



December 2021 NEWSLETTER



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

Office is closed on Wednesdays

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
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

SUN, DEC. 5	ADVENT 2 CONFIRMATION, YOUTH GROUP
SAT, DEC. 11	BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY
SUN, DEC. 12	ADVENT 3 CMAS COOKIE ORDER DEADLINE POINSETTIAS ORDER DEADLINE
TUE, DEC. 14	OAKS SENIOR CENTER
SAT, DEC. 18	CMAS COOKIE PACKAGING CMAS COOKIE PICKUP
SUN, DEC. 19	ADVENT 4 CMAS COOKIE PICKUP CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP
TUE, DEC. 21	COUNCIL MEETING
WED, DEC. 22	BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
FRI, DEC. 24	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
SAT, DEC. 25	CHRISTMAS DAY
SUN, DEC. 26	LESSONS AND CAROLS
MON, DEC. 27	OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE WEEK

FROM THE PASTOR



Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Luke 2:25-32

Dear United In Christ,

I know this may come as a bit of a shock to you, but I don't wait well. I've never been good at it. Now don't get me wrong; I can exude a dose of patience when it's required, but simply waiting – being put into some sort of holding pattern – I'm just not good at it. I get antsy. My energy gets all pent up. I look for something to *do* in the middle of the waiting.

Which is why the story of Simeon is one that has always astounded me. Here is this guy who actually managed to wait for what God had promised and he saw the promise fulfilled! I'm not certain just how long Simeon's waiting lasted, but if the promise was that he would not see death before the arrival of God's Messiah, then the implication certainly seems to be that he waited more than his fair share of years. He must have been well into an elderly age before the promise came true as the baby Jesus was brought to the Temple for dedication. I look at Simeon and, if I'm honest with myself, I think "there's just no way." I would have gone mad!

Maybe you've often felt the same way. Maybe you've felt like the

waiting in life has been nothing less than torture. As we head into this Advent season together, this season of preparation and *waiting* I'm reminded that I'm not the only one who can't seem to wait well. As the stores and marketplaces and restaurants and TV stations around us all rush headlong into Christmas advertising and programming, it seems that *none* of us want to endure this Advent waiting. Nobody wants to sit in patience; we want to reach our celebration and reach it *now*.

Maybe, then, we ought to think about our waiting this year a little differently. Maybe there's room for us to engage in some *active* waiting in this season together. As we prepare for the arrival of God's promised presence in our midst this Christmas, maybe we can wait and with an anticipation *that keeps watch for glimpses of that presence already here*. Maybe we can prepare ourselves in such a way that we are ready to see God's realm breaking into this world right here and right now.

To that end, I invite you to participate with us in our "Keep Watch" Advent worship series this year. As we gather for worship each Sunday, I invite you to bring with you pictures or objects or trinkets that represent *where* you see God at work right now in the world. Each week we will take time to focus on the respective themes of each of the candles on the Advent wreath: hope, peace, joy, and love. As we gather for worship, then, we have opportunity to share with one another just where we are seeing that hope, peace, joy and love on display and, in so doing, sustain one another amid the waiting. Check out the section later in a bulletin for a breakdown on how to participate each week!

In the meantime, keep up the holy work, United In Christ. In this time where we wait for so much already (for an end to a deadly pandemic, the return to a sense of normalcy, for a better tomorrow), may we sustain one another in the waiting. May we take this Advent season to heart and prepare ourselves to see God's promised arrival around us. Keep waiting!

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.



Join us in worship this Advent season as we “Keep Watch” for signs of God’s promised presence among God’s people. If you are worshipping in-person, we invite you each week to bring in pictures, objects, or trinkets that show where you are seeing God’s presence right here and now. Then, in worship, there will be a time to share with one another those signs and place them in our worship space for others to catch a glimpse as well! If you are worshipping with us online or if you simply want to share your glimpses throughout the week, we invite you to share your God-sighting moments with the corresponding hashtags below! The themes for each week are as follows:

Week 1	11/28/21	Hope	#AdventHope
Week 2	12/5/21	Peace	#AdventPeace
Week 3	12/12/21	Joy	#AdventJoy
Week 4	12/19/21	Love	#AdventLove

Be sure to tag United In Christ on both Facebook and Instagram as you share! Find us at @unitedinchristlutheran on both platforms! We can’t wait to see what you share this #Advent season!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Dedicate a poinsettia by submitting an order form, along with payment, **no later than Sunday, December 12th**.

COST IS \$5.50

**Poinsettias are a beautiful gift to our Lord
and a wonderful expression of our love for God
and all he has given us!**

Please print clearly

Name: _____

Number of Poinsettias I'd like to purchase: _____

* Remember, the cost of each poinsettias is \$5.50

List below the names of those your poinsettias will be given in memory or honor of.

