



2024

Bulletin of Annual Reports

2025 Congregational Council

Kathy Arndt, *treasurer*

Ruby Baker, *secretary*

Kim Criswell*

Ken Criswell

Beth Guffey, *vice president*

Kristie Koch

Michelle Shearer, *president*

Randy Sprenkle

* *denotes council member in their second term*

Pastor's Report

Dear United In Christ,

Without a doubt, this past year has been one of the most dynamic years in our time together! It has been such a joy to see our community continue to dig deep in our commitments to the neighbors God has placed in our midst while doing so with a heart of joy along the way! This past year has seen us deepen our relationships with our community and our ministry partners, build on the success of programs and ministries we've been cultivating for years, and even step into new ways of operating, grounded in the strengths and passions we bring to the table. Let me show you what I mean!

Deepened Relationships

One of the coolest dynamics of the past year has been the ways we have been able to deepen our relationships with both our partners in ministry and the neighbors of our community! We deepened our sense of shared identity with other Lutherans in our neighborhood through shared outings to Knoebels, the Crosscutters, and even gathering for a Trivia Night at Milton Lutheran Church! It has been a joy continuing to engage in those partnerships. What's more, is that as those partnerships deepen, our own ministries have felt that increased connection. Join us for OAKS these days and you'll soon find more and more folks from across the congregations who join us for that time together!



Picture 1: Lutherans at Knoebels – 6/23/24

We also continued to deepen our relationships with the neighbors in our community. We continued to serve our neighbors through the distribution of the ElderShare food boxes, through our participation in Milton Panther Pack Program, and through our support of the residents at Danville State Hospital and the veterans at Orangeville Manor. Those open doors even allowed for UIC folks to venture out to Orangeville Manor and host a day of bingo and a free meal for folks there! Just as excitingly, we saw our witness and relationship with the community grow as we participated in the Lewisburg Pride event for the second year in a row. Our presence at that event provided a powerful witness that deepened our commitments to the neighbors around us as being rooted in the love of God!



Picture 2 UIC at Lewisburg Pride 6/1/24

One of the most unexpected places of our deepening relationships, however, took root this year through our Theology on Tap program. This group continues to meet on a bi-weekly basis with about twenty people at each outing. This past year, in addition to the regulars from UIC and CELC, we've been welcoming neighbors from Messiah Lutheran in New Berlin while they are in pastoral interim. It has been a true joy getting to know these Lutherans on the other end of the county, but it was even more exciting to have them join us in worship this past summer for Christmas in July!



Picture 3 Theology on Tap

Building on Success

This past year was also largely characterized by taking ministries and events that we had had run in the past and building on their success. The greatest examples of this were perhaps found in this past year's Egg Hunt that was the most well attended it's ever been! The walls (and yard) were PACKED with kids and eggs coming from every possible direction! Likewise, this year was our largest Trunk-or-Treat event out of the three years we've been hosting it with MLC and CELC! The icing on the cake this year



Picture 4 UIC Egg Hunt - 3/30/24

was the way we shook the rafters at our Beers and Carols event at Rusty Rail this December! By adding a whole new community to the mix (i.e. Messiah Lutheran) and with community folks

coming back out of their own accord this year, we really took over the restaurant and raised a joyful noise!

On a highly pragmatic level, this built-on success certainly played out to our benefit with our Summer Day Camp this year. Partnering once again with MLC, CELC, and Camp Mount Luther, this year's day camp experience was perhaps the smoothest yet for our volunteers and participants! With the pavilion at West Milton Park having been torn down, this past year we got to embrace another partnership with Faith Lutheran as they opened their doors for us to host day camp from their building (which ended up working perfectly for as much as it rained)!



