# United In Christ Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024 Bishop Craig Miller Vicar Katy Moran

### Welcome to our church!

We hope the service is meaningful, and uplifting, and that you will experience God's presence here. May God bless you during worship today.

Special thanks to Bishop Miller for preaching and presiding over communion today.





Please see a greeter.

#### **ELEVATOR**

Please see a greeter.

#### REST ROOMS

Downstairs across from the church office.

#### DIAPER CHANGING TABLE

*In fellowship hall family restroom.* 

Visit us at www.unitedinchristlutheran.net

#### 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

#### **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.

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **PRELUDE**

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge.

We pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

We have wounded one another and sinned against you.

We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us.

Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken. The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

Amen.

#### Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



#### **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

#### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 40:21-31

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



#### **GOSPEL READING**

**MARK 1:29-39** 

This is the Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** 

<sup>29</sup>As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### SERMON

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

**ELW 843** 

#### Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



#### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

Let us confess our faith using the Apostle's Creed:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

Prayers continue with each petition ending:

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The minister and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please share the peace at whatever level of physical contact with which you are comfortable.

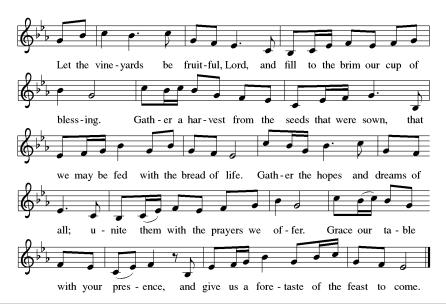
Please fill out an Attendance Card, and place the card in an offering plate.

#### **OFFERING**

You are invited to place your offering in one of the plates as they are passed or to make use of our online offering plate through tithe.ly by scanning the QR code to the right. You may also place your offering at <a href="www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/qiving">www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/qiving</a> by clicking on the green "Give Now" button.



#### OFFERTORY HYMN



#### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

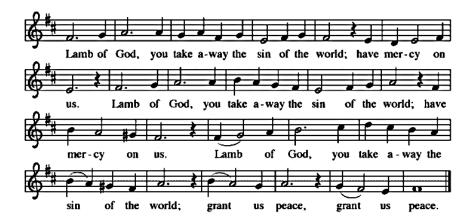
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and See.

Thanks be to God.



#### COMMUNION

Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, and all people are invited to his table. Those who do not wish to receive communion are invited to receive a blessing.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

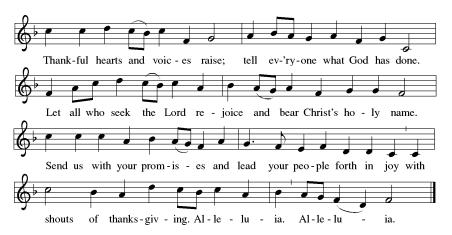
The communicant may say: Amen

#### TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

#### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

Amen.

#### **BENEDICTION**

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, + bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

#### SENDING HYMN

**ELW 314** 





#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**



Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Dalton's 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday and Larissa's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday by Mom and Dad.

# What's Happening at UIC

Sun, Feb. 4 Worship, 10:00am

Social Hour, 11:15am

Faith and Fun, 11:15am

Outreach Team Meeting, 11:15am

Youth Group, 1:00pm

Mon, Feb. 5 Cub Scouts, 6:30pm

Boy Scouts, 7:00pm

Tue, Feb. 6 Boy Scouts, 7:00pm

Wed, Feb. 7 Theology on Tap, 6:00pm

Fri, Feb. 9 Office Closed

Sat, Feb. 10 Baby Steps Diaper Pantry

Sun, Feb. 11 Worship, 10:00am

Social Hour, 11:15am

Faith and Fun, 11:15am

Fellowship Team Meeting, 11:15am

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# UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Please pray for: Celia Warren, family and friends of Russ Wynn, family and friends of Peg Swinehart, family and friends of Marie Tanner, Ken Baker, Sandy Wertz, Emily McAuliffe, Casey Higgins and Kimberly Gordon, Annette Baker, Maryanne Headen, Walt Bingaman, Tom Wetzel, 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

We will email your prayer request to UIC's prayer chain and keep them on the prayer list for 4 weeks.



Dalton Shearer 2/4
Delroy Caris 2/5
Jeffrey Snyder 2/6
Rick Whitesel 2/8

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



# QUARTER WARS!

#### **JANUARY 28TH- FEBUARY 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?



What is Quarter Wars you ask? 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.



