

# FAITH MATTERS

A newsletter publication of

## United Fellowship



## Lutheran Church

*by faith we love and serve*

### DECEMBER

### 2023

2115 Washington Blvd.

Easton, PA 18042

610-258-0081

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[unitedfellowshiplutheran.org](http://unitedfellowshiplutheran.org)

Office hours: Monday - Friday 9am-3pm

The Rev. Jamie L. Edelman, M.Div.

Matthew Gutwald

Sheila Itterly

Darlene Creazzo

Pastor

Director of Music

Administrative Assistant

Director, GSCNS

# Pastor's Message

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Advent is here!

This year is one of those uncommon years when all four Sundays in Advent fall in December. At least I thought it was uncommon until I looked at the month of December for the next ten years. To my surprise, I discovered that the number of Advent seasons that incorporated the last Sunday of November equaled the number of Advent seasons that fell wholly in December!

I suppose, like many others, that I prefer Advent seasons that begin in November because the holiday season lasts longer those years. It's not that the shopping season is really any longer. After all, the numbers of days in the calendar haven't changed. There's still 364 days of shopping available between one Christmas and the next.

It has more to do with the mental preparation for me. It's more about savoring the season of Advent – the hope, the love, the joy and the peace that comes to us from Jesus. As we gather with family and friends this holiday season, as we admire the lights and decorations that are beginning to pop-up everywhere, may we be reminded this Advent that the presence of Christ brings all these things to us in what is often a dark and broken world. May we remember that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Please join us this month for Advent worship on Sundays, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17, and 12/24 at 10:15 a.m. On Sunday, 12/17, at 3:00 p.m., we will offer a special Blue Christmas worship for anyone who, for any reason, is feeling a bit low this holiday season (see more info. in the newsletter). Christmas Eve worship will take place on Sunday, 12/24, at 7:00 p.m. The children's program will take place during worship on Sunday, 12/31, at 10:15 a.m.

Hope, love, joy and peace to you this Christmas!

In Christ,

*Pr. Jamie*

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

"THE VIRGIN WILL CONCEIVE  
AND GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND  
THEY WILL CALL HIM  
IMMANUEL" (WHICH MEANS  
"GOD WITH US").  
~Matthew 1:23

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**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY**



Anyone wishing to receive in-home or living facility communion visits, we'd be happy to set up an appointment with you at your convenience. Please call the church office to schedule a visit.

Church Office 610-258-0081

**United Fellowship Council Members 2023:**

Dawn Hough-President	Jim Marra-Vice President
Doug Kuhn-Treasurer	Linda Amato
Jeanne Swinsburg	Donna Pugliese
Barry Willever	Cheryl Reynolds
Bob Roscioli	Kim Simeone
Frank Hartman	Nola Skinner
Sue Doll-Secretary (non-council)	
Sheila Itterly—Financial Secretary (non-council)	



***Council meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month.***

***The next Council Meeting is Tuesday, December 12th at 6pm.***

*Come and worship...*

*Psalm 95:6*



Sundays:

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

*Worship 10:15 a.m.*

In person, Zoom, Facebook Live

*Join us for Social Hour in the lounge after worship!*

You can join us in online worship on Zoom by  
clicking the link below:

Meeting room: 682 861 442

Meeting Room password: United

<https://zoom.us/j/682861442?pwd=Njl2K3ArS1NSN3F0dUtScEVxeHhLQT09> .

Watch the current week's recorded worship service  
anytime beginning Sunday afternoons on Facebook.

[United Fellowship Lutheran Church](#)



Our sanctuary is wheelchair friendly!

## prayer

*Is there someone you would like to add to the prayer list for Sundays?  
Please call the church office or contact us at  
office.unitedfellowship@rcn.com  
to add a name. We will use first names  
only for privacy.*

*I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your  
ear to me and hear my prayer.  
Psalm 17:6*

### **OFFERING OPTIONS**

*For online electronic giving, please use  
the QR code or Tithe.ly link below.*

*Please make checks out to  
United Fellowship Lutheran Church.*

If you can't make it to in-person services you can mail your offerings to the church office or give electronically several different ways: Send a check through your bank's bill pay service, use the online link listed below, or use the QR code below.

[Tithe.ly—United Fellowship](https://tithe.ly/give?c=6022307)  
<https://tithe.ly/give?c=6022307>



### **DECEMBER SECOND OFFERING:**

**SAFE HARBOR EASTON**

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*thank  
you*

*This month's newsletter is presented to the  
Glory of God by the Hough/Sterling Family.*

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The students of UFLC Sunday School and Good Shepherd Nursery School will be collecting new toys for the children of families served by our Food Pantry. If you would like to help, please take an ornament tag off one of our Christmas trees displayed throughout the building. Purchase a gift for the age-group listed. Each gift should have an approximate value between \$15-\$25. **Bring your unwrapped gift with the ornament tag attached to church by December 10th.** Cash donations will also be accepted - there will be envelopes in the narthex.



