

# January 2023 Newsletter



"And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'" *Matthew 3:16-17*

357 Walnut Street, PO Box 157  
Denver, Pennsylvania 17517-0157  
Church Telephone - 717-336-2141  
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Email - [faithunited@ptd.net](mailto:faithunited@ptd.net)

Website - [www.faithunited-elca.org](http://www.faithunited-elca.org)

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM:  
[@faithunitedlutheran](#)

## Pastor Marissa Becklin

1005 Clearview Avenue, Ephrata, PA 17522

Cell: 717-203-6013

[pastormbecklin@gmail.com](mailto:pastormbecklin@gmail.com)

## Elevator Update, Fully Funded

The elevator project has been fully funded! **Thank You** to everyone who has made a decision to financially support this decision. Final touches continue to be put on the project, and when things are complete we will announce an event to celebrate the elevator and join in fellowship.



Stay tuned for more about this event as the project is completed.

## ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS



The 2022 Contribution Statements will be in alphabetical order on the table at the back on Sunday, January 15 and Sunday, January 22, 2023.

If you have questions contact the Church Office at 717-336-2141 or Shirley Sweigart at 717-538-1946.

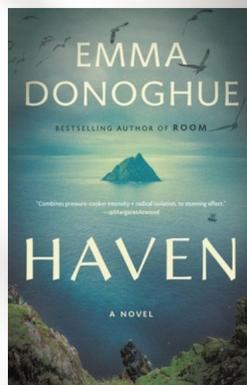


Monday, January 16, 2023 in Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday

## February Book Club

HAVEN

by Emma Donoghue



Join Pastor Marissa on Wednesday, February 15 at 6:30pm for book club.

This novel takes place in seventh-century Ireland, and the main characters are three monks who take on a survival journey on an isolated island to create a new monastic community.

Join Pastor Marissa to discuss *Haven* by Emma Donoghue. This novel takes place in seventh-century Ireland, and the main characters are three monks who take on a survival journey on an isolated island to create a new monastic community.

Contact Pastor Marissa if you need help ordering the book (or need financial assistance in purchasing it). This book is also available from the Lancaster Public Library System.

The Christmas Decorations will be taken down in the Sanctuary on Sunday, January 8 following the Worship Service.



Deadline For February, 2023 Newsletter  
Sunday, January 22, 2023

## 2023 Offering Envelopes



Your 2023 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up at the back of the Church

If you were missed, contact the Church Office.

Generic Offering Envelopes are available for use on the table with the Offering Plate.

A good alternative is "Simply Giving" which automatically remits your offering to the Church.

Contact the Church Office, 717-336-2141, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM for more details or Shirley Sweigart at: [grammyss46@gmail.com](mailto:grammyss46@gmail.com) or call 717-538-1946

## Newsletter Update

Newsletters are published following Church Council meetings which are held the first Wednesday of each month.

## WANTED

Recipes, inspirational articles, poetry, gardening tips, household tips, etc. to be used in Monthly Newsletters.

Please put your items in the Secretary's mailbox marked "Shirley Sweigart" in the Hallway. Thank You for sharing your useful items with your Church Family.

## Church Office Requests

Please call the Church Office at 717-336-2141 when:

- You are in the hospital or prior to going to the hospital (or have a relative call for you). In order for the pastor to visit, someone needs to inform the Church.
- You are confined to your home for an extended period of time because of illness or accident;
- You are going to a rehab center or a nursing home;
- There is a change in your family status (birth, death, marriage, or divorce);
- You move to a new home, move out of the area, or go away to college or graduate school;
- You schedule a meeting or an event of a group or committee. In an effort to be open and communicative with everyone, we would like to include all scheduling on the Church Calendar and in the Weekly Bulletin.

## Stewardship Opportunities

The following are ways for you to support our ministries as we seek to bring the good news of Christ's love to our community and world:

- 1) Mail in your offerings to the church office (we are collecting them regularly).
- 2) Set up Simply Giving (online recurring giving) by calling the office.
- 3) Give online (a one time or recurring gift by checking/savings OR credit/debit) by going to our website: [faithunited-elca.org](http://faithunited-elca.org) and clicking the "Give" tab at the top of the page.

Please continue to provide the Church Office with your email addresses (changes also) to be used for Newsletters, Schedules, etc.

Email your changes to:

[faithunited@ptd.net](mailto:faithunited@ptd.net). Thank You!

## Photo Use Practice

In attending church events, photos may be taken to help keep shut-ins and friends of the church aware of the life and activities of Faith United. If you do not wish to be photographed, please let us know so we may honor your wishes. As a practice, we consider the privacy appropriate to people with special circumstances, but may not know of all sensitive situations. Your help is required or we anticipate permission is given.

## Staff

**Pastor** — Pastor Marissa Becklin

**Organists** — Caryll Lausch

Cynthia Kauffman Sharon Levering

Lisa Beard Grady Daub

**Festival Choir Director** — Ellen Houser

**Office Administrator and**

**Newsletter Editor** — Shirley Sweigart

**Custodian** — Elizabeth Roman-Reich

# From Pastor Marissa Becklin

## Baptism Of Our Lord

In 2018 I had the joy of spending the feast day of the Baptism Of Our Lord in Greece, on the island of Santorini in the Aegean Sea. This small little island is pretty isolated from the rest of the world, and it was a sunny day—a day when even off you squinted at the horizon, you could only just begin to make out the outlines of other islands nearby. Santorini is secluded and quiet.

