

United In Christ



Lutheran Church

2020/2021

Bulletin of Annual Reports



2022 Congregational Council

Kathy Arndt

Ken Baker*, *treasurer*

Ken Criswell*

Kim Criswell

Emma Danowsky*†, *co-president*

Theresa Furman

Kathy Guffey*, *president*

Lisa Rabuck*, *vice president*

Jen Sheaffer, *secretary*

Michelle Shearer

* denotes council member in their second term

† denotes youth council member

Pastor's Report

Dear United In Christ,

What. A. Year.

Or has it been two years? You know, it's really tough to say at this point. Regardless, the past "COVID-based increment of time" has really been a rollercoaster of a journey, hasn't it? This pandemic era has brought with it a whole array of new challenges, fears, and frustrations that have demanded an exhausting increased diligence. At the same time, this era has brought with it a demand for creativity and innovation that has seen us harness all manner of new possibilities. As a congregation, we discovered what it meant for need to give rise to necessity and we learned how to pivot to the constantly shifting demands of the world we live in. Let me say from here at the beginning that I could not be prouder of the grace-filled and courageous ways in which you have handled the past two years. In typical UIC fashion, when you called upon to make the adjustments and changes to make it to the next day, you were right there with enthusiasm and gusto to make it happen!

Looking back, it seems to me that this was nowhere more evident than around the myriad of ways in which we have gathered for worship in the past year. When we held our last service in the building back in March of 2020, the uncertainty about what the future would hold was palpable, but I don't know that any of us could have imagined all that took shape. First, your dedication to learning new technologies as a community allowed us to quickly translate our practice of online worship (that we'd built up for snow days) and improve upon it to make it feel as UIC as possible. We helped each other learn



our way through Zoom and Facebook Live to make sure no one was left behind. In the end, we managed over the course of the next year to find a rhythm that allowed us to connect with more worship leaders than ever for our online services! We shared in the liturgy and quickly came to see that worship was what we do as God's people, no matter where we were gathered! And after about sixty weeks of fully online services, you got pretty good at it!

As time went on, though, we figured out methods of gathering safely in other creative and adjacent ways. We took to our parking lots with Milton Lutheran Church to gather together in a service of unity ahead of and following the 2020 election. We gathered and had our windows marked with the sign of the cross for Ash Wednesday. We gathered Easter morning to celebrate resurrection with the honking of horns! We even took the light of God's arrival with us on Christmas Eve, forming a convoy of lanterns and carols heading out over the hills and everywhere! Then, we finally arrived at a place where we could safely and pragmatically gather, we took our worship on the go by visiting different parks and venues around our community for outdoor worship together! We sang, we drank cocoa and ate cookies for Christmas in July, we shared in a picnic to rejoice at being in each other's spaces again!



Through it all we kept learning, adjusting, and empowering one another to tackle things we had never before conceived. And now we have taken those pieces and lived into them in our



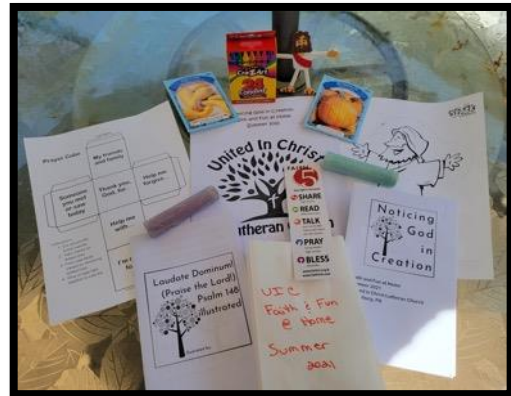
ongoing worship together! We continue to share in worship leadership with more volunteers leading parts of the liturgy than ever! We continue to empower our students to have an active part in leading worship with us. We learned that moving to new spaces can heighten our experience of worship when we worshiped in the round through Advent. We have learned from our technology to make sure we *always* have a digital option for folks to join us in worship no matter where they are. We've even taken steps to ensure that some of our homebound members are able to connect digitally through "Grand Pads" managed by UIC!

