



December 2023 NEWSLETTER

★
JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: Pastor

Vicar Katy Moran: Senior Seminarian

Terri Cromwell: Parish Administrator and OAKS Senior Center Director

Office: 570-568-2254

Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

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 12/2023
	Kim Criswell.....Secretary	2 nd term, ends 12/2025
	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
	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

- FRI, DEC. 1** SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD BOX DELIVERY
- SAT, DEC. 2** CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP
- SUN, DEC. 3** ADVENT 2
OUTREACH TEAM MEETING
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS DURING SOCIAL HOUR
YOUTH GROUP
- WED, DEC. 6** BEERS AND CAROLS @ RUSTY RAIL
- SAT, DEC. 9** BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY
- SUN, DEC. 10** ADVENT 3
FELLOWSHIP TEAM MEETING
- TUE, DEC. 12** OAKS SENIOR CENTER
- SAT, DEC. 16** CAROLING IN LEWISBURG
- SUN, DEC. 17** ADVENT 4
YOUTH GROUP
- MON, DEC. 18** NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- TUE, DEC. 19** COUNCIL MEETING
- WED, DEC. 20** BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
- SUN, DEC. 24** CHRISTMAS EVE
- SUN, DEC. 25** CHRISTMAS DAY
OFFICE CLOSED ALL WEEK
- SUN, DEC. 31** NEW YEAR'S EVE
PJ WORSHIP
- MON, JAN. 1** OFFICE CLOSED

FROM THE PASTOR



In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Luke 1:39-45

Dear United In Christ,

Everyone deserves to have an Elizabeth in their life, don't you think? Everyone should be able to have someone to whom they are able to turn in their moments of overwhelming emotion and feeling – someone whom they can call upon to share in their joy and only let that joy be compounded in the sharing! Truly, it's a sacred sort of connection that is held between Elizabeth and Mary in this mid-Advent text of ours. Still working through the implications of this new thing taking place within and around her, we find Mary now living into those implications as she meets with Zechariah and Elizabeth. No sooner is she able to share a word of greeting than it seems that Elizabeth is already *bursting* with joy and celebration at what is taking place. She celebrates what is at work in and through Mary as the two share in a sacred space of joy and wonder at God's work!

So, who is it for you? Who do you turn to? When you find yourself reeling in wonder, who do you call upon to make your joy complete? Who do you call upon to make your joy *overflow*? Is it a partner? A child? A parent? A friend? A cousin? When you have something that you just can't contain, who is it you turn to help you share in the compounded state of excitement and anticipation? Who is it that you are able to look towards in order to share in sacred joy together?

My hope in the weeks ahead is that, in the anticipated arrival of this Savior making his way into our world this season, you may find new cause for a joy worth sharing! May you find the hope of God's accompaniment claiming you in this Word now stepping into God's creation. May you find God's delight tucked into the company kept around you. As we journey in hope and anticipation towards the promises of Christmas, may your joy be made complete. May it be so filled to the brim that it must be shared.

This is the whole point of Christmas' fruition after all: God's life is arriving in this world and *that* is a joy worth sharing.

Yours, united in Christ,

~ Pastor Justin

**Church Office will
be closed the week
after Christmas and
also on January 1st.**



Blue Christmas Worship

Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00pm
Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
100 South Third Street, Lewisburg, PA



A service of hope for those remembering loved ones no longer with us amid the holidays.

The faith communities of United In Christ Lutheran Church, Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Milton Lutheran Church invite you to join us as we gather for worship on one of the longest nights of darkness of the year, **Wednesday December 20, at 7 p.m.**

While for many, Advent and Christmas are seasons of light, we also know that this season can be a season of physical and emotional distress. On this night, we will acknowledge at this time of year that we may be confronted with fear, sadness, loss and shattered hope, perhaps from the loss of a loved one, seasonal depression or simply a feeling you can't explain.

This is why, as communities of faith gather, we will honor "Blue Christmas" this year as a service of acknowledgement and a

journey of faith to seek to understand how “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it,” as is recorded in John 1:5. How can this light help us through what can become the hardest time of the year? Join us as we acknowledge, explore, worship and support one another as we fellowship together.

The service will be held at Christ’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, 100 S. Third Street, Lewisburg, led by Pastor Justin Lingenfelter, Vicar Katy Moran, and Pastor Gary Schaeffer.

Please consider joining us as we are surrounded with warmth and welcome in a time to seek hope and healing.

All are welcome!



