



January 2023 NEWSLETTER



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

Marilyn Gresh: Music

WORSHIP: SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/worship/

Office Hours: Monday- Thursday 8:00am - 2:00pm

UIC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kathy Arndt	1 st term, ends 12/2024
Ken Baker	2 nd term, ends 12/2023
Justin Cooley	1 st term, ends 12/2025
Kim Criswell	2 nd term, ends 12/2025
Emma Danowsky	2 nd term, ends 12/2024
Kathy Guffey	2 nd term, ends 12/2024
Theresa Furman	1 st term, ends 12-2024
Lisa Rabuck	2 nd term, ends 12/2024
Michelle Shearer	1 st 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

SUN, JAN. 1	LESSONS AND CAROLS PJS WORSHIP
MON, JAN. 2	OFFICE CLOSED
WED, JAN. 4	UIC PACKING MEALS FOR PANTHER PACKS
FRI, JAN. 6	SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD DELIVERY
SUN, JAN. 8	SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUE, JAN. 10	OAKS SENIOR CENTER INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
SAT, JAN. 14	BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY
SUN, JAN. 15	YOUTH GROUP
MON, JAN. 16	THEOLOGY ON TAP
TUE, JAN. 17	COUNCIL MEETING
WED, JAN. 18	WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING
THU, JAN. 19	PASTOR JUSTIN'S VACATION BEGINS SUPPLYING MEAL FOR GETTING AHEAD
MON, JAN. 23	FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
TUE, JAN. 24	PASTOR JUSTIN RETURNS FROM VACATION
TUE, JAN. 31	THEOLOGY ON TAP
SUN, FEB. 5	COLLEGE VALENTINE'S DEADLINE
SUN, FEB. 12	SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY
SUN, FEB. 26	CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

FROM THE PASTOR



In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” . . . So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Acts 1:15-17, 21-25

Dear United In Christ,

A few years ago, my sister got me this fantastic purple and gold mug for Christmas that has a minimalist little design on it of Edna Mode (the fiery fashion designer from Disney and Pixar’s *The Incredibles*) with her iconic round-framed glasses and short bob of a haircut. Edna’s one of my favorite Disney characters of all time; with all of her passion and success, she’s a seemingly indefatigable giant in her field, all packed into her tiny diminutive frame. The backside of this mug has maybe my favorite Edna Mode quote that really warrants a place on one of those hanging motivational posters. Edna’s words read: “I never

look back, darling. It distracts from the now.”

It’s a great line emblazoned on this mug in front of me; it’s one that serves as a fantastic reminder of intentionality and focus. Because, if I’m honest, there are plenty of things that sit in the rearview mirror that I could hyper-analyze and overthink, but giving too much real estate to such analytical hindsight often serves as a distraction to what is taking place now and to come. Maybe you know the feeling. It’s easy to replay the conversations, moments, and actions of the past over and over trying to find a different or better way. I also know that such a spiral can be crippling to the decisions and actions that need to be taken care of in front of me! Those are the moments when I need a little bit of Edna and stop letting the looking back distract me from what’s taking place now!

As we turn over now into this new year, it feels like Edna might just have the right of it. It’s easy to look back on where we’ve been and what we’ve gone through as individuals and as a community of faith. But perhaps now is the moment to not let those things distract us and instead ask what it is that God may be calling us to *now*. After all, this is exactly what those first disciples had to reckon with. After the loss of Judas from their number, the first apostles seemed to know that they had to look forward to move with God’s unfolding mission in the world. They couldn’t give up over what had happened. Yes, it would mean that some things would have to change; taking on Matthias as one of their own meant that there was something fundamentally different about their community now. Yet, their capacity to take on that change and adapt – to not look back and get distracted by measuring themselves by what they *were* – is what allowed them to continue being part of God’s ongoing action around them!

It seems, then, that there is a similar call set before us even now, UIC. As we move into a new year filled with opportunity and possibility our challenge will be to see how God is calling us

into the *now*. In the weeks ahead, we will be asking just that question. As we prepare to gather for a new round of small “cottage visits,” we will be taking to time to ask the question together – to discern where God is calling us a congregation into God’s future starting here and now. I hope you will join us for these opportunities over the next few weeks.

In the meantime, may this new year provide you with the opportunity to look ahead. May you know the movements of the Spirit as you discern where God is moving in your own present and into your future. May you not be distracted by the what-could-have-beens that sit behind, but instead may you look with hope to what might be that are ahead. May you know God’s ever-changing call drawing you near.

Yours, united in Christ,

~ Pastor Justin



PASTOR AWAY

Pastor Justin will be on vacation beginning Thursday, January 19 and returning on Tuesday, January 24.

