



March
2022
NEWSLETTER



LENT

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

Kathy GuffeyPresident	2nd term, ends 12/2024
Emma DanowskyCo President	2nd term, ends 12/2024
Lisa RabuckVice President	2nd term, ends 12/2024
Jen SheafferSecretary	1st term, ends 12/2022
Ken BakerTreasurer	2nd term, ends 12/2023
Kathy Arndt	1st term, ends 12/2024
Ken Criswell	2nd term, ends 12/2022
Kim Criswell	1st term, ends 12/2022
Theresa Furman	1st term, ends 12-2024
Michelle Shearer	1st term, ends 12/2024

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

TUE, MAR. 1	SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING
WED, MAR. 2	ASHES-TO-GO ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
SUN, MAR. 6	LENT 1 CONFIRMATION YOUTH GROUP
TUE, MAR. 8	OAKS SENIOR CENTER
SAT, MAR. 12	DIAPER PANTRY TURN CLOCKS AHEAD
SUN, MAR. 13	LENT 2
TUE, MAR. 15	COUNCIL MEETING
SAT, MAR. 19	BOY SCOUT SPAGHETTI DINNER
SUN, MAR. 20	LENT 3 YOUTH GROUP
MON, MAR. 21	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUN, MAR. 27	LENT 4

FROM THE PASTOR



From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Dear United In Christ,

It's not that easy bein' green. Do you remember the lament? It's the one Kermit the Frog famously sang on Sesame Street in its first year on the air. It was made famous in the Lingenfelter household, though, with the cassette tape of "Kermit Unpigged" that lived in our family minivan. The tracks were made up of various covers of Muppets singing famous songs with (at the time of 1994) contemporary artists. This included a particularly stellar track of "Born to Be Wild" sung by Miss Piggy and Ozzy Osbourne, of all people. To reprise the Sesame Street special, though, Kermit joins with Vince Gil to explore all that comes with "Bein' Green."

As a kid, I'll admit that the track slowed down the overall pace of the Muppets, but coming back again to the song these years later opens up a deeply intrinsic journey of self-acceptance that seems remarkably introspective for children's programming. Kermit starts by expressing his disappointment at being the same color as the leaves and "so many ordinary things" while longing for a way to stand out like red or yellow or gold. Yet, by the end of the song, Kermit arrives at a place of reconciliation: there may be times when he longs to be something else, but in his greenness he shares a beauty with the likes of the mountains, the ocean, and the trees. In the last line, he finally concludes that "I'm green and it'll do fine; it's beautiful and I think it's what I want to be."

If you'd like to brush up on the song, check it out here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51BQfPeSK8k>

While I don't think any of us are necessarily lamenting a current green state these days, it seems as if we could stand to benefit from the journey of reconciliation on which Kermit finds himself in this song. As we enter into the season of Lent, we begin now a similar time of introspection and self-reflective honesty. With the same quiet vulnerability as this green puppet frog, we begin this journey with the courage to ask difficult questions about ourselves, about who we are, and about how we move through our world. Lent is a time of hard self-awareness; it requires us to look boldly at the portions of ourselves that we'd rather keep tucked away and hidden. At the same time, it invites us to heed a call of discipleship to act differently, to follow Jesus down a risky and new path wherein we might find a place of reconciliation with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with God.

See, while it's not that easy bein' green, it's not easy bein' new either. Paul must have known this well (I can imagine him joining

the song alongside Kermit). In this writing to the Corinthian community, we can hear him seeking that journey. After delivering a message to them about the profound unity in the body of Christ, now he writes seeking out that unity on a personal level. The community is displeased with him, so here he seeks his own course of reconciliation. Yet, in that course he recognizes that he is not grounded by his own strength. He is not able to set *himself* right; instead he understands that he is reconciled (to God *and* the Corinthians) through Christ. Having first regarded him from a human point of view – having first operated in a world where sight came through a monotone lens of boring green-ness – *now* he invites a vision beyond that human vista. Now he reminds them: “everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”

And that, United In Christ, is the hope of our Lenten journey. As we start with the dull ashes imposed upon us, as we hear again the reminder that we are dust (that we are green?), we will be reminded that even the dust is reconciled to God, and thus the dusty beings that we are can be reconciled to one another. I pray that you find strength for this journey ahead. I pray that you bring a vulnerability that is honest enough to name where you feel inadequate. I pray that you bring a courage to admit where you have participated in the patterns of the world that need to be left behind for true reconciliation to take place. But I trust that you *will* be met by the God making all things new. I trust that, even beyond the green and dust of our vision, you will see the promise of resurrection waiting just past the stony horizon.

