



# September 2022 NEWSLETTER

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# UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

**The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: Pastor**

**Vicar Katy Moran: Intern**

**Terri Cromwell: Office Administrator and OAKS Coordinator**

Office: 570-568-2254

Email: [office@unitedinchristlutheran.net](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net)

**Marilyn Gresh: Director of Music**

**WORSHIP: SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.**

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

**Office Hours: Monday- Friday 8:00am - 12:30pm**

## UIC COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>Kathy Guffey, <i>President</i></b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2024
<b>Emma Danowsky, <i>Co President</i></b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2024
<b>Lisa Rabuck, <i>Vice President</i></b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2024
<b>Jen Sheaffer, <i>Secretary</i></b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2022
<b>Ken Baker, <i>Treasurer</i></b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2023
<b>Kathy Arndt</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2024
<b>Ken Criswell</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2022
<b>Kim Criswell</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2022
<b>Theresa Furman</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12-2024
<b>Michelle Shearer</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> 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

<b>MON, SEPT. 5</b>	<b>LABOR DAY</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
<b>FRI, SEPT. 9</b>	<b>VICAR KATY ON VACATION</b> Vicar Katy returns Sept. 19
<b>SAT, SEPT. 10</b>	<b>BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY</b>
<b>SUN, SEPT. 11</b>	<b>FAITH AND FUN RESUMES</b>
<b>TUE, SEPT. 13</b>	<b>OAKS SENIOR CENTER</b>
<b>THU, SEPT. 15</b>	<b>HAM AND BEAN SOUP PREP</b>
<b>FRI, SEPT. 16</b>	<b>HAM AND BEAN SOUP</b>
<b>SAT, SEPT. 17</b>	<b>MILTON HARVEST FESTIVAL</b> <b>HAM AND BEAN SOUP</b>
<b>SUN, SEPT. 18</b>	<b>YOUTH GROUP BEGINS</b>
<b>MON, SEPT. 19</b>	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>
<b>TUE, SEPT. 20</b>	<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>
<b>WED, SEPT. 21</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY BEGINS</b>
<b>MON, SEPT. 26</b>	<b>GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP</b>

# FROM THE PASTOR



*Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.*

Psalm 146

Dear United In Christ,

Love lost. Love gained. Love longed after. Gut wrenching sadness. Euphoric joy. Straight-up good time party vibes. *These* are the things that inspire so much of the music played around us day after day. Songs are written as odes to those the songwriter holds dear. Ballads are composed in the depths of despair that forge the rock bottom of a broken heart. Speakers are turned up and windows rolled down to let electrifying excitement wash over the moment.

From Tom Petty to Taylor Swift, Bee Gees to BTS, the muses and inspiration for breaking into music seem many and myriad. I mean, come on, Taylor Swift can write a song about basically *anything*. And yet, despite that plethora of artistic inspiration, it

seems like the psalmist's inspiration would be so extraordinarily out of place on today's airwaves and streaming services. "Do not put your trust in princes," they belt out! "Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob . . . who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food for the hungry." Even across the contemporary Christian stations that would be quick to lift a happy word of praise to God, a celebration of such liberation -- of the one who sets the prisoner free -- would be starkly out of place.

These themes just don't often get sourced as the inspiration for much of the music that fills our days. I mean, let's be honest: Harry Styles ain't singing about that!\* Yet, in such themes of God's liberating actions, the psalmist finds all the more reason to belt out! Seeing the hurt and exploitation of the world around them, seeing the plight of those held captive by the powers that be, the psalmist is moved to burst into a song *yearning* for God's justice. Their song is a reminder that God's heart is alongside the oppressed and the prisoner and the hungry, which might just be the song worth humming to these days.

So let's join in the psalmist's melody. May God's heart be what moves us to song. Like finding the resonance of a track you can play on repeat for days, may it be the psalmist's words that give space to the rhythm of our hearts. May it stir in us the yearning and longing for God's care for God's beloved relegated to the margins of our world. May we be moved to the song of God's justice.

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".

\* Just to be clear, Harry Styles is writing songs about plenty of other wonderful things, like "Music for a Sushi Restaurant," for example.

# FALL BIBLE STUDY

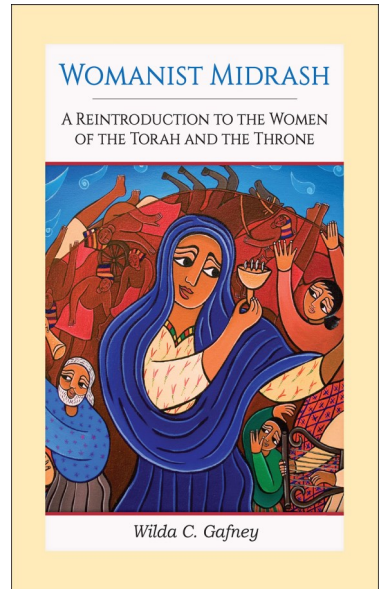
## WOMANIST MIDRASH

Join us this Fall as we dive into scripture to explore the too-often overlooked stories of women from the Hebrew Scriptures. Each week you are invited to bring your favorite Bible as we focus on a new character and rediscover the ways in which they fit into the larger narrative of God at work. This study begins on **Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm** and will continue through the end of October!

There are not additional books/resources required for this study, but if you would like to follow along with those leading the group and do more exploration on your own, we will be using Dr. Wilda Gafney's *Womanist Midrash* as the grounding for our exploration of these characters. Dr. Gafney's work and experience of examining these figures in midrash (a Jewish tradition of wrestling, exploring, imagining, and challenging scripture) through a womanist lens offers an incredible accompaniment through these texts. Come and see!

From the publisher: "*Womanist Midrash* is an in-depth and creative exploration of the well- and lesser-known women of the Hebrew Scriptures. Using her own translations, Gafney offers a midrashic interpretation of the biblical text that is rooted in the African American preaching tradition to tell the stories of a

variety of female characters, many of whom are often overlooked and nameless. Gafney employs a solid understanding of womanist and feminist approaches to biblical interpretation and the sociohistorical culture of the ancient Near East. This unique and imaginative work that is grounded in serious scholarship will expand conversations about feminist and womanist biblical interpretation.”



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19



**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 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 October Newsletter need to be in the office **by Monday, September 19.**

# STEWARDSHIP IS ABOUT GOOD PRIORITIES

*Jesus taught, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." -Luke 12:32*

The Bible makes it clear that God has given us all that we have and all that we are. This includes not just our money and possessions, but also our relationships, our character strengths, our time, our intelligence, the special talents and skills we may possess, and so much more.

Biblical stewardship invites us to use all these gifts in God-pleasing ways -- not for God's benefit, but for ours. We are the ones who benefit when we invest ourselves, our time and our possessions in ways that are in sync with God's purposes.

The more we align our lives with God's purposes, the happier and more fulfilled we become. And why not? We are learning to live more fully as disciples of Jesus, approaching more fully the abundant life he promised us. We grow in awareness and set new priorities that bring us closer to God.

If that sounds appealing to you, why not begin? Pick an area of your life that you'd like to align with God's purposes. Maybe your relationships? Your money? How about your time?

Then, honestly and prayerfully consider: How are you using that gift? Talk it over with your pastor or prayer partner. Ask God to give you insight and to reveal your blind spots. Pray for guidance on how you can better use your gifts.

It takes time, but it's so worth it. When our priorities are in sync with God's purposes, we are not only stewarding our lives well, but also opening the door to greater personal fulfillment and joy.

**--Rob Blezard**

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org). He blogs at [www.thestewardshipquy.com](http://www.thestewardshipquy.com).



# GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Joined together, the communities of Milton Lutheran Church, Saint Paul's UCC, and United In Christ are having a monthly grief support group. The location for each monthly gathering will rotate between the congregations. On **Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm grief support group will meet at Milton Lutheran Church, 100 Mahoning Street, Milton PA 17847.**

Each month we will focus on a chapter in Julie Yarbough's *Beyond the Broken Heart: A Journey Through Grief*. You can purchase a copy of the book directly through [Amazon](#) or [Barnes & Noble](#) or you can contact your church office about ordering a copy through the congregation.

If you find yourself struggling with grief after the loss of a loved one, a broken relationship, or the overall strain on your being, know that this group is for you. No matter where you are on the journey you are welcomed here.

A promotional graphic for a grief support group. The background is a blue-tinted image of several hands clasped together in a supportive gesture. On the left, a white vertical oval contains the logos for three partner churches: Milton Lutheran Church (a cross with a green plant), Saint Paul's United Church of Christ (a colorful cross), and United In Christ Lutheran Church (a tree with people figures as branches). The text 'In partnership with:' is positioned above these logos. To the right, a white icon of three stylized figures is above the large, bold text 'GRIEVE WITH THOSE IN GRIEF'. Below this, the text reads: 'A grief support group for those on the journey together. You are welcomed here.'