If you need pastoral care while he is away, please call the office.

As we prepare for our Annual Meeting on **February 26th** after worship, we invite you to join us for an opportunity to engage in conversations about our shared future at UIC. Over the next few weeks, we will be hosting a series of “Cottage Visits” to help us prepare for the year ahead. Each of these cottage visits will be hosted by a member of Church Council and will serve as an opportunity to have conversations about the 2022 Bulletin of Annual Reports, the stewarding our congregational resources, and discernment about what might be ahead for our community! We hope that these gatherings will provide fruitful conversations as we continue to heed God’s call for us as United In Christ.

Our hope through all of this is to reach as many families of our worshipping community as possible. As such, we will be holding multiple gatherings, most of which taking place in the homes of our council members. **Please check out the signup sheets on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall to reserve your place at a gathering that suits your schedule.** In order to keep the gatherings from being overwhelmed, each gathering is capped at seven families, so be sure to reserve your place soon!

There are wonderful things afoot here at UIC and your council is excited to share them with you! We look forward to sharing all of our joys and challenged with you at these gatherings! Don’t forget to check the schedule and sign up today!



UIC 2023

COMMUNITY COTTAGE VISITS

Join us for our small in-home gatherings as we prepare for our Annual Meeting and dream about what is ahead for United In Christ! Check the bulletin board in the fellowship hall to find the gathering nearest you!



2023*: Your Year For Generosity

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity!”

-2 Corinthians 9:11

As you make resolutions and set goals for the New Year, be sure to include this one: “I will be more generous in 2023.” It will bless you – and your community and neighbor!

THE PARADOX?

Generous people get back far more than they give.

The Bible makes clear that generosity leads to a more abundant life. Generous people experience one of those paradoxes of the Kingdom of God, where the last are first, the greatest is servant to all, and whoever loses her life for Christ will gain it. First, a clarification: The paradox is NOT a financial strategy to maximize return on investment. That would be missing the point. Besides, there are more important things to give than money, such as time, service, kindness, forgiveness, compassion, love, and joy. And what we get back may not be quantifiable. How do you measure wellbeing and happiness?

Generosity’s real “payback” is what and who we become when we cultivate a habit of giving. Giving transforms us into generous-hearted people, and generous-hearted people tend to experience a real abundance of joy, peace, love, and security.

The old saying is most certainly true: The open palm holds more than the closed fist.

For 2023, set a goal to be more generous. Start by increasing your charitable giving above last year's offering, but also aim to give away your time, to serve your neighbor, to be lavish in compassion, extravagant in love.

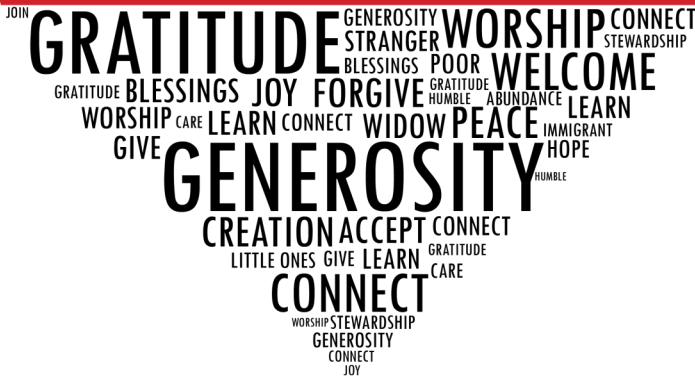
Pray that God will guide you and help you experience the paradox: Givers get back more than they give away.

--Rob Blezard



A word cloud featuring various virtues and values. The most prominent words are 'STEWARDSHIP', 'WORSHIP', 'CARE', 'GRATITUDE', 'KINDNESS', 'LOVE', 'SISTER', 'BROTHER', 'LEARN', 'PATIENCE', 'SHARE', 'HOSPITALITY', 'WELFARE', 'TRUST', 'HOPE', 'GIVENESS', 'CONNECT', 'JUSTICE', 'PRAISE', 'GLADNESS', 'GRATITUDE', 'ORPHAN', 'GRATITUDE', 'PATIENCE', 'SHARE', 'LEARN', 'WELFARE', 'TRUST', 'HOPE', 'GIVENESS', 'CONNECT', 'JUSTICE', 'PRAISE', 'GLADNESS', 'GRATITUDE', 'ORPHAN', 'GRATITUDE', 'PATIENCE', 'SHARE', 'LEARN'.

WHERE OUR HEARTS ARE...