PAJAMA Worship



DECEMBER 31ST
Worship at 10:00am

Wear your PJs to church for
LESSONS & CAROLS!

Be sure to come JUST as you are – or rather just as you roll out of bed – for our annual service of Christmas Lessons and Carols on December 31st!

We get it; we're *also* going to want to be as cozy as possible going into our New Year's Eve festivities! That's why you're invited to wear your favorite PJ's to worship! Gather in as we cozy up for the most comfortable service of the year!



Fellowship

***Make sure
you stick around
after worship!***

On Sunday, December 3 we will be making Christmas ornaments during social hour so we can decorate the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall.



FELLOWSHIP TEAM MEETING

Meet in the room across from the offices
December 10th at 11:30am.

Everyone is invited to join us!

SOCIAL HOUR



Social Hour is a time for us to stay connected with each other while enjoying a light snack. If your last name begins with one of the letters listed for that Sunday's Social Hour, please bring a snack to share and help in the kitchen.



Join us on **Wednesday, December 6th at 6:00pm** at **Rusty Rail Brewing Company** for a good old-fashioned holiday pub sing! Together with Lutherans from across the synod we will gather to belt out our favorite Christmas carols over a few of our favorite brews and a bite to eat! Touch base with Pastor Justin or Vicar Katy if you have any questions!



"Christmas Caroling Through Victorian Lewisburg."

When: Saturday, December 16.

Time: 6:00 pm.

Where: Christ Lutheran Church

100 South 3rd Street, Lewisburg

Please join us for a fun evening of spreading Christmas joy!
Christmas goodies & hot chocolate will be waiting for everyone after signing.

DON'T FORGET TO DRESS WARM AND BRING A FLASHLIGHT

Please signup in the fellowship hall or contact the office
if you would like to attend.

HOW DO YOU USE your perfect gift?

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. -Ephesians 2:8a

True confessions: I've never worn the jaunty Christmas tie my son bought me five years ago. It's a waste, I know. At the end of every December I shake my head and say, well, maybe next year.

We ought to make good use of our gifts, but most of us have a few Christmas presents, given and received in love, that are forlornly collecting dust in a drawer or closet. That's not very good stewardship.

More important than a bottle of perfume or a loud tie, how are you stewarding that most precious of all Christmas gifts—the new life you have through faith in Jesus? Do you cherish it, honor it, make the most of all it has to offer? Because it is truly amazing.

New life. Too many Christians focus exclusively on the AFTER-life that begins when we die. But that's missing out on the joy, peace and fulfillment that Jesus promises us today, what he describes as life abundant. You've doubtless seen evidence of this life in the cheerful eyes and peaceful smiles of holy people you've encountered. Light seems to radiate from them.

I want that life. Don't you?

The abundant life is Jesus' free gift, but it doesn't come automatically. It grows with us as we grow in faith through prayer,

scripture study, worship, service and generosity – the disciplines of faith. In doing so, we align our hearts and souls with God’s purposes and fulfill ever more closely those two holy commandments to love God and neighbor.

This year, don’t let your faith end up like a jaunty Christmas tie, hanging unused in the closet. Make the most of it and live into the new, abundant life Jesus promises to us all. It’s the number one stewardship lesson.

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UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

December 9, 2023 at 10-11:30am

1 bag (40 diapers) per child.