Yet, our passion for growth and learning was not kept solely to worship. Throughout this time, you all have kept your conviction of taking this walk of faith seriously by engaging in ongoing studies and conversations about where the rubber of our faith meets the road of the world around us. While the arrival of the pandemic interrupted our study of *Dear Church* at the time, you all quickly translated that gathering into an online space. It was the footprint of that weekly gathering, then, that served us well as a place to process the active events of the world around us. As we wrapped up that Lenten study, we took the time to gather together to have to listen and share in conversation around the wave of outcry following the killing of George Floyd. Using



Emmanuel Acho’s “Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man” series, we were given the opportunity to listen to the experiences of people of color and look at the world in a new way. Similarly, we took this grounding to further engage in conversations about the spaces in which our LGBTQIA+ navigate and considered what our role as the Church is in making space for their voices. Keeping up this routine and rhythm then allowed us to jump back into our usual studies tackling Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber’s *Accidental Saints*, Bishop Michael Curry’s *Love is the Way*, and Rev. Emmy Kegler’s *One Coin Found* over the past few months.

But this space wasn’t carved out for *just* our adults! Even in the height of digital gatherings, you rallied to provide continued faith formation for all of our students. Our Youth Group made a habit of gathering over Zoom to engage in new ways of building community with one another (and simply giving space to take a break for the new levels of expectations that came from online learning). With the quick thinking of Sherry Bingaman, our Faith and Fun programming was delivered in at-home formats for our youngest students to engage in with their families. As we made our way back to the building, we even carved out new ways of engaging with our youngest students with a new format of after worship faith formation opportunities!



Throughout the past year and a half, we’ve also stepped into forming new partnerships for ministry with the neighbors around us. Just before the pandemic, we had the joy in sharing in our “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” Mr. Rogers study with our friends at Saint Paul’s UCC. One of our last social events was the outpouring of joy on Shrove Tuesday with our pancake dinner and watch party of the Mr. Rogers movie together with those newfound neighbors. Later, with the arrival of Pr. Gary Schaeffer at the Milton Lutheran Church, we found new opportunity for partnered witness in our community. We joined with MLC for our unity services surrounding the

election and got to know Pr. Gary better with our pulpit swap this past Fall. Additionally, we have formed a strong core of partnership with our joint Youth Group and Confirmation class with the students at MLC. What a joy it has been to get to work alongside all these neighbors within our community!



What's been just as impressive, though, has been the ways in which you have continued to leverage all of this for the sake of reaching out *into* our community. From finding ways to keep the Diaper Pantry going to ensuring our OAKS folks are still able to secure a monthly meal, you have kept the God-given impulse that is at the heart of UIC to reach our neighbors with the tangible marks of God's love with which we have been met. From backpacks for students and pantry items on Harvest Home Sunday, to once again firing up the kettles for a monstrous weekend of ham and bean soup, you have embodied the heart of service that marks this course of discipleship! Even in a year full of mounting challenges, you found new ways of reaching out in our partnership with the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank with our Senior Express deliveries that help provide food security for seniors living in our area!



Like I said: what a year(s)! I'll be honest, I have no desire to ever have to repeat the challenges we've been through, but there is no doubt that you all have handled these challenges with grace and compassion. There is no other community that UIC with whom I would want to tackle these challenges. Looking back, I would be remiss if I failed to also express my deep gratitude for UIC's Congregational Council members who have had to routinely make some of the most difficult choices that have ever faced our leadership. I am so very proud of the work you all have done together, of the care you have exhibited for one another, and the ways in which you have continued to bear witness to God's mission at work in this world. Thank you *all* so very much for all that you have offered together!

So, United In Christ – what's next?