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

Blue Christmas Worship Service

The faith communities of United In Christ Lutheran Church, Saint Paul's United Church of Christ, and Milton Lutheran Church invite you to join us as we gather for worship on one of the longest nights of darkness of the year, **Wednesday December 22, at 7 p.m.**

While for many, Advent and Christmas are seasons of light, we also know that this season can be a season of physical and emotional distress. On this night, we will acknowledge at this time of year that we may be confronted with fear, sadness, loss and shattered hope, perhaps from the loss of a loved one, seasonal depression or simply a feeling you can't explain.

This is why, as communities of faith gather, we will honor "Blue Christmas" this year as a service of acknowledgement and a journey of faith to seek to understand how "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it," as is recorded in John 1:5. How can this light help us through what can become the hardest time of the year? Join us as we acknowledge, explore, worship and support one another as we fellowship together.



The service will be held at Milton Lutheran Church, 100 Mahoning Street in Milton (formerly Trinity Lutheran) led by Pastor Justin Lingenfelter, Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo, and Pastor Gary Schaeffer.

Please consider joining us as we are surrounded with warmth and welcome in a time to seek hope and healing. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve Services

*“To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

*This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger.”*

Luke 2:11-12

We hope that you will join us this
Christmas Eve to gather around the manger
to celebrate the birth of the Savior.

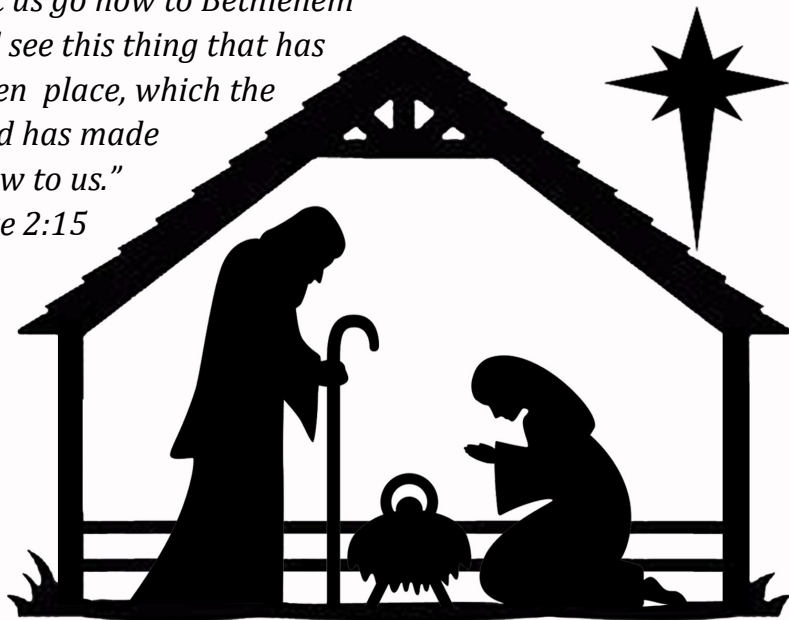
Worship times this Christmas Eve include:

*** 7:00pm Candlelight Service**

*** 11:00pm Candlelight Service**

*“Let us go now to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has
taken place, which the
Lord has made
know to us.”*

Luke 2:15



Social Ministry



BLESS SOMEONE THIS CHRISTMAS



There are 6 residents at Country Comfort assisted living home that won't be getting any gifts this year, as they don't have any family.

If you would like to bless one of them with a gift, please see Kathy Guffey or Kim Criswell after church.

**Please bring your wrapped gifts to church
by Sunday, December 19th.**

Social Ministry will also be blessings all of the residents at County Comfort with care bags this Christmas.

MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION



Social Ministry collects non-perishable food items each week. Your donations get delivered to the **Our Little Free Pantry** in West Milton, by the gas station across from the on ramp to 15.

During cold month, please do not donate items in glass containers since the pantry is open to the elements outside.

Place these items in the baskets located in the Narthex.

Go **tail** it on the mountain.

Each year, Americans spend over \$300 billion on Christmas shopping. Imagine what would happen if even a fraction of that amount of money was spent to combat global hunger! With ELCA Good Gifts, you can do just that! Choose from over 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of loved ones – from goats to water wells, school uniforms to food for refugees. All of these gifts can be given in honor of friends or loved ones as remarkable Christmas gifts.



Give something
unexpected
this
Christmas.

