



December 2025 NEWSLETTER

★
JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE
THANK YOU

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
	Beth Guffey.....Vice President	1 st term, ends 12/2027
	Kathy Arndt.....Treasurer	2 nd term, ends 12/2027
	Ruby Baker.....Secretary	1 st term, ends 12/2027
	Ken Criswell.....	1 st term, ends 12/2026
	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

MON, DEC. 1	OFFICE CLOSED
TUE, DEC. 2	WORSHIP AND MUSIC MEETING OFFICE CLOSED
WED, DEC. 3	BEERS AND CAROLS
FRI, DEC. 5	FOOD BANK DELIVERY LEWISBURG CAROLING
SAT, DEC. 6	CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP
SUN, DEC. 7	ADVENT 2 FAITH LAB, CELC
TUE, DEC. 9	OAKS SENIOR CENTER
SAT, DEC. 13	BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY
SUN, DEC. 14	ADVENT 3 OUTREACH MEETING
MON, DEC. 15	OFFICE CLOSED
TUE, DEC. 16	COUNCIL MEETING
WED, DEC. 17	BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP, CELC
SUN, DEC. 21	ADVENT 4 JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUN, DEC. 24	CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
SUN, DEC. 25	CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED, WILL REOPEN 1/5/26
SUN, DEC. 28	LESSONS AND CAROLS PJ WORSHIP

FROM THE PASTOR



In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Luke 2:1-7

Dear United In Christ,

In these days ahead there will trees to trim and stockings to hang. In these days ahead there will be company lunches and family dinners to attend. In these days ahead there will be lists to make and lists to check twice. In these days ahead there will be late night shopping to seize and midnights surrounded by wrapping paper. In these days ahead there will be turkeys to stuff and potatoes to mash before the company arrives. In these days ahead there will be tinsel and carols and lights in myriad display around us. In these days there will be plenty on our minds, plenty to keep track of, plenty to try to remember.

In these days ahead *something* is inevitably going to get annexed to the manger. Whether we intend it or not, I can almost guarantee that we will find no room left in the inn for *something* that comes across our plate in the days ahead. It might be that one function too many that we can't muster the energy to make it to. It might be that one extra person on the list that we forget to grab

a gift for until it's already too late. It might be that one family dynamic showing itself again this time of year that we just don't have the bandwidth to deal with.

But with all of the hustle and bustle, with all of the myriad details and lists and plans, can we be sure that we aren't leaving *Jesus* out in the manger? I don't mean physically; I'm pretty sure it's ok to still have him set up there in your Nativity display this Christmas season. I mean in the movements of your days, in the pacing of this season, do you have space left for all that this child brings? As the angels declare the birth of a savior who heralds peace among God's favored, as shepherds go now to see this extraordinary thing that has taken place, as Mary finds herself in curious wonder, we might ask in our own wonder "where did they find the time??" With so much to do and take care of, it's easy to find ourselves on a slippery slope where the birth of this Messiah is left outside the inn once more. Amid everything else that we need to do, the child who is born unto us might just feel like an interruption that we aren't looking for this holiday season.

But maybe an interruption is precisely what we *need*. Perhaps this child's arrival is *meant* to disrupt everything else that tends to sweep us away at this time of year. Maybe the splendor of the angels, the urgency of the shepherds, and the wonder of Mary ought to give us enough pause to take stock of where it is that God is *yet* breaking into this world. Maybe we *need* this Advent season to give us pause and recognize where it is that God is still meeting us beneath all of the tinsel and lights.

If you find yourself nodding along at this point, then I invite you to read on further into these pages. Here you'll find plenty of opportunities to pause this Advent and take stock of where God is meeting you here and now. Sherry Bingaman has even put together a wonderful reflection on this Advent season with some really great suggestions on how you and I might embrace an Advent season that is holy in its disruption this year. Please check it out and let me know if you adopt any of these practices!

In the meantime, I hope and pray that amid the whirlwind of the season you find the fruition of that for which we hope. I pray that you find the spaces where the Christ child is arriving even now. I pray that this season might give you pause enough to consider clearing some space in the inn for the holy to still find space among God's people.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas, UIC!

