

FAITH MATTERS

United Fellowship Lutheran Church



EPH. 2:19

**JANUARY
2023**

United Fellowship Lutheran Church

2115 Washington Blvd.

Easton, PA 18042

610-258-0081

office.unitedfellowship@rcn.com

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unitedfellowshiplutheran.org

The Rev. Jamie L. Edelman, M.Div.
Matthew Gutwald
Sheila Itterly
Darlene Creazzo
Jason Sterling

Pastor
Director of Music
Administrative Assistant
Director, QSCNS
Sexton

Pastor's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The start of a new year – it's a time of new beginnings and new adventures. A time to celebrate the end of the past year and look forward to and welcome all that the new year and God holds in store for us.

As I reflect back on 2022, I realize it was a year of great change for me on a personal level and for UFLC as a community of faith. On a personal level, I began as a fledgling vicar, successfully completed the synod candidacy approval process, celebrated 22 years of marriage with my husband Brian, graduated from seminary, was called as your full-time pastor, ordained, and almost installed (don't worry, that's happening in 2023!). As a church, 2022 included an intense clean out schedule for both church buildings, meeting with a realtor and putting the St. Paul's building on the market, fielding an offer practically before the ink had dried on the listing documents, holding final services of both congregations, finalizing the sale of the St. Paul's building, the official consolidation of St. Paul's and Good Shepherd into United Fellowship Lutheran Church, calling a full-time pastor, and hiring UFLC staff – some familiar faces, some new. Whew! We have been BUSY!! But there is still much to do!

2023 will see the official recognition of UFLC by the bishop and the synod as a new congregation of the ELCA, as well as the installation of your new pastor (that's me!). It will continue to be a year of firsts as we build and create new traditions. It will be a year that will see the re-opening of the senior center, A Place to Belong, as well as the completion of several new capital improvements to our building. I pray it will also be a year of growth in community outreach and impact, growth in participation of members in activities, Bible studies, ministries of the church, assisting with worship, financial giving, and of course the hope of growth of membership. But most importantly, my prayer is that we continue to keep God and Christ Jesus at the center of all we do.

We don't know everything the new year will hold for us – either personally or as a church – but we can trust that God is in control of it all. Through prayer and reflection, we can better discern what direction God wants us to move in so that we are best equipped to fulfill God's will for this great adventure of life that we are

In Christ,

Dr. Jamie

**Newly elected United Fellowship Council Members
beginning in January, 2023:**



Doug Kuhn

Dawn Hough

Linda Amato

Jim Marra

Jeanne Swinsburg

Donna Pugliese

Barry Willever

Cheryl Reynolds

Bob Roscioli

Kim Simeone

Frank Hartman

Nola Skinner

Place God First

The Ten Commandments stress that God must be first in our lives. Jesus himself said, "Seek first God's kingdom and righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well." (Matthew 6:33)

Many experience difficulty giving generously despite the desire and pledge to do so, because they attempt to give from what is left over at the end of the week or month rather than from first fruits, from all they have received.

The simple practice of placing God and the church first in budgeting and spending has helped many to experience joy in their giving. When you do this you are giving from all that a good and loving God has provided. And you are practicing stewardship, understanding that you are but a temporary trustee of what God has entrusted to you.

In this new year of 2023, as we start with a new offering envelope system for United Fellowship Lutheran Church, let us trust God for his provision as we give from our first fruits and not our leftovers.

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.





**“So then you are no longer
strangers and aliens, but you are
citizens with the saints and also
members of the household of God”
Ephesians 2:19**

**Sundays:
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.**

Worship - 10:15 a.m.

In person, Zoom, Facebook Live

**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 or
YouTube.**

[Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Easton, PA](#)

[St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Easton PA](#)

**You can also call into worship each week by calling
the number (646) 558 -8656 and entering the code
682 861 442 # when prompted.**

FACEBOOK LIVE



Join us for Social Hour in the lounge after worship!





***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.*

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>



***THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
FAITHFUL GIVING***

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, as long as facilities are open and visits are permitted. Please feel free to contact any one of us. We'd love to see you!

Bette Seveney 610-762-8434
Carol Soferra 484-239-0874
Marsha Plantone 610-509-1022
Church Office 610-258-0081



THE BIRTHDAY BASH

You are invited to United Fellowship's first birthday bash!

Sunday, January 15, 2023
in the fellowship hall after service.
A potluck luncheon will be served -
bring a dish to share with others!
Beverages and cake will be provided.

We will have one table for each month of the year,
plus two extras.