### TREE OF REMEMBRANCE ORNAMENTS

Each year we have ornaments available for purchase in memory of loved ones which will then be placed on the Tree of Remembrance in the narthex.

*All orders due Sunday, December 3rd.*

The ornaments are \$7.00 each.

Exact change or check made out to UFLC please.

Envelopes are available in the narthex



If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please fill out an order form available in the narthex. They are \$8.00 each, available in red or white. All orders and payments due by Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

We will be decorating the church for the Christmas season on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> after worship. Everyone is welcome to stay and help!





**2023 Midweek Advent Service Schedule**  
**Donations/Offering**

We will be joining with St. John's, St. Paul's III, Arndts, and St. Andrew's for the Midweek Advent meal and worship services this season. The soup meal will be offered at 6pm and worship begins at 7pm. The schedule is as follows:

December 6 - United Fellowship @ 2115 Washington Blvd., Easton

December 13 - St. Paul's III @2561 Newburg Road, Easton

December 20 - St. Andrew's @ 3900 Freemansburg Ave., Easton



We are asking for donations of hygiene items that will be used to create hygiene kits. These kits are going to be donated to **Project HOPE** of the *St. Luke's AIDS/HIV Clinics of Easton and Bethlehem*. We will also be taking a monetary offering which will be provided to the clinic for the purchase of other materials they need.



**What is Project HOPE?**

**Project HOPE** is a Ryan White grant-funded, comprehensive HIV program, with a focus on serving uninsured and under-insured individuals. **HOPE** provides patients with clinical care, which includes primary care and infectious disease care, along with ancillary support services such as nutritional care, behavioral health services, and spiritual care; medical case management services, which includes housing assistance; and HIV/STI prevention services, which includes a free STD clinic and HIV/STI testing in the community, outreach and education, and a linkage to care team. With full comprehensive services located in Bethlehem and Easton, and case management and housing services in Tannersville and Allentown respectively, **HOPE** strives to provide **H**Health, **O**utreach, **P**revention, and **E**ducation to patients and the community utilizing a holistic approach to end stigma and discrimination for people living with HIV.

**Hygiene Items Needed:** (you don't need to donate all the items; kits will be packed by a team after Christmas)

Toothbrush	Soap	Comb
Toothpaste	Wash Cloth	Roll of Toilet Paper
Deodorant	Wet Ones	Sanitary Napkins
Shampoo	Conditioner	





*Blue Christmas Service*  
*a service of hope & remembrance*  
*Sunday, December 17, 2023, 3:00 p.m.*

For those suffering from the recent or impending death of loved ones, dealing with recent separation or divorce, struggling to find employment, or facing depression or family crisis, Christmas can be a very isolated and dreary time. The constant refrains on radios and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost. This can make us feel alone in the midst of the celebrating and joy. Blue Christmas Service provides the space and time to acknowledge our sadness, helps us to know that we are not alone, and gives us the encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

We will gather in the sanctuary for the service. Following the service, you are invited for a light meal in the Lounge. So that we know how many to prepare for, please let us know you plan to attend by either signing up on the sheet in the narthex, emailing Pr. Jamie ([pastor.unitedfellowship@rcn.com](mailto:pastor.unitedfellowship@rcn.com)), or calling the church office.



# GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL



It is hard to believe we are in the month of December. December is always one of our shorter months due to the Christmas holiday, but it is also a very busy month. Santa will be here on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> for the children to visit and have their picture taken. The children will be making Christmas crafts and a Christmas gift for their families. They will also learn Christmas songs that we will video and post for their families on our parent Facebook page. It is always the time of year when Santa's elf, Miss Mary Molly Mistletoe, visits our classroom doing silly tricks and reporting back to Santa if the children are naughty or nice.

Our nursery school will be closed from December 25<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. January 2<sup>nd</sup> will be an in- service day for the teachers and the children will return on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

The staff of Good Shepherd Christian Nursery School and I  
Wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and  
a healthy and Happy New Year!  
Mrs. Darlene Creazzo



## Sunday School News

Dec. 10th: Deadline for unwrapped toys to benefit  
12 Baskets Full Food Pantry

Dec. 24th: 9:00 am - Practice for Christmas Program and  
birthday party for Jesus

Dec. 24th: 10:15 am - Sing Christmas carols in church  
with adult choir

Dec. 24th: 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Worship Service

Dec. 31st: 9:00 am Sunday School and practice for  
Christmas Program

Dec. 31st: 10:15 am - Sunday School Christmas Program during  
worship

Jan. 7th: 9:00 am - Sunday School

Jan. 7th: 10:15 am - Epiphany Play during worship



Individual boxes of envelopes for the year are in the narthex. If you can't make it to church to pick yours up it will be mailed to you. Thank you for your continued faithful giving.



Come browse our craft tables on Saturday December 9, 2023 at Winterfest in the Fellowship Hall. We will have lots of great gifts handcrafted by the quilters!