Let's give our college students a big warm hug by blessings 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, Emma Danowsky, Mya Cromwell, Larissa Shearer, and Sarah Sprenkle.

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. You can help contribute to these care packages by placing money or a check in an offering plate. Please write "Valentine's" on your envelope.



We will be collecting individually sized food items for Milton Panther Packs which 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.

- Ramen Noodles
- Canned Pasta
- Soup, Stew, Chili
- Canned Chicken, Tuna Micro Chef-Boyardee
- Vacuum Packs of Tuna Fruit Cups
- Mac and Cheese Cups Pudding Cups
- Microwave Meals
- Granola Bars
- Pop Tarts

All can items must have pop-top lids



### **UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY**

February 10, 2024 at 10-11:30am 1 bag (40 diapers) per child. Newborn to size 6

The pantry is open to caregivers of babies from the communities around Milton, Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, and Watsontown.



# Tuesday, February 13

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









### 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.



#### MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION



Social Ministry collects non-perishable food items each month. Your donations get delivered to the Our Little Free Pantry in West Milton by the gas station across from the on ramp to 15.

Place these items in the baskets located in the Narthex.



# **Ash Wednesday Worship**

Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00pm

United In Christ Lutheran Church 1875 Churches Road Lewisburg, PA 17837



"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

# **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.

There are lots of open slots to order flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special

event. The flowers are yours to take home after worship! Altar flowers cost \$35.

Flower Chart is located in the Fellowship Hall.

# Parables of Jesus Study Series

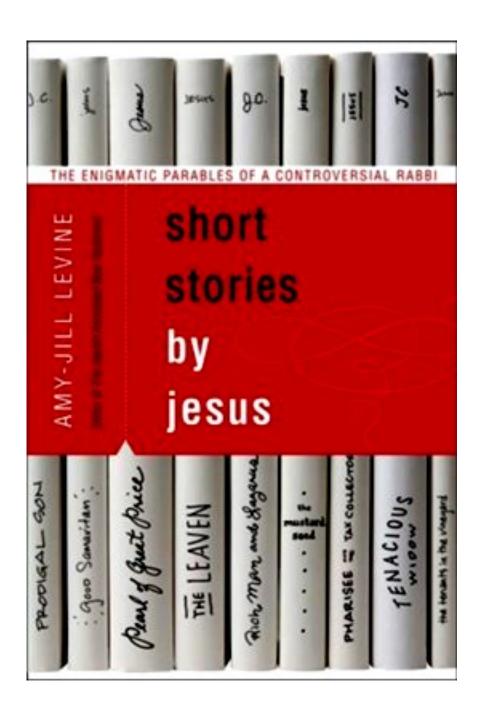
Join us at United In Christ for our upcoming Bible Study on Tuesday evenings beginning on February 20th at 6:30pm through the season of Lent! This year we will be journeying through the parables of Jesus alongside Dr. Amy Jill-Levine, the Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament 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.

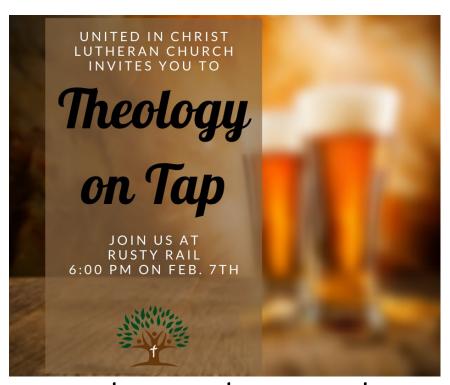
Each week will focus on a new parable with a short video and accompanying discussion guide. Copies of the participant guide are available through the church office for \$10/copy. Even without a copy of the guide, you are invited to join us at any point along the way for the study! Come and see!

#### 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.





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

Join us for Theology on Tap! We will meet at Rusty Rail on February 7th. 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.

Please note, we are only meeting once in February. Starting on Tuesday February 20th, we will be starting our Lenten book study. If you have any questions about our book study, you can find more details in the newsletter or you can reach out to the office.

# Rusty Rail Brewing

5 North 8th Street, Mifflinburg

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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



# Lutheran Church

1875 Churches Rd. Lewisburg, PA 17837 570-568-2254

## WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Sundays at 10am

THE REV. JUSTIN G. LINGENFELTER

#### **CHURCH OFFICE**

Open Mon. - Thur. 8:00am - 2:00pm Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

#### **VISIT US AT**

Website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC