



December 2024 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: UIC Pastor

The Rev. Katy Moran: CELC Pastor

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

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| SUN, DEC. 1 | ADVENT 1 DEADLINE: VETERANS HOME DONATIONS |
| MON, DEC. 2 | OFFICE CLOSED |
| TUE, DEC. 3 | TRIP TO ORANGEVILLE VETERANS HOME |
| WED, DEC. 4 | BEERS AND CAROLS @ RUSTY RAIL BREWING |
| FRI, DEC. 6 | SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD BOX DELIVERY |
| SAT, DEC. 7 | CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP |
| SUN, DEC. 8 | ADVENT 2 OUTREACH MEETING FELLOWSHIP MEETING FAITH LAB COMBINED LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP |
| TUE, DEC. 10 | OAKS SENIOR CENTER |
| SAT, DEC. 14 | BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY |
| SUN, DEC. 15 | ADVENT 3 CHRISTMAS CAROLING @ B.V. LUTHERAN VLG. SYNOD YOUTH HIKING AND CMAS PARTY |
| MON, DEC. 16 | OFFICE CLOSED |
| TUE, DEC. 17 | COUNCIL MEETING |
| WED, DEC. 18 | BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP |
| SUN, DEC. 22 | ADVENT 4 |
| TUE, DEC. 24 | CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP |
| WED, DEC. 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY: OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL 1/6 |
| SUN, DEC. 29 | PJ SUNDAY: LESSONS AND CAROLS |

FROM THE PASTOR



The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Dear United In Christ,

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

Can't they already be here? says Justin.

I am fully aware that patience is not exactly my strongest of virtues. Ask Kelsey, she'll tell you. I don't wait particularly well. But boy howdy! The past few weeks have certainly been an exercise in strengthening that muscle! Back in September, the waiting seemed *agonizing* as we prepared for Little Dude's arrival. Then when his estimated date came and went – and then another 12 days came and went – the waiting started to feel *impossible*, save for the fact that there was nothing *I* could do about the timeline! Now that he's finally arrived, that patience has taken a new form as I have quickly learned that imposing my impatient understanding of what needs to happen and when onto his newborn laissez-faire style of life *simply does not work*. Impatiently trying to do things *my way* mostly seems to end in disaster that leaves everyone at wit's end!

"The days are surely coming says the Lord." It might just be that my impatient pacing gets in the way of what actually needs to take root. When, in the waiting, I start trying to take matters into my own hands, I may just end up creating more of a mess for my-

self and those around me. Heading into this season of Advent, then, serves as an annual exercise in *how* to wait better. Maybe you need the exercise too. In these next few weeks, we are afforded a glimpse of those who wait faithfully for the fulfillment of this promise. Zechariah's impatience lands him mute for a time. Elizabeth's anticipation draws her into a fullness of joy. Mary's wonder causes a hymn of marveling to cry out for what God has done. All of this in anticipation of God bringing to fruition what was declared through Jeremiah: that a righteous branch will indeed spring up for David.

And in the end, when that Christmas celebration finally comes, we are given a glimpse of clarity about *who* and *what* we wait for. As God in the infant Christ Jesus takes on frailty and humility – as the eternal Word is made flesh – we see at last why the waiting is worth it. The God who meets humanity in all of its impatience is the God who meets you in full in this season. No matter how well you've been waiting, we see the course of God's care pouring out into the furthest corners of this world.

May we wait in preparation for all that is to come. May we wait with the awareness of all that God ushers into this world. May we wait, ready to follow where this God incarnate takes us.

Yours, waiting and united in Christ,

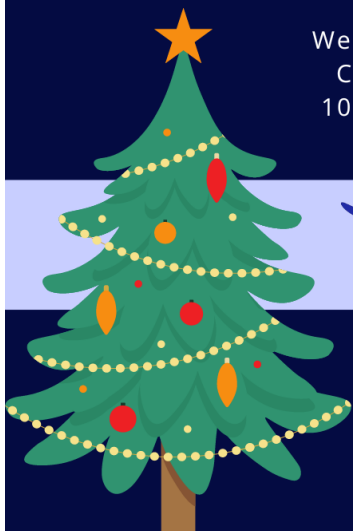
~ Pastor Justin

**Church Office will
be closed beginning on
Christmas Day and will
reopen on January 6th.**



Blue Christmas Worship

Wednesday, December 18th 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 18, 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, Pastor 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.



Outreach

SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD BOXES

Food boxes will be delivered to UIC by the Central Pa Food Bank on Friday, December 6th.

Delivery teams, please make plans to deliver your food boxes the following week.



MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION



Outreach 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.

During cold month, please do not donate items in glass containers since the pantry is open to the outside elements.

Place these items in the basket located in the Narthex.



Outreach has 15 people who are in need of Christmas gifts at Danville State Hospital. Many of you may remember that this was also a project last year and it was well received by the congregation and the clients were thrilled to have a little something for Christmas. Please see Ruby Baker to sponsor a person. All gifts must be at the church by Sunday, December 8th. Gifts for people at Danville must not be wrapped so the staff can check the items for the safety of the residents. Please place all items in a gift bag with your person's name on the tag.