We need 14 hostesses to decorate
and oversee each table.

A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex for each month of
the year +2 extra tables.

Table decoration ideas - January 13 is National Rubber
Duck Day, February you might want to use
Valentine's Day, March comes in like a lion out like a lamb
- make it fun!

It will be fun to find out who in the congregation has the
same birthday month or even the same day! If you have
any questions please see Debbie Mangino or any Fellowship
Committee member.

We will also have a fun regifting table. If you have a
birthday gift or a Christmas gift that you would like to
regift, bring it along and you will be able to exchange that
gift for another.

We hope to see you there for lots of fun!



Please remember that for ANY church function you
need to fill out a Building Usage Request.

Forms are available in the office.





Annual Reports are due
in the office no later than
Friday, January 6th!
Thank you!



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The meeting will be held
on Sunday, January
29th after worship
service. We will be
discussing old and new
business and members
will be voting to ratify
the Constitution &
By Laws.



Epiphany of Our Lord

The word “epiphany” comes from a Greek word meaning “appearance” or “showing forth.” It names the day that the church tells Matthew’s story of the magi from foreign lands who follow the light of the star and thus see Jesus as Christ. This year we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord on January 6th.





We support the Backpack Pals Program which provides food for Easton Area School District students. Along with the traditional fruit cup Donations we have done in the past, there is a suggested list of donations in the narthex of the church or at [this link](#). Items can be placed on the second shelf of the donation cart in the hallway. Thank you to Sylvia Rader for delivering the donations to the school each month.

The next donation drop off is Friday, January 6th. Please have your donations to the church the Sunday prior to that date.



Safe Harbor Easton is a program-driven, transitional shelter for homeless, single men and women. It is also a drop-in program for low-income adults.

We provide a meal to Safe Harbor Easton on the third Thursday of each month. There are envelopes in the narthex if you wish to contribute for the meals.

On Thursday, December 15th we provided chicken cordon bleu, scalloped potatoes, carrots, and fudge chocolate chip brownies for the people of Safe Harbor. Our next meal will be delivered Thursday, January 19th. Thanks you to all those who prepared, provided, and dropped off the food. Special thanks for the continued monetary donations as well. Anyone interested in contributing in any way, please contact Bette Seveney. You can also visit: safeharboreaston.com and click on the link for "Donate A Meal".



WINTERFEST was a great success! We raised \$2103, of which \$1533 was for the cookies! Heartfelt thanks to ALL who helped clear off the stage and fellowship hall areas, those who helped bake, those who baked at home and donated cookies, those who helped with setup, cleanup, and worked the event as well. It was greatly appreciated!



FEBRUARY-CHOCOLATE COVERED PRETZELS for VALENTINE'S DAY! 12 pk. for \$8. Available in white chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, or mixed containers, and with or without sprinkles. We will begin taking orders Sunday, January 22nd. Pick up and/or delivery will be Friday, February 10th OR SOONER.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL



It's that time of the year and the children have been talking about Christmas since Halloween! They were so excited when Santa paid them a visit and they were able to tell him their Christmas wishes and have their picture taken with him! The children also had Chapel with Pastor Jamie and she read them the story of when Jesus was born. They have also been as busy as Santa's elves making crafts, decorating the classrooms and hallways, and learning some Christmas songs to sing to their families before we leave for our Christmas break on December 22nd. Classes will resume on January 3rd and 4th.

Best wishes from
Good Shepherd Christian Nursery School
For a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy
New Year!
Mrs. Darlene Creazzo



TENTATIVE PASTOR INSTALLATION DATE -
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 AT 2:00 PM
PENDING SYNOD APPROVAL PASTOR JAMIE'S
INSTALLATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT A 2PM
SERVICE WITH A LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW.

UPDATED INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



CHURCH WORK DAY - NO SPECIAL TALENTS REQUIRED!!

Bring your willing hands and join us as we tackle some areas around the building on Saturday, February 4th @ 9am. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We will be cleaning up and reorganizing some leftover projects from the consolidation. Many hands make light work!



Any questions please see Frank Hartman.



We had our Christmas party on December 7th in the lounge. There was lots of fellowship, food, desserts, and a small gift exchange. A great time was had by all! We noticed at our party that the lounge didn't have a microwave, so the Quilters purchased one and donated it for all to use.

Ben Cole won the multicooker at Winterfest - Congratulations Ben!!

We made \$103.00 on the raffle tickets. It was rounded up to \$110.00 of which \$55.00 was donated to the church, and \$55.00 will go to a non-profit in the area.