Newborn to size 6

Baby Steps Diaper Pantry is held on the second Saturday each month from 10-11:30 a.m. in United In Christ’s fellowship hall. The pantry is open to caregivers of babies from the communities around Milton, Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, and Watsontown.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24, 10am
Social Hour	L - R	S - Z	A - D	
Bread/Wine	S. Keifer	S. McPherrin	J. Mertz	S. Noll
Altar Guild	S. Keifer	M.L. Keifer	K. Guffey	C. Troxell
Digital Host	K. Guffey	M. Shearer	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey
Front Door Greeter	B. Swartz	K. Baker	M. Ketchem	T. Cromwell
	T. Swartz	K. Guffey	R. Whitesel	R. Baker
Side Door Greeter	K. Baker	T. McPherrin	G. Weiser	K. Noll
Lector	A. Stark	B. Swartz	E. Hausmann	R. Sprenkle
Ushers	K. Arndt	S. Brown	R. Kling	M. Rabuck
	D. Baker	T. Cromwell	S. McPherrin	M. Shearer
	K. Baker	K. Criswell	J. Mertz	B. Swartz
	Ken Baker	K. Guffey	L. Rabuck	T. Swartz
Communion Asst.	B. Swartz	S. Weiser	C. Troxell	T. Cromwell
	T. Cromwell	R. Sprenkle	D. Baker	R. Kling
Guest Relations	Ken Baker	T. McPherrin	M. Mertz	K. Noll
Offering Counter	P. Hauck	L. Rabuck	M. Rabuck	Ken Baker
	M.L. Keifer	M. Shearer	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.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Dec. 24, 6pm	Dec. 24, 11pm	Dec. 31
Social Hour			
Bread/Wine	C. Troxell S. Weiser	M. Shearer	K. Sprengle
Altar Guild	D. Byerly K. Guffey	T. Cromwell	S. Keifer
Digital Host	K. Guffey	T. Cromwell	M. Shearer
Front Door Greeter	J. Byerly D. Byerly	B. Swartz T. Swartz	R. Kling L. Rabuck
Side Door Greeter	A. Stark		S. Brown
Lector	T. McPherrin	M. Shearer	R. Baker
Ushers	S. Brown B. Troxell L. Rabuck M. Rabuck	B. Swartz T. Swartz	A. Stark B. Troxell C. Troxell K. Criswell
Communion Asst.	C. Troxell A. Stark D. Baker	S. Weiser M. Shearer	M.L. Keifer A. Stark
Guest Relations			M. Rabuck
Offering Counter	L. Rabuck C. Shreck	M. Shearer T. Cromwell	P. Hauck M.L. Keifer



HAPPY Anniversary

Rob and Teena Zimmerman 12/21/02



Happy Birthday

Ted McPherrin 12/3

Jeff Snyder 12/5

Jane Mertz 12/6

Nicole Cooley 12/7

Ken Baker 12/8

Bob Keifer 12/9

Karen Hauck 12/11

Tina Snyder 12/14

Zoe Scott 12/19

Dylan Sheaffer 12/25

Ed Snyder 12/30

Nancy Baker 12/31

Grady Rowe 12/31

Gwynn Rowe 12/31



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

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'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: Ken Baker, Annette Baker, Maryanne Headen, Walt Bingaman, Tom Wetzel, Peg Swinehart, Russ Wynn, Rosemary Fernsler, Ryan Hunter, Mark Rabuck, Shirley Russell, Bob Keifer, Marie Tanner, Viv Marsh.



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 4 weeks.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**ATTENTION
WORSHIP
VOLUNTEERS**

Worship Volunteers, please give the office any dates in January 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 January Newsletter need to be in the office **by Monday, December 18.**

Outreach



Outreach has 14 people who are in need of Christmas gifts, 4 at Country Comfort and 10 at Danville State Hospital. We will begin passing out info during social hour. If you would like to bless one, or more, of these people please see Donna Corazza during social hour in the fellowship hall.



YOU'RE INVITED!

CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, December 2 | 3:00PM
United In Christ Lutheran Church
1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg, PA



Sponsored by:



Crafts! Cocoa! Cookies! Carols!



Mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 2nd from 3:00pm-5:00pm at United In Christ** for our free community Christmas Craft Workshop! This annual workshop is an opportunity for families to gather to make homemade Christmas decorations for around the house! This year we will be hosting our craft workshop with the communities of both Milton Lutheran Church and Christ's Evangelical Lutheran. If you've got the perfect idea saved on your Pinterest board and would like to help lead a craft station at this year's workshop, please let Pr. Justin know! Those joining are also invited to whip up a batch of cookies for a "to-go" style cookie swap! We hope you can join us! Come and see!



As we begin the Advent Season and the season of gift giving, it is a good time to think of ways to help others.

Don't know what to get someone for Christmas?

How about a gift, in their name, that continues giving after Christmas?

Instead of purchasing a gift for someone that may be the wrong size or color or needs to be stored, why not give them the pleasure of knowing someone in need will receive a gift in their name. Take a look at the ELCA Good Gifts tree in the fellowship hall. It is filled with ornaments for all sorts of gifts.

- * Please use the “pink” special offering envelopes which sit next to the tree.
- * Write your name and the total amount you are giving.
- * Make sure you write what you are purchasing on the “for” line.
- * Place cash or check (payable to UIC) in envelope.
- * Place envelope in the offering plate during worship or give to the office.
- * If you are purchasing this as a gift, you may take the ornament to give to the person you are purchasing this in honor of.



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, December 14

10:00 am - Doors Open

10:30 am - Free Bingo with prizes

11:30 pm - Christmas Craft

12:00 pm - Free Lunch



UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg PA 17837



SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD BOXES

Food boxes will be delivered on Friday, December 1.



