



# February 2024 NEWSLETTER



# 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**

### UIC COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>Michelle Shearer.....President</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2024
<b>Kathy Guffey.....Vice President</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2024
<b>Lisa Rabuck.....Secretary</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2024
<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>Kim Criswell</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2025
<b>Kristie Koch</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2026
<b>Randy Sprengle</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.*



# FROM THE PASTOR



*As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.*

2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Dear United In Christ,

I have such a love/hate relationship with the 6:05am alarm that is permanently set on my phone. It's set there as a daily reminder that it's time to get rolling, that the day is waiting and I need to get going. However, it's set *just* early enough I've got a bit of buffer to my timing. The day can wait a little while longer after the 6:05 alarm – nothing is going to be missed if I don't get going. I don't *really* have to get out of bed as soon as it goes off – that's what the 6:15 alarm is for! The 6:15 is the last call. It's the siren that actually moves me; it's the sounding bell of urgency that shakes me from complacency and actually puts my feet to the floor!

As we move this month towards Ash Wednesday (lovingly once again on Valentine's Day) and the season of Lent ahead, we may quickly find that it is 6:15am and the alarm is going off. There is *urgency* in our walk through the wilderness that is before us! While we often think about this time of self-reflection as the opportunity to pause and consider the ways in which we can prepare ourselves for a course of discipleship, the reminder we receive is that the time is clearly now at hand! It's what Paul lays out to the community in Corinth: that while Scripture attests to an acceptable time and a day of salvation, his conviction is that *now* is the acceptable time, *now* is the day of salvation! It's 6:15 and the alarm is sounding!

So I suppose now is the time for our feet to hit the ground! Now is the time to set ourselves to the course of God's mission with the neighbors in our midst. As we move into Lent, this season is our opportunity (as Paul reminds us) to take a critical look at what obstacles we may or not be putting in the way of those around us. Have we put stipulations or clauses of exception on the participation of others within our communities? Have we discredited someone with the obstacles of who they are or how they live or where they are from? As we ask regularly that God "forgive us our sins," have we put up oversized hurdles on the track before we are willing to "forgive those who sin against us?" Here in the wilderness, our call might just be to look critically at the road ahead and ask if we have placed any of our own barriers on the path Jesus has already paved – the path that Jesus has made clear *for you!*

Because there's urgency in the wilderness, after all, and the alarm is going off. The journey is not complete until all know they have a way through this wilderness carved out by the Christ who goes before us. Now is the time to commend ourselves to the course ahead, clearing any further obstacles along the way.

It's 6:15, UIC. Let's get going.

Yours, united in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Justin".

# LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

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## Parables of Jesus Study Series

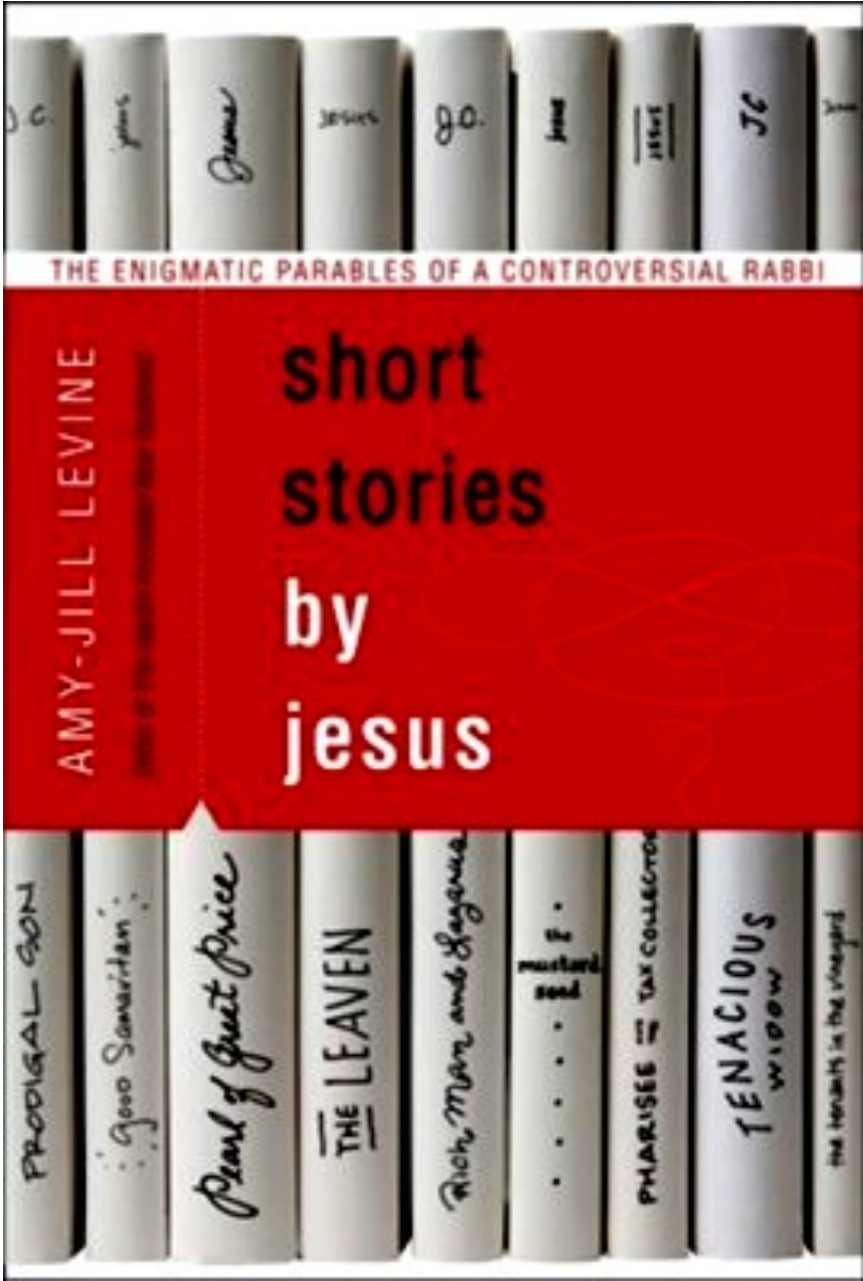
Join us at United In Christ for our upcoming Bible Study on Tuesday evenings beginning on February 20th at 6:30pm through the season of Lent! This year we will be journeying through the parables of Jesus alongside Dr. Amy Jill-Levine, the Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace using her series: *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*. In the wake of an increase of anti-Semitism and islamophobia, the effects of which even felt here in the Susquehanna Valley, the interfaith voice that Dr. Jill-Levine brings to these stories from Jesus will be of tremendous value as we journey through the wilderness.