A word cloud featuring various virtues and values. The most prominent words are 'GRATITUDE', 'GENEROSITY', 'WORSHIP', 'WELFARE', 'CONNECT', 'WIDOW', 'PEACE', 'GIVE', 'BLESSINGS', 'JOY', 'FORGIVE', 'HUMBLE', 'ABUNDANCE', 'LEARN', 'HOPE', 'IMMIGRANT', 'CREATION', 'ACCEPT', 'CONNECT', 'LITTLE ONES', 'GIVE', 'LEARN', 'GRATITUDE', 'CARE', 'WORSHIP', 'STEWARDSHIP', 'GENEROSITY', 'CONNECT', 'JOY'.

** This article was originally written in 2022. While the principles remain the same, the dates have simply been updated to reflect the new year!*

Copyright © 2022, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipquy.com.

UNITED IN CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO

Theology on Tap

JOIN US AT
TOWNE TAVERN
7:00 PM ON JAN. 3RD,
JAN. 16TH AND JAN. 31ST



Do you have some burning questions about the Bible, faith, or God?

Do you have some burning questions about the Bible, faith, or God? Join us for Theology on Tap! This January we will be meeting at Towne Tavern on Tuesday January 3rd, Monday January 16th, and Tuesday January 31st. Bring your questions to put in the stein, grab your drink of choice, and be ready to dive into them together as a group—we might not settle on an answer, but we can at least try! We will meet at 7:00 pm to grab food, drinks, and socialize a bit before starting discussion once we are settled. Email Pastor Justin or Vicar Katy if you plan to attend or have any questions about the specifics.



December 6th, Theology on Tap
Rusty Rail Brewery, Mifflinburg PA



In partnership with:



GRIEVE WITH THOSE IN GRIEF

A grief support group for those on
the journey together.

You are welcomed here.

Joined together, the communities of Milton Lutheran Church, Saint Paul's UCC, and United In Christ have started a new monthly grief support group for our communities.

Our next gathering will take place on **Monday, January 30th at 6:30pm**. The location for each monthly gathering rotates between the congregations.

For January, we will meet at Milton Lutheran Church (100 Mahoning Street, Milton).



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, January 10

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.**

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

	Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Jan. 29 Scout Sunday
Social Hour	L - R	S - Z	A - D	A - Z
Bread/Wine	C. Zimmerman	R. Baker	S. Bingaman	D. Byerly Ken Criswell
Altar Guild	T. Cromwell	D. Byerly	C. Zimmerman	K. Guffey
Digital Host	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey	K. Lingenfelter	M. Shearer
Front Door Greeter	R. Kling L. Rabuck	L. Rabuck M. Rabuck	Jen Sheaffer J. Sheaffer	Scouts
Side Door Greeter	G. Weiser	A. Stark	G. Weiser	Scouts
Lector	A. Stark	M. Shearer	A. Stark	Scouts
Ushers	K. Arndt D. Baker Karen B. K. Baker	S. Brown Ken Criswell B. Furman T. Furman	T. Cromwell R. Kling B. Koch S. McPherrin	Scouts
Communion Asst.	C. Troxell S. Weiser	Ken Baker M.L. Keifer	S. Bingaman T. Furman	C. Zimmerman D. Baker
Guest Relations	K. Noll	M. Rabuck	B. Troxell	G. Weiser
Offering Counter	L. Rabuck K. Guffey	P. Hauck M.L. Keifer	M. Rabuck J. Sheaffer	L. Rabuck M. Shearer

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

Ted and Shirley McPherrin 1/3/76

Walt and Sherry Bingaman 1/7/89

Jim and Kathy Arndt 1/18/92



Happy Birthday

Teena Zimmerman 1/4

Julie Hauck 1/4

Carol Troxell 1/5

Alli Arndt 1/11

Brandon Wirth 1/13

Linda Danowsky 1/15



Shanna Martz 1/16

Josh Martz 1/21

Donna Byerly 1/23

Sherry Bingaman 1/23

Laylanya Olds 1/24

Sandra Brown 1/25



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

Join us on
Sunday, February 26
to hear 2022
Committee Reports,
and the audit report.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Prayer Requests:

Family and friends of Gladys Fawcett, Martha Ketchem, Susan Dinsmore, family and friends of Rev. Jim Fladland, Jason Russell, Annette Baker, family and friends of Jean Pfirman, Betsy Thomas, Dale Strassner, Alec Brock, Dave Wall, Rusty, Shirley Russell, Russ Wynn, Viv Marsh, Alice Snyder, 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.

PRAYER CHAIN

Scripture instructs us to lift one another up in prayer.

If you would like to be part of the prayer chain,
please let Terri Cromwell know.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Double your impact and help us build up the future of United In Christ!

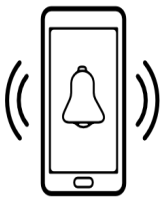
All contributions designated for UIC's "Capital Projects" will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$35,000!

