



# January 2024 NEWSLETTER

## *Hope for a New Year*

Gracious God,

As a new year begins, we place our  
trust in you.

May the time to come bring us closer  
to recognizing our need to love  
and cherish one another.

May those in power understand the  
importance of cultivating peace  
and bringing an end to war.

May those who struggle with disease,  
loss, poverty, and despair find light in  
the midst of their struggles  
and suffering.

And may we grow stronger in  
our desire to imitate the love and  
compassion of Jesus Christ, your Son,  
in whom our hope abides.

Amen.

# 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](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net)

**Marilyn Gresh: Music Director**

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

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

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

<b>UIC COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	<b>Kathy Guffey.....President</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2024
	<b>Lisa Rabuck.....Vice President</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2024
	<b>Kim Criswell.....Secretary</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2025
	<b>Kathy Arndt.....Treasurer</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2024
	<b>Justin Cooley</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2025
	<b>Ken Criswell</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2026
	<b>Kristie Koch</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2026
	<b>Michelle Shearer</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2024
<b>Randy Sprenkle</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2026	

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

- MON, JAN. 1      NEW YEAR'S DAY  
OFFICE CLOSED**
- WED, JAN. 3      PACKING MILTON PANTHER PACKS**
- FRI, JAN. 5      SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD DELIVERY**
- SUN, JAN. 7      OUTREACH TEAM MEETING  
YOUTH GROUP**
- TUE, JAN. 9      OAKS SENIOR CENTER**
- WED, JAN. 10    THEOLOGY ON TAP**
- SAT, JAN. 13    BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY  
BINGO NIGHT AT CELC**
- SUN, JAN. 14    FELLOWSHIP TEAM MEETING**
- TUE, JAN. 16    COUNCIL MEETING**
- SUN, JAN. 21    YOUTH GROUP**
- WED, JAN. 24    THEOLOGY ON TAP**
- SUN, JAN. 28    SCOUT SUNDAY**
- MON, JAN. 29    GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

# FROM THE PASTOR



*The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."*

Exodus 2:5-10

Dear United In Christ,

It's one of my favorite motifs throughout the entirety of scripture. Absurd promises get made into the least promising situations. Those who start in the lowliest of situations are lofted into places of prominence and favor. The mighty are showed to be bankrupt of true authority and are cast down from their lofty heights. The poor and hungry are named a blessed. Children are welcomed into the company of disciples. A measly travel lunch can feed thousands. The fullness of God takes on the fragility of humanity in flesh and bone. *If there's one thing that scripture seems to want to get across, it's that as God's people, we ought to be primed to expect the unexpected.*

I mean, just look at the origin story of this foundational figure of the faith. Moses himself is lifted up out of the most unlikely of situations to become a force of liberation from his people! As his people face oppressive destruction from the edicts of Pharaoh's palace, the baby Moses is smuggled away and left to the literal currents of the world to deliver him into safety. It's a Hail Mary play with seemingly bleak odds for success, and yet out of the unexpected situation at hand, provision is made. Here, among the reeds of the river, a deliverer for God's people is lifted up and placed into the precise position needed for such deliverance to occur! It's an unlikely series of events that ends up delivering God's expected accompaniment in the most unexpected of ways!

Heading into this new year, perhaps this is the motif we can reclaim. Or perhaps, at least, this is the theme for which we can keep watch. As we move into the new year, now is our opportunity to ask what opportunities might be hiding themselves among the unexpected? How might God be using the unexpected to still provide for God's people? How might we follow the Spirit into uncharted territory for the sake of God's *continued* story in this world?

How might God be calling *us*, UIC, to once again expect the unexpected?

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 text "Yours, united in Christ,".

UNITED IN CHRIST  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO

# Theology on Tap

JOIN US AT  
RUSTY RAIL  
6:00 PM ON JAN. 10TH,  
JAN. 24TH AND FEB. 7TH



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

Join us for Theology on Tap! This New Year we will be meeting at Rusty Rail on Wednesdays January 10<sup>th</sup>, January 24<sup>th</sup>, and February 7<sup>th</sup>. 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. You can let us know you're coming through the sign-up sheets, or you can email Pastor Justin or Vicar Katy.