Yours, united in Christ,

~ Pastor Justin



United In Christ Lives in Transition

2020/21 Baptisms

Adelaide Koch	12/12/20	Jaxon Baker	09/19/21
Delayne Baker	09/19/21	Kenley Jo Swanger	10/17/21

2020/21 New Members

Tara Condit	Robert Furman
Kendall Condit	Mary Lou Keifer
Chad Cromwell	Linda Mowery
Dylan Cromwell	Ronald Mowery
Mya Cromwell	Cheryl Robuck
Terri Cromwell	Dale Robuck
Theresa Furman	

2020/21 Funerals

Joan Ketchem	d. 01/05/20	Don Katherman*	d. 09/25/21
Frank Danowsky	d. 12/26/20	Irene Stark	d. 10/28/21
Mary Kay Harper	d. 3/19/21	Willard Hauck	d. 11/22/21
Lila Collins*	d. 04/10/21	Cathy Katherman*	d. 11/23/21
Gladys Guffey*	d. 06/01/21		

**denotes individuals who were not members of UIC, but for whom UIC provided services*

Property Committee Report

Maintenance Items Completed in 2020/21:

1. Gutter Repair - Millers Seamless Gutters replaced north side of church, both sides of SS addition, and storage area behind elevator. Cost \$1,375
2. Roof - Repaired leak over men's room
3. Men's Room Ceiling - Replaced damaged ceiling tile from roof leak
4. Men's Room Urinal - Replaced leaking Sloan valve. Cost \$318
5. Women's Room - Replaced rusted toilet seat

Projects Completed in 2020/21:

1. Temperature & water sensor provided by CM Insurance - Installed in basement area
2. Rest Room Towel Dispensers - Replaced with touchless style



3. Landscape Project - \$21,500
4. Sign Replacement - \$3,345

Future Projects to Consider

1. Roof Replacement - Shingle area around elevator and over stairwell - \$6,200, Rubber
 - a. Roof over Sunday School Addition - \$38,000
2. Steeple Clean / Repair
3. Polish / Seal Basement Floor
4. Paint Exterior Woodwork
5. Paint Interior Walls / Woodwork
6. Remodel Kitchen
7. Paint heater covers in Fellowship Hall. Received bid for \$400 - \$500.
8. Paint and install vinyl floor in Narthex and hallway to elevator. Have flooring on hand.
9. Install interior & exterior wayfinding signage
10. Timers - Replace water heater and narthex heat timers

Submitted by Ken Criswell

Finance/Audit Committee Report - Addendum coming 2/23.

Social Ministry Report

Soup Bowl Sunday as held on February 6. The committee held a drive-up collection of food items for Milton Panther Packs. Over 1500 food items were collected and \$672.58 in offerings were given, which went to Milton Panther Packs. The Boy Scouts helped carry the items in to St. Andrews in Milton.



A collection was taken up for college and military for Valentine's Day. \$245 in gift cards were received along with \$213 in cash, which was used to buy gift cards. Valentine's Day cards and gift cards were sent out to Alli Arndt, Amy Danowsky, Dalton Shearer, and Brandon Wirth.



Community Easter Egg Hunt was orchestrated by Michelle Shearer.



Sherry Bingaman was contacted by Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of PA (LAMPA) about a food program for seniors. Sherry implemented our partnership with The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and continues to coordinate UIC's new Senior Express program which delivers a free box of healthy food to seniors' homes in our area. After training was completed, in June we began receiving food boxes from The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank in Williamsport on the first Friday each month. Our first month we delivered food boxes to 16 seniors in our community. We are hoping to expand this program in 2022 to include more deliveries.



Council voted to send the congregation's Lenten offering of \$2,599.85 to LOVE In the Name of Christ, a local non-profit that provides transportation, care, and home repairs to those in our community in need.





In August we took up a collection for Back-to-School supplies. It was a great success. 40 backpacks, 26 lunch bags, and 4 large boxes which were filled with supplies were delivered to Baugh Elementary School in Milton where it was distributed to students in need in the school district. A clear luggage tag was put on each backpack, the insert had a place for a child's name on one side while the other side said "Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You."

At UIC's last outdoor worship service of the summer Steve and Michelle Shearer hosted a bbq chicken meal for the congregation. A HUGE thank you to the Shearer family for that wonderful gift!! (any photos??)