Each week will focus on a new parable with a short video and accompanying discussion guide. Copies of the participant guide are available through the church office for \$10/copy. Even without a copy of the guide, you are invited to join us at any point along the way for the study! Come and see!

### ***From the publisher:***

Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from everyday life to effectively convey his message and meaning. Life in first-century Palestine was very different from our world today, and many traditional interpretations of Jesus' stories ignore this disparity and have often allowed anti-Semitism and misogyny to color their perspectives.

In *Short Stories by Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine analyzes these "problems with parables" taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later.



# Soup & Scripture Luncheons

Coordinated by the Lewisburg Council of Churches, join us for Soup and Scripture, which meets at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Wednesdays at 12pm through the season of Lent (February 14th-March 20th). Each week will welcome a different Lewisburg area pastor to the table to lead a time of devotion and study during this light meal. The theme for this year is the "I Am" Statements by Jesus in the Gospel of John.

## Holden Evening Prayer and Lenten Supper

All are welcomed to join us at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church for Holden Evening Prayer worship services beginning Wednesday, February 21st and continuing every Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm through March 20th. All are welcomed to come early and join in a Lenten supper held prior to the prayer services at 6:30 pm in the Lower Church Hall!

## Sight and Sound Bus Trip

Come and enjoy the bible story of "Daniel", as it comes to life on the stage at the Sight & Sound theatre in Lancaster on Wednesday April 3rd. Cost per person is \$110.00, which includes ticket, balcony seating at theatre, and dinner at the "Bird-In-Hand Restaurant" plus tax and gratuity. The bus fare will be covered by Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Tentative itinerary: 11:30am, Meet at OLD LEWISBURG WALMART (next to Weis), bus leaves promptly at noon. At 2:15pm arrive at Sight and Sound, show time of 3:00pm. Show ends at 5:30. Bus will depart for Bird In Hand Restaurant at 5:45. Arrive at Bird in Hand Restaurant at 6:00pm. We should arrive back home around 9:00pm.

Contact Terri or Pastor Justin if you would like to sign up!



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, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at United In Christ.**

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

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## PANCAKES AND KARAOKE

Join us for pancakes and karaoke on Shrove Tuesday! If you are able, please bring your favorite topping for pancakes to share.



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 Owen Arndt, Mya Cromwell, Emma Danowsky, Larissa Shearer, and Sarah Sprenkle.

You can place "thinking of you cards", snacks, and candy in the box in the fellowship hall. Please make sure you write their name on the envelope.

Gift cards and any monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate. Please write "Valentine's" on your envelope. Donations will be used to purchase gift cards and all will be split between our 5 students.



Lessons and Carols Sunday, aka Pajama Sunday!



On Sunday, January 14th we welcomed two new members,  
Cheryl Koons and Jenn Hauck!

# UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Celia Warren, family and friends of Russ Wynn, family and friends of Peg Swinehart, family and friends of Marie Tanner, Ken Baker, Annette Baker, Rosemary Fernsler, Ryan Hunter, Mark Rabuck, Shirley Russell, Bob Keifer, 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 March 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 March Newsletter need to be in the office **by Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**.

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	FEB. 4	FEB. 11	FEB. 14	FEB. 18	FEB. 25
Social Hour	E - K	L - R		S - Z	A - D
Bread/Wine	S. Keifer	S. McPherrin	J. Mertz	S. Noll	M. Shearer
Altar Guild	S. Keifer	C. Troxell	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey	S. Keifer
Digital Host	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey	M. Shearer	T. Cromwell	S. Bingaman
Front Door Greeter	B. Swartz	M. Ketchem	D. Byerly	K. Baker	R. Kling
	T. Swartz	R. Whitesel	J. Byerly	T. McPherrin	L. Rabuck
Side Door Greeter	S. Brown	D. Gottlieb	K. Noll	G. Weiser	T. Cromwell
Lector	R. Baker	E. Haussamnn	B. Swartz	P. Hauck	S. Keifer
Ushers	B. Troxell	K. Baker	K. Guffey	J. Mertz	A. Stark
	C. Troxell	S. Brown	R. Kling	L. Rabuck	B. Swartz
	K. Arndt	K. Criswell	T. McPherrin	M. Rabuck	T. Swartz
	D. Baker	T. Cromwell	S. McPherrin	M. Shearer	K. Arndt
Communion Asst.	M. Shearer	T. McPherrin	B. Swartz	C. Troxell	D. Baker
	R. Sprengle	A. Stark	M. Haussamnn	S. Weiser	T. Cromwell
Guest Relations	K. Noll	M. Rabuck		B. Troxell	G. Weiser
Offering Counter	K. Guffey	C. Shreck	L. Rabuck	P. Hauck	K. Guffey
	P. Hauck	M. Rabuck	M. Shearer	M. Rabuck	C. Shreck

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

*Mel and Nancy Baker 2/14/03*

*Jack and Cheryl Stiber 2/26/65*

*Herb and Vivian Marsh 2/28/59*



# Happy Birthday

*Larissa Shearer 2/3*

*Dalton Shearer 2/4*

*Delroy Caris 2/5*

*Jeffrey Snyder 2/6*

*Rick Whitesel 2/8*

*Maiya Hauck-Dabney 2/12*

*Eleanor Brouse 2/14*

*Annette Baker 2/19*

*Elwood Brown 2/19*

*Gwen Murphy 2/19*

*Mary Lou Keifer 2/21*

*John Heckman 2/25*



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

# Outreach



This Advent season you made a difference! You purchased \$380 in ELCA Good Gifts which will help fight hunger and transform lives!

## ELCA Good Gifts purchased by you this Advent.

Item	Price	Qty.	Total
Chicks	\$10	8	\$80
School Supplies	\$10	2	\$20
Honeybees	\$20	2	\$40
Feed a Refugee Family	\$25	1	\$25
Pig	\$30	3	\$90
Water Filter	\$30	2	\$60
Rooster	\$15	1	\$15
Goat	\$50	1	\$50
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$380</b>

You also gave \$390 in Advent Offerings which will be given to *Our Orangeville Manor*. Our Orangeville Manor is a personal care home that takes in homeless veterans from different VA hospitals.





# OAKS

## SENIOR CENTER

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# Tuesday, February 13

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**10:00 am - Doors Open**

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

**11:30 pm - Heart Healthy Foods by  
Weis Dieticians**

**12:00 pm - Free Lunch**





# LET'S TACKLE HUNGER

**FEB. 11<sup>th</sup> IS SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**

We'll be collecting food for Milton Panther Packs, which feeds hungry children in the Milton School District. 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.



We'll also be collecting monetary donations, which will go to Milton Panther Pack. All checks should be made out to United In Christ, with "Souper Bowl Sunday" written on the memo line.



This year we will again pit the right side and left side of the church against each other.

**Let's see which side will win by giving the most in food and monetary donations.**

## **WEAR YOUR FAVORITE TEAM'S COLORS**

Items brought in on Sunday, February 11 can be placed upstairs on whichever side you are rooting for. Teams are still in the playoffs so we don't know yet who the teams will be on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**All can items must have pop-top lids.**

Below is a list of items that can be donated. Please make sure they are individually sized.

- **Ramen Noodles**
- **Canned Pasta**
- **Soup, Stew, Chili**
- **Canned Chicken or Tuna**
- **Vacuum Packs of Tuna**
- **Mac and Cheese Cups**
- **Single Serving Microwavable Meals**
- **Micro Chef-Boy-R-Dee**
- **Fruit Cups**
- **Granola Bars**
- **Pop Tarts**

# SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD BOXES

Food boxes will be delivered on Friday, February 2.