Picture 5 Faces from Day Camp - 7/10/24

Finally, I would be remiss if we didn't also take the time to celebrate the incredible success within this community in championing the continued leadership of the church. First, it was an absolute joy to be able to celebrate with Michelle Shearer as she was officially commissioned as an Authorized Lay Worship Leader in the synod! After years of coursework, workshops, and practicums, her commissioning took place last Spring! It has been a genuine joy getting to work with Michelle in developing her giftedness for preaching and worship leadership!



Picture 7 Commissioning of Michelle Shearer - 5/4/24



Picture 6 Installation of Pastor Katy - 6/30/24

Likewise, it was wonderful to be able to celebrate with Pr. Katy on the occasions of her ordination and installation this past year. After her year of internship with us from 2022-2023, it was a joy to be able to celebrate the culmination of her process! Doubly so to be able to celebrate her call to CELC and our ability to stay in partnership with her here at UIC!

Stepped into the New

This past year also saw our community throw support behind a new joint initiative of faith formation in the launch of our "Faith Lab" program. Together with MLC and CELC, we have built upon the model of our day camp to offer a once-a-month opportunity to engage in scripture and fun for our students from pre-k through sixth grade! It is such a blast getting to see the kids engage in the stories of our faith with fun activities and crafts to help reinforce the themes each month. It has also been a tremendous value getting to gather with the parents and adults who attend faith lab for a time of Bible study on the same stories the kids hear each month. Bringing

it together with a meal at the end of the night is always a delight as we get to hear from the kids what they learned through their time together!

On the Pastoral Side

On a last note, I think it's important for you to know how our work together continues to be at work with the larger church. For me, that has continued come on two primary fronts in the past year. First, this past year I was re-elected to a second year of serving on Synod Council. This work with the Office of the Bishop continues to remind me of our shared endeavor with so many of the neighbors in our Synod. More importantly, though, your support allows me to also have an active role in shaping the course of the synod for the years to come, in order that we may as well-equipped as possible for the road ahead.

Second, I continue to serve on the Policy Council of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa). LAMPa serves as the expression of the Church called to bear faithful witness to our convictions and the care of our neighbor at the state level of government. Each year, LAMPa sets a policy agenda that shapes the voice of such advocacy and places that voice at the tables where decisions affecting Pennsylvanians across the state are made. Importantly, LAMPa's work in continuing to advocate for budget prioritization for feeding programs, including funds for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, is what allows programs like our ElderShare Food Boxes to continue functioning in our communities. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this work. I'd also invite you to see that work first hand at the 2025 Lutheran Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, May 13th! Save the date and let me know if you'd like to join me for that time together provided by LAMPa!



Picture 8 UIC at Lutheran Day at the Capitol - 5/9/24

Thank You, UIC

Even with all of this worth celebrating, what continues to bring me the most delight in serving with you in this community is that, as a community, you continue to bring the fullness of who you are – your excitement, your flair, your joy – to all that we do together! From the fun of our church picnic to the goofiness of Doctor Seusscharists and pajama Sundays, you continue to remind me that you are a community who leads by joy.



Picture 9 The Great Seusscharist - 8/18/24

This year, that joy was made all the more complete by support you offered to Kelsey and me as we welcomed Milo into our lives this past September. First you showered us in love over the summer in preparation for the Little Dude’s arrival. Then you supported us through the generosity of a meal train in those early and hazy days after his arrival. But most importantly you gave Kelsey and me the time away we needed to start this new journey on as solid footing as possible. I will remain forever grateful for that time we were afforded to establish ourselves as a new family together.



The icing on the cake was being able to step away for those six weeks knowing that you would still be who you are called to be. Worship still took place. You gathered for study. You showed up in the community at the Harvest Festival. You proved that you continue to live out who you are called to be no matter what. For all this and so much more, I am grateful for you all!

Thank you, UIC! Thank you for being you.