We had heard that this day was a big deal in the Greek Orthodox Church—we knew that an exciting celebration would be taking place, and we wanted to get a chance to witness it. So as morning broke, we made our way down the side of the caldera—the steep cliff on the side of the island that juts into the sea—and we waited. We waited surrounded by others, who were also waiting—crowds and crowds of people from the community who wanted to be a part of what would take place. As we sat on the edge of this water that eventually becomes one with ocean water and thus connected us in that moment to the rest of the whole world, we kept our eyes on the tiny little whitewashed church down the road.

At the top of the hour the doors of the church flew open, the sound of bells ringing hit our ears, and a procession began—the priest led the whole congregation to the edge of the water as they sang hymns about God's love for us and for our world. The joy in the air was palpable—God had revealed God's whole heart to us on this day, they sang, and now we knew that we, like Jesus, had been called beloved. What more could we want?

The crowd parted for the priest, and as he positioned himself at the edge of the sea, he began to sing a blessing. This blessing was for us, the people gathered, who were loved deeply by God, but this blessing was also (and more specifically) for the body of water that we stood in front of. As he held a cross up in the air, he sang about how the fact that God had become a human—had become one of us—meant that the blessing poured out on Jesus in his baptism had now broken out into the world, had cloaked all of us and creation, and had begun the work of redeeming the world. When Jesus was baptized and had the Spirit poured out on him, this priest sang, the hope of creation being made whole had become a reality. Because Jesus was baptized in the waters of this earth, God's project of reaching into our world and making all things new had begun. The priest's blessing ended with the tossing of the cross into the sea, blessing that body of water in front of us and thus the whole world. I thought about the waves that would carry those words of love and hope throughout the oceans of our world, of that very blessing washing up on the shores of South Africa, Hong Kong, Belize, California, Australia. Santorini was an isolated place, yes, but on that day we were reminded of how even in the midst of feeling isolated, we were very much connected to the rest of the world (and to God).

There's a tradition that when the cross is tossed into the sea to bless the waters, the first man to jump in and find the cross receives a blessing for his household. It's a fun and cold thing to watch, but the good news of this day is more abundant: in our baptism, we have *all* received the blessing of Christ. We can all move through life in the confidence that we have been wrapped in Christ's grace and love, with the sure promise of forgiveness belonging to us.

Blessed Baptism Of Our Lord, and Blessed Epiphany.

Peace,

Pastor Marissa Becklin †

Pastor Marissa Becklin

Photos on Page 4



**Faith United Evangelical  
Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 7:30 PM**

**FUEL Council Members Present:** Bruce Carpenter, Terri Kilrain, Janice Daub, Deb Demler, Lori Stover, Ellen Houser, Bob Gates, Scott Gola, Kelly Leshner and Pastor Marissa Becklin.

**Devotions:** Bruce Carpenter read John 11:17-36. He talked about believing and the holiday season, the magic of Christmas. He also spoke about the Jeremy Camp movie "I Still Believe". His devotions concluded with a prayer.

**Treasurer's Report:**

2023 Budget was sent out. There was a change to Pastor's housing allowance. A motion was made and approved to increase Pastor's housing allowance.

Scott brought up the need to think about a 5-year plan regarding major projects.

There is less than \$4,000.00 to raise for the lift project.

**Pastor's Report:**

Advent Worship Christmas Eve. There will be two (2) Services, 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM. There will be special music and the choir singing at the 4:00 PM Service.

Hanging Of The Greens went very well.

In her prayers: Donna and Phil Deibler, they are happy to have phone calls; Patricia Krick, needs open heart surgery; Dave Harnish, coping with his lymphoma diagnosis; Deb Anthony, still healing from her surgery this past summer, still having balance issues, nerve problems and dizziness.

**Committee Highlights:**

**Property, Jim Kreider:** Lift has been put in. Dry wall needs finished, then painting, and ceiling/carpet finished. Company will be back for training.

**Family Ministry and Fellowship, Terri Kilrain:** Donkey ornaments have been purchased to give to families at the Christmas Eve Service. Hoping to make this a yearly thing; different ornament each year.

**Old Business:**

Council member—Constitution says max of 12 members. There are three (3) members leaving this year: Terri Kilrain, Deb Demler, Janice Daub.

**New Business:**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM following the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

*Respectfully Submitted by Kelly Leshner  
FUEL Council Secretary*

**Congregational Annual Meeting  
Sunday December 11, 2022**

Council President Jim Kreider called the meeting to order following the 9:00 AM Worship Service. Pastor Marissa led the Congregation in a prayer. Kelly Leshner read the past Meeting Minutes from the following

Congregational Meetings: December 12, 2021, and August 26, 2022. A motion was made and carried to approve all minutes.

Election of Congregational Council Members took place with the following members returning to serve in 2023: Jim Kreider, Bruce Carpenter, Ellen Houser, Lori Stover, Deb Anthony, Lisa Gable, Bob Gates and Kelly Leshner. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

The 2023 Budget was shared with the Congregation. Scott Gola mentioned there were two (2) changes from last year's budget. There is a new line for Music Event Coordinator and the Fulton loan/line of credit has been deleted. Joanne Phillips asked two (2) questions:

Why is there no raise for the custodian? *It is on a part time basis and is budgeted higher.*

Why isn't there an increase for organist? *This area is over budgeted. They are paid by the hour; raises were given part way through the year. The rate is based off a national rate base.*

A motion was made and carried to approve 2023 Budget.

Pastor Marissa gave an update on the Endowment Fund process. Many hours have been put in by the Committee the first half of the year getting the process started. The second half of the year was devoted to bringing monies together and making sure endowment money does not co-mingle with the checking account.