Yours, united in Christ,

~ Pastor Justin

UNITED IN CHRIST
Christmas Eve Worship

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES AT
6PM AND 11PM

Blue Christmas Worship

Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00pm

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

100 South Third Street, Lewisburg, PA



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 17, 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.

All are welcome!



BEERS & CAROLS

JOIN THIS HOLIDAY PUB SING ON
DECEMBER 3 | 6:00PM
 AT
**RUSTY RAIL
 BREWING COMPANY**
 5 NORTH 8TH ST.
 MIFFLINBURG, PA



COORDINATED WITH:





You are encouraged to form a group of people and make a reservation in the main dining room.



Let's Go Caroling

Fri., Dec. 5th
7pm - 7:45 pm
 Meet at the
 Lewisburg Post Office
 on the corner of
 Third & Market St.

Enjoy cookies at Christ's Lutheran Church afterward

Please signup at church or let Terri in the office know you will be caroling so they can make sure they have enough song books.



Outreach has 15 people who are in need of Christmas gifts at Danville State Hospital. Please see Ruby Baker to sponsor a person. All gifts must be at the church by Sunday, December 11th. 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. Michelle Shearer has the names of residents that have no family to bless them with gifts this Christmas. Gifts can be wrapped with and a tag with the resident's name. Please ask Michelle when they should be at the church by.

ORANGEVILLE MANOR

Orangeville Manor is a personal care home in Orangeville Pa (near Bloomsburg) which provides residential services and therapeutic care for homeless veterans.



A huge THANK YOU to everyone that donated items for the residents at Orangeville Manor!!

On Friday, November 21st, UIC delivered a lot of coffee and creamer, personal care items to share, snacks, and more. In addition, we made individual bags for the current 28 residents which had homemade cookies from Kathy Arndt, baggies of hard candy, toothbrush, pocket tissues, chapstick, Thrivent tshirt, notepad, and pen in a cool veterans recycle gift bag.





For lunch we made and provided kielbasa pierogies casserole, green beans, and applesauce. Lastly, we played bingo with residents having prizes.

Thank you to Ruby and Ken Baker for their Thrivent Action Team Grant which helped pay for most of the non-donated items.





YOU'RE INVITED!

CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, December 6 | 3:00PM

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



Sponsored by:



Crafts! Cocoa! Cookies! Carols!



Mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 6th 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!



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.

**Church Office will
close beginning on
Christmas Day and will
reopen on January 5th.**



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21
Worship Leader	Katy	Justin	Katy
Social Hour	S - Z	A - D	E - K
Bread/Wine	K. Guffey	S. Keifer	S. McPherrin
Altar Guild	M. Catherman	B. Guffey	T. Cromwell
Digital Host	M. Shearer	D. Murphy	B. Guffey
Front Door Greeter	K. Guffey ML. Keifer	L. Rabuck M. Rabuck	D. Byerly J. Byerly
Side Door Greeter	R. Kling	K. Noll	B. Keifer
Lector	H. Allegar	T. McPherrin	M. Shearer
Ushers	S. McPherrin T. McPherrin J. Mertz B. Guffey	R. Kling L. Rabuck M. Rabuck M. Shearer	K. Arndt B. Troxell K. Guffey K. Baker
Communion Asst.	B. Swartz S. Weiser	B. Catherman D. Davies	D. Murphy D. Baker
Guest Relations	B. Troxell	G. Weiser	T. McPherrin
Offering Counter	M. Rabuck B. Guffey	P. Hauck J. Rutt	M. Shearer R. Stitzel