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# 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, February 4  
Sunday, February 18



# IT'S TIME FOR QUARTER WARS!

**JANUARY 28TH- FEBRUARY 18TH**

**ELCA Youth Gathering Fundraiser**

**Which Pastor will have to wear a wacky outfit  
the Sunday After Easter?**

**Pastor Justin, Pastor Gary, or Pastor Stina?**



Quarter Wars is a great way to raise funds in support of our group of teens and adults going to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this upcoming Summer! Since our group is representing three congregations (MLC, UIC, and Salem) There will be 3 teams; Pastor Gary, Pastor Stina, Pastor Justin & Vicar Katy. The winning team in Quarter Wars gets serious bragging rights and the losing team has to dress up as.... On the Sunday after Easter during worship.

**Do you want your team to win?** Then collect as many quarters as possible and place them in your team's jar. Quarters count as positive money. Whoever has the most amount of positive money or least amount of negative money wins.

**Do you want another team to lose?** Then gather all the cash you can spare, other than quarters, and place them in the jar of the team you'd like to see lose. All other forms of cash count as negative money. Whoever has the least amount of positive money or the most amount of negative money loses.

# CAPITAL PROJECTS

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

All contributions designated for United In Christ "Capital Projects" will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$35,000!

DONOR



Dear, United In Christ,

"THANK YOU" does not even scratch the surface of the immense gratitude we're feeling here in the office this week. After setting an ambitious financial goal last year to tackle some much needed work on our building, you set yourselves to the task at hand. Now, as of the start of the new year, you all have cleared that goal!

In just fourteen months, you have *officially* raised \$70,000 towards our series of capital projects on our building! This has been an unprecedented campaign for our community and I am so grateful to all who helped bring us to this point!

I'm grateful for our anonymous donor who offered \$35,000 in matching gifts from day one of the campaign!

I'm grateful for you who contributed faithfully and incrementally throughout the course of the campaign!

I'm grateful for you who gave stimulus "boosts" at key points, helping us to cross important thresholds along the way!

I'm grateful for you who offered guidance, input, and prayers of support to all who have been involved in the process!

I'm grateful for you, UIC, and the spirit of generosity you employ for the sake of God's mission in and through this place!

We will look forward, now, to bringing this campaign's work to fruition with Council over the next few months. Some of the physical work has already been completed; the restoration of our exterior trim work and cleaning of our steeple was handled earlier in 2023 (and has already made a world of difference). Some of the work remains ahead, namely the plans to deal with the roof over the addition to the original building.

In the meantime, please know that I am so thankful for - and inspired by - each of you! If I've said it once, I've said it a couple hundred times: God is up to something incredible in this place. This moment has re-affirmed that conviction once more and gives me great cause to look with hope to what the Spirit will lead us to next!

Thank you, UIC!

Yours, united in Christ,

~ Pastor Justin

# THANK YOU



As 2023 comes to an end, we can look back on a year of camping, hiking, community service projects, camporees, attending a summer camp program and other scouting activities but the highlight of the year is most definitely our trip to the National Jamboree. During one week last July, we attended two days of the jamboree where the scouts rappelled down a 70-foot cliff, attended character building programs from recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, and enjoyed countless activities and events. This was followed by white water rafting, hiking a section of the Appalachian Trail in the Shenandoah National Park before heading to Philadelphia where we visited the USS New Jersey, toured Independence Hall, the U.S. Mint and saw the Liberty Bell. While in route to see the Statue of Liberty, the boys asked how close we were to the Atlantic Ocean and we said just an hour away. They asked if we could go see it because they had never seen an ocean so we took a detour to the Atlantic Ocean. I was in total shock as I watched the boys play in the waves which repeatedly crashed in.



Something that I took for granted brought them so much joy and excitement. It was something so simple but I will remember that moment for the rest of my life as I am sure the boys will too. The trip ended with touring Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty before heading for home.

The trip was eight days and seven nights and each of those nights was spent in a church because if we had to pay for hotel rooms, the additional cost would have kept some boys from being able to attend. We would like to thank the United in Christ Lutheran Church for hosting us one night. It was just a piece of the puzzle for the entire trip but it was an important piece of the puzzle and we can't thank you enough. The hospitalities extended were sincerely appreciated.

Respectfully, Steve McKinney  
BSA Troop 229 ~ Winamac, IN

Thank you so much for my gift and for bringing my food.  
~ Love Martha (Senior Express food participant)



UNITED IN CHRIST  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO

# *Theology on Tap*

JOIN US AT  
RUSTY RAIL  
6:00 PM ON 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 February 7th. 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

# 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:** 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, Rowe Family, 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

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