Todd Stewart made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Barry Martzall seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted by Kelly Leshner  
FUEL Council Secretary*

**Congregation Council  
Meeting  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023  
6:30 PM**

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

- Jim Kreider - President
- Bruce Carpenter - Vice President
- Kelly Leshner - Secretary
- Scott Gola - Treasurer
- Deb Anthony    Lisa Gable    Bob Gates
- Ellen Houser    Lori Stover

**Adult Education About  
Lutheranism After Worship**

Join Pastor Marissa and lay leaders in developing a deeper understanding of a Lutheran way of life. We'll learn together about history, liturgy, the eucharist, and more, all in a very approachable way. Join any Sunday you can!



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- January 19:** Matt Donley
- January 20:** Arlene Brumbach
- January 22:** Emma Schrom
- January 23:** Mitch Arment

- January 24:** Matt Luciani
- January 27:** Bryan Strohl
- January 28:** Victoria Weidner
- January 30:** David Brumbach
- January 31:** Emily Hafer, Kaitlin Hafer, Claire Eberly, Alyssa Nessinger, Kellen Strohl

### Anniversary

- January 29:** Gerald and Madeline Harding



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- February 3:** Andrew Nessinger
- February 5:** Evan Frees
- February 6:** Carrie Reed
- February 10:** Corinne Kipple, Tabitha Kipple

- February 13:** Jeffrey Hartman



### 80+ Birthdays

Please remember our 80+ members with a card, visit, or phone call:

- Dorothy Hoyer - January 19** - Apartment 501, 300 St. Mark Avenue, Lititz, PA 17543.
- Evelyn Leisey - January 23** - 717 Pine Street, Denver, PA 17517.
- Mae Raudenbush - January 23** - Apartment 110, 250 Parkview Heights Road, Ephrata, PA 17522
- Ethel Farrow - February 3** - Apartment 1110, 300 St. Mark Avenue, Lititz, PA 17543
- Doris Reinoehl - February 10** - 540 Wollups Hill Road, Stevens, PA 17578

### Communion Bread



Please Sign the chart on the cabinet at the back to provide One Loaf of bread each Sunday.

Please Bring The Bread To The Church By Friday 9:00 AM—1:00 PM.

### January/February Food Collection



Food, household, and personal items will be collected for Peter's Porch in January and February. Please check the list on the grocery cart for the items needed and deposit the items in the grocery cart.

### Coffee And Conversation

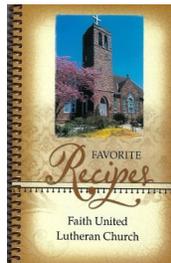


Coffee and Conversation is again being held following the Worship Service at the back of the Church.

Please sign the chart to provide the refreshments. Keep it simple.

For questions contact Terri Kilrain, 717-201-0099.

### Church Cookbooks



They are sold for \$10.00 each and are on the counter at the back of the Sanctuary. Proceeds benefit Faith United Youth Ministry.

More information contact Terri Kilrain, 717-201-0099.

### Needing Tech Helpers On Sunday Mornings



We are looking for volunteers to run the livestream on Sunday mornings during Worship as part of a rotation. We will train you and have currently trained volunteers sit with you as you learn, and you will be accompanied by a comprehensive instruction booklet in the back as well. Youth are welcome to help in this way, too!

### Home Blessings For Epiphany

January is traditionally the month for home blessings, and Pastor Marissa is available this month to come to your home to perform a short Service Of Blessing! To schedule a Blessing, please email Pastor Marissa at [pastormbecklin@gmail.com](mailto:pastormbecklin@gmail.com), or call the Church Office, 717-336-2141.

### Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 AM to Noon.

To submit information for the bulletin or newsletter, please email Shirley Sweigart at:

[grammyss46@gmail.com](mailto:grammyss46@gmail.com) or  
[grammyss@ptd.net](mailto:grammyss@ptd.net) or  
 call 717-538-1946

*What's  
Happening at  
Faith United?*

Send your pictures in for  
next month's newsletter!



Follow Us On Instagram  
for more photos!

@faithunitedlutheran



Donna Gerhart and Michele Lacy bring Cozy Comforters to Ephrata Area Social Services



Prayer candles for Advent Midweek Services



Photo taken by Rachel Carpenter



Christmas Eve; Photo taken by Jim Kreider



# Faith United Evangelical Lutheran Church

357 Walnut Street, Denver, PA 17517

Phone 717-336-2141 FAX 717-336-6475 Email: [faithunited@ptd.net](mailto:faithunited@ptd.net)

Website: [faithunited-elca.org](http://faithunited-elca.org)