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. 28
Worship Leader	Justin and Katy	Justin and Katy	Justin
Social Hour			L - R
Bread/Wine	J. Mertz K. Sprenkle	M. Shearer	S. Weiser
Altar Guild	K. Guffey S. Keifer	M. Keifer	S. Keifer
Digital Host	K. Guffey		B. Guffey
Front Door Greeter	B. Swartz T. Swartz	Cromwell Family	C. Robuck D. Robuck
Side Door Greeter	R. Stitzel		G. Weiser
Lector	V. Tyrell	M. Shearer	B. Swartz
Ushers	D. Baker K. Criswell R. Kling S. McPherrin	T. Cromwell D. Murphy R. Baker M. Keifer	T. McPherrin J. Mertz B. Swartz T. Swartz
Communion Asst.	R. Kling B. Catherman T. McPherrin	T. Cromwell D. Murphy	M. Keifer C. Robuck
Guest Relations			M. Mertz
Offering Counter	L. Rabuck T. Stitzel	R. Baker M. Shearer	K. Guffey J. Rutt

PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: Elwood Brown, Sandy Brown, family and friends of Shirley Russell, Debbie, Jayne, Daniel Danowsky, Melissa, Patrick Moseley, Gigi Pray, Ted McPherrin, Bob Troxell, Eugene Bain, Annette Baker, Mark Rabuck, 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.



The graphic features a yellow background with various icons: a molecular structure, a bar chart, a cross with rays, and gears. The text is in bold, dark blue and black fonts. A QR code is located in the upper right quadrant.

**BUFFALO VALLEY
FAITH LAB**

Scan to sign up!

1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month
4:30pm-6:30pm
September-May
Grades K-6
Free family dinner!

1st Sunday @ Christ's Lutheran
100 S. 3rd Street
Lewisburg, PA 17837

3rd Sunday @ United In Christ
1875 Churches Rd.
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Join us for our family-focused faith formation experience on Sunday, December 7th at Christ's in Lewisburg. The experience has something for all kids from K-6 as well as adult formation to accompany the lessons the kids are learning! Plus, each gathering ends with a free meal!

Don't have kids in the age group but still want to help the program?

Join us for our Adult roundtable while the kids are in their group!

Drive Thru

LIVE NATIVITY

SATURDAY, DEC. 13
6:30 TO 7:30 P.M.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
70 SOUTH MILL ROAD
POTTS GROVE, PA
(MILTON, IF USING GPS)





OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, December 9

10:00 am Doors Open

10:30 am Free Bingo with Prizes

11:30 am Singing Christmas Songs

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



Our first GOD'S GLOBAL TABLE on Sunday, November 16th was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who brought bread!

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.

Advent: Anticipating the Christ child

written by Sherry Bingaman

“Advent is the first season in the church year, comprising the four weeks (Sundays) before Christmas. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin, “to come,” and the church has observed Advent as weeks of preparation since the fifth century, with themes of watchfulness, preparation, and hope infusing this season. Together we both anticipate the celebration of God’s coming in the form of the Christ child and the final coming of Christ in the time to come.” Traditionally, the liturgical color had been purple, like Lent, to represent repentance. Today, it is more prevalent in the ELCA to use blue to convey hope and joy. The four candles on the Advent wreath represent hope, peace, joy, and love. The middle white candle (lit on Christmas Eve) is the Christ candle, representing Christ, the light of the world, in our midst.

For a lot of us, these traditions may feel familiar! We’ve seen the changing colors and marked time with each candle in worship every Sunday during the Advent season. But as liturgical Christians and as products of our society and culture, Advent might feel overlooked amid the preparations for our secular Christmas celebrations! For many people, the preparation for the coming of Jesus really only takes place in worship. But there are ways to bring the waiting, anticipation, joy, and hope of the Advent season into the rest of the week.

What follows here are a few suggestions to help us claim our Advent season of mindful preparation and waiting during a time of the year that seems all hustle and bustle! Of course, these suggestions are not intended to stress anyone any *more* than they already are. They are not meant to create more anxiety, but to instill a sense of peace- to keep with the intention of the season.

(One note: the term *family* is not used to (only) imply parents and children. It is meant to encompass whatever you view as *family*- from a single person to a nuclear family to an extended family to friends.)

