



March
2023
NEWSLETTER



LENT

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

Marilyn Gresh: Music Director

WORSHIP: SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/worship/

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

UIC COUNCIL MEMBERS	Kathy Guffey.....President	2 nd term, ends 12/2024
	Lisa Rabuck.....Vice President	2 nd term, ends 12/2024
	Emma Danowsky,,,.Co V.P.	2 nd term, ends 12/2024
	Theresa Furman.....Secretary	1 st term, ends 12/2024
	Ken Baker.....Treasurer	2 nd term, ends 12/2023
	Kathy Arndt	1 st term, ends 12/2024
	Justin Cooley	1 st term, ends 12/2025
	Kim Criswell	2 nd term, ends 12/2025
	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

- WED, MAR. 1** THEOLOGY ON TAP
- FRI, MAR. 3** FOOD BANK DELIVERY
- SUN, MAR 5** SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING
YOUTH GROUP
- TUE, MAR. 7** EDUCATION TO CREATE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY
- SAT, MAR. 11** BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY
- MON, MAR. 13** INTERN CONFERENCE
- TUE, MAR. 14** OAKS SENIOR CENTER
INTERN CONFERENCE
EDUCATION TO CREATE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY
- WED, MAR. 15** THEOLOGY ON TAP
- FRI, MAR. 17** GROW IN THE SNOW
- SAT, MAR. 18** BOY SCOUT SPAGHETTI DINNER
- SUN, MAR. 19** YOUTH GROUP
- MON, MAR. 20** NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- TUE, MAR. 21** EDUCATION TO CREATE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY
- WED, MAR. 22** COUNCIL MEETING
- FRI, MAR. 24** GAME NIGHT
- MON, MAR. 27** GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
- TUE, MAR. 28** EDUCATION TO CREATE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY
- WED, MAR. 29** THEOLOGY ON TAP

FROM THE PASTOR



The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

Ezekiel 37:1-5

Dear United In Christ,

I know that this will come as a great shock to many of you, but I play a lot of really nerdy games. I mean – *really* nerdy. I'm talking video games, board games, *Dungeons and Dragons*; I'm here for all of it. Some might say that I'm a *particular* connoisseur of the hack-and-slash genre. You know, the games where you suit up in a full plat of armor, grab the nearest, biggest sword you can find and start slicing away in the nearest dungeons. They're the kind of games where, if you're lucky, you get the privilege of taking on a dragon, but only after you make your way through all of the minions first. Because something is always in the way, like a horde of zombies or an army of goblins.

And skeletons. So. Many. Skeletons. It's a trope that just doesn't seem to get old across the genre. These mindless remains of adventurers of old reanimate as a sort of dormant security

system impeding the hero from reaching the ultimate treasure. They animate as echoes of the lives they led and stand to thwart the progress of the living from reaching their goal. These games (and books and movies) are *full* of these skeletal foes that append themselves with the clatter of ossified assembly, like a dry-rotted xylophone mending itself together.

I think it's all of these goofy games that have so embedded themselves in my mind that makes it so hard for me to shake their image *every time* I read this passage from Ezekiel. As the prophet looks out over this valley of dry bones, I can only picture these gamified remains rising up together. As they rattle together in assembly (verse 7), there summons the image of what those skeletal remains must have once been. It's easy to think of them as the haunting vestiges of life. It's easy to think that these dry bones carry only a fraction of their former potential. It's easy to think that they are merely the echoes of what they once were.

But not when God gets to them. As God encourages the prophet to prophesy to these bones, the breath/Spirit/wind (it's all the same word in Hebrew) of God moves into them and they join together once more. They no longer remain as dry bone, but with sinew on sinew they are breathed by the wind of God, and their spirits are made whole. As God explains, such is God's ways, just as it was in the beginning garden scene where God filled the dust with God's breath and made the first human.

It's a timely reminder that comes to us this Lenten season. As we journey into the wilderness together, as we trek across the sometimes seemingly barren spaces, here we are reminded of just what a valley of bones can become. This season together is a time not just for penitential brow-beating, of descending ourselves into a valley of dust. It's not a time to wallow in our boney state of being. It's a time in which we give space for the newness of God's wind/breath/Spirit to move among us, reanimating us for God's prophetic work ahead.

Lent isn't a time to ask how we go on as the reanimated remains of what we once were (like the skeletons from all those games), it's a time to ask how we might live into whom the very breath of God is calling us to be. It's a time for self-reflection and understanding. It's a time to take note of where God is showing up to make a way forward in our lives and in our community. It's a time that acknowledges our bare bones, but ultimately brings us one step closer into the fullness of life that God is breathing here and now.

May you and your bones catch your breath this Lent, UIC.

Yours, united in Christ,

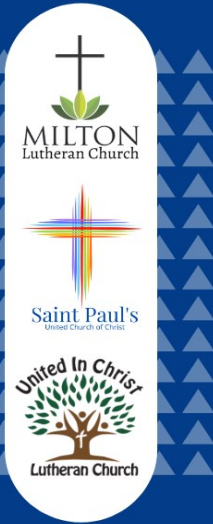
~ Pastor Justin

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!

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, March 27th at 6:30pm**. The location for each monthly gathering rotates between the congregations.

For March, we will meet at Milton Lutheran Church.



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.

ASH WEDNESDAY STEWARDSHIP

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” -
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 254

With these ancient words from Genesis 3:19 and the swipe of a dirty thumb across our foreheads, Ash Wednesday propels us into Lent with the proper context to understand our lives as stewards of the riches God entrusts to us.

The essential teaching of Ash Wednesday – that we are just mortals, after all – crushes our ego, dispels our pretensions, and drives us deep into God’s mysteries. Why are we here? What are our lives all about? What’s *really* important? Pray over these questions and profound insights emerge.

We are dust. Yes, but we are *God’s* dust. Our body consists of trillions of atoms, each a speck of “dust” created by of God, billions of years ago. God put us together from the stuff of the universe.

- Therefore, we are quite literally “earthy” beings, made of the same material as air, water, soil and stone. Part of creation, we work to preserve and sustain God’s creation for future generations.
- Therefore, we revere and care for our bodies through healthy living.

We are breath. We are not *only* dust. Genesis 2:7 describes us as “dust” into which God has “breathed the Holy breath of life.” Our lives are the breath of God in our dust.

- Therefore, every breath we take is holy, a prayer that whispers God’s praise.

- Therefore, we look to God to align our lives with God’s holy reality that arcs towards peace, love, joy, justice, and truth.


Our time is brief. The “dust” that is us *will* return to the earth. We have a finite number of minutes.

- Therefore, every hour, every second is sacred. There is not a single moment to waste. We spend our time wisely, carefully, prayerfully.
- Therefore, we do not cling to our possessions, knowing that we will leave it all behind.
- Therefore, we nourish our lives with lasting treasures – relationships, trust, love, joy, service, generosity, and harmony.

This Lent spend time in prayer, with openness and honesty. See how God will transforming you into the person you were created to be. Reflect each day on Ash Wednesday. “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

--Rob Blezard

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How will God
transform you?

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!

*We are more than 1/3 of the way
to our goal of \$70,000!*

\$12,516.84 Donations

\$12,516.84 Matching Funds

\$25,033.68 Total Capital Campaign

Education to Create Inclusive Community

Featuring speakers from local disability advocacy groups within the community

**6:30pm at Milton Lutheran Church
100 Mahoning St, Milton, PA**



February 28
March 7
March 14

March 21
March 28
April 4



Join the Milton and Lewisburg communities in a six-week series, “Education to Create Inclusive Community,” hosted by United In Christ Lutheran Church and Milton Lutheran Church! These next six Tuesday evenings will be focused on providing education and resources to the broader Lewisburg and Milton communities on authentic engagement with adults with disabilities. Representatives from local agencies such as Community Resources for Independence (CRI) and Milton Developmental Services (MDS) will be leading these conversations—we will have the chance to learn more about their organizations, their role in the community, and intentional ways that we as community can connect with our neighbors with disabilities. We will meet at Milton Lutheran Church (100 Mahoning St, Milton, PA) at 6:30pm. If you have any questions, contact Vicar Katy.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Social Hour	E - K	L - R	S - Z	A - D
Bread/Wine	M. Shearer	S. Noll	J. Sheaffer	C. Troxell
Altar Guild	C. Zimmerman	D. Byerly	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey
Digital Host	M. Shearer	K. Lingenfelter	K. Guffey	S. Bingaman
Front Door Greeter	H. Allegar	M. Ketchem	A. Stark	C. Zimmerman
	M.L. Keifer	R. Whitesel	T. Swartz	Karen Baker
Side Door Greeter	R. Baker	S. Brown	G. Weiser	K. Baker
Lector	H. Allegar	E. Haussmann	S. Bingaman	T. Furman
Ushers	K. Guffey	M. Haussmann	B. Swartz	C. Zimmerman
	R. Kling	J. Mertz	T. Swartz	K. Arndt
	B.J. Koch	M. Shearer	B. Troxell	D. Baker
	S. McPherrin	A. Stark	C. Troxell	Karen B.
Communion Asst.	M.L. Keifer	T. McPherrin	Jen Sheaffer	B. Swartz
	R. Kling	M. Shearer	A. Stark	C. Troxell
Guest Relations	M. Rabuck	B. Troxell	G. Weiser	K. Baker
Offering Counter	C. Shreck	C. Zimmerman	M. Shearer	K. Baker
	B. Furman	T. Furman	K. Guffey	P. Hauck
	H. Allegar	H. Allegar	H. Allegar	H. Allegar