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @faithunitedlutheran



January 2023

|    | Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|----|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| 1  | Name Of Jesus<br>9:00am Kid's Church<br>9:00am Live Stream and In-Person<br>Worship Service   | Church Office<br>Closed  | 9:00am Cozy<br>Comforters Sewing<br>Group            | 8:30am REAL Life<br>Community Meeting<br>Services Young At<br>Heart For 60 And<br>Up, Adamstown<br>Area Library, 110<br>West Main Street,<br>Adamstown<br>6:30pm<br>Council Meeting  | 5  | 6  | 7   |
| 8  | Adult Education About Lutheranism<br>Baptism Of Our Lord<br>United Lutheran Church Following<br>Worship<br>9:00am Kid's Church<br>9:00am Live Stream and In-Person<br>Worship Service<br>10:30am Confirmation For 7th And<br>8th Graders - 10:30-11:30 AM                         | 9<br>Parish Secretaries<br>Meeting Tin Roof<br>Cafe N' Sweets,<br>Ephrata          | 10<br>12:00pm In-Person<br>Study And Prayer<br>Group | 11<br>1:30pm Swamps<br>Lutheran Church,<br>Rathbun's Food<br>Pantry, Call 717-<br>336-2849   | 12<br>5:30am Free Take<br>Out Only<br>Community Meal,<br>Trinity United<br>Methodist Church,<br>420 Main Street,<br>Denver - 5:30-6:30<br>PM | 13<br>Helen Shirk Birthday<br>Join Lillian<br>Birthday<br>Pastor Marissa's Day<br>Off  | 14<br>8:00am Bible &<br>Breakfast<br>Porch - Lititz<br>Lutheran Church,<br>165 East Front<br>Street, Lititz                     |
| 15 | Adult Education About Lutheranism<br>Please Pick Up Your 2022<br>Contribution Statement<br>9:00am Kid's Church<br>9:00am Live Stream and In-Person<br>Worship Service   | 16<br>Church Offices<br>Closed<br>Martin Luther King<br>Jr.'s Birthday<br>Observed | 17<br>9:00am Cozy<br>Comforters Sewing<br>Group      | 18<br>Confession Of Peter<br>Christian Unity<br>Begins<br>8:30am REAL Life<br>Community<br>Meeting For 60 And<br>Up, Adamstown<br>Area Library, 110<br>West Main Street,<br>Adamstown<br>9:00am<br>Conference<br>Meeting<br>7:00pm Denby<br>Club<br>Meeting - Faith<br>Fellowship Hall | 19<br>Dorothy Hoyer<br>Birthday  | 20<br>Pastor Marissa's Day<br>Pre-Order Deadline<br>Only Community<br>Meal - Call 717-<br>336-6748   | 21<br>8:00am Pastor's<br>Porch - Zion<br>Lutheran Church,<br>Akron  |
| 22 | Adult Education About Lutheranism<br>February Newsletter Article Deadline<br>Please Pick Up Your 2022<br>Contribution Statement<br>9:00am Kid's Church<br>9:00am Live Stream and In-Person<br>Worship Service<br>10:30am Confirmation For 7th And<br>8th Graders - 10:30-11:30 AM | 23<br>Evelyn Lelsey<br>Birthday<br>Mae Raudenbush<br>Birthday                      | 24<br>1:00pm In-Person<br>Study And Prayer<br>Group  | 25<br>Conversion Of Paul<br>Week Of Prayer For<br>Christian Unity<br>6:30pm January<br>Book Club   | 26<br>5:30am Free Take<br>Out Only<br>Community Meal,<br>Trinity United<br>Methodist Church,<br>Denver - 5:30-6:30<br>PM                     | 27<br>Pastor Marissa's Day<br>Off  | 28<br>8:00am Pastor's<br>Porch - Landis<br>Fellowship<br>Church, Hill Road,<br>Lancaster<br>8:00am Welcoming<br>Memorial Garden |
| 29 | Adult Education About Lutheranism<br>Fourth Sunday After Epiphany<br>9:00am Kid's Church<br>9:00am Live Stream and In-Person<br>Worship Service   | 30   | 31<br>6:00pm Pack Bags<br>For Peter's Porch<br>Group | 1<br>Black History Month<br>Community Meeting<br>Services Young At<br>Heart For 60 And<br>Up, Adamstown<br>Area Library, 110<br>West Main Street,<br>Adamstown<br>6:30pm<br>Council Meeting  | 2<br>Presentation Of Our<br>Lord   | 3<br>Ethel Farrow<br>Birthday<br>Pastor Marissa's Day<br>Off<br>3:00pm REAL Life<br>First Friday Food<br>Pantry, Call 717-<br>336-2849<br>Denver | 4<br>8:00am Pastor's<br>Porch - Faith<br>United   |
| 5  | Adult Education About Lutheranism<br>Fifth Sunday After Epiphany<br>9:00am Kid's Church<br>9:00am Live Stream and In-Person<br>Worship Service  | 6  | 7<br>9:00am Cozy<br>Comforters Sewing<br>Group       | 8<br>1:30pm Swamps<br>Lutheran Church,<br>Rathbun's Food<br>Pantry - Call 717-<br>336-2849   | 9  | 10<br>Doris Reincehl<br>Birthday<br>Pastor Marissa's Day<br>Off  | 11<br>7:30am Bible &<br>Breakfast<br>Porch - Lititz<br>Lutheran Church,<br>165 East Front<br>Street, Lititz                     |

## February 2023

**The Upper Room Daily Devotional**  
January – February, 2023

**Christ In Our Home Daily Devotional**  
January, February, March 2023

Also, A Large Print Version is Available

Please call Shirley Sweigart, 717-538-1946 to set up an appointment to pick one up.



## Peter's Porch

Faith United Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
357 Walnut Street  
Denver, PA 17517

**The First Saturday of Each Month**

**January 7, 2023**

**February 4, 2023**

**8:00-10:00 AM**

Please contact Pastor Marissa or Terry Burkholder if you are interested in helping on the first Saturdays of the month.

Bags for Peter's Porch are packed on the last Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM.

## Proverbs Bible Study: Second And Fourth Tuesdays At Noon



Join Pastor Marissa and fellow congregants as we work our way through the wisdom tradition of Proverbs. Meets in-person, or via Zoom:

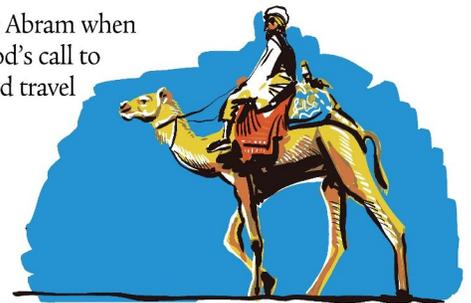
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/411053586>

and follow the prompts. You can also call in by telephone to 1-929-205-6099 and enter our meeting ID: 411 053 586.

