



January 2025 NEWSLETTER



Come Let Us Adore Him

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Michelle Shearer.....	President	2 nd term, ends 12/2027
Kathy Arndt.....	Treasurer	2 nd term, ends 12/2027
Ruby Baker.....		1 st term, ends 12/2027
Ken Criswell.....		1 st term, ends 12/2026
Kim Criswell.....		2 nd term, ends 12/2025
Beth Guffey.....		1 st term, ends 12/2027
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

- WED, JAN. 1.** **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL JANUARY 6TH
- FRI, JAN. 3** **FOOD BOX DELIVERY FROM FOOD BANK**
- SUN, JAN. 5** **EPIPHANY SUNDAY**
NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
- TUE, JAN. 7** **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING**
- WED, JAN. 8** **THEOLOGY ON TAP**
- SAT, JAN. 11** **BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY**
WINTER BLUES BINGO @ CELC
- SUN, JAN. 12** **OUR MONEY STORE, BEGINS**
OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING
FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
FAITH LAB
COMBINED LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP
- TUE, JAN. 14** **OAKS SENIOR CENTER**
- MON, JAN. 20** **FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- TUE, JAN. 21** **COUNCIL MEETING**
- WED, JAN. 22** **THEOLOGY ON TAP**
- MON, JAN. 27** **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP @ CELC**

FROM THE PASTOR



[Jesus said:] “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19-21

Dear United In Christ,

Take a quick minute and re-read this passage from Matthew. Now take an extra minute and consider what it is that Jesus seems to be saying. This is probably a familiar passage to many of us. In fact, many of us have probably tried to live out what Jesus is saying by virtue here; we understand that there is an intrinsic relationship between heart and treasure and so we try to be discerning about where our hearts call us to place that treasure. When our hearts are full of appreciation for what they provide the community, we place our treasure with the local ambulance corps and fire company. When our hearts have experienced the yields of joy they offer, we place more of our treasure within our family bonds. When our hearts are weighed heavy by the devastation of storms, earthquakes, or warfare we see in the news, we place our treasure with local and international agencies like the Red Cross or Lutheran Disaster Response. When our hearts get ripped out by Sarah McLachlan and her emotive singing as we watch dog after dog and cat after cat come across our screen, we might even go place our treasure with the ASPCA once we can find the phone again through our tears (I’m not alone on this one, right?).

But read the passage above again. Placing our treasure in the places that are on our hearts is *not* what Jesus says. I mean,

there's nothing inherently wrong about doing things that way, but over the years I'm afraid we've somehow managed to internalize his words *backwards*. Jesus doesn't say "where you feel your heart moving, that's where you should place your treasure;" he says "where your treasure *is*, there your hearts *will be also*." I think he's onto something here. I know in my own life that this has been true. The places where I choose to place my treasure – my time, my skills, my finances – often quickly become the very priorities that my heart grows to care about! What's more is that if I'm not careful, sometimes I end up placing my treasure and having my heart drawn into places that *don't* necessarily align with where I would *hope* my heart would reside.

Because the temptation is totally there. When I put my treasure into the possessions around me, there is a temptation to let my heart be guided by their condition. Treasuring the perfect home or the newest car or the pristine landscaping or the most strategically invested stocks means our hearts themselves become tied to those things. The catch, though, is that most are fleeting in what they offer. There will always be another project around the house and so our hearts are left unsatisfied. There will always be a newer model than what we drive and so our hearts will never catch up. There will always be a rise and fall in the market and so our hearts are bound for a rollercoaster of wellbeing.

As we turn our calendars to January and the blank slate of months ahead, now is the chance to ask: what *will* you prioritize in this upcoming year? Where will you be placing your treasure? Do we really want our hearts tied to the Dow Jones or is it time for a new way? As we begin the new year together, now is the perfect time to ask just where it is you have your treasure stored and where it is you would *like* your heart to be. In fact, we will be spending some time exploring these questions later this month through our four-week series titled *Our Money Story*. This series will give us each an opportunity to look at the narratives of our own treasure – past and present – and invite us to consider what

story we *wish* to write going forward. It will give us the opportunity to consider placing our treasure in the places where we would *like* our hearts to follow, even if they are not quite there yet.

Ask yourself where you *would like* your heart to be invested and try placing your treasure in those places that your heart might just follow. Want your heart to become more compassionate? Invest in the places that embody such compassion! Want to see your heart grow attuned to the needs of our neighbors? Place your treasure in the places where Christ himself showed such need: among the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, and the imprisoned. Want your heart to grow in the depth and breadth of the community of God's kin-dom? Place your treasure in the places that are building up that kin-dom, beginning with the marginalized corners in which God abides! Want to be drawn into the movement of the Spirit and see God at work among God's people? Place your treasure in the places where the holy takes root in.