Mark Rabuck chaired the annual fall Ham and Bean Soup fundraiser. Council voted to send all proceeds, \$1,781.69, to the Lutheran Disaster Response.



In October, for Harvest Home, we collected food items for Milton Panther Packs. The Girl Scouts helped take the food in at St. Andrew's in Milton.



Lewisburg Ecumenical Ministerium hosted a Lewisburg Community Walk to End Food Insecurity on Sunday, October 10. A collection was taken up at UIC and \$90 was received and given to the Ministerium to use at food banks in our area.

Rose Hardy, owner of Country Comfort, an assisted living facility in New Columbia, supplied names of 6 residents that wouldn't be receiving any gifts this Christmas as they have no family. Kim Criswell distributed the names of these individual to congregational members who wished to buy these people gifts for Christmas. Social Ministry also put together 19 Christmas gift bags for all the residents at Country Comfort. Each bag had shampoo, body wash, lotion, tissues, hand sanitizer, word find, pencil, and candy.

UIC, along with the Milton Lutheran Church, hosted a Christmas Craft Worship on December 19. We had a great turnout for people offering to host a craft, although the actual turnout wasn't great. If we do this again in 2022 we will do a better job of promoting the event in the newspaper and schools to get the word out!



Social Ministry paused the collection of food items when Covid hit in 2020. We have since resumed the collection but have changed where we take the items you donate. We used to split the items between Mazappa Manna and HandUp in Milton. Your food items are now taken the *Our Little Free Pantry* in West Milton. This is a food pantry open to anyone that may find themselves in need of a meal!

The Social Ministry Committee is open to everyone! We love fresh ideas!

Submitted by Terri Cromwell and Kathy Guffey

Stewardship Team Report

After a very successful new stewardship campaign at the end of 2019 in our cottage visits, we were beginning to see a real groundswell of energy and motivation here at UIC. After our open and honest conversations together, in the first quarter of 2020 we were looking at an unprecedented period of financial contribution to the congregation! While many other congregations experienced a lot of hardship around the pandemic, it seems that this work helped set us up for stability and success. But more than just an unleashing of abundance with financial resources, we have also seen a drastic increase in our members being good stewards of their gifts and skills in order to serve in new ways, especially with the drastic increase in worship volunteers! This has become especially life-giving for us as we have had to develop new volunteer roles (like the Sunday Digital Host) and alter old ones for now.



One additional example of quick action and wonderful stewardship came when the Congregational Council jumped at the opportunity presented by the PPP Federal Loan Program. In less than 48 hours of notice, UIC was able to apply for this loan and subsequently received \$20,000 from the program. By following the guidelines and ensuring that our employees were properly paid at the start of the pandemic, we were able to submit the proper paperwork to have that loan forgiven, thus we were able to retain that sum! For the first time in a while, we were able to take that money and deposit it into our Endowment Fund!

Finally, UIC has been monumentally blessed by the faithful stewardship of a few particular individuals in the past year. First, we are grateful for the stewardship of the anonymous donor who provided the matching funds of \$10,000 to help complete our landscaping campaign. Their gift has enabled us to unleash a great deal of potential and transform the entry to building into a place as welcoming as our people! Second, we are in deep gratitude for the vision and passion of Mary Kay Harper who, in her passing, left UIC with an estate gift of \$40,000 with an additional pending \$40,000 in the 2022 calendar year. Half of this total gift is being used to support a full-time intern for the 2022-2023 academic year here at UIC, a portion will go to some technological investments and support of the Grand Pad program, and the rest is received as an undesignated gift. Thank you to both our anonymous donor and to Mary Kay and her family for their faith-filled gifts and stewardship of resources! We are so thankful for your witness and generosity!

Submitted by Pr. Justin

Office Administrator's Report

In 2021 UIC...