## Bible Quiz

How old was Abram when he followed God's call to leave Haran and travel to a new land?

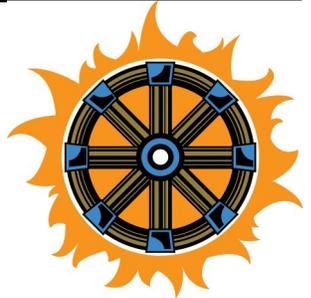
- A. 25
- B. 50
- C. 75
- D. 100



Answer: C (See Genesis 12:4.)

## Christian Symbol

**Wheel:** A rotating wheel symbolizes God's divine force. Wheels with flames shooting out often portray God's throne, based on Ezekiel's vision (see 1:1-18). Some artists also show a burning wheel when God sends Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden.



## Connect With Us On Facebook!

For regular invitation to prayer, devotional reflections, and updates, follow us on Facebook:

@faithunitedelca.

Also, consider joining our Private group: Faith United Lutheran Church Community Building, where we are spending time getting to know one another and check in with each other.

**We'd love to have you join us!**

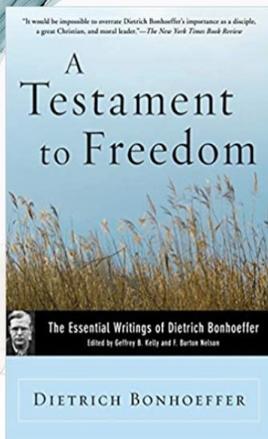
## JANUARY BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, January 25

6:30pm

In-person and online

Join us to finish our conversation and discussion on Dietrich Bonhoeffer!

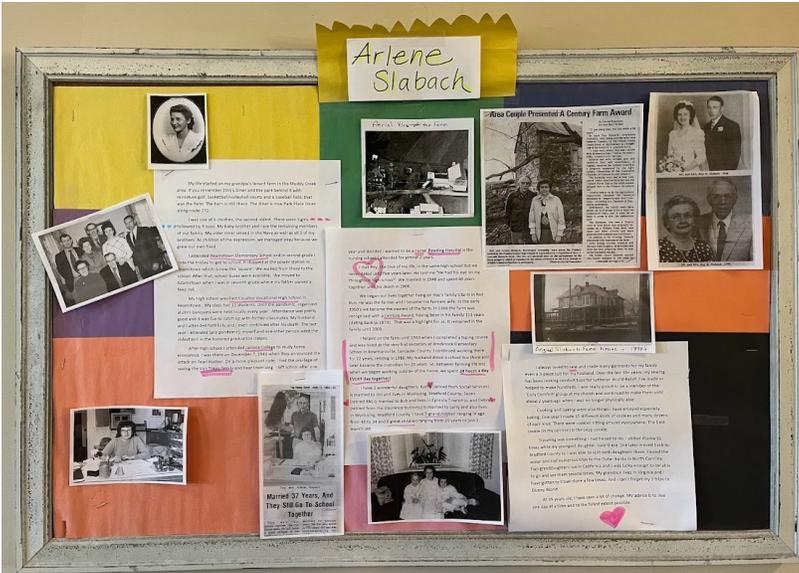


Join Pastor Marissa as she wraps up the discussion on Dietrich Bonhoeffer begun earlier this winter! No new reading for this gathering, and you're welcome to join us even if you missed the first discussion.

# Arlene Slabach's Story

## (Written for Bulletin Board at Maple Farms)

My life started on my grandpa's tenant farm in the Muddy Creek area. If you remember Zinn's Diner and the park behind it with miniature golf, basketball/volleyball courts and a baseball field, that was the farm. The barn is still there. The diner is now Park Place Diner along Route 272.



I was one of six (6) children, the second oldest. There were three (3) girls followed by three (3) boys. My baby brother and I are the remaining members of our family. My older sister served in the Navy as well as all three (3) of my brothers. As children of the depression, we managed okay because we grew our own food.

I attended Reamstown Elementary School and in second grade I rode the trolley to get to school. It stopped at the power station in Reamstown which is now the 'square'. We walked from there to the school. After that, school buses were available. We moved to Adamstown when I was in seventh grade where my father owned a feed mill.

My high school was East Cocalico Vocational High School in Reamstown. My class had 11

students. Until the pandemic, organized alumni banquets were held locally every year. Attendance was pretty good and it was fun to catch up with former classmates. My husband and I attended faithfully and I even continued after his death. The last year I attended (pre-pandemic), myself and one other person were the oldest and in the honored graduation classes.

After high school I attended Juniata College to study Home Economics. I was there on December 7, 1941 when they announced the attack on Pearl Harbor. On a more pleasant note, I had the privilege of seeing the Von Trapp Family and hear them sing. I left school after one year and decided I wanted to be a nurse. Reading Hospital is the nursing school I attended for almost two (2) years.

I met Roy, the love of my life, in the same high school but we never dated until five years later. He told me "He had his eye on me throughout high school". We married in 1946 and spent 60 years together until his death in 2006.

We began our life together living on Roy's family's farm in Red Run. He was the farmer and I became the farmer's wife. In the early 1950s we became the owners of the farm. In 1986 the farm was recognized with a Century Award, having been in his family 111 years (dating back to 1879). That was a highlight for us. It remained in the family until 2008.