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.

ASHES TO-GO

Can't make it to Ash Wednesday worship? Stop by the corner of Race Street and Front Street in Milton for "Ashes To-Go!" From 12:00pm-6:00pm on March 2nd, Pastor Justin will be available with Pastor Gary Schaeffer (Milton Lutheran Church) and Pastor Tim Hogan-Palazzo (Saint Paul's UCC) to provide imposition of ashes for anyone in the community! Be sure to come by this Ash Wednesday!



MILTON COMMUNITY

ASHES TO-GO

MARCH 2, 2022

Receive ashes at the corner of Race Street and Front Street; Parking available at the Moose! 12:00noon-6:00pm.

Sponsored in partnership by:



involved



volunteer

Volunteering is a great way to feel like part of this community while serving Jesus at the same time.

Currently each worship service has 13 volunteer spots to fill. We are currently not passing the offering plate so Ushers are not needed and we don't regularly have school age children in worship so we have not been scheduling Acolytes.

Thirteen spots a week, 52 spots a month! That's why you see the same people listed multiple times on the volunteer schedule.

Interested in how you can serve?

If you would like to volunteer please grab a *Worship Volunteer Form* from the front bulletin board in the fellowship hall, fill it out and place it in Terri Cromwell's mailbox and she will contact you.

Altar Guild: Altar Guild does not require a large time commitment but is vital. Responsibilities include setting up the elements of wine and bread before service & clean up after service. Altar Guild occasionally changes the altar and pulpit cloths as the church seasons change throughout the year. *(training available)*

Bread/Wine: A loaf of unsliced bread is brought to the church at least 30 minutes before service begins and \$5 is given for the purchase of communion wine.

Communion Assistant: Each service, three Communion Assistants assist the pastor in distributing communion wine and bread during communion. *(training available)*

Digital Host: Did you know we had over 2,000 sermons watched in 2021? The Digital Host holds the camera which streams worship. Don't worry the viewers can't hear you sing! We have separate mics that record the sound from up front.

Guest Relations: Guest Relations remains in the fellowship hall during worship in case a late visitor arrives or a visitor needs assistance. *(training available)*

Greeter: Greeters are essential for providing a welcoming environment, handing out bulletins, and answering questions like where to find things in the building. There is 1 greeter at the side door and 2 at the front door, 2 in case 1 greeter gets busy talking to a newcomer or visitor. Having someone stationed at the doors to assist people can be the difference as to whether someone visits us again. Greeters arrive at church 30 minutes prior to worship.

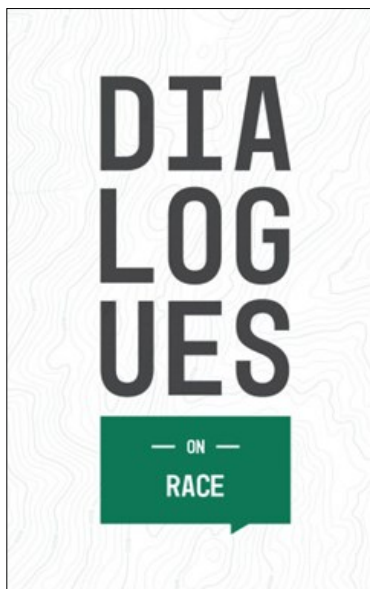
Lector: Lector reads the 1st reading from the pulpit. The reading is emailed ahead of time so you can become familiar with it.

Offering Counter: A team of 2 counters prepare the deposit after each worship service. *(training available)*



NEW DIALOGUES STUDY SERIES

Join us for our new study series on
Wednesdays at 6:30pm!



Using the ELCA's *Dialogues* series, we will begin this month with *Dialogues on Race*, a weekly study that will help us to engage with our understandings of race within our communities and our church. Each week we will gather to reflect on a chapter provided by various authors with a corresponding video for discussion. This series will also help us at UIC as we prepare a

new Welcome Statement for the congregation by giving us an inward glimpse of what genuine welcome looks like across racial lines. Given the nature of this study and the work it means for UIC, participation in these *Dialogues* series (look for another after Easter) is highly encouraged for our members. Recognizing its importance, UIC's Congregational Council has also agreed to make the accompanying books for this study **free** to all participants! Sign up to be a part of this study using the sheet in the Fellowship Hall!