Yours, united in Christ,

United In Christ Lives in Transition

2024 Baptisms

Walker Swanger	Baptized 5/19/24
Connor Wondoloski	Baptized 6/2/24
Charlie Sprengle	Baptized 7/7/24

2024 Affirmations of Baptism (Confirmation)

Kamden Swanger	Confirmed 5/19/23
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2024 New Members

Garrett Glathar	Chad Quail
Jenn Hauck	Maria Quail
Cheryl Koons	Rose Stitzel
	Tim Stitzel

2024 Funerals

Richard Collins*	d. 2/28/24
June Eschbach*	d. 5/18/24
Viv Marsh	d. 9/6/24

**denotes individuals who were not members of UIC, but for whom UIC provided services*

Parish Administrator's Report

Working 25 hours a week, the Parish Administrator manages the church's office and email, provides administrative support for staff, council, and committees. The administrator also coordinates and schedules the use of the church's facilities, maintains the church's website, prepares worship bulletins, sends weekly update emails, monthly newsletter, processes all account payables and offerings, including payroll and paying/filing taxes, maintains church database, coordinates worship volunteers, orders supplies, and weekly programs the heating schedule.

It is a true blessing to do God's work at United In Christ!

Submitted by Terri Cromwell

Property Committee Report

Resurrected the property committee consisting of Randy Sprenkle, Elwood Brown, Scott Danowsky, and Dave Baker.

Maintenance Items Completed in 2024:

1. Snow Removal - Continued with Mike Culp Trucking to remove snow and salt parking lot
2. Women's Restroom - Replaced Exhaust fan
3. Storage Shed - Troop 600 replaced the rotted shingle roof with steel.
4. Septic Tank - Dennis Wolf pumped septic pump to comply with Kelly TWP ordinance

Projects Completed in 2024:

1. Sunday School Roof - GSH replaced the remaining membrane roof over SS building at \$43,800 as quoted. This roof was over 40 years old.
2. 2) Exterior Woodwork Repair from Painting Project - Steve Brown replaced the rotted woodwork found during the painting project at a T&M cost of \$6,575. Major part of this was replacing ceiling over the south entrance, and rebuilding the Bay Window in the youth room.

Future Projects to Consider

1. Recoat and restripe parking lot
2. Increase door glass size - 3 doors - Fellowship Hall, 2 doors to Office Hallway
3. Polish / Seal Basement Floor
4. Paint Interior Walls / Woodwork
5. Remodel Kitchen including new floor
6. Paint and install vinyl floor in Narthex and hallway to elevator. Have flooring on hand.
7. Install interior & exterior signage
8. Timers - Replace water heater and Narthex heat timers
9. Investigate Solar Energy.

Submitted by Ken Criswell

Fellowship Ministry Report

Pan-Karaoke? (2/13):

In February we had an amazing Shrove pancake dinner with a surprise twist! Karaoke was the entertainment of the evening. Many songs sang and good food had. A great way to start the '24 Fellowship year.

All the Shamrock Shenanigans! (3/14):

A kids St. Patricks extravaganza was thrown with games and fun themed food. Between crafts and shamrock games, all the kids made it a fabulous party to be apart of. A Sham-Rockin good time and memories to share together.



Breakfast; an important meal for an important day. (3/31):

Another successful Pot Luck breakfast was put together for Easter Morning. So many dishes were brought we thought we'd need another table!! What a way to celebrate our Easter holiday but surrounded by so much giving and full bellies to start a brisk, early morning.



A Church full of Pride (6/1):

We were lucky enough to work with Outreach and gather together at SUN Pride in Lewisburg. Our presence was felt in such a positive and giving way. Many hugs were given to those in the community and goodies like stickers and Bag Tags for kids (and those young at heart), to color. Showing Gods love through loving our neighbors from all walks of life, it was truly a day to be remembered for all those who attended.



Better Together (6/23):

Our first Family 3 Church Picnic was had at Knoebels this year! MLC, CELC, & UIC joined together for a time of Hot Dogs, Burgers, and laughter. Our first of a new annual gathering, to come together in Fellowship and joy with one another.

