All levels of skill are needed!

SINDR is sponsored by the Upper Susquehanna Synod (ELCA) and the Presbytery of Northumberland (PCUSA), but welcomes anyone who wants to come and help. For more info visit, <https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/poster-Larger-Print.pdf>.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your support throughout the summer. Working at Camp is incredibly fulfilling but also awfully tiring. Your care packages were a welcome relief and very generous. I was only able to visit your church once during my time in Pennsylvania but everyone was exceedingly kind and welcoming. Also, many thanks to Pastor Justin (P), affectionately) for serving as Staff Chaplain and delivering said care packages. Thanks once again for helping make my summer great!

Lucas

Camp Mt. Luther counselor

Dear Friends,

Many thanks for the cards, notes, and caring words of sympathy that you sent to me these past few weeks after the passing of my dear husband, Glen. They have been such a comfort to me and my family. I look forward to worshipping with you.

Most sincerely,

Florence Van Dyke



UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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LEWISBURG PA 17837

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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