I helped on the farm until 1963 when I completed a typing course and was hired as the very first secretary at Brecknock Elementary School in Bowmansville, Lancaster County. I continued working there for 22 years, retiring in 1986. My husband drove a school bus there and later became the custodian for 20 years. So, between farming life and when we began working outside of the home, we spent **24 hours a day EVERY day together!**

I have three (3) wonderful daughters: Kathy (retired from Social Services) is married to Jim and lives in Wyalusing, Bradford County; Susan (retired RN) is married to Bob and lives in Ephrata Township; and Debra (retired from the insurance business) is married to Larry and also lives in Wyalusing, Bradford County. I have five (5) grandchildren ranging in age from 48 to 34 and six (6) great-grandchildren ranging from 22 years to just one (1) month old.

*Continued on Page 11*

Continued from Page 10

I always loved to sew and made many garments for my family, even a 3-piece suit for my husband. Over the last 30+ years, my sewing has been making comforter tops for Lutheran World Relief. I've made or helped to make hundreds. I was really proud to be a member of the 'Cozy Comforter' group at my church and continued to make them until about two (2) years ago when I was no longer physically able.

Cooking and baking were also things I have enjoyed, especially baking. One year I made 11 different kinds of cookies and many dozens of each kind. There were cookies sitting around everywhere. The best cookie (in my opinion) is the Lepp cookie.

Traveling was something I had hoped to do. I visited Alaska 11 times while my youngest daughter lived there. She later moved back to Bradford County so I was able to visit both daughters there. I loved the ocean and had numerous trips to the Outer Banks in North Carolina. Two granddaughters live in California and I was lucky enough to be able to go and see them several times. My grandson lives in Virginia and I have gotten to travel there a few times. And I can't forget my two (2) trips to Disney World.

At 99 years old, I have seen a lot of change. My advice is to live one day at a time and to the fullest extent possible.



We are hosting Kid's Church during 9:00 AM Worship. Children will come up for the Children's Sermon, exit to Kid's Church, and return for Holy Communion.

**We are also looking for volunteers to help lead this session with our kids once every few weeks—the curriculum is prepared for you, with minimal stress and preparation on your part! Please email Pastor Marissa at:**

[pastormbecklin@gmail.com](mailto:pastormbecklin@gmail.com).



Have you been attending Worship with us online, and are looking for more information about joining our community in an official way? Membership is a mutual commitment between you and our congregation to love and support one another on our faith journey. If this interests you, please email Pastor Marissa at:

[pastormbecklin@gmail.com](mailto:pastormbecklin@gmail.com).

## Confirmation for 7th and 8th Graders

Meets after Sunday worship from 10:30am-11:30am in-person on the second and fourth Sundays of each month:

- September 11 (Parents AND Students)
- September 25
- October 9
- October 23: Retreat
- November 13
- November 27
- December 11

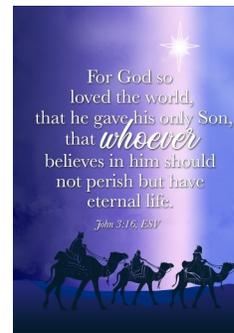
- January 8
- January 22
- February 12
- February 26
- March 12
- March 26
- April 23
- May 14
- May 28




The Cozy Comforters need gently used sheets or fabric to use for their comforters. Please put your donations at the back of the Sanctuary or in the Cozy Comforters Sewing Room.



**Peggy Dewald  
January 4,  
2023**



**Epiphany  
Friday,  
January 6, 2023**

# January Worship

## Baptism Of Our Lord Sunday, January 8, 2023

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29;1-11; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.



## Second Sunday After Epiphany Sunday, January 15, 2023

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40;1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42. Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.



## Third Sunday After Epiphany Sunday, January 22, 2023

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27;1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23. Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be "caught" in the net of God's grace and mercy.



## Fourth Sunday After Epiphany Sunday, January 29, 2023

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15;1-5; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12. Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.



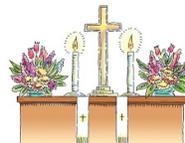
# February Worship

## Fifth Sunday After Epiphany Sunday, February 5, 2023

Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112;1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20. Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.



## 2023 Altar Flower/Bulletin Sponsor Sign-Up



Altar Flowers

The Altar Flower Chart for 2023 is on the board by the Walnut Street entrance. **New Format:** To sponsor flowers, sign your name on the chart; order the flowers from the florist of your choice, pay them and call Jamie Carpenter, 717-286-8821, to arrange to bring them to the Church. You will receive a paper in the mail to fill out with the wording you want in the Church Bulletin. Put it in the mailbox of "Shirley Sweigart" or call the Church Office, 717-336-2141.