A swing and a homerun! (7/28)

Once again our group of churches came together for a gathering that knocked it out of the park! A successful Crosscutters Group Game outing was enjoyed by those young and young at heart. Cheers for another great outing at the 'Old ball game'.



Its just better, together. (8/31)

The end of August brought UIC together again for our annual Family Picnic. Though it was rainy, plenty showed up to share good food, laughs and excitement as baby Lingenfelter was coming up on his due date! Gathered under pavilions and seated around long tables, another great opportunity for fellowship was shown between shared dishes and better friends.



Ho-Ho-How Crafty! (12/7)

To finish off the year we had our annual Christmas Craft Workshop. Many people signed up to host a craft and quickly we had a full room. The music jolly, the cookies sweet, and enough hot cocoa to keep even Santa a buzz; the night well amazingly. We had so many great kids bring their friends and family to make so many different crafts that we even had Santa himself, pop in to see the commotion! It was a great way to end a fabulous year of Fellowship together.



If there are any gatherings or ideas you'd like to see this upcoming year; please let Fellowship know. We are eager to fill this year with more fun opportunities and gatherings but we always like to hear from you! May 2025 bring us together more and stronger than ever.

Submitted by Al Stark

Finance Team Report

The Finance Team has hit the ground running this past year. We spent our initial energy reviewing some of our current procedures and practices and comparing them to recommended best practices for congregations. We continue to review our financial records and provide advisory input to Council on how to approach various funds and investments. In particular this year, we also began reviewing our insurance and security systems to look for some cost-saving measures.

In the year ahead, we hope to be able to continue getting some advisory input on how to best approach our systems and reporting. We also will be looking to draw up some procedures and policies to best equip us going forward. If you have an eye for numbers or experience with financial management, we'd love your input on this team! Contact Pastor Justin or Kathy Arndt for more information!

Submitted by Pastor Justin

Worship and Music Report

Throughout the year, Worship and Music continued to see to the needs of weekly worship and special services like Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and All Saints Sundays. Together we have helped explore ways to adjust Sunday morning worship, but have provided input on larger changes to help accentuate our life of worship. Some of this year's worship highlights include:

- Welcoming members from Messiah Lutheran in New Berlin for our Christmas in July worship service.
- Welcoming guest preachers to the pulpit while Pr. Justin was on parental leave.
- Upping the standards of our celebrations by moving to Jolynn Heckman for baking our baptism and new member cakes!
- Worshiping in the round downstairs during Advent while also returning to the Year W Women's Lectionary for alternative texts during that season.
- Welcoming a record-setting 120 people for our 6:00pm Christmas Eve service!

Looking at the next year, one of the places our team could still use a hand is in getting things like communion set up on Sunday mornings. Right now, we have about three or four individuals who volunteer to come to worship a few minutes early in order to set up the bread and wine for worship. If this is something you'd like to help out with, please let Pr. Justin know!

Submitted by Pastor Justin

Rich Huff Committee Report

At the end of 2024, we have handed out 18,840 diapers which is our highest year so far. Along with handing out diapers, we also have partnered with the Kiwanis Club of Milton/Warrior Run by handing books out each month to the children that were in the car. The grand total that we have given out in 9 years is 123,540 diapers.

Submitted by Shirley McPherrin

OAKS Senior Center Report

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Meal Donation	\$2,024.01	Food	\$780.61
		Supplies	\$353.44
		Bingo Prizes	\$452.90
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,024.01	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,586.95

OAKS Senior Center became a budgeted program starting in 2024. Previously OAKS was a restricted fund and all income and expenses had to be kept separate. OAKS is a FREE senior center but some of our attendees want to give a donation. We do not ask for donations as we do not want anyone to feel like we expect them!

In 2024 we had 25 people attend OAKS Senior Center for the very first time!