Country Comfort is a local assisted living home in New Columbia. Outreach has the names of residents that have no family to bless them with gifts this Christmas. Kathy Guffey has the names, please see her to sponsor a resident. Gifts can be wrapped and need to be at the church by Sunday, December 15th.

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY



Thank you to everyone that donated food for Harvest Home Sunday!! We collected 204 fruit snacks, 186 macaroni and cheese cups, 166 pop tarts and bars, 126 cans of soup, 117 fruit, 104 packs of cracker sandwiches, 98 noodle cups and packs, 82 cans of Chef Boyardee, 80 pudding cups, 76 oatmeal and cereal, and 14 cans and pouches of meat.

Total Items: 1,253

Michelle Shearer dropped everything off at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Milton. Susan Snyder, the Milton Panther Packs director, accepted it. She said that these items will be used to pack December's bags.

PAJAMA *Worship*



DECEMBER 29TH
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 PJ Service on December 29th!

*Gather in as we cozy up
for the most comfortable service of the year!*



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 little order forms on the table so the office knows what you are purchasing.
- * Write your name, what you are purchasing, and the total amount you are giving.
- * Place cash or check (payable to UIC) in an offering envelope, along with order form.
- * 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.

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: Larry Fawcett, Aaron Murray, Delroy Caris, Rachel Lynn, Desiree Starks, Carol Troxell, Rosemary Fernsler, Ryan Hunter, Patrick Mosley, Mark Rabuck, Shirley Russell, 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 4 weeks.



Baby Steps
DIAPER PANTRY

UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

December 14, 2024 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 of Milton, Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, and Watsontown.


WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

| | Dec. 1 | Dec. 8 | Dec. 15 | Dec. 22 |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Preaching | Moran | Lingenfelter | Moran | Lingenfelter |
| Social Hour | A - D | E - K | L - R | S - Z |
| Bread/Wine | S. Keifer | K. Criswell | J. Mertz | M. Shearer |
| Altar Guild | S. Keifer | ML Keifer | T. Cromwell | K. Guffey |
| Digital Host | K. Guffey | M. Shearer | T. Cromwell | K. Guffey |
| Front Door Greeter | B. Swartz | D. Gottlieb | M. Ketchem | A. Stark |
| | T. Swartz | G. Glathar | R. Whitsel | L. Olds |
| Side Door Greeter | G. Weiser | R. Stitzel | R. Baker | K. Olds |
| Lector | M. Shearer | S. Keifer | R. Sprenkle | B. Swartz |
| Ushers | K. Arndt | T. Cromwell | L. Rabuck | B. Swartz |
| | D. Baker | K. Guffey | M. Rabuck | T. Swartz |
| | Ken Baker | R. Kling | M. Shearer | B. Troxell |
| | S. Brown | J. Mertz | A. Stark | K. Arndt |
| Communion Asst. | C. Robuck | T. Cromwell | ML Keifer | M. Shearer |
| | D. Baker | E. Haussmann | S. Stark | R. Sprenkle |
| Guest Relations | G. Weiser | B. Troxell | M. Mertz | M. Rabuck |
| Offering Counter | K. Guffey | P. Hauck | R. Sprenkle | L. Rabuck |
| | M. Rabuck | M. Shearer | M. Rabuck | P. Hauck |

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. 29 |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Preaching | Moran | Moran | Lesson/Carols |
| Social Hour | | | A - D |
| Bread/Wine | K. Sprengle S. Weiser | R. Baker | D. Byerly |
| Altar Guild | S. Keifer ML Keifer | T. Cromwell | K. Guffey |
| Digital Host | K. Guffey | T. Cromwell | M. Shearer |
| Front Door Greeter | D. Byerly J. Byerly | TBD | C. Robuck D. Robuck |
| Side Door Greeter | K. Baker | TBD | S. Brown |
| Lector | V. Tyrell | M. Shearer | A. Stark |
| Ushers | K. Criswell Ken Baker L. Rabuck M. Rabuck | TBD | A. Stark L. Olds K. Olds D. Baker |
| Communion Asst. | R. Kling B. Swartz | M. Shearer | S. Weiser C. Robuck |
| Guest Relations | | | K. Noll |
| Offering Counter | R. Sprengle M. Rabuck | M. Shearer T. Cromwell | L. Rabuck M. Shearer |



HAPPY Anniversary

Rob and Teena Zimmerman 12/21/02

Tim and Rose Stitzel 12/24/71



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

Rodney Noll 12/16

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.

HAVE YOU SEEN?

**LOST
AND
FOUND**



Did you leave something at church? Check out the LOST AND FOUND bin on the shelf by the restroom in the fellowship hall.



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, December 10

10:00 am Doors Open

10:30 am Free Bingo with Prizes

11:30 am Presentation about Stress

12:00 pm Free Lunch



OAKS Senior Center is free and has no age requirements.
Everyone is welcome to join us!