[DONATE NOW](#)



As we begin this new year and you begin your process of budgeting for 2023, please consider how you might be able to contribute to United In Christ's Capital Expense Fund as we prepare for the upcoming roof, window, and steeple projects on the horizon. As a reminder, your contributions to these projects will have double the impact thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor who is matching all funds designated for UIC's "Capital Expense Fund" dollar-for-dollar up to \$35,000 for the duration of the project campaign! Thank you for your continued financial partnership!

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.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

YOUTH GROUP



Youth Group will also meet on Sunday, January 15 at 1pm at Milton Lutheran Church.

Youth Group is open to all students in grades 7-12 and typically runs for about 1 1/2 hours!

If you are, or have, a youth member interested in being part of Youth Group, please reach out to Pastor Justin or Vicar Katy and they'll get you connected!



Baby Steps
DIAPER PANTRY

UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

January 14, 2023 at 10-11:30am

1 bag (40 diapers) per child.

Newborn to size 6

SCOUT SUNDAY



Join us on Sunday, January 29th as we worship with all of the Cub and Boy Scouts that meet here every week. We will have a special blessing for the scouts and their leaders, and they will be serving as lectors, ushers and greeters that day.

We are asking for extra snacks for Fellowship Hour after worship on Sunday, January 29th. There will be lots of hungry kiddos!

Social Ministry

Next Social Ministry Meeting

We will have a brief meeting on Sunday, January 8th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is invited to join us!

GETTING AHEAD PROGRAM

The mission of the Getting Ahead Program is to *Improve the Quality of Life for Low-Income Individuals, Families and their Communities*. Getting Ahead partners with area groups to supply meals for these families on the night they meet each week. UIC served a turkey casserole, green beans, and pumpkin cake on Thursday, December 8th.



Thank you to those that sponsored the 5 residents at Country Comfort this Christmas that have no family! It was very kind and generous of you to bless them this year.

50 Blessing Bags, which contained shampoo, body wash, lotion, deodorant, and candy, were put together and given to everyone at Country Comfort and also to each of our Senior Express Food Program at UIC.



Putting together Blessing Bags



Residents at Country Comfort



Let's give our college students a big warm hug by blessing them with Valentine's Day Care Packages. We can share with these students the message that United In Christ remains a constant in their lives and Jesus' love is always present!

*UIC's college students are Alli Arndt,
Owen Arndt, Larissa Shearer, Amy Danowsky,
and Mya Cromwell*

We'd like to flood them with "thinking of you cards"! Please make sure you write their name on the envelope. Cards can be placed in the box on the Welcome Table in the Narthex.

We'll also be creating care packages with some of their favorite things. You can help contribute to these care packages by selecting "Valentine's Day Care Packages" on our on-line giving here or by placing money or a check in an offering plate. Please write "Valentine's Day Care Packages" on your envelope.

Deadline is Sunday, February 5

MILTON PANTHER PACKS



Milton Panther Packs provides backpacks of food over the weekends, when school meals are not available. Every week there are over 250 children that take home food backpacks. On Wednesday, January 4th we helped pack bags of food for Milton Panther Packs.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MONDAY, JANUARY 23



Worship Volunteers, please give the office **any dates in February** 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 February Newsletter need to be in the office **by Monday, January 23.**

SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD BOXES

The church is in need of more delivery drivers.

Our ministry of delivering food boxes to seniors in our area at poverty level keeps expanding. We now have 32 seniors.

We need a few more delivery people!

Would you please consider being part of this ministry to our local seniors?

It is only once a month and you pick the day and time after we receive the food boxes (the first Friday of each month). If you're interested please contact Sherry Bingaman or Terri Cromwell in the office.



Food boxes will be delivered on Friday, January 6. Volunteers, please make plans to deliver your boxes shortly after they are delivered.

WELCOME AREA



In the Welcome area in the Narthex you will find Christ In Our Home and The Word In Season devotionals, as well as Living Lutheran Magazine, and Our Daily Bread devotionals. You will also find additional copies of our monthly newsletter, also in large print. Please help your self to any of these!

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.

The cost is \$35.

You may take your flowers home with you after service.

Flower Chart is located in the Fellowship Hall.



Theresa Furman made UIC paraments for Advent!!

Thank you Theresa!!

IMPORTANT LINK!



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

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

THANK YOU

Thank you for the Christmas gifts and the food and kindness you have shown to me.

Love, Carolyn (Senior Express Participant)

I want to thank you all for the food boxes you give me. I sure make use of all you give me. Happy Holidays.

Love, Martha (Senior Express Participant)



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.

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-Thur, 8am-2:00pm