- Paid off our lease for our copier, saving us almost \$1,500 a year.
- Started using MailChimp for all our church wide communications and started the *United In Christ Weekly Update* email.
- Had over 8,900 page views on our website and over 1,200 sermons watched!

Submitted by Terri Cromwell



Rich Huff Committee Report

The Rich Huff committee continued its mission of helping children in need during 2021. Several donations were provided using committee funds as noted below. Unfortunately, the committee was again unable to host the Silent Auction, which is its largest fundraiser, due to the ongoing Covid pandemic.

4- \$500 Student Scholarships were given

12,080 diapers were given out through the monthly diaper pantry

24 back packs and 24 lunch bags were purchased and provided to the Milton Elementary School (\$167.04)

Clothing and Christmas gifts were purchased and provided to a family in need (\$150)

Submitted by Jen Sheaffer

Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts Report

Boy Scout Troop 600 and Cub Scout Pack 3600 continue to be active here at UIC. The scouts have gone on several camp outs over the past year. They attended the Summer and Winter camps at Camp K, and the Jamboree at Hawk Mountain. They participated in the Klondike Derby and Merit Badge Colleges at the Buffalo Valley Sportsman Club and Montour Preserve. They completed community projects including assisting with the Milton food pantry, helping to organize for a community yard sale at St. Paul's United Church of Christ. The scouts also took part in the Veteran's ceremony at the Moose in Milton and placed flags in the New Columbia cemetery. They continue to look for community projects they can take part in.

Submitted by Jen Sheaffer



OAKS SENIOR CENTER 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

INCOME		EXPENSE	
CommunityAid Bin	\$290.62	Bingo Prizes	\$42.71
Memorial Donations	\$145.00	Food	\$830.45
Meal Donations	\$515.90	Supplies	\$491.12
Sunday Offerings	\$126.00		
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,077.52	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,364.28

Despite Covid, OAKS Senior Center continued serving the community, all the while ensuring the safety of our seniors and volunteers.

In January we transitioned from delivering meals to a drive-up style meal distribution. We also began taking leftover meals to Milton Developmental Services in Milton.

In April, in addition to a meal, we handed out frozen dinners and ice cream which were given to us by Mary Kay’s daughter, Kathy Arndt. National Beef donated 50lbs of ground beef.

In September OAKS re-opened to in-person gatherings on the second Tuesday of each month from 10am-12pm. We remain cautious and in order to keep everyone safe we require masks, regardless of vaccine status. While our masking expectations limits our capacity to offer food and drink in-house, our volunteers continue preparing take-home meals for everyone in attendance.

In December we handed out gift bags to each household which contained a Christmas card, a Christmas kitchen towel, hand lotion, and candy.

Ruby Baker became the new meal coordinator for OAKS while Ted and Shirley McPherrin continue to organize bingo and the prizes and Terri Cromwell remains as OAKS Director.

CommunityAid restructured their collection process, in doing so they removed their collection bin from the church’s property. Since the bin was placed OAKS received almost \$1400, an average of \$500 a year. To help make up for the loss of income, a clothing drive was held in October. The clothing drive brought in \$68.34 from CommunityAid. We didn’t make as much money as we thought we would so the OAKS Committee is discussing hosting a fall clothing drive so we can have a yard sale style sale of clothing at the church where people would fill a grocery bag for a certain dollar amount, maybe \$2 or \$3. Then any remaining items that do not get purchased would be taken down to CommuntiyAid where we would get \$.06 per lb. We are hoping this will be a successful fundraising event for OAKS. If it is, we will host the clothing sale every fall.



OAKS SENIOR CENTER

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Approximately 475 meals were distributed in 2021. We had 6 new seniors attend OAKS since it re-opened in September. Since re-opening our attendance has been averaging 18 seniors, about 1/3 of what we had pre-covid.

We closed the year with a deficit of (\$286.76). Our deficit would have been greater if it weren't for the donations of \$250 worth of beef and the donation of 120+ bingo prizes!

You can help support OAKS Senior Center by placing money or a check in the offering plate with "OAKS" written on the envelope or memo line.