Senior Attendance												
Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
19	0	43	47	47	56	50	56	48	49	52	55	522

Of the 522 people that attended OAKS (not counting staff or volunteers) only 65 are congregation members. The other 457 are people from the community!

87.5% Community Members 12.4% UIC Members

OAKS Senior Center celebrated its 11th anniversary in September 2024.

OAKS Senior Center served a total of 634 meals in 2024. This number does include meals for staff and volunteers, and also 32 meals which were taken for a loved one that couldn't attend or a neighbor.

Lewisburg Senior Center continues to attend OAKS. Lewisburg Senior Center is budgeted to travel to one location per month and they choose OAKS Senior Center. Lewisburg Senior Center pays for Rabbit to pickup their seniors, bring them to OAKS, then pick them up and take them home. It only cost the person \$0.50 and the Lewisburg Senior Center pays the remainder of Rabbit fees.

Donations: UIC Outreach Committee donated leftover items from Christmas blessing bags which were used as bingo prizes. Bucknell Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning and Research donated vegetables from their garden. The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank donated ciabatta bread

List of activities and speakers OAKS had in 2024

- Game: Name That Tune
- Miller Center Parkinson program, Lori DePorter from YMCA
- Healthy Eating, Melissa Logan Weis Dietician
- Foster Grandparent Program, Jennifer Neuhard AmericCorps Seniors
- CPR demonstration, Ann Dzwonchyk Evangelical Community Hospital
- Understanding Trusts, Attorney Malee
- Game: Pictionary
- Aging and Our Bodies, Diane Orrison H2 Health
- Stress, Deana Carson Evangelical Community Hospital

OAKS continues to be my favorite day of the month. OAKS is truly a blessing for so many people within the community. They really look forward to coming out and spending time with each other.



~ Terri Cromwell
OAKS Senior Center Director

Senior Express Ministry

Greetings everyone!

For those who don't know, the Senior Express Ministry is our food box delivery ministry to (mostly) homebound low-income seniors. We receive filled boxes from the PA Food Bank once a month and deliver them directly to the seniors at their homes. The boxes are federally or state-funded, depending on the person's income, so UIC has no expense. We also occasionally include cards and small gifts throughout the year to remind seniors that they are loved! We have had a stable year, delivering to between 25 and 30 recipients each month. I try to keep the routes short- between 3 and 5 people. Several volunteers have also gone to the PA Food Bank in Williamsport twice during the year to help fill boxes for recipients, which is always a fun and fulfilling experience.

I would like to thank all who make this ministry possible: our delivery drivers, Diane Gottlieb and her grandson, Garrett; Ted and Shirley McPherrin; Jeff and Julie Rowe and their family; Michelle Shearer; Warren Shipe; and Bob and Trudy Swartz; our callers: Kathy Guffey and Rosemary Kline and Terri Cromwell who keeps our records. We couldn't do this without all of you!

A special thank you goes out to Bob Swartz, who meets the Food Bank truck each month and brings all the boxes into the church.

I'd also like to thank the Outreach Committee, which prepared Christmas bags for each recipient. They were very grateful.

This ministry began during the COVID shutdown, and I am so grateful to all of you who help to continue to make it happen.

If you are interested in joining us- the more, the merrier, and more hands make light work!- please contact Terri at the UIC office.

Peace,
Sherry Bingaman
Senior Express Co-Ordinator

Financial Secretary Report

UIC ended the year with a deficit of \$17,497.26

UNRESTRICTED INCOME: Money given to be used for budgeted items which we call Unrestricted Expenses

\$132,578.83 Offerings in Church
 \$ 17,745.25 Offering through Tithely
 \$ 6,459.62 CELC Contributions (January – March)
 \$ 2,024.01 OAKS Meal Donations (donations given by attendees at OAKS)
 \$ 400.00 Facility Rental
 \$ 248.00 Books for book study
 \$ 97.25 Communion Cloths
 \$ 33.80 Community Aid
 \$ 400.00 Giving Tuesday
 \$ 397.16 Thrivent Action Teams
 \$ 274.00 Thrivent Choice Dollars
 \$160,657.92 Total money given to pay for budgeted expenses

