



# February 2025 NEWSLETTER

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LUKE 10:27



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

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

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>Michelle Shearer.....</b>	<b>President</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2027
<b>Beth Guffey.....</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2027
<b>Kathy Arndt.....</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, ends 12/2027
<b>Ruby Baker.....</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> term, ends 12/2027
<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 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

- TUE, FEB. 4**      **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE MTG.**
- WED, FEB. 5**      **THEOLOGY ON TAP**
- FRI, FEB. 7**      **FOOD BANK DELIVERY**
- SAT, FEB. 8**      **BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY**
- SUN, FEB. 9**      **SOUPER BOWL & SCOUT SUNDAY  
OUTREACH COMMITTEE MTG.  
FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MTG.**
- TUE, FEB. 11**     **OAKS SENIOR CENTER**
- SUN, FEB. 16**     **FAITH LAB AND DINNER @ UIC  
WEDDING VOW RENEWAL @ CELC  
YOUTH GROUP  
VOW RENEWAL DINNER AT LA PRIMAVERA  
DEADLINE FOR COLLEGE VALENTINE'S**
- MON, FEB. 17**    **MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- TUE, FEB. 18**    **COUNCIL MEETING**
- WED, FEB. 19**    **THEOLOGY ON TAP**
- SUN, FEB. 23**    **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**
- WED, FEB. 26**    **MILTON PANTHER PACKS @ ST. ANDREWS**

# FROM THE PASTOR



*So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.*

*1 John 4:16-20*

Dear United In Christ,

The fact that scripture holds within it a myriad of images, descriptions, and titles to help us understand the God whom we profess has always been a real gift, I've thought. It means that there are for us a multitude of ways in which God makes God's self known, which means we have so many descriptions to turn to in the various days and seasons of our lives. In scripture, we come to know the God who is Almighty, the Merciful, the Great Shepherd, the Light, the Word, and the Rock of salvation, refuge, and strength. Such a multitude of ascriptions really is quite remarkable, and I find that, on different days, I need to hear different truths behind each.

Standing apart from all of these titles and ascriptions, though, I've always found myself drawn to this beautifully succinct statement of faith made here in 1 John. In just a few short words, the author manages to capture a totality of God's self that would seem otherwise impossible to imagine: *God is love*. It really is as simple as that. In such a plain statement, the author reflects our grounding *and* our calling in this world. Because the God who is love chose first to love us, we are given the privilege of going out to reflect that same love to the sisters and brothers who surround us. In a series of compounding love reflections, then, we each are given glimpses of the God whom we cannot see.

There's a holiness in such divine love offered to and reflected among God's people you see. In this month containing a whole day dedicated to love, it's good for us to remember the scope of the God who is love abiding with us. In a time and culture where the realm of love is reserved only for those we deem worthy to instead make way for suspicion and derision of the other, it seems we could perhaps use an extra dose of this love that casts out fear. Perhaps in this month of love's celebration, now our chance to embody a new way, one paved by the God who is love.

So, may you keep on loving, United In Christ. Dare to reflect the light of God's abiding love into even the darkest of spaces where such love seems least deserved or expected. Find in these reflections the God who *is* such love moving among God's people.

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 name "Pastor Justin".

# Outreach



## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

Collecting food items for  
**Milton Panther Packs**

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
- Vacuum Packs of Tuna
- Mac and Cheese Cups
- Microwave Meals
- Micro Chef-Boyardee
- Fruit Cups
- Pudding Cups
- Granola Bars
- Pop Tarts

All can items must have pop-top lids



Please place your items in the box in the Narthex.



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, Kate Haussmann, Grant Rowe, and Sarah Sprenkle.

**You can place "thinking of you" cards in the box in the Narthex. Please make sure you write their name on the card envelope. Monetary donations, or gift cards, can be placed in the offering plate.** Please write "Valentine's" on your envelope. Monetary donations will be used to purchase gift cards for our six students.