*The St. Paul's Quilters of  
United Fellowship Lutheran Church*

Our Wednesday gathering time is 9:30am to 12:30 pm. We use the glass doors by the Nursery School playground. If you have any questions call Debbie at 610.762.5222.  
Hugs and Stitches,  
The Quilters  
122 years strong!



## A PLACE TO BELONG SENIOR CENTER

Tuesdays 10am-2:30pm in the Fellowship Hall!

- December 12th - Sue Shotko will be doing crafts with those in attendance who wish to participate.
- December 26th - Senior Center will be CLOSED so that we may enjoy the holidays with our families.

Union Church and Cemetery Association is looking for someone to fill the position of part-time secretary at Hays Cemetery. The position will be vacated on [December 31](#), 2023. The salaried position requires an average of 20 hours a month and as per the by-laws, must be a member of either United Fellowship Lutheran Church or New Creation UCC. For more information or if interested, please call Cheryl at 610-258-6441.





# FOOD PANTRY

- \* Twelve Baskets Full food pantry is open twice a month on the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays in the evenings from 6:00 - 7:30pm .
- \* Help is needed each month to unload deliveries to the pantry. **The next delivery will take place on Monday, December 4th @ 9am.** If you would like to volunteer, or have any questions, please contact Jim Marra at 484-547-7751 or Leslie Schuch at 610-657-2066.



**While all donations are welcome, the monthly suggested pantry items for December are canned vegetables and cleaning products.**



## *Keep Us Informed.....*



\* *If you have a phone number or email change, please let the church office know so we can keep you informed and up to date!*



\* *If you or a family member are in the hospital, please let the church office know: 610.258.0081 office.unitedfellowship@rcn.com*

***\*You can also give the hospital the UFLC Hospital ID #230***

***\*Use UFLC Group # E171 when donating blood at Miller-Keystone Blood Center***



## ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!

The Women of United Fellowship hold an informal Bible study on the last Wednesday of the month at 12pm in the lounge. We read our lesson from the ELCA's "Gather" magazine, discuss the lesson and Bible readings, and bring a brown bag lunch. For more information contact Lois Kuhn 610.849.6164.





*What is the definition of sponsorship?  
 "Sponsorship is the act of supporting a person, organization, or activity by giving money, encouragement, or other help".  
 At United Fellowship, we have several different sponsorship opportunities available to help in various areas of church life. Any sponsorship can be placed in honor of or in memory of a loved one.*

- Weekly Eternity Candle Sponsorship: \$10
- Weekly Bulletin Sponsorship: \$15
- Weekly Altar Flowers: 2 Vases/\$50
- Monthly Technology (website, live stream service): \$20
- Monthly Newsletter Sponsorship: \$40

Please prayerfully consider a sponsorship in one of these areas as we continue to use these means to reach out to our church family and community with the Gospel.

**Please remember that for ANY church function a Building Usage Request form will need to be filled out, and should be filled out as far in advance as possible (2 week minimum please). Forms are available in the office.**



**Please be aware that any notice placed on the church bulletin boards must first be approved by Pastor Jamie and/or the office. Thank you for your understanding.**

**For they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means.**

**2 Corinthians 8:3**

**Monthly  
Financial  
Report**

UFLC OCTOBER 2023

	<u>MONTH ACTUAL</u>	<u>YTD ACTUAL</u>
<u>INCOME (WEEKLY ENVELOPES ONLY):</u>	7,509.00	81,375.08
<u>EXPENSE:</u>	14,974.42	211,478.58
<u>+SURPLUS/-DEFICIT:</u>	- 1,254.38	-87,266.12
<u>AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:</u> 50 In person		
	5 Online	

# Happy Birthday

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 12/3 Donna Fisher    | 12/18 Thomas Herster  |
| 12/4 Amy Coopersmith | Aubrey Rosario        |
| 12/6 Traci Hartman   | 12/24 Lisa Breidinger |
| 12/9 David Campbell  | 12/27 Sonya Hess      |
| 12/16 Adylind Rogers | 12/31 Ben Cole        |



- |                                |
|--------------------------------|
| 12/1 Barry & Judy Willever     |
| 12/4 Henry & Carol Anne Hess   |
| 12/6 Frank Sr. & Traci Hartman |
| 12/16 Russ & Gretchen Leslie   |

If you have any additions or corrections, please call the church office. \*Denotes homebound



*We extend our deepest sympathies  
to the family and friends of*

*Don M. Greek*

*who entered the  
Church Triumphant on  
November 5, 2023*

*Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life, he  
who believes in me will live, even though he dies;  
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."*

*John 11:25-26*



The UFLC office will be closed  
Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26  
in observance of the Christmas holiday.



**And she shall bring forth a son, and thou  
shalt call His name JESUS; for He shall save  
His people from their sins.**

**Matthew 1:21**

United Fellowship Lutheran Church  
2115 Washington Blvd.  
Easton PA 18042

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