UNRESTRICTED EXPENSES	BUDGETED	ACTUAL
Administrative	\$25,125.00	\$26,702.26
Benevolence	\$8,00.00	\$7,920.00
Capital Fund Contribution	\$2,400.00	\$1,600.00
Christian Education	\$2,350.00	\$997.55
Employee FICA Tax	\$3,600.00	\$3,166.30
Evangelism	\$1,000.00	\$445.64
Fellowship	\$1,500.00	\$830.56
Outreach	\$3,400.00	\$5,438.91
Pastoral	\$91,354.40	\$90,593.33
Property	\$29,616.00	\$28,392.37
Worship and Music	\$11,520.00	\$12,068.26
Totals	\$179,865.40	\$178,155.18

Giving was low so we had to moved \$10,000 from Restricted Memorial Fund to Unrestricted Fund to cover budgeted expenses. The finance Committee also decided discontinue 5 funds that had restricted money, meaning the money could only be used for that specific thing. OAKS and Technology are both now a budgeted item instead of restricted funds. This helped increase the Unrestricted Fund which is used to pay for budgeted church expenses.

- \$ 10,000.00 Moved from Memorial Fund to Unrestricted Fund
- \$ 563.18 Dissolved Community Meal Fund and moved remaining money to Unrestricted Fund
- \$ 2,018.56 Dissolved Intern Fund and moved remaining money to Unrestricted Fund
- \$ 3,410.57 Dissolved OAKS Fund and moved remaining money to Unrestricted Fund
- \$ 3,086.63 Dissolved Memorial Technology Fund and moved remaining money to Unrestricted Fund
- \$ 392.31 Dissolved Sewing Fund and moved remaining money to Unrestricted Fund
- \$ 19,471.25 TOTAL MOVED TO UNRESTRICTED FUND**

Throughout the year you also generously gave the following:

RESTRICTED FUNDS: cannot be used for budgeted expenses	INCOME
Advent Offerings: given to Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$445.00
Capital Express Fund	\$5,265.00
Camp Mount Luther: used to help pay for Day Camp	\$70.00
ELCA Good Gifts	\$230.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$220.00
Intern Fund: CELC January-March, to pay for intern	\$10,560.13
Ham and Bean Soup: Given to God's Chuck Wagon, mobile soup kitchen (includes soup sale \$ from Harvest Festival)	\$1,740.34
Memorial Fund	\$1,495.00
Lenten Offerings: given to the Central PA Food Bank	\$545.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund: used for aid requests	\$25.00
Rich Huff Fund	\$435.00
Lutheran Disaster Response	\$276.00
Souper Bowl of Caring: given to Milton Panther Packs	\$85.00
Valentine's Day Care Packaging for our College Students	\$184.00
Youth Gathering: UIC had 1 student attend	\$90.19

Report by Terri Cromwell, Financial Secretary

United In Christ Lutheran Church

2024 Outreach Committee Annual Report

The Outreach Committee is a small but mighty group of passionate disciples who care about giving to others. In 2024, we tried to stretch funds whenever possible using the Thrivent Action Team Grants from congregation members in the amount of \$250 each.

MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION



Non-perishable food items were collected in a basket in the Narthex on an ongoing basis. Your donations were delivered to Our Little Free Pantry in West Milton twice a month. This ministry had a lot of drama and flux during the year. However, a brand-new building was donated and placed on the grounds in December by T Ross Construction.

In 2024 you donated _____ food items.