We thank everyone who supported the raffle and our craft table at Winterfest.

Hugs and stitches,
The Quilters

Our Wednesday gathering time is
9:30am to 12:30 pm.

We use the glass doors by the nursery school playground. Any questions call Debbie at 610.762.5222.

120 years of Quilting Ministry!



Have you noticed something different in the sanctuary? We have removed two pews to make our sanctuary wheelchair friendly. Thank you to those who came out to help remove and relocate the pews.



JANUARY'S SECOND OFFERING

Bear Creek Camp is a ministry of the Southeastern and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Located on nearly 3,000 acres in the beauty of the Pocono Mountains, Bear Creek Camp offers year-round opportunities, including summer residential youth camp, nature day camp, environmental education programs, weekend camp retreats and outside group rentals.



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 .
- * We are serving from the United Fellowship building at 2115 Washington Blvd, Easton.
- * Help is needed each month to unload deliveries to the pantry. **The next delivery will take place on January 9th at 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 January are peanut butter and shampoo.



Starting in January of 2023, the food pantry will be collecting one food item and one non-food item each month.

Below is the suggested collection schedule. As always, any items are gratefully accepted.

Food Pantry Monthly Items

	<u>Food Item</u>	<u>Non Food item</u>
January	Peanut Butter	Shampoo
February	Jelly	Deodorant
March	Cereal	Dish Soap
April	Tea/Coffee	Soap
May	Ketchup	Laundry Detergent
June	Tuna	Sanitary Product
July	Mashed Potatoes	Paper Towels
August	Mac & Cheese	Toilet Paper
September	Soup	Toothpaste
October	Rice	Toothbrush
November	Hot Cocoa Mix	Garbage Bags
December	Canned Veggies	Cleaning Product

To the family and friends of the members and congregational friends who have recently passed into eternal life, we extend our deepest sympathies.



*Amy Lynn Gruber
Daughter of Richard & Linda Bartholomew
December 8, 2022*

*Janet E. Polomchak
December 11, 2022*

*Beverly Paulus
December 21, 2022*

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



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



*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!*

Happy Birthday

1/4 Doug Kuhn
1/5 Adrienne Hummel
1/11 Emily Schuch
Carol Hess
1/14 Brian Hageman *
1/18 Louis Mammana III

1/20 Marcia Pysher
1/24 Linda Amato
1/28 Deborah Mangino
1/31 Terrianne Darby



1/7 David & Judy Graff

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



Due to the increasing costs of paper, ink and postage, we will be emailing as many communication items as possible, including congregational letters, reports and newsletters. Please take note that after December:

- 1) If you have not opted-in as a member of UFLC, you will no longer receive UFLC communications.
- 2) If you have opted-in and provided an email, you will receive all communications via email.
- 3) If you opted-in and did not provide an email, you will receive communications via USPS.

If you have opted-in with an email, but prefer to receive paper communications, please contact the church office at 610-258-0081. (Note that there are always a handful of paper copies of newsletters and communications available for pick up on Sunday morning from the table in the narthex.)



Thank you to everyone who helped us meet our goal of 35 dozen diapers for the NEPA Bethlehem/Easton Mission District Christmas Ingathering! There was a wonderful turnout with an abundance of donations. Thanks again!



Women of United Fellowship Lutheran Church



Thank you to everyone who was very generous in helping out our family after we lost our home to a fire. We are still looking for a rental home in Phillipsburg, NJ so our kids can stay in the school district . If anyone has any information on this please contact Frank Hartman. Again, thank you for all your help, it is very appreciated.



Brian Repsher and Family



TO ALL,

God Bless You for all your kindness! I am 81 years old and glad there are still some wonderful people in this world! Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! Thank You!
Geraldine Thomas (Thanksgiving basket recipient)



Dear friends in Christ,
Thank you. The very generous monetary gift you presented to me for my ordination & clergy appreciation month was so unexpected. I am blessed to be your pastor and want you to know that I appreciate each one of you! I am grateful to be doing ministry with you and can't wait to see what God has in store for United Fellowship as we travel this road together!
Much love, Pr. Jamie

Pastoral 
Installation

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AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**



**A PLACE TO BELONG
SENIOR CENTER**

Are you looking for something to do?
Do you enjoy socializing, playing games, having fun?
Stop by and see what we are all about!
We will be re-opening on Tuesday, March 7th
from 10am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall!
For more information please see
Traci Hartman or Marsha Plantone.

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Easton PA 18042

Place Label here