Here at UIC, we will set up a Good Gifts Tree in the hallway by the offices, with ornaments for all sorts of gifts. If you would like to purchase one of these Good Gifts for someone, simply take the ornament of the corresponding gift and place the designated payment in one of the pink special offering envelopes (checks payable to United In Christ), marking it with the type of gift you are purchasing. Then place the envelope and payment in the box beside the tree. At the end of the season, we'll gather the orders and send them to ELCA Good Gifts. You can also always purchase through the ELCA Good Gifts website at ELCA.org/goodgifts.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

	December 5	December 12	December 19
Bread/Wine	K. Criswell	J. Danowsky	V. Marsh
Altar Guild	T. Cromwell	M.L. Keifer	K. Guffey
Digital Host	S. Bingaman	K. Guffey	M. Shearer
Greeter	D. Baker	T. Cromwell	K. Noll
	K. Baker	M. Ketchem	S. Noll
	G. Weiser	R. Whitesel	L. Rabuck
Acolyte			
Lector	T. Furman	R. Baker	S. Bingaman
Comm. Asst.	D. Baker	S. Bingaman	A. Baker
	M.L. Keifer	S. Danowsky	T. McPherrin
	Ken Baker	M. Baker	R. Kling
Guest Rel.			
Offering Counter	K. Guffey	Ken Baker	M. Shearer
	J. Sheaffer	P. Hauck	C. Shreck

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.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

	Cmas Eve 7pm	Cmas Eve 11pm	December 26
Bread/Wine	S. McPherrin J. Mertz	S. Noll	J. Sheaffer
Altar Guild	S. Keifer C. Troxell	C. Zimmerman	K. Guffey
Digital Host	K. Lingenfelter	T. Cromwell	S. Bingaman
Greeter	Jen Sheaffer J. Sheaffer T. Swartz	Ken Baker Ruby Baker	M.L. Keifer C. Zimmerman N. Walter
Acolyte			
Lector	T. McPherrin	M. Shearer	A. Baker
Comm. Asst.	B. Swartz C. Troxell S. Bingaman	Ken Baker C. Zimmerman	Jen Sheaffer D. Shearer S. Weiser
Guest Rel.			M. Mertz
Offering Counter	M.L. Keifer L. Rabuck	T. Cromwell M. Shearer	M. Rabuck C. Zimmerman

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*

Rob and Teena Zimmerman 12/21/02



Happy Birthday

Ted McPherrin 12/3

Jeff Snyder 12/5

Jane Mertz 12/6

Nicole Cooley 12/7

Ken Baker 12/8

Bob Keifer 12/9

Karen Hauck 12/11

Martha Ketchem 12/14

Tina Snyder 12/14

Zoe Scott 12/19

Dylan Sheaffer 12/25

Ed Snyder 12/30

Nancy Baker 12/31



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

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Prayer Requests:

Jim Yost, family and friends of Willard Hauck, Shirley Hauck, Malcolm Arter, Russ Wynn, Kim Payne, family and friends of Darv Krouse, family and Friends of Irene Stark, Bob, Judy Rishel, Mary Baker, Delroy Caris, Sandy Ritter, Bob Furman, family and friends of Don Katherman, Gladys Fawcett, Peyton Weiser, Glen Embeck, Marie Tanner, James Zook, Tammy Stamm, Betsy Thomas, Grace Yost, Tim Trant, Viv Marsh, Peg Swinehart, Sonja Noll, Martha Ketchem, Bob Keifer.



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 or call your prayer request to UIC's prayer chain.

PRAYER CHAIN

Scripture instructs us to lift one another up in prayer. The prayer chain takes two forms: telephone or email. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please let Terri Cromwell know. Make sure you tell her if you would like a phone call or an email.

Irene Stark

March 9, 1935 - October 28, 2021



Irene Stark, 86, formerly of Lewisburg, passed away peacefully, Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021, at the Milton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

She was born in Sunbury on March 9, 1935, the daughter of the late Marlin and Gertie (Wolfe) Renn. She married the late Gerald R. Stark on Sept. 1, 1962. He was the love of her life.

She was the mother to six children.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by an infant son, Lee Marlin, and her stepmother, Myrtle Renn.

She is survived by daughters, Victoria Kerstetter (Ronald) of Lewisburg, Dawn Bressler (Robert) of Loganton, Alecia Stark Engle of Elysburg, and Pristeen "Teena" Zimmerman (Robert) of Pennsdale; and son, Gerald A. (Lisa) of Lisbon Falls, Maine. She is also survived by her brother, Darvin Renn (Ruth) of Selinsgrove; stepsister, Celestia Campbell (Myron) of Penns Creek; and stepbrothers, Cloyd Campbell (Sue) of Sunbury and Floyd Campbell of Sunbury. The joys of her life were her nine grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

She graduated from the Geisinger Medical Center School of Nursing in Danville in 1959 as a registered nurse. She was called by God to be an R.N. and take care of people and she did so for many years working at Geisinger, Evangelical Community Hospital, the former Golden Star Nursing Home, the Former Kramm Nursing Home, A.C.F., Biometric Profiles,

and RiverWoods Nursing Home where she retired at the age of 75.