United In Christ Lutheran Church

1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg ~ 570-568-2254

BUFFALO VALLEY
FAITH LAB

Second Sunday of the Month
4:00pm-6:00pm
Free family dinner!
Sponsored by:

You're invited to the launch of a new monthly family faith formation program!

United In Christ Lutheran Church
MILTON Lutheran Church
United In Christ Lutheran Church

Faith Lab is a new initiative from UIC, MLC, and CELC working together to provide programming for kids in pre-k through 5th grade. On the second Sunday of each month we will gather for Bible study, games, crafts, and (of course) food! We have a great group of volunteers already in place to ensure that students who gather for Faith Lab will have the chance to break out into groups based on their grade levels to steep in the stories of scripture set for each gathering.

If you are a family that is interested in participating, go ahead and mark the dates for the upcoming year of programming! **We also encourage you to please scan the QR code here to fill out a signup form that will help us prepare as best as possible ahead of time.** If you know additional families who may be interested, please feel free to share the info as well!

NEXT FAITH LAB

Our next Faith Lab will be on Sunday, December 8th at MLC, 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton. We will begin at 4pm and have dinner at 5:30pm.

COMBINED LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP

Milton Lutheran, United In Christ, and Christ's Lutheran have formed a Combined Lutheran Youth Group. Youth Group is for any student in grades 7-12. Youth Group will meet at 6:15pm on Sunday, December 8th, after Faith Lab, at MLC.

If you would like to join, or have questions, please see Pastor Justin or Pastor Katy.

SOCIAL HOUR AFTER WORSHIP



Social Hour has started back up.
Social Hour is split up into 4 groups.

A-D E-K
L-R S-Z

We will rotate through each of these 4 groups on Sundays.

When your name falls in that Sunday's Social Hour please bring a snack to share and help in the kitchen *during* social hour.





Fellowship

Join us on **Wednesday, December 4th** 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 if you have any questions!



YOU'RE INVITED!

CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, December 7 | 3:00PM
United In Christ Lutheran Church
1875 Churches Road, Lewisburg, PA



Sponsored by:



Crafts! Cocoa! Cookies! Carols!



Mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 7th 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! We hope you can join us! Come and see!

Follmer Lutheran Parish Presents ...
Drive-Thru Live Nativity

Goodie Bags
for all
participants



Christmas
Hymn Sing
7 to 7:30 p.m.

6 to 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14

St. John Lutheran Church

70 S. Mill Road, Potts Grove (Milton if using GPS)

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Caroling at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village

Join us December 15 at 1:45pm

189 East Tressler Blvd., Lewisburg
1st floor lobby of the 2-story building with the portico
Please sign up or contact the office if you are attending

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

Sermons and Bulletins: Print the Sunday bulletin so you can follow along at home. You can also view past sermons. www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/worship

Church Calendar: Stay up-to-date on everything that's happening at UIC.
www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/calendar

Online Giving: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving/

Newsletter Archive: Read current and past newsletters.
www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/newsletter

Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/unitedinchristlutheran

Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC/

2024 News: Check out additional photos from UIC events. www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/2024news

WELCOME AREA IN THE NARTHEX



In the Welcome Area in the Narthex you will find a variety of daily devotionals, UIC's monthly newsletter, quiet bags for children during worship, and the basket for food donations which get taken to the food pantry in West Milton.

UIC COMMITTEES

FELLOWSHIP: Al Stark, Kathy Arndt, Kathy Guffey, Jolynn Heckman

FINANCE: Kathy Arndt, Karen Baker, Jared Rutt

HOME COMMUNION: Pastor Justin, Annette Baker, Kathy Guffey, Michelle Shearer, Bob and Trudy Swartz.

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

OUTREACH: Michelle Shearer, Kathy Arndt, Ruby Baker, Donna Corazza, Kathy Guffey, Al Stark

PROPERTY: Ken Criswell, Dave Baker, Elwood Brown, Scott Danowsky, Mark Rabuck, Randy Sprenkle, Tim Stitzel

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

SENIOR EXPRESS: Sherry Bingaman, Garrett Glathar, Diane Gottlieb, Kathy Guffey, Rosemary Kling, Ted and Shirley McPherrin, Rowe Family, Michelle Shearer, Warren Shipe

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



THANK YOU

Dear United In Christ,

Thank you for your generous support of 1,253 various food items to Milton Panther Packs, a ministry at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church.

We are blessed to be in our ninth year of preparing nutritious week-end meals for students in the Milton Area Elementary Schools (James F. Baugher: Kindergarten-Third Grades, and White Deer: Fourth-Fifth Grade).

Serving approximately 250 students almost every week of the school year continues to be the primary goal of this ministry. Without the ongoing and generous support from you, we wouldn't be able to make this happen.

Thank you again for your donation! God's word, done God's way, will never lack God's supply.

Sincerely,
Mary Richie, Treasurer.





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Dedicate a poinsettia by submitting an order form, along with payment, **no later than Sunday, December 8th.**

COST IS \$6.50

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:

Will you be taking your poinsettia home after worship on the 29th?

_____ NO _____ YES

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