We are in desperate need of your help!!

*Do you have 1 - 1 1/2 hours free each month
and can you lift a 30lb box of food?*

In January, another one of our delivery drivers will be having surgery, taking us down to 3 delivery people.

We need your help!!! You set your own delivery times, whether it's daytime or evenings, during the week or on a weekend! There are even volunteers who will call the seniors for you to confirm they will be home. You can choose to delivery the food boxes all at 1 time or do them 1 per day. It's completely up to you!!

Please let Sherry Bingaman or Terri Cromwell know if you would like to be a part of this ministry, even if it's for a short time while some of the other volunteers are healing from surgeries!

Please consider helping this wonderful ministry!

OUR LITTLE FREE PANTRY



Outreach collects non-perishable food items each week.
Your donations get delivered to
Our Little Free Pantry in West Milton.

82 food items were delivered in November!

Place donation items in the basket located in the
Welcome Area of the Narthex.

YOUTH GROUP



Youth Group is open to all students in grades 7-12 and typically runs for about two hours! Youth Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Sunday, December 3 at UIC
Sunday, December 17 at MLC

END OF YEAR GIVING

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 you prepare your year-end giving, consider making a contribution to United In Christ's Capital Expense Fund as we look to finish strong on our roof, window, and steeple project!

You still have time to double your impact thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor who will match any 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!

\$29,951.96 Donations

\$29,951.96 Matching Funds

\$59,903.92 Total Capital Campaign

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Starting Sunday, December 10, if you have a church mailbox, you'll find your 2024 offering envelopes in your mailbox. If you do not have a mailbox, you'll find your 2024 offering envelopes in the fellowship hall. If you do not get offering envelopes, but would like to, please see Terri in the office.

ADVENT HOLY HIKE

A woodland service of lessons and carols



Sunday, December 17th 2023
2pm • Camp Mount Luther

We know that Advent can be a busy time. We know you need to take a breath and remember what the season is all about. What better way than to join friends and spend time with God in creation? We invite you to join us on an **Advent Holy Hike** from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 17, 2023. Bring your family and friends as we walk the camp trails and share scripture, song, and reflection during this season of preparation for Christ's coming. We start and end at the Evergreen Center and we'll have hot chocolate, coffee, tea, and Christmas cookies to warm you up!

Camp Mount Luther
355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg

FLECK & FRIENDS

fresh express



FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Friday, December 8th
3:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M.

Sponsored by the
Central PA Food Bank



1125 Mahoning St.
Milton, PA
(570) 742- 4601

Fresh Express food distribution at Milton Lutheran Church is on the 2nd Friday every month.

FIY, you do not need to provide proof of income.

This is a huge help when grocery prices are at an all time high. You do need to bring your own bags to put the food in. Last month the Central Pa Food Bank gave out cheddar cheese, milk, eggs, a box filled with fresh fruits and vegetables, an assortment of bread and bagels, taco dinner kit, frozen peaches and strawberries, and raisins. *(each month food selection will be different)*

Milton Lutheran Church
1125 Mahoning Street, Milton

MILTON LUTHERAN CHURCH
1125 MAHONING ST. MILTON, PA

MOVERS & SHAKERS

SENIOR'S GROUP

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH 10:30 A.M- 12:30 P.M.