The Bulletin Sponsor Chart for 2023 is on the board by the Walnut Street entrance. **Cost is \$25.00 per Sunday.**

**You may call Shirley Sweigart, 717-538-1946 to get your name on either Chart.**



Bulletins

## Committee Contacts

Interested in getting more involved? Contact the following people:

**Finance:** Scott Gola

**Christian Education:** Brian Strohl

**Information Technology (IT):** Deb Demler

**Staff Support:** Brad Fichthorn

**Property:** Jim Kreider

**Worship and Music:** Bruce Carpenter

**Peter's Porch Feeding Ministry:** Terry Burkholder

**Family Ministry and Fellowship:** Terri Kilrain

**Social Ministry/Care Of Members:** Dawn Frees

**Vacation Bible School:** Ellen Houser

# SERVING JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH

| <b>DATE</b>  | <b>LECTOR</b>          | <b>TECHNOLOGY</b> | <b>USHERS</b>                              | <b>OFFERING COUNTERS</b>                                     |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| <b>January 8, 2023</b>                                   | <b>Deb Demler</b>      | <b>Deb Demler</b> | <b>Angela Stewart<br/>Todd Stewart</b>     | <b>Dawn Frees<br/>Craig Stover<br/>Lori Stover</b>           |
| <b>January 15, 2023</b>                                  | <b>Cindy Kauffman</b>  | <b>Deb Demler</b> | <b>Teri Arment<br/>Harold Martzall</b>     | <b>Bruce Carpenter<br/>Jamie Carpenter<br/>Linda Riddell</b> |
| <b>January 22, 2023</b>                                  | <b>Ann Roseboro</b>    | <b>Scott Gola</b> | <b>Cynthia Hegeman<br/>Tim Hegeman</b>     | <b>Tim Hegeman<br/>Robert Gates<br/>Gloria Gates</b>         |
| <b>January 29, 2023</b>                                  | <b>Todd Stewart</b>    | <b>Deb Demler</b> | <b>Jennie Weinhold<br/>Chris Weinhold</b>  | <b>Tim Hegeman<br/>Cynthia Hegeman<br/>Ann Roseboro</b>      |
| <b>February 5, 2023</b>                                  | <b>Boy Scouts</b>      | <b>Scott Gola</b> | <b>Linda Riddell<br/>Jeff Hartman</b>      | <b>Terri Kilrain<br/>Richard Billings<br/>Chris Billings</b> |
| <b>February 12, 2023</b>                                 | <b>Angela Stewart</b>  | <b>Deb Demler</b> | <b>June Wolf<br/>Don Wolf</b>              | <b>Dawn Frees<br/>Craig Stover<br/>Lori Stover</b>           |
| <b>February 19, 2023</b>                                 | <b>Jim Kreider</b>     | <b>Scott Gola</b> | <b>Shirley Ludwig<br/>Bill Ludwig</b>      | <b>Bruce Carpenter<br/>Jamie Carpenter<br/>Linda Riddell</b> |
| <b>February 22, 2023</b><br><small>Ash Wednesday</small> | <b>Lori Stover</b>     | <b>Deb Demler</b> | <b>Terri Kilrain</b>                       |  |
| <b>February 26, 2023</b>                                 | <b>Harold Martzall</b> | <b>Scott Gola</b> | <b>Mary Stewart<br/>Jim Stewart</b>        | <b>Tim Hegeman<br/>Robert Gates<br/>Gloria Gates</b>         |
| <b>Cluster Service</b>                                   |                        |                   | <b>Jamie Carpenter<br/>Bruce Carpenter</b> |  |
| <b>March 5, 2023</b>                                     | <b>Gloria Shober</b>   |                   | <b>Angela Stewart<br/>Todd Stewart</b>     | <b>Terri Kilrain<br/>Richard Billings<br/>Chris Billings</b> |
| <b>March 12, 2023</b>                                    | <b>Scott Gola</b>      |                   | <b>Teri Arment<br/>Harold Martzall</b>     | <b>Dawn Frees<br/>Craig Stover<br/>Lori Stover</b>           |
| <b>March 19, 2023</b>                                    | <b>Deb Demler</b>      |                   | <b>Cynthia Hegeman<br/>Tim Hegeman</b>     | <b>Bruce Carpenter<br/>Jamie Carpenter<br/>Linda Riddell</b> |
| <b>March 26, 2023</b>                                    | <b>Cindy Kauffman</b>  |                   | <b>Jennie Weinhold<br/>Chris Weinhold</b>  | <b>Tim Hegeman<br/>Robert Gates<br/>Gloria Gates</b>         |

**Substitute: Melvin Schmeck, 717-336-5792**

**If you are unable to be present to count the offering, please call Melvin.**



## In Our Prayers

We ask you to daily pray for the following people and those in your life you know that are in need:

### **For Comfort Of The Holy Spirit:**

Peggy Dewald Family  
Tom Nock Family

Ethel Newman Family  
Harriet Garber Family

Bonnie Frey Family  
Donald Gable Family

### **For Healing:**

Ronald Worline  
Deb Anthony  
Matt Donley  
Stanley and Jeannette Uibel  
Eric Frees  
Keiser Family  
Eileen Norton  
Arlo Schmidt  
Dave and Barbara Reager  
Debbie Fischer

Helen Shirk  
John Loeber  
John Luciani  
Troy Wallace  
Roland Gehman  
Julianna Beck  
Lydia Bearinger  
Victor Rodriguez  
Joyce Hahn  
Carl Haberman

Joanne Phillips  
Dave Harnish  
Betty Witmer  
Elsie Becker  
Ben Glacken  
Jared Snyder  
Marlene and Joe Battisti  
Vivien and Rich Moyer  
Patty Lang  
Florida Hurricane Residents

Donna Deibler  
Cindy Kauffman  
Gloria Eitnier  
Patricia Krick  
Beverly Kilmer  
Bernita Wert  
Sandy Madera  
Maggie Carpenter

### **Continuing Concerns**

Audrey Grill, Dorothy Hoyer, Arlene Slabach, Michele Lacy, Caryl Lausch, Traci Krick, Rob and Terri Macker, Lorna Buehl, Ethel Farrow, Ralph Whitcomb, Bill Ludwig, Lillian Troutman, Sue Henkel, Michael and Diane Konopka, Jean Worline, Susan Means, Ethel Farrow, Jack Dewald, Florence Rutt, Susan Hartman, Dave Steiner, Boose Family, Day Fasnacht, John Werner, Reaser Family, Ginger Brubaker, Jim Kelly, Dennis Hill, Janice Houpp, Cathy McQuate, Terry Moyer, Betsy Sensenig, Marie McQuate, Glenn Beard Sr., Martha Sheaffer, Jean Wolf, Donald Ernst, Shirley Leathery, Ginny and Jim Stoltz, Tracy Augustine, Stan Henderson, Jeri Lynn Pickel, Dean Camp, Jed Weidner, Men and Women Serving in our Armed Forces.