***Deadline will be Sunday, February 16th.***





# SERVING OPPORTUNITY

Packing food bags for  
MILTON PANTHER PACKS

Wednesday, February 26th ~ 6pm-7pm  
ST ANDREW'S UMC  
102 Lower Market St, Milton



## SENIOR EXPRESS FOOD BOXES

Food boxes will be delivered to UIC by the Central Pa Food Bank on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

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





# Annual Congregational Meeting



Sunday, February 23rd

The meeting will take place immediately following worship service. All members are encouraged to attend.

At the meeting we will hear the 2024 Annual Report, vote on sealing the steeple and learn about UIC's financial future!

UNITED IN CHRIST  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO

## *Theology on Tap*

JOIN US AT  
RUSTY RAIL  
6:00 PM ON  
FEBRUARY 5TH AND 19TH





# OAKS

## SENIOR CENTER

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# Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>

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10:00 am Doors Open

10:30 am Free Bingo with Prizes

11:30 am Valentine's Craft

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

# UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Family and friends of Joy Lynn Zimmerman, Karen Baker, Oscar Trewitz, Leroy Baker, Kylee Fawcett, Mary Baker, Annette Baker, Rachel Lynn, 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](mailto: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.

## 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.

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Feb. 2	Feb. 9	Feb. 16	Feb. 23
Worship Leader	Pastor Katy	Pastor Justin	Pastor Katy	Pastor Justin
Social Hour	E - K	Everyone	L - R	S - Z
Bread/Wine	J. Mertz	M. Shearer	K. Sprenkle	S. Weiser
Altar Guild	S. Keifer	ML Keifer	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey
Digital Host	M. Shearer	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey	M. Shearer
Front Door Greeter	M. Ketchem R. Whitesel	Scouts	ML Keifer R. Kling	C. Robuck D. Robuck
Side Door Greeter	D. Gottlieb	Scouts	G. Weiser	K. Noll
Lector	P. Hauck	Scouts	E. Hausmann	R. Sprenkle
Ushers	A. Stark K. Olds L. Olds K. Arndt	Scouts	D. Baker K. Baker S. Brown K. Criswell	T. Cromwell R. Kling J. Mertz B. Swartz
Communion Asst.	R. Kling C. Robuck	M. Shearer R. Sprenkle (helper ML Keifer)	A. Stark B. Swartz	S. Weiser D. Baker
Guest Relations		B. Troxell	G. Weiser	M. Mertz
Offering Counter	M. Shearer C. Shreck	R. Sprenkle K. Guffey	P. Hauck M. Shearer	C. Shreck R. Sprenkle

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*



# 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.*

## 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.

# SCOUT SUNDAY



Join us on Sunday, February 9<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, February 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be lots of hungry kiddos!

If you are able,  
please bring something to share!



Please see the signup sheet on the bulletin board  
in the fellowship hall.

## PRAYER CHAIN

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.



**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:**





Faith Lab is a new initiative from UIC, MLC, and CELC working together to provide programming for kids in pre-k through 5<sup>th</sup> 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, February 16<sup>th</sup> at UIC. 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, February 16<sup>th</sup>, after Faith Lab, at UIC.

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



## UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

February 8, 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.

**Monday, Feb. 17th**



## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Worship Volunteers, please give the office any dates in March which you will not be available to serve during worship.

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 17th.

## **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.

# 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.



# ALTAR FLOWERS

Cost is \$35.

Flower Chart is in the Fellowship Hall. You may take your flowers home after worship.



## 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.



**HEAVEN**  
When Faith  
Becomes Sight

WOMEN'S  
*bible study*



**THURSDAYS AT**  
**9:30 am & 6pm**

**CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO JOIN US**  
Rooms 204-206

**CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU**



# Men's Bible Study

**6:00PM IN THE PARLOR**



**THURSDAYS**  
**JANUARY 16**  
**JANUARY 30**  
**FEBRUARY 13**  
**FEBRUARY 27**

# 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 at home. You can also view past sermons. [www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/worship](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/worship)

**Church Calendar:** Stay up-to-date on everything that's happening at UIC.

[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/)



# 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

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