The Outreach Committee plans to discontinue this ministry in 2025. Feel free to stop by the new building next to the gas station in West Milton to donate your items anytime.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Sunday, February 11, 2024, we participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring to benefit Milton Panther Packs which provides over 250 students at Baugher and White Deer Elementary Schools with a bag of food over every weekend during the school year. Lisa Rabuck used a Thrivent Action Team Grant to stretch the number of food items to be given. A total of 859 food items and \$85 were donated to Milton Panther Packs. Items were dropped off at the St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Milton where the packs are constructed to be used for the March Panther Packs.



VALENTINES PACKAGE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

You supported our college students once again with the Valentines Care Packages. To save on shipping costs, pre-constructed snack boxes were ordered from Amazon and delivered directly to Owen A., Mya C., Emma D., Larissa S., and Sarah S. In addition, the money collected by congregational members was used to purchase gift cards for each student. Terri sent the signed Valentine's Day cards and gift cards in a manila envelope to each college student.

CENTRAL PA FOOD BANK BOX PACKING



Congregational members participated in two food box packing events at the Central PA Food Bank in Williamsport. On Monday, March 4 from 1 – 3 PM, congregational members packed Veterans Share boxes for local military veterans and their families. Lenten offering in the amount of \$545 was given to the Central PA Food Bank. Then on Wednesday, June 5, from 5 – 7 PM congregational members met at the warehouse on 3301 Wahoo Drive in Williamsport to help pack Senior Express Food boxes.

MILTON PANTHER PACKS

Congregational members participated in **three** packing events at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Milton for the Milton Panther Pack program in 2024. On Wednesday, January 3 from 6 – 7 PM, congregational members packed the Panther Packs for the month of January for the over 250 students to have food over the four weekends in February. Then on Wednesday, March 6 from 6 – 7 PM, congregational members packed the Panther Packs for the month of March seeing donated items from the Souper Bowl used. Finally, on Wednesday, December 4 from 6 – 7 PM, congregational members packed the Panther Packs for the month of December seeing donated items from Harvest Home Sunday collection used.



COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

The congregation donated candy and small trinkets to fill the plastic eggs the UICLC has recycled over the years and purchased new. On Friday, March 29, congregation members filled the plastic eggs with the donated items in preparation for the egg hunt. With the help of a Thrivent Action Team Grant from Sherry Bingaman, prizes were purchased for each of the three age groups. Then on Saturday, March 30, members helped put out over 600 filled eggs and 30 prize eggs for over forty kids aged 1 – 12 years old.

SUN PRIDE EVENT

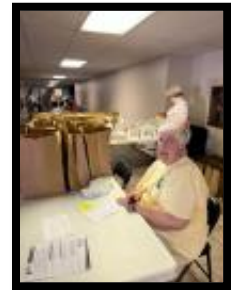
On Saturday, June 1, 2024, UICLC had a space at the SUN Pride Event at Hufnagle Park in Lewisburg from 10 AM – 5 PM. Al, Ruby, Donna, and Sherry represented the church, handing out free bottles of cold water and individual snack packages. Ruby is going to apply for a Thrivent Action Team Grant. The UICLC tri-fold flyer and photo cards of events as well as stickers, coloring sheets, and keychains were available for anyone to take. Ruby Baker used a Thrivent Action Team Grant to pay for water, snacks, and supplies.

DANVILLE STATE HOSPITAL

During the months of June and July, congregational members donated personal care items to be given to the residents at Danville State Hospital. In addition, donated clothing was sorted and given. With the help of a Thrivent Action Team Grant from Ruby and Ken Baker, other items were purchased to stretch the number of wish list items given in early August. Also, Ruby organized a donation of holiday gifts for fifteen residents based on their gift requests for Christmas. Congregation members adopted Danville State residents and purchased gifts on their wish lists. Unwrapped gifts were returned to the church. Ruby collected the gifts for the residents at Danville State Hospital and Donna C delivered them to Danville State Hospital before Christmas.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

On Friday, July 19, 2024, Ruby, Kathy A, and Gwen helped with the Summer Lunch Program at the Pentecostal Church on Route 192 outside of Lewisburg. They packed and distributed approximately 45 grocery bags of food. Participants received food for two weeks determined by the number of school age children in their family. UIC has participated in the Lewisburg Summer Lunch Program for the last 10+ years. The Rich Huff Fund paid for the fresh fruit and vegetable donations which were given to the families receiving the bags of food.