Turning over this new year, now is the time to rewrite our stories. Now is the time to ask ourselves boldly and honestly "*how invested am I in the places I want my heart to reside?*" Ask yourself "*what might it look like if I invested 3% of myself in the work of God's action?*" What about 5%? How would my heart be enriched if I invested a full-on biblical tithe **10% of myself** – time, skill, and finance – into the building up of God's community? How would all of our hearts be drawn together for placing even just 1% more treasure into our mutual care and understanding in a time where isolationism and self-interest seem to be the guiding patterns around us?

These are bold questions, UIC – and frankly the answers might be intimidating – and for some impossible. But exploring them together – asking what *might be* – is the perfect place for us to start. I invite you to join the process and step up to the challenge this month. Read the article a few pages in for more info on the

series and join us from January 12th through February 2nd as we explore *Our Money Story* together.

But in the meantime, I'll leave you with this. I say all this because I know Jesus is right about this. I *know* that I have felt my heart drawn into God's activity *through you* because of how Kelsey and I have decided to place our treasure. My heart feels more connected to you all and more attuned to God's movement not because of the treasure I receive from you (an entire salary, mind you), but because of the treasure we place back into God's care through this community. When we write that check every two weeks, it is with the trust that our hearts will follow in turn. I know it is not easy – Lord knows there's a lot we'd love to do by holding onto that \$370 per pay period – but it has been so worth it. Our hearts are enriched not with new-found treasures heaping back our way, but in what God continues to build in this place through such treasure placing. We are quite literally more invested in God's movement and drawn into the Spirit's work by such treasure placing in our lives.

I pray that it might be the same for you! I'll look forward to joining you in this journey together, UIC. May our hearts be enriched in the year ahead!

Yours, united in Christ,

~ Pastor Justin

**Church Office will
be closed
until January 6th.**



Outreach

SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD BOXES

Food boxes will be delivered to UIC by the Central Pa Food Bank on Friday, January 3rd.

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.



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, January 14th

10:00 am Doors Open

10:30 am Free Bingo with Prizes

11:30 am Gilligan's Island

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

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

Second Sunday of the Month
4:00pm-6:00pm

Free family dinner!

Sponsored by:



The graphic features a yellow background with various icons: a bar chart, a cross with radiating lines, gears, a molecular structure, and a QR code. The text is in bold, dark blue and black fonts.

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, January 12th at CELC, 100 South 3rd Street, Lewisburg. 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, January 12th, after Faith Lab, at CELC.

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



ALTAR FLOWERS

Cost is \$35.

Flower Chart is in the Fellowship Hall.

You may take your flowers home after worship.

Flowers can be donated in memory of or in honor of family or friends. Please write on the chart what you would like printed in the bulletin.



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Jan. 26
Worship Leader	Lingenfelter	Lingenfelter	Moran	Lingenfelter
Social Hour	E - K	L - R	S - Z	A - D
Bread/Wine	K. Criswell	K. Guffey	S. Keifer	S. McPherrin
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	A. Stark	K. Baker	D. Byerly
	T. Swartz	K. Olds	S. Brown	J. Byerly
Side Door Greeter	R. Stitzel	L. Olds	G. Weiser	R. Baker
Lector	V. Tyrell	B. Swartz	R. Baker	D. Gottlieb
Ushers	K. Arndt	T. Cromwell	T. McPherrin	M. Shearer
	K. Baker	K. Guffey	J. Mertz	B. Swartz
	S. Brown	R. Kling	L. Rabuck	T. Swartz
	K. Criswell	S. McPherrin	M. Rabuck	B. Troxell
Communion Asst.	M. Shearer	S. Weiser	A. Stark	T. Cromwell
	R. Sprenkle	D. Baker	B. Swartz	E. Hausmann
Guest Relations	M. Rabuck			
Offering Counter	P. Hauck	K. Guffey	L. Rabuck	M. Shearer
	M. Rabuck	C. Shreck	R. Sprenkle	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.



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.

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.



We all have a money story, whether we recognize it or not. Perhaps we are living from a story of fear or shame. Or a story that the church is dying and no longer relevant. Or a story that our actions won't have an impact. Or a story that we don't have enough. Where might God be speaking a new narrative into the limited ones we have told ourselves? This theme invites us to discover and tell our money stories in light of God's money story of liberation and justice. This series encourages us to transform our stewardship practices into more full expressions of who we are and what we believe.