Here are some suggestions:

- Create a family Advent wreath (there are many options- just check on-line). Take a few minutes each day to light the candle of the week and either pray, meditate, sing a hymn (or a few), or read a devotional or bible story and discuss, or journal.
- Create a *reverse Advent calendar*. In a traditional Advent calendar, you open the day and receive something (a toy, candy, etc). In a reverse Advent calendar, you start with an empty box. Each day, each family member will *add* something to the box: non-perishable food, an article of clothing, a toiletry item, a toy, etc. At the end of Advent, the items get donated to an appropriate agency. You could use the UIC lists of collected items for back to school, Country Comfort, Orangeville Manor, or Panther Packs, if you need some ideas of what to put in the box and where it would be useful.
- Donate from *your* Christmas wish list. Create your Christmas list and then donate one item that you would like (asking your family not to get it for you), and donate that to an appropriate agency. This works well with children, but adults can benefit from it also- increasing awareness that not everyone has the privilege of even *creating* a Christmas list and that others would wish for the same things you do.
- Do a “Christmas cleaning”. Go through closets and toys, selecting items no longer being used. These can be donated to an agency, day care, or thrift shop, so that others may enjoy them for free or at a reduced cost.

- Focus more on worship. See if you can intentionally carve out the time to break away from the hustle and bustle to make it to *all four* Sundays of Advent worship in a row. Maybe even consider going the extra mile to carve out additional time with a weekday service with a neighboring congregation.

Many other activities can be used to enhance the experience of Advent as *waiting* and *anticipation* of the coming of Jesus. These can be used to take some of the focus off the cultural priority of gifts and consumerism. We hope they might help make the season all the more meaningful for you and your families!

Wishing all of you the peace, hope, joy, and love as the season intends!



Baby Steps DIAPER PANTRY

UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

December 13 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.



PAJAMA *Worship*



DECEMBER 28TH
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 28th.

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Any articles, events, photos, or thank you notes you'd like to have in the January Newsletter need to be in to the office by Sunday, December 21st.

Worship Volunteers, please give the office any dates in January which you will not be available.



Please email Terri in the office at
office@unitedinchristlutheran.net or
call her at 570-568-2254

SOCIAL HOUR AFTER WORSHIP



Social Hour is a time for us to stay connected with each other while enjoying a light snack. If your last name begins with one of the letters listed for that Sunday's Social Hour, please bring a snack to share and help in the kitchen during Social Hour.

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.

Use our partner
number when you
donate to
CommunityAid!
#30192



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.

THANK YOU

Thank you all for the prayers and kind messages when I had my surgery. Thank you Pastor Justin for coming to the hospital to visit. It was such a blessing to me and my family.

~ Tina Snyder

OFFERING AND ENVELOPES

Starting Sunday, December 7, you will find your 2026 offering envelopes in your mailbox. If you do not get offering envelopes, but would like to, please let Terri in the office know.

All offerings for 2025 must be in to the church office by Sunday, December 29th. Any deposits made after December will be credited to your 2026 offerings.

ADVENT OFFERINGS

In your offering envelope booklets you'll find envelopes for Advent Offerings. This year, all Advent Offerings will be given to DIG Furniture Bank in Milton.

DIG Furniture Bank provides free used furniture and household goods to people in need.

Check out their Facebook page here,
www.facebook.com/DIGFurnitureBank

UIC COMMITTEES

FINANCE: Kathy Arndt(c), Karen Baker, Jared Rutt

HOME COMMUNION: Kathy Guffey, Michelle Shearer, Bob and Trudy Swartz.

OAKS: Terri Cromwell(c), Kathy Arndt, Ruby Baker, Sherry Bingaman, Shirley and Ted McPherrin, Jane Mertz, Gwen Murphy, Lisa Rabuck

OUTREACH: Michelle Shearer(c), Heather Allegar, Kathy Arndt, Ruby Baker, Sherry Bingaman, Kathy Guffey, Al Stark

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

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

SENIOR EXPRESS: Sherry Bingaman(c), Ruby Baker, Garrett Glathar, Ted and Shirley McPherrin, Rowe Family, Michelle Shearer, Bob and Trudy Swartz, Warren Shipe

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Pastor Justin(c), 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

Website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net