BLESSING BACKPACKS AND DONATING SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Blessing of Backpacks Sunday was celebrated on Sunday, August 18, 2024. Congregation members donated backpacks and school supplies. The Rich Huff Fund donated backpacks. With the help of a Thrivent Action Team Grant from Ken Criswell, canned soup and macaroni and cheese cups were purchased to increase the number of items donated. We partnered with Milton Lutheran Parish to collect a total of 493 packs of crayons, pencils, notebooks, markers, colored pencils, backpacks and more. We were able to attend Milton High School's Open House and White Deer Elementary School's Back-to-School Night to hand out some of the items. The remaining items suitable for K-2 students were given to the school counselor at Baugher Elementary School to hand out as needed.



HAM AND BEAN SOUP SALE

The tradition continued in 2024 with the Annual Ham and Bean Soup Sale. Three kettles of soup were made on Thursday, September 12 and Friday, September 13. Advanced sales were collected with pick-up on both days. Then on Saturday, September 14, UICLC sold bowls and quarts of Ham and Bean Soup on Broadway Street during the Milton Harvest Festival. With the help of a Thrivent Action Team Grant from Mark Rabuck and other donations by members, most of the expenses were paid in advance. A total of \$1,734 was given to God's Chuckwagon, a local mobile soup kitchen in Northumberland County. Given the heavy lifting and time to coordinate these efforts, the Outreach Committee plans to change this event in 2025.



HARVEST HOME SUNDAY



Harvest Home Sunday was celebrated on Sunday, November 10, 2024. Congregation members donated items for the Milton Panther Packs. With the help of a Thrivent Action Team Grant from Ken Criswell, canned soup and macaroni and cheese cups were purchased to increase the number of items donated. The



1,253 items were dropped off at St. Andrew's UM Church and used on Wednesday, December 4 for the December Milton Panther Packs.

OUR ORANGEVILLE MANOR COLLECTION AND VISIT



Congregational members donated items during November for residents of Our Orangeville Manor, a men's shelter for homeless veterans. With the help of a Thrivent Action Team Grant from Ken Criswell, more personal care items and coffee were purchased to bring with the other items. On Tuesday, December 3. Michelle, Terri,



Kathy A., and Tim S. went to the facility in Benton, delivered the donations, and ran Bingo with the residents, giving prizes to the winners. Kathy A. made turkey casserole, vegetables, and dessert in advance which was warmed up and served to the veterans. Lastly, each resident received a gift bag filled with Thrivent shirts, personal care items, and candy.

BLESSING BAGS FOR SENIOR EXPRESS PARTICIPANTS, HOMEBOUND MEMBERS, AND COUNTRY COMFORT

With the help of a Thrivent Action Team Grant from Sherry Bingaman, fifty-two blessing bags for the Senior Express Participants, Homebound Members, and Country Comfort Members were constructed and given to them in December. The blessing bags consisted of personal care items, word find books, notepads, pens, and candy.



COUNTRY COMFORT GIFTS

Kathy G organized our annual donation of gifts for some of the residents at Country Comfort Home in December. Congregation members adopted County Comfort resident and purchased gifts on their wish lists. Wrapped gifts were returned to the church and delivered to specific residents at Country Comfort Home in time for Christmas.

If you are interested in being a member of the Outreach Committee, we regularly meet on the Second Sunday of the month immediately following the church service. In addition, sign-ups are regularly posted on the bulletin board for help and are open to any congregation member. Lastly, if you have Thrivent Action Team Grants and want to use them for outreach events in 2025, please contact Michelle Shearer at 570-768-8316 for more information.