This theme is intentionally direct—it invites us to name exactly what we're talking about and not skirt around it. To speak of money is to invite tension into the room. We so quickly want to avoid it. But it's time we reframe this. Money and possessions are one of the most common topics in scripture, and Jesus

talked about money more than faith and prayer. Our money story, therefore, is a spiritual story. Thinking about God's money story should be liberating, inviting, and transformative.

This stewardship season, we invite you to...

Remember (January 12)

Release (January 19)

Reimagine (January 26)

Restore (February 2)

your money stories so that we can write the one God is begging us to live into.

***Be sure to pick up a corresponding
Our Money Story journal in the fellowship hall to
bring with you to worship each week!***

Week One (1/12): Remember

Luke 22:1-23 (The Last Supper & Judas' betrayal)

Exodus 16:1-18 (Manna in the desert)

We begin our series by looking back at what our spoken and unspoken money stories have been and how those stories have impacted our practices of stewardship. In these texts, we remember God's steadfast relationship with us throughout time and trials. We remember that Judas betrayed Jesus in exchange for money but was still invited to the table. We remember that the Israelites complained in the wilderness but were met with manna. Even in stories of desperation and deep betrayal, we are gifted with God's provision—of the feast of enough, and the holy meal of remembrance.

Week Two (1/19): Release

Matthew 19:16-22 (*A wealthy man seeks eternal life*)

Deuteronomy 15:1-11 (*The year of cancelled debts*)

This week we practice releasing shame, anxiety, guilt, greed or anything that keeps us from freedom and wholeness. We release the elements of our money story that prevent us from fully living into God's story. In Matthew, we see a man grieved to let go of his wealth. In Deuteronomy, we find the radical social mandate of cancelled debts, a communal release that is practiced for the good of all. Releasing is a spiritual practice that frees us from ourselves and liberates others.

Week Three (1/26): Reimagine

Mark 12:38-44 (*The widow's mite*)

Leviticus 19:9-10; 25:8-12 (*The year of Jubilee*)

Scripture calls us to reimagine a world where our social and economic systems are not built to disparage or impoverish, but instead to provide for and benefit all. This week we revisit the story of the widow's mite, a scripture that begs for reimagination and reinterpretation from the harmful ways it has been used. Instead of commending the widow's giving practices, perhaps Jesus is condemning the economic system that created her poverty. The Jewish practice of the Jubilee year invites us to imagine leaving the edge of the harvest for the poor and immigrant to reap; in the fiftieth year, the harvest is shared and disparities are rebalanced. In light of these stories in scripture, we are called to reimagine our own money stories.

Week Four (2/2): Restore

John 21:1-14 (*Jesus appears to the disciples*)

Genesis 33:1-17 (*Esau forgives Jacob*)

As we have practiced remembering, releasing, and reimagining, we conclude the series by focusing on restoration. Ultimately, practicing faithful stewardship heals us as individuals and helps us restore right relationship with one another. In Genesis 33, Jacob and Esau experience a surprising reconciliation after years of strife and estrangement. In the final chapter of John's gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples and fills their empty fishing nets. Even after death, Jesus restores our hope and provides an abundant feast.

**Stick around after worship each week to help
Our Money Story grow with the art installation
coming soon to the fellowship hall!**

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.

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: Kylee Fawcett, Mary Baker, Annette Baker, 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.

Scripture instructs us to lift one another up in prayer. The prayer chain takes two forms: telephone or email. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please let Terri Cromwell know. Make sure you tell her if you would like a phone call or an email.



Baby Steps DIAPER PANTRY

UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

January 11, 2025 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.

Beat the Winter Blues Bingo



Everyone, please bring a "wrapped" gift up to a \$5.00 value and a snack to share.



Come and have fun. Everyone is a winner!

If you are planning on going, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board or contact Terri in the office.

Signup deadline is January 5th

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Join us on Sunday, January 5th as we welcome new members to our United In Christ family!!

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.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your love and help. May God bless you as you help the needy.

Merry Christmas and God bless,

Joyce Newton (senior express participant)

Thank you for blessing me again this season as you do throughout the year! It always helps and the few things that I can't use are a blessing to one of my neighbors.

Merry Christmas,

Joy Kline (senior express participant)



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.

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

UIC COMMITTEES

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

FINANCE: Kathy Arndt, Karen Baker, Jared Rutt

HOME COMMUNION: 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: Terri Cromwell, Marilyn Gresh, Sue Keifer, Rosemary Kling, Connie Shreck, Sharon Weiser



UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1875 CHURCHES ROAD
LEWISBURG PA 17837

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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