**Rusty Rail Brewing**  
5 North 8th Street, Mifflinburg

In partnership with:



# GRIEF SUPPORT

A grief support group for those on  
the journey together.

**You are welcomed here.**

Joined together, the communities of Milton Lutheran Church, Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, and United In Christ will meet for our monthly grief support group on **Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Milton Lutheran Church.**

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. Contact Pastor Justin if you have any questions or would like to be a part!





# Fellowship



## BINGO NIGHT



January 13, 2024

7:00 pm

January Bingo				
5	29	42	52	68
14	17	38	60	75
7	22	FREE SPACE	49	62
13	●	33	46	63
3	27	32	●	73

\*Bring one wrapped gift of no more than a \$5.00 value that would be enjoyable to all ages

**Snacks and beverages will be offered**

Where: Christ's Lutheran Church  
(Lower Church Hall)  
100 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Lewisburg

*All are welcome...we hope you'll 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.





# SCOUT SUNDAY



Join us on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> 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 Social Hour after worship on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be lots of hungry kiddos!

# NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS to improve your life

Have any resolutions for 2024? (It's not too late to make them!) New Year's resolutions are a great way to boost the stewardship of your life. After all, resolutions are just goals for enriching our lives.

Here are some areas to consider:

**Spirituality:** Grow in faith by engaging spiritual practices. Resolve to pray and read scripture daily, attend worship, give generously, cultivate spiritual relationships, serve church and community.

**Health:** Gain vitality by resolving to lose weight, eat healthfully, exercise regularly, learn about health and nutrition and get check-ups at your doctor and dentist.

**Intellect:** Keep your mind active by resolving to read books, check out educational programs and podcasts, take a class to learn a new language or skill.

**Relationships:** Resolve to make new friendships and deepen existing ones. Work on family relationships to strengthen bonds and bring people closer to you and other family members.

**Leisure:** Include resolutions to help you enjoy life! Vacations, hobbies, activities, getaways, day trips.

**Financial:** Get your financial house in order. Resolve to make and keep a budget, reduce debt, increase income, save more and become more learned in money matters.

We are stewards of the life that God has given us. For 2024, pray for God's guidance and make a few resolutions that address your priority issues. And pray for God's help in keeping them. Blessings for 2024!

--*Rob Blezard*

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# WELCOME AREA IN THE NARTHEX



Visit our Welcome Area in the Narthex for copies of the monthly Lutheran Magazine, additional copies of the newsletter, including large print copies, and a variety of daily devotionals, Our Daily Bread, Christ In Our Home, and The Word in Season.

**~ PLEASE HELP YOURSELF ~**

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	JAN. 7	JAN. 14	JAN. 21	JAN. 28
Social Hour	E - K	L - R	S - Z	A - D
Bread/Wine	S. Bingaman	D. Byerly	K. Criswell	K. Guffey
Altar Guild	C. Troxell	D. Byerly	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey
Digital Host	S. Bingaman	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey	M. Shearer
Front Door Greeter	B. Swartz	T. McPherrin	L. Rabuck	M. Ketchem
	T. Swartz	K. Baker	A. Stark	R. Whitesel
Side Door Greeter	R. Kling	K. Noll	G. Weiser	T. Cromwell
Lector	M. Shearer	M. Haussmann	R. Sprenkle	A. Stark
Ushers	K. Arndt	S. Brown	R. Kling	M. Rabuck
	D. Baker	K. Criswell	S. McPherrin	A. Stark
	K. Baker	J. Mertz	T. McPherrin	B. Swartz
	T. Cromwell	L. Rabuck	M. Shearer	T. Swartz
Communion Asst.	B. Swartz	D. Baker	S. Weiser	E. Haussmann
	C. Troxell	S. Bingaman	T. Cromwell	R. Kling
Guest Relations	B. Troxell	T. McPherrin	G. Weiser	M. Mertz
Offering Counter	L. Rabuck	M. Rabuck	K. Guffey	M. Shearer
	P. Hauck	M. Shearer	C. Shreck	L. Rabuck

