



January 2026 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

Ruby Baker.....	President	1 st term, ends 12/2027
Beth Guffey.....	Vice President	1 st term, ends 12/2027
Kathy Arndt.....	Treasurer	2 nd term, ends 12/2027
Michelle Shearer.....	Secretary	2 nd term, ends 12/2027
Megan Catherman.....		1 st term, ends 12/2028
Ken Criswell.....		1 st term, ends 12/2026
Dave Davies.....		1 st term, ends 12/2028
Kristie Koch.....		1 st term, ends 12/2026
Gwen Murphy.....		1 st term, ends 12/2028
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

THU, JAN. 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED
FRI, JAN. 2	FOOD BANK DELIVERY
SUN, JAN. 4	FAITH LAB @ CELC
TUE, JAN. 6	WORSHIP AND MUSIC MEETING
WED, JAN. 7	THEOLOGY ON TAP
SAT, JAN. 10	BABY STEPS DIAPER PANTRY
SUN, JAN. 11	OUTREACH MEETING
TUE, JAN. 13	OAKS SENIOR CENTER
SAT, JAN. 17	WINTER BLUES BINGO @ CELC
SUN, JAN. 18	FAITH LAB @ UIC NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
TUE, JAN. 20	COUNCIL MEETING
WED, JAN. 21	THEOLOGY ON TAP

FROM THE PASTOR



Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Dear United In Christ,

I'm going to level with you; I've never been one for New Year's resolutions. I'm just not very good at them! Coming up with the ideas for what to do is the easy part. Committing to them isn't even the part that gets me; it's the maintenance beyond the first few weeks where I start to fumble. Whether it's trying to adopt a new habit, quit an old one, or simply establish a newfound goal for myself, it always feels like I lose momentum by the time the calendar moves to February.

Maybe you know what I'm talking about. Maybe you've *also* been in that place where we start the year with all sorts of grand intentions for ourselves only to have them pitter out after a few weeks. If we're not careful, we might find that we're beating ourselves up because we feel like we've somehow failed to live up the new standard that we've only just recently set for ourselves.

But maybe part of the problem is that we often choose things that seem to run counter to who we are. I mean, listen, there is an entire industry trying to make a dollar off of telling you that you are not enough – that you are deficient in some way shape or form – and that they can sell you what you need to resolve yourself into something better. It's a rather predatory system, but it can easily find us measuring ourselves against an unachievable standard once again this January. It can put us in a place where we are resolving to do things that are nearly antithetical to who we already are.

So maybe this year we can choose to start off on a different foot. Maybe instead of measuring ourselves by what we don't have or by what we think we need to fix about ourselves, maybe we can start by *recognizing the ways in which God has already made us exactly who we need to be*. Maybe we can start the year like Paul in his letter to the Corinthians; recognizing that each of us has been equipped by God with a variety of gifts and that the Spirit draws them together for the sake of the common good held among God's people.

See, make no mistake: God has already made you wonderful just as you are. God has already equipped you with the gifts to meet this world around us. Now is simply the chance to take inventory of what gifts we've been given! What has God already equipped you with? What gifts do you carry that God continues to activate for the sake of God's redemptive love meeting you and meeting the world *through* you? How might you use those gifts in this new year to not try to fix something about yourself, but instead use the gifts you already have to meet the world in beautiful ways?

I'm excited as we turn the calendar because there will plenty of opportunities to use our God-given gifts in new and exciting ways in the coming months. As we prepare to live into values of our new strategic plan, there will plenty of wonderful opportunities to consider how the Spirit might be activating your gifts in the life of our community together. I'd love if you would prayerfully consid-

er where your gifts might make an impact as we set ourselves to *moving our community of faith to live a future where strangers are made friends, where collaboration is prioritized over competition, and where young and old alike are held as indispensable members of the body of Christ (UIC Vision Statement).*

There's an opportunity to do just that in a few pages, but for now I pray that this new year meets you with the resolution that you – *yes you!* – are already enough. You have been equipped from the variety of gifts offered by the Spirit. Through you God will continue to meet this world with the resolve of God's love at work. May you such resolution taking place this month and throughout the year ahead!

Yours, united in Christ,

~ Pastor Justin

2026-2028 Strategic Plan



Moving our community of faith to live a future where strangers are made friends, where collaboration is prioritized over competition, and where young and old alike are held as indispensable members of the body of Christ. (UIC Vision Statement)

Over the course of last year, Church Council spent time in discernment asking where God's Spirit is moving us and drawing us in ministry here at UIC. As a result of that prolonged discernment, we produced a short-term strategic plan, which we presented to the congregation at our November congregational meeting. As we look to mobilize on some of our goals, we now need **your** help! We are looking for folks to plug into the places

where they feel passionate to help us meet our goals. Below are three of our key avenues that we would love to have you be a part of! Take a look!

1) Small Group Ministry

Who are we looking for?

- Anyone who loves to host to small gatherings at home or out and about.
- Anyone who wants to get to know our neighbors at UIC more fully.
- Anyone who enjoys taking time for intentional conversation with one another in our community of faith.
- Anyone who down right likes to have a good time with friends and family!

What will we be doing?

In the coming months, we will be putting together a pilot group of folks to build a model of small group ministry that works for UIC. Volunteers would gather this Spring and Summer and be equipped to launch intentional small groups throughout the congregation next Fall!

2) Growing Young

Who are we looking for?

- Anyone who has a heart the kids and youth in our community.
- Anyone who has a passion for creatively shaping our models of church to meet our students where they are.
- Anyone who wants to see our congregation thrive as a place where kids and youth are empowered to be leaders among us now.