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using the sheet in the Fellowship Hall!

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Prayer Requests: *Family and friends of Karen Shaffer, Kay Martin, Jeff Charles, Ryan Hunter, Dr. Elwood Reiner, Ron Guffey, Dave Wall, Roger Neilson, Rosemary Fernsler, Malcolm Arter, Russ Wynn, Janet Day, Brandon Baker, Justin Golder, Viv Marsh, Gladys Fawcett, Peyton Weiser, Alice Snyder, Marie Tanner, Grace Yost, Peg Swinehart, 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 your prayer request to UIC's prayer chain.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 600

SPAGHETTI DINNER

March 19 ~ 4pm-6pm



\$10 per meal

\$6 jar of sauce

Take-out only

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

	Ash Wed. Mar. 2	Mar. 6	Mar. 13	Mar. 20	Mar. 27
Bread/Wine	S. Noll	J. Sheaffer	M. Shearer	C. Troxell	S. Weiser
Altar Guild	C. Troxell	C. Zimmerman	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey	S. Keifer
Digital Host	T. Cromwell	S. Bingaman	K. Guffey	K. Lingenfelter	M. Shearer
Greeter Front Door	C. Zimmerman	Ken Baker	D. Byerly	Karen Baker	M. Ketchem
	K. Guffey	R. Baker	J. Byerly	L. Rabuck	R. Whitesel
Greeter Side Door	S. Brown	M. L. Keifer	R. Kling	T. Cromwell	K. Noll
Acolyte					
Lector	B. Swartz	C. Zimmerman	R. Baker	S. Bingaman	T. Furman
Comm. Asst.	D. Baker	Jen Sheaffer	M.L. Keifer	S. Bingaman	S. Weiser
	Ken Baker	M. Shearer	C. Troxell	D. Baker	C. Zimmerman
	R. Kling	B. Swartz	S. Weiser	R. Kling	B. Swartz
Guest Rel.		G. Weiser	Ken Baker	M. Mertz	K. Noll
Offering Counter	Ken Baker	M.L. Keifer	P. Hauck	M. Shearer	J. Sheaffer
	M. Rabuck	L. Rabuck	C. Zimmerman	C. Shreck	K. Guffey

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

Allen and Kathy Loss 3/16/01
Jeff and Donna Byerly 3/18/15



Happy Birthday

Rob Troxell 3/1
Krista Wirth 3/2
Wade Cooley 3/9
Michael Ketchem 3/15
Grace Yost 3/15
Allyssa Stark 3/26
Chad Cromwell 3/29



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

In-person Attendance	
Jan. 2	42
Jan. 9	Snow day
Jan. 16	35
Jan. 23	32
Jan. 30	42
Feb. 6	40
Feb. 13	46
Feb. 20	45

**Don't forget to set your clocks
 ahead 1 hour the night of
 Saturday, March 12!**



Social Ministry

POSTCARD MINISTRY

Miss seeing someone at church?

Want to let a member know
you are thinking about them?

We are starting a new ministry at UIC called Postcard Ministry. On the bulletin board in the fellowship hall you'll find *Thinking of You* postcards, a table to sit down and write at, and a Church Directory for you to look up addresses. The office will put postage on it and mail it out.

COME JOIN US!!

Social Ministry Committee will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, March 1 at 4pm at Tastecraft Café in Milton to discuss what we will be doing up through June.

We would love for you to join us!

Even if it's just to come, order a coffee, and hear what we will be planning the next few months.

MILTON'S COMMUNITY MEAL

In 2016 Milton Lutheran churches began serving a bi-monthly community meal. Then Covid hit and the meals paused.



In June 2021 the meals resumed with the collaboration of MLC (Milton Lutheran Church) and Saint Paul's UCC. MLC and Saint Paul's have been serving around 220 people at each community meal. They do a drive-through at 1125 Mahoning St., Milton and also deliver meals to Milton Towners and Milton Developmental Services.

*UIC is happy to announce
we are joining the partnership!*

The next meal is Sunday, March 13 and the menu is goulash, tossed salad, applesauce, and bread pudding.