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

Allyssa Stark 3/26

Chad Cromwell 3/29



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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MONDAY, MARCH 20



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 20.**

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Prayer Requests:

*Scott Clewell, Marie Tanner, Cindy Reedy,
Denise Clark, Karen Aikey, William Clewell,
Loren, Ken Criswell, Robert Becker, Laurel
Hertz, Amanda Galer, Peggy Dugan, Mar-
tha Ketchem, Susan Dinsmore, Annette
Baker, Rusty, Shirley Russell, Russ Wynn,
Viv Marsh, Alice Snyder, Peg Swinehart,
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
and keep them on the prayer list for
8 weeks, unless told otherwise.

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.

UNITED IN CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO

Theology on Tap

JOIN US AT
RUSTY RAIL
6:00 PM ON MAR. 1ST,
MAR. 15TH AND
MAR. 29TH



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 Rusty Rail on Wednesdays March 1st, March 15th, and March 29th. 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 6:00 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. Please note that these are on Wednesday for March for the Lenten education opportunity.



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, March 14

10:00 am - Doors Open

10:30 am - Free Bingo with prizes

11:30 pm - Stability Exercises

12:00 pm - Free Lunch



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



OAKS
SENIOR CENTER

CLOTHING DRIVE

Please bring in your
gently used clothing by
Sunday, April 23rd.

Yard Sale will
be on Sat, April 29.

Place items in barrel
by the offices.



Buffalo Valley Conference
of the Upper Susquehanna Synod ELCA

Join the Facebook page for Buffalo Valley Conference of
the Upper Susquehanna Synod ELCA to keep informed
about upcoming events within our 16 Lutheran churches.

www.facebook.com/bvcuss/

YOUTH AND FAMILY



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will meet at Milton Lutheran Church (100 Mahoning St., Milton) at 1pm on the following dates.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

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

March 11, 2023 at 10-11:30am

1 bag (40 diapers) per child.

Newborn to size 6

In February the Milton/Warrior Run Kiwanis gave the Baby Steps Diaper Pantry books, socks, hats, mittens, and coupons for a free child's meal at Texas Roadhouse to hand out. The pantry handed out wipes and 900 diapers.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 600

SPAGHETTI DINNER

March 18 ~ 4pm-6pm



\$10 per meal

\$6 jar of sauce

Take-out only

Social Ministry



Next Social Ministry Meeting

We will have a brief meeting on Sunday,
March 5 at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is invited to join us!

SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD BOXES

*Food boxes will be delivered on **Friday, March 3.***

*Volunteers, please make plans to deliver your
boxes the week of March 6.*





Thank you to everyone that donated food items to this year's Souper Bowl Sunday!! Over 1,000 items went to Milton Panther Packs which gives over 250 students in the Milton School District bags of food for the weekends when free school lunches are not available.

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.



Join us for a Family game night on Friday, March 24th in the Fellowship Hall! Bring a game and your favorite snack to share through the evening as we hang out and have fun! We'll even order pizzas for dinner! Check out the signup sheet in the fellowship hall after worship!

THANK YOU

Thank you all so much for the snacks, gift card, and kind words. I really appreciate them so much!!

~ Mya Cromwell

To my angel of appreciation,

Thank you so much for the beautiful card and the JoAnn's gift card. When I was asked to sew the paraments, I was excited to use the gifts that God had bestowed on me to glorify his house of worship. The response from the congregation has been so positive that it sparks me to try to make the next set better than the last. It truly has been my honor and privilege to create them. Your kind words of appreciation mean so much. And the gift card will certainly come in handy for the projects to come. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! God Bless.

~ Theresa Furman

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed, and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. United In Christ Lutheran Church's 2023 collection raised 1,086 food items.

~ Alison Reese

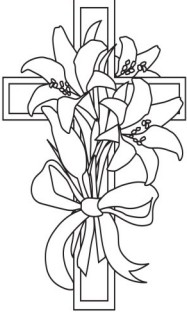
Executive Director, Tackle Hunger: Souper Bowl of Caring



Easter Flowers Order Form

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

Dedicate flowers by submitting an order form, along with payment, **no later than Sunday, March 13th.**



Tulips

_____ x \$6.50 = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

6" Potted Plants

The following will be printed in the Easter Bulletin. Please write legibly.

NAME: (from) _____

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

**You may take your plants home after worship on Easter Sunday.
Any plants left at the church will be given away.**

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