What will we be doing?

In the coming months, we will be engaging in a program of reflection and application called “Growing Young” from the Fuller Institute. Volunteers would be part of a team to help us utilize the results of that program and apply them to our community, looking for ways to lift the voices, gifts, and passions of our kids and youth across the congregation.

3)Welcome Team

Who are we looking for?

- Anyone who has a heart for making all feel welcomed in the church.
- Anyone who wants to help visitors experience the joy of community at UIC.
- Anyone who enjoys finding creative ways to make folks feel comfortable and at home.
- Anyone who knows what it feels like to be an “outsider” to a community and wants to help us overcome such hurdles.

What will we be doing?

In the coming months, we will be assembling a team of folks to reflect on what the experience being a newcomer to a place of worship and working together to help make UIC a place that is accessible to new neighbors. We will also be considering how we might sharpen our skills at integrating new folks authentically into fuller belonging and participation within our community of faith.

Hey, some of these sound like me!

What should I do next?

Awesome! We’d love to have your help! **Please reach out to Pr. Justin or one of our Church Council members to let them know which avenue you might be interested in using your gifts towards!** We’re excited to collaborate with you in the year ahead! Thank 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

Talia Tyrell 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.

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



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Jan. 4	Jan. 11	Jan. 18	Jan. 25
Worship Leader	Justin	Justin	Katy	Justin
Social Hour	S - Z	A - D	E - K	L - R
Bread/Wine	M. Catherman	K. Guffey	K. Criswell	S. Keifer
Altar Guild	M. Catherman	K. Guffey	T. Cromwell	B. Guffey
Digital Host	D. Murphy	M. Shearer	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey
Front Door Greeter	K. Guffey ML Keifer	Catherman Family	L. Rabuck M. Rabuck	C. Robuck D. Robuck
Side Door Greeter	B. Keifer	R. Kling	T. McPherrin	K. Noll
Lector	R. Baker	B. Catherman	D. Davies	T. McPherrin
Ushers	K. Arndt D. Baker K. Baker K. Criswell	T. Cromwell B. Guffey T. McPherrin S. McPherrin	R. Kling J. Mertz M. Shearer K. Arndt	L. Rabuck M. Rabuck B. Swartz T. Swartz
Communion Asst.	M. Shearer S. Weiser	B. Swartz D. Baker	D. Davies ML Keifer	B. Catherman T. Cromwell
Guest Relations	K. Noll	M. Rabuck	B. Troxell	G. Weiser
Offering Counter	B. Guffey M. Rabuck	P. Hauck M. Shearer	R. Baker L. Rabuck	K. Guffey R. Rutt

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.

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

PRAYER REQUESTS: Scott Cutter, Brenda Bowser, Elwood Brown, Sandy Brown, 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.

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.

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.

Use our partner
number when you
donate to
CommunityAid!

#30192



Every donation using our
partner number supports
ministries at UIC!



ALTAR FLOWERS

Cost is \$35.

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



**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

United In Christ
Lutheran Church

Join us for our family-focused faith formation experience on Sunday, January 4th at Christ's in Lewisburg and Sunday, January 18th at UIC. 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!

HAVE YOU SEEN?

**LOST
AND
FOUND**



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



OAKS

SENIOR CENTER

Tuesday, January 13

10:00 am Doors Open

10:30 am Free Bingo with Prizes

11:30 am Comedy Episode

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
LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO

Theology on Tap

JOIN US AT RUSTY RAIL
6:00 PM ON
JANUARY 7 AND 21



Do you have some burning questions
about the Bible, faith, or God?

Join us for Theology on Tap! We will be meeting at Rusty Rail on January 7th and 21st. Bring your questions to put in the stein, grab your drink of choice, and be ready to dive into them together as a group—we might not settle on an answer, but we can at least try! We will meet at 6:00 pm to grab food, drinks, and socialize a bit before starting discussion once we are settled. You can let us know you're coming through the sign-up sheets, or you can email Pastor Justin or Pastor Katy.

Rusty Rail Brewing

5 North 8th Street, Mifflinburg

Outreach



Outreach packaged 53 blessing bags for all of the residents at Country Comfort (assisted living facility in New Columbia), all of our Home Bound members, and all of our Senior Express food box participants.



Blessing bag contents

Two UIC members applied for, and were granted, Thrivent Action Team Grants which helped pay for all of the items for the blessing bags.



Outreach also put together 31 zip-baggies for OAKS Senior Center participants. These bags contained holiday lip balm, lotion, tissues, and some candy.

Members of UIC individually sponsored residents at Country Comfort and Danville State Hospital to bless them with gifts this Christmas.

Thank you to everyone that has made this Christmas season special for those who don't have anyone to care about them!!



Baby Steps DIAPER PANTRY

UPCOMING DIAPER PANTRY

January 10, 2026 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.

On Saturday, December 13th Baby Steps Diaper Pantry gave out 1640 diaper, 17 \$25 Community Aid Care Cards, hats, gloves, socks, coats and many other baby items which were donated to the diaper pantry by Vicky Tyrell, and Pastor Justin and Kelsey.

2025 has been Baby Steps Diaper Pantry's biggest year for giving away diapers!

Year	Diapers
2016 (3 months)	4,600
2017	13,840
2018	15,720
2019	15,680
2020	17,00

Year	Diapers
2021	12,080
2022	18,220
2023	15,700
2024	18,840
2025	20,200

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/

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