Dear United in Christ,

I cannot express my sincere joy and gratitude for the many ways you have welcomed me into this community! Though I have only been here a few weeks, it is abundantly clear to me that this open-armed welcome is a defining characteristic of UIC. I look forward to getting to know you better and if I have not had the chance to meet you yet, I am excited for the opportunities to do so! These first few weeks have been great! I cannot thank Pastor Justin and Terri enough for their patience and their endless encouragement as I get the hang of things in the office.

Moving and transitioning somewhere unfamiliar often times feels daunting, and I must admit that it has certainly been strange moving somewhere new. I am adjusting to having an upstairs neighbor again for the first time in almost 8 years and I certainly miss my family and our cats. However, this time has been so exciting! Exploring and discovering a new area, getting to know you, and working in collaborative ministry are just a few of the blessings I can name. As I am learning about the life and ministry of UIC, I have had the privilege of visiting some of our members in their homes, I was able to be a part of the diaper pantry, and have taken part in the work on getting the Worship Playground ready for our students! Guided by the Holy Spirit, I cannot wait to continue this journey with you!

Yours,  
Vicar Katy

# UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

## Prayer Requests:

*Emily Moran, Melody Erb, Larry Erb, family and friends of Colin, family and friends of Grace Yost, Kim Pham, Walt Bingaman, Mark Rabuck, Shirley Russell, Russ Wynn, Viv Marsh, Gladys Fawcett, Alice Snyder, Marie Tanner, 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](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net).

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## VICAR KATY ON VACATION

Vicar Katy will be away beginning September 9 and will  
return on September 18.



# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25
Social Hour	L - R	S - Z	A - D	E - K
Bread/Wine	J. Mertz	S. Noll	J. Sheaffer	M. Shearer
Altar Guild	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey	S. Keifer	C. Troxell
Digital Host	S. Bingaman	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey	K. Lingenfelter
Greeter Front Door	J. Byerly	M. Ketchem	C. Zimmerman	Ken Baker
	D. Byerly	R. Whitesel	M.L. Keifer	R. Baker
Greeter Side Door	R. Kling	Karen Baker	T. McPherrin	G. Weiser
Lector	R. Baker	S. Bingaman	C. Zimmerman	T. Furman
Ushers	M. Shearer	BJ Koch	Jen Sheaffer	C. Zimmerman
	B. Swartz	M. Rabuck	B. Troxell	D. Baker
	T. Swartz	B. Furman	C. Troxell	Karen Baker
	S. Brown	T. Furman	K. Arndt	Ken Criswell
Comm. Asst.	M.L. Keifer	D. Baker	S. Bingaman	C. Troxell
	R. Kling	B. Swartz	T. McPherrin	M. Shearer
Guest Rel.	Ken Baker	S. McPherrin	M. Mertz	G. Weiser
Offering Counter	M.L. Keifer	M. Shearer	J. Sheaffer	M. Rabuck
	C. Shreck	L. Rabuck	K. Guffey	B. Furman

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

*Matt Wirth 9/03*

*Terri Cromwell 9/07*

*Kamden Swanger 9/08*

*Lou Swanger 9/10*

*Peyton LeBarron 9/12*

*Scarlette Cooley 9/11*

*Susan Dinsmore 9/13*

*Willow Lebarron 9/17*



*Sue Keifer 9/17*

*Dawn Warren 9/23*

*Karen Baker 9/23*

*Curtis Zimmerman 9/25*

*Kim Criswell 9/26*

*Cami Zimmerman 9/26*

*Pam Hauck 9/29*



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

# YOUTH AND FAMILY

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## FAITH AND FUN RESUMES



Greetings parents! Beginning September 11<sup>th</sup>, we will once again gather as Faith and Fun with Friends. This is open to all children PreK through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Younger students can try to join us, if accompanied by a parent. We will meet immediately after worship in the Sunday School room. The

students can take a detour through the Fellowship Hall to grab a snack to bring with them, if their parent(s) approve.

Our time together is usually 20-30 minutes and consists of a story, some discussion, and then a craft or activity that reinforces the story. Parents are always welcome to join us (but aren't required- please enjoy some adult time if you'd like!)

If there are any adults (not necessarily parents) who would like to join us, or who would like to be a substitute (I would provide all plans and materials), please see me (Sherry Bingaman). We would need you to provide clearances (and we can help you obtain them).

I am looking forward to being with everyone again. It is definitely faith-filled fun!

*~ Sherry Bingaman*

# YOUTH GROUP



Our first Youth Group will be on Sunday, September 18 at 6pm at United In Christ. Youth Group is open to all students in grades 7-12 and typically runs for about two hours! Youth Group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

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!