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

*Kate Haussmann 1/2*

*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*

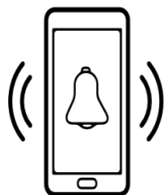
*Laylanya Olds 1/24*

*Sandra Brown 1/25*



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

## 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, Sandy Wertz, Emily McAuliffe, Casey Higgins and Kimberly Gordon, 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](mailto: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 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 22.**



# Baby Steps DIAPER PANTRY

## **UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY**

January 13, 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.

In December, the Rich Huff Fund's Baby Steps Diaper Pantry gave out 1,880 diapers. Quite a few new clients and several said how much the diaper pantry is appreciated! Rich Huff Fund also gave the first 20 cars a \$10 gas card for Sheets and Kiwanis sponsored each child with a new book.

Baby Steps Diaper Pantry gave out 15,700 diapers this year and 104,700 since it began!



# Outreach



## PACKING 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 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be helping pack bags of food for Milton Panther Packs. We need 20 people!

If you can help please add your name to the signup sheet in the fellowship hall.

## Next Outreach Team Meeting

Sunday, January 7 after worship in the meeting room across from the offices.

We will begin planning the St. Patrick's dance for people with intellectual disabilities. If you would like to help plan this new event please join us!



# OAKS

## SENIOR CENTER

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## Tuesday, January 9

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**10:00 am - Doors Open**

**10:30 am - Free Bingo with prizes**

**11:30 pm - Games**

**12:00 pm - Free Lunch**



# SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD BOXES

Food boxes will be delivered on Friday, January 5.



## 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?*

We are down to only 3 delivery people for our 28 Senior Express participants, Sherry Bingaman, Michelle Shearer, and Terri Cromwell. **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!***

# 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, January 7  
Sunday, January 21

# THANK YOU

I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you for all you do to help others.

~ Peggy Wagner (Senior Express food box participant)



# 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!***

\$30,923.01 Donations

\$30,923.01 Matching Funds

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\$61,846.02 Total Capital Campaign

# 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)

**Sermons and Bulletins:** Print the Sunday bulletin so you can follow along. You can also view past sermons. Bulletins appear on website the morning of that day's worship.

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

**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)

**Online Giving:** [www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving/](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving/)

**Newsletter Archive:** Read current and past newsletters.

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

**Facebook Page:** [www.facebook.com/unitedinchristlutheran](http://www.facebook.com/unitedinchristlutheran)

**Facebook Group:** [www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC/)





BLIZZARD	JANUARY
BOOTS	LOVE
CANDLES	MITTENS
CELEBRATE	NEW YEAR
COCOA	PENGUIN
FREEZING	RESOLUTIONS
FROSTY	SNOWFLAKE
GLOVES	SNOWMAN
ICICLES	WINTER

G J S I L P F H N J S I W X Z S  
 P C E L E B R A T E S S A L Y R  
 N I A G C F N M Y C N A L O V E  
 E L S N R E S O L U T I O N S E  
 W R F J D N B I C I C L E S G Z  
 Y X C R Y L F L O V E B Y B F I  
 E W L P E N E Y C P E N G U I N  
 A U A Q Y E J S O J C S N C M G  
 R E U B L I Z Z A R D M N G F B  
 Y B J O M F C I M Y A V R L J W  
 S F R O S T Y V N B C E G O Y I  
 J P K T A S A S F G T W R V G N  
 L T D S N O W M A N Y P A E L T  
 E O L E U H L M I T T E N S H E  
 V F C D S N O W F L A K E H C R  
 U N A Y J A N U A R Y H K L I Y



# 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, Terri Cromwell, Kathy Guffey, Rosemary Kling, Michelle Shearer

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

Property needs more members!

Reach out to anyone on a team to learn more.

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](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net)  
Website: [www.unitedinchristlutheran.net](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net)  
Office Hours: Mon-Thur, 8am-2:00pm