She attended United In Christ Lutheran Church, was a member of Lewisburg Order of the Easter Star Chapter No. 394, and served on the Advisory Board of the Lewisburg Rainbow Assembly No. 158 and was awarded the Grand Cross of Color. She enjoyed attending OAKS Senior Center to play bingo, watching football, bull riding and the Hallmark Channel on television, and talking with family and friends on the telephone.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations be made to United in Christ Lutheran Church, 1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg PA 17837, and indicate either the OAKS Senior Center or Youth on the memo line.

A viewing will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4, at the United in Christ Lutheran Church, Lewisburg, with an Eastern Star Service at 8:30 p.m. at the church. The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 5, at the Jerre Wirt Blank Funeral Home, 395 State St., Sunbury, with a viewing preceding the funeral from 10 to 11 a.m.

Interment will be in the Northumberland Memorial Park, Stonington.

2021 GIVING STATEMENTS

All 2021 offerings must be handed in to the office by Sunday, December 26. Anything given after December 26 will be entered as a 2022 offering.

Statements will be ready for pickup on Sunday, January 16. Any statement not picked up on Sunday, January 16 will then be mailed out.

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

YOUTH AND FAMILY



YOU'RE INVITED!

CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 | 6:30PM
United In Christ Lutheran Church
1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg, PA

Sponsored by:



Crafts! Cocoa! Cookies! Carols!



Mark your calendars for the evening of **Sunday, December 19th at 6:30pm** here at UIC for our free community Christmas Craft Workshop! This annual workshop is an opportunity for families to gather to make homemade Christmas decorations for around the house! This year we will be hosting our craft workshop with the community of Milton Lutheran Church. If you've got the perfect idea saved on your Pinterest board and would like to help lead a craft station at this year's workshop, please let Kim Criswell or Pr. Justin know! Those joining are also invited to whip up a batch of cookies for a "to-go" style cookie swap! We hope you can join us! Come and see!

CHRISTMAS COOKIE YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Help send UIC Youth to CML and to the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2022.



\$5 for 12 Cookies

\$7 for 18 Cookies

(mixed assortment)

Order sheet is on the bulletin board.

**ORDERS AND MONEY DUE BY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12**

Cookie Pick-up Times
Sat, Dec. 18 ~ 11am-1pm
Sun, Dec. 19 ~ after church

Things to do this season

- * Decorate a gingerbread house
- * Read a Christmas book
- * Sing Christmas carols
- * Make a homemade Christmas card
- * Drive around town and look at Christmas lights
- * Bake cupcakes for local neighbors, firefighters, or police officers
- * Let someone go ahead of you in line
- * Tape popcorn to a RedBox kiosk
- * Send a card to someone who's struggling
- * Leave a note admiring a stranger's garden
- * Call a long-distance friend or relative today
- * Do a chore that typically belongs to someone else
- * Fill a bag with clothes, books, or toys to donate
- * Scrape ice, rake leaves, or blow snow for your neighbor
- * Leave a colorful card for the mail carrier
- * Invite someone without family to join you at Christmas
- * Place positive body image notes in clothing pockets at a store
- * Tape quarters to a vending or laundry machine
- * Give a gift to an overlooked co-worker
- * Write a positive online review for a local business or restaurant you love

Don't shine so that others see you.

Shine so that, through you, others can see Him.



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, Dec. 14 ~ 10am-12pm

10:30 am - Free Bingo with Prizes

12:00 pm - Take Home Bagged Lunch

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



Baby Steps

DIAPER PANTRY

UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

December 11, 2021 10-11:30am

1 bag (40 diapers) per child.

Newborn to size 6

Diapers will be given to families in the surrounding communities of Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, Milton and Watsonstown.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone that came to Frank's memorial. We had a church full. Thank you Jonathan for the wonderful words he spoke about his pap and Amber for singing Amazing Grace. We praise the Lord for Pastor Justin. We are very proud of the wonderful service he gave.

~ Bertie, Frank Jr., and Scott Danowsky

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MONDAY, DECEMBER 20



Worship Volunteers, please give the office **any dates in January** 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 December Newsletter need to be in the office **by Monday, December 20.**

**Church Office will
be closed the week
after Christmas.**



ATTENTION AMAZON SHOPPERS



What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

To learn more, visit the church website.

http://unitedinchristlutheran.net/uic_amazonmile/

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Starting Sunday, December 19, if you have a church mailbox, you'll find your 2022 offering envelopes in your mailbox. If you do not have a mailbox, you'll find your 2022 offering envelopes in the fellowship hall. If you do not get offering envelopes, but would like to, please see Terri in the office.

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, Tue, Thr, Fri, 9am-3pm