**Baby Steps**  
**DIAPER PANTRY**

## **UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY**

September 10, 2022 10-11:30am

1 bag (40 diapers) per child.

Newborn to size 6

# PRAYGROUND

As you've noticed the past few weeks, we have been slowly growing into the use of our new Worship Prayground. We are so excited to officially launch the space this month and we hope you will be able to **join us for the dedication of the space on Sunday, September 18th during worship!**



Our new Prayground is designed as a space for students to be during worship, if they would like. Its location gives them a unique perspective to take in what is going on throughout the service each week! We will be setting out a number of quiet toys and activities for them to make use of within the bounds of the creation themed rug week after week. As we teach more about the space during the children's message the next few weeks (about the boundaries of the space, what we can do in it, etc.), you can help us out by sharing your excitement with the students and reinforcing what they learn about the space! Parents/guardians who want to be nearby while their students make use of



the Playground are invited to use the front pews closest to the area up front.

In the meantime, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for new activities for our students in that space! As we learn and grow into our Playground, we look forward to hearing more about how to best engage our students in worship! If you have any observations or questions, please feel free to touch base with Pr. Justin!

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On Sunday, August 21 we celebrated two of our members that just graduated high school. Sarah is attending Arizona State University, majoring in Speech and Hearing Science. Mya Cromwell is attending Kutztown University, majoring in 4-8 grade Elementary Education with a focus on Math-Social Studies.

On Sunday, August 21 Pastor Justin and Vicar Katy also baptized Dylan Cromwell.



**Congratulations  
to the  
three of you!!**

*Sarah Sprenkle, Mya Cromwell,  
Dylan Cromwell*

# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

*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

Join us on **Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00pm** for our **Blessing of the Animals on the island at Milton State Park!** 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 Fluffy 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!



**Pet Blessing**

MILTON Lutheran Church      United In Christ Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2ND  
2:00P.M.

MILTON STATE PARK  
205 PA-642, MILTON, PA

LOOK FOR OUR TENT WHEN YOU ARRIVE.

DONATIONS OF PET FOOD AND SUPPLIES  
ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE DANVILLE  
SPCA!

The poster features a light pink background with a large white heart shape on the left containing the text 'Pet Blessing'. At the bottom, there are five photos of animals: a brown and white dog, a yellow guinea pig, a black and white rabbit, a black and white pig, and an orange and white cat. The logos for Milton Lutheran Church and United In Christ Lutheran Church are in the top right. The event details and donation information are in the center and bottom right.

# IMPORTANT LINKS



For easy access, bookmark these pages on your computer or add the page to your tablet or smartphone's home screen.

**UIC's website:** [www.unitedinchristlutheran.net](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net)

**Newsletter Archive:** Read current and past newsletters.  
[www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/newsletter](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/newsletter)

**Church Calendar:** Stay up-to-date on everything that's happening at UIC and Sunday's Worship Volunteers are listed each week under each "worship" event.

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

**Sermons and Worship Bulletin:** Print the worship bulletin so you can follow along during digital worship or watch previous worship services.

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

## IN-PERSON WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

July 31 ~ 52

August 7 ~ 64

August 14 ~ 70

August 21 ~ 72

The office  
will be  
closed on  
Sept 5



# Social Ministry

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Thank you for helping us bless the children of our community with these backpacks and school supplies! Kathy Guffey delivered the items to the Milton School District on August 16<sup>th</sup>.



*Blessings of backpacks on Sept. 14*

# 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 17.

**Ordering and Money deadline is September 11.**

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!**



The logo features a black silhouette of a car. On the roof, there is a black cat, a spiderweb, and a lollipop. To the right of the car, the words "TRUNK OR TREAT" are written in a stylized, black, serif font. The word "OR" is smaller and positioned between "TRUNK" and "TREAT". A jack-o'-lantern is positioned to the right of the word "TREAT".

# TRUNK OR TREAT

UIC will be joining in on the fun with Milton Lutheran Church and Saint Paul's UCC on Saturday, October 22.

**Start searching the internet for ideas!**

More details to come in October.





# OAKS

## SENIOR CENTER

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Tuesday, September 13

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10:00 am - Doors Open

10:30 am - Free Bingo with prizes

11:30 pm - Activity

12:00 pm - Free Lunch



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

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1875 CHURCHES ROAD  
LEWISBURG PA 17837

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Website: [www.unitedinchristlutheran.net](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net)  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-12:30pm