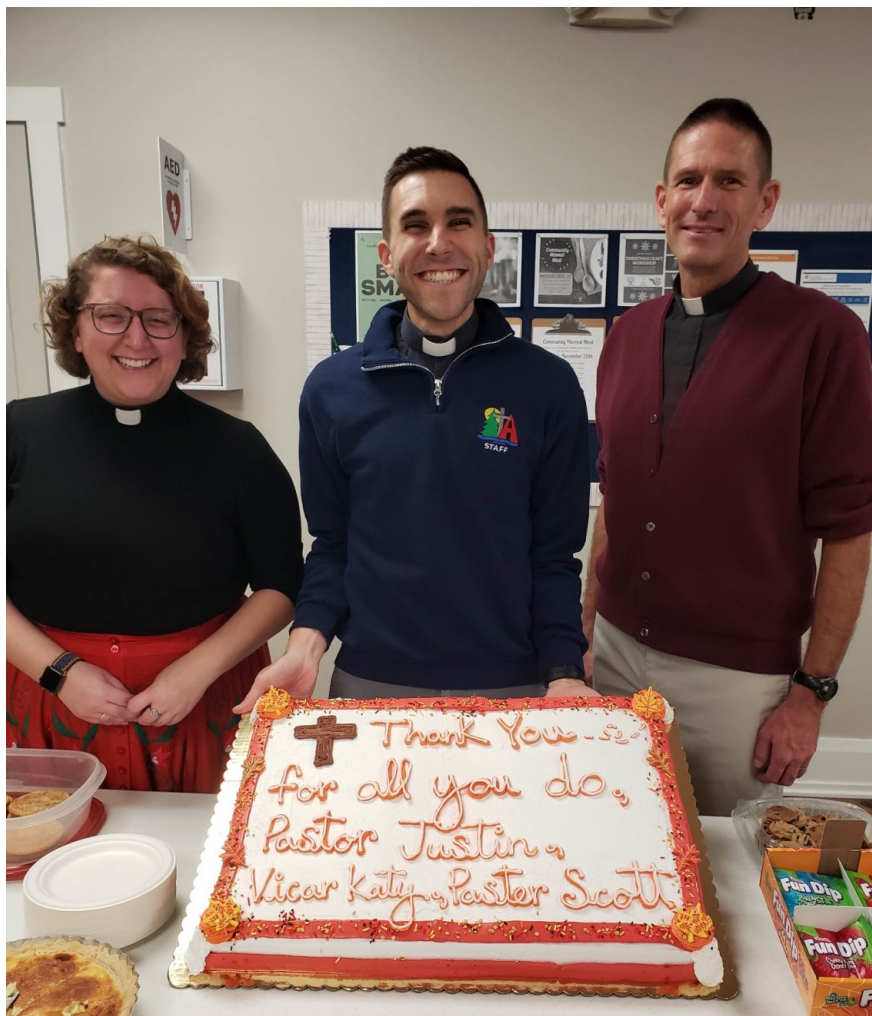
MEAL

CONVERSATION

BINGO

Join other seniors in the community for an afternoon
of fellowship and fun!

Milton Lutheran Church
1125 Mahoning Street, Milton



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Sunday, October 29, Reformation Sunday, we celebrated Vicar Katy, Pastor Justin and Pastor Justin's dad, the Rev. Scott Lingenfelter, who preached during worship that day. We surprised Vicar Katy and Pastor Justin with a potluck luncheon and cards to let them know how much we appreciate everything they do for us!



Kids Night at United In Christ

The Fellowship Team held a special evening for our kids on Friday, November 10. They had a (fake) indoor campfire, s'mores, and played lots of games!



UIC TEAMS

FAITH & FUN: Sherry Bingaman, Michelle Shearer, Al Stark

FELLOWSHIP: Al Stark, Sherry Bingaman, Kathy Guffey

FINANCE: Kathy Arndt, Karen Baker, Donna Corazza, Jared Rutt

HOME COMMUNION: Pastor Justin, Vicar Katy, Kathy Guffey, Michelle Shearer

LIBRARY: Shirley McPherrin, Jane Mertz

OAKS: Terri Cromwell, Kathy Arndt, Ruby Baker, Sherry Bingaman, Shirley and Ted McPherrin, Jane Mertz, Lisa Rabuck

OUTREACH: Terri Cromwell, Kathy Arndt, Ruby Baker, Sherry Bingaman, Donna Byerly, Donna Corazza, Kathy Guffey, Michelle Shearer, Al Stark

PROPERTY: Ken Criswell, Elwood Brown

RICH HUFF: Shirley McPherrin, Kim Criswell, Kathy Guffey, Jane Mertz, Michelle Shearer, Sharon Weiser

SENIOR EXPRESS: Sherry Bingaman, Ruby Baker, Terri Cromwell, Kathy Guffey, Rosemary Kling, Ted and Shirley McPherrin, Dale and Cheryl Robuck, Michelle Shearer

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Pastor Justin, Vicar Katy, Sherry Bingaman, Terri Cromwell, Marilyn Gresh, Sue Keifer, Rosemary Kling, Connie Shreck, Sharon Weiser

Property could use more members!

Reach out to anyone on a team to learn more.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Dedicate a poinsettia by submitting an order form, along with payment, **no later than Sunday, December 3rd.** You can take your poinsettias home after worship on December 31st.

COST IS \$7.00

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

Please print clearly and write what you want listed in the bulletin.

Given By: _____

Number of Poinsettias I'd like to purchase: _____

List below the names of those your poinsettias will be purchased in memory or honor of.

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

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