UIC has been given a list of ingredients, which have been equally divided between the three churches. All of the items that require refrigeration will be purchased with the Community Meal Fund. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall of other grocery items needed.

Prep and cooking is done the day before the meal. Social Ministry will deliver all the grocery items to MLC the evening of March 11.

*Please have your items to the church by
Friday, March 11.*

You can help buy items by writing "Community Meal" on your offering envelope or by selecting "Community Meal" on our on-line giving platform, [Tithely](https://www.tithely.com).

Volunteers are only needed the day of the meal. They have enough help the day before to prep and cook everything. Please see the signup sheet.

Valentine's Day

CARE PACKAGES

With your help we were able to bless our 5 college students for Valentine's Day. You gave \$396, five \$25 gifts cards (1 for each student), and a bunch of greeting cards for each student.

Social Ministry used the \$396, plus \$7.29 from Social Ministry budget line, to purchase a \$50 gift card for each student and \$30 in gifts for each student. Per Pastor Justin, postage to mail packages came out of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Thank you to everyone that helped make this happen!!



On Sunday, February 13 we tackled hunger while pitting the right and left side of the church against each other by having them place their donations on the side of the team they were rooting for during the Super Bowl.



633 ITEMS DONATED FOR THE RAMS - WINNER!
587 ITEMS DONATED FOR THE BENGALS

Boy Scouts delivered 1,220 food items to Milton Panther Packs which provides Milton students with backpacks of food over the weekends, when school meals are not available. Every week there are over 250 children that take home food backpacks.



As of 2/20/22, we have received \$140 in donations for the Community Meal Fund which will be used to sponsor meals at the Sharing Our Tables community meal in Milton.

I would like to share a few kind words and words of encouragement.

In recent years I have decided to make donations/gifts to the congregation that has been a true corner stone in the foundation of building my spiritual growth and faith journey.

Although my current membership is not with United In Christ (UIC), UIC has continued to welcome me, and treat me as a family member and congregational member.

During baptism, the family members, sponsors and congregation are asked to support the person being baptized. To help guide them, educate and to feel welcome to the body of Christ. UIC, since my baptism has done just that, and never skipping a beat.

UIC and it's members continue to impact and surprise me with their bountiful growth spiritually upward, inward and outward.



Before Pastor Justin beats me to it in the next week or so, I would like to share that I have donated a gift to the church. I know UIC is not a congregation to worry about the sparkles, bells and whistles. This congregation likes to put that energy into its mission. I like to think of gifts I can contribute as the time comes.

The gift I am donating to the church is a new 6 piece set of communion vessels. One flagon, one paten, two intinction chalices and two pourable chalices. The set is all handmade pottery, by a potter in Ohio.

This is a gift to the people of God, the disciples at UIC. Past, present and future.

Thanks be to God!

~ By Garrett Baker





OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, Mar. 8 ~ 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

March 12, 2022 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.

RICH HUFF FUND

The Rich Huff Fund will be awarding three scholarships this year. Two scholarships in the amount of \$500 will be awarded to a senior high school student from Lewisburg, Meadowbrook, Mifflinburg, Milton, and/or Warrior Run school districts, and another \$500 scholarship to a UIC senior.

Students must be graduating this year, have at least a 2.5 GPA, and have been accepted at a college or trade school. Priority will be given to students going into the following fields: Educator, Pediatrics, Social Worker, Child Psychologist, Occupation Therapy, Speech Therapy, Respiratory Therapy, Librarian, Speech/Language Pathologist, Juvenile Court, Recreation Director.

Applications are available in the guidance offices of the above named schools. All applications must be postmarked May 1 or before.



EASTER FLOWERS

Easter flowers serve as a beautiful reminder that Easter is a time for rejoicing and celebrating.

At the moment we do not have prices, but will very soon.

Order forms will be available on our website and can also be found on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Ordering deadline will be April 3



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

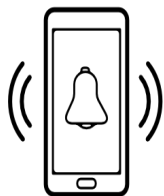
MONDAY, MARCH 21



Worship Volunteers, please give the office **any dates in April** 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 April Newsletter need to be in the office **by Monday, March 21.**

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 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.

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1875 CHURCHES ROAD
LEWISBURG PA 17837

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Location: 1875 Churches Rd., Lewisburg, PA
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Website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net
Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thr, Fri, 9am-3pm