## UPDATE: MASKS OPTIONAL



In response to the CDC's newest guidance for Lancaster County, **effective immediately, masks are optional at Faith United.** We give thanks for a low transmission rate in our county and decreased pressure on local hospitals that has made this guidance possible. We will continue to have masks available for those that wish to wear them.



### **Take Out Only Community Meal No Charge**

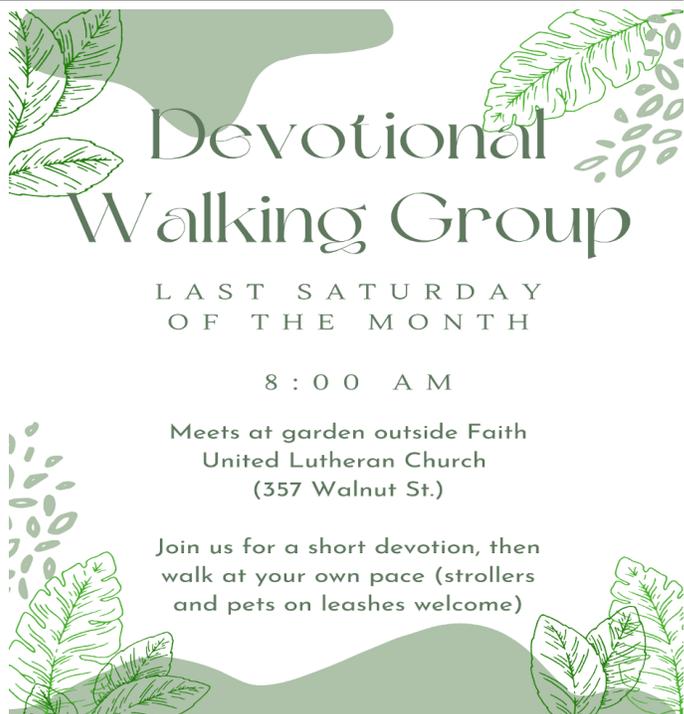
**Thursday, January 12, 2023  
Thursday, January 26, 2023**

**Pre-Order Required by January 6 & 20**

**Pickup Time - 5:30-6:15 PM**

**Trinity United Methodist Church  
420 Main Street, Denver (Rear Entrance)**

**Call 717-336-6748 or  
Email: [swampcf@ptd.net](mailto:swampcf@ptd.net)**



## Devotional Walking Group

LAST SATURDAY  
OF THE MONTH

8:00 AM

Meets at garden outside Faith  
United Lutheran Church  
(357 Walnut St.)

Join us for a short devotion, then  
walk at your own pace (strollers  
and pets on leashes welcome)

COMMUNION  
HOMEBOUND



### **Communion Visits By Request**

Pastor Marissa continues to offer in-home Holy Communion. She'd love to visit with you. To schedule a visit, contact the Church Office by Phone or Email; 717-336-2141; [faithunited@ptd.net](mailto:faithunited@ptd.net).

## The Day After Christmas or Why Is That Mailman So Happy?

T'was the day after Christmas and all through my house,  
 This place is a wreck, and I'm mad at my spouse.  
 The stockings don't hang by the chimney with care,  
 They are now in the cat's litter box behind my chair.  
 The children no longer are snug in their beds,  
 They're driving me and their mother crazy instead.  
 There are boxes and bags and ribbons galore,  
 And small bits of paper all over the floor.  
 Now mom is in the kitchen, something made her a  
 grouch.  
 And I just settled down on the living room couch.  
 When out from the driveway I heard a loud noise.  
 I dashed to the window, tripped over some toys.  
 I drew back the curtain and lifted the sash.  
 There in the driveway lay my new bike broken and  
 smashed.  
 As I closed the window and hurried to the door,  
 I thought to myself, I can't take anymore.  
 The sun was shining bright on the new fallen snow,  
 And the temperature had fallen to ten below.  
 When what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
 But a little white mail truck and bills due next year.  
 With a little old driver looking strange with a grin.  
 On the seat by his side was a half bottle of gin.  
 On the floor by his feet was a six pack of beer,  
 I could tell with one look he had nothing to fear.  
 He was dressed all in blue, and wore a blue hat.  
 There was evidence of lunch on his pant legs and lap.  
 A bundle of bills he had clutched in his hand.  
 I knew at that moment it was pay on demand.  
 From Sears and Roebucks, Costco and Sams,  
 Walmart and Kmart and one from Japan.  
 He spoke not a word but went straight to work.  
 Filled up the mailbox, then turned with a jerk.  
 With his forefinger and thumb he tugged on his chin,  
 Picked up the bottle and drank the rest of the gin.  
 I heard him say as he went on his way,  
 "Hurrah...Hurrah!"  
 My mother-in-law's ten day visit ends today".

*R. Whitcomb*



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

**Wednesday, January 18 through Wednesday, January 25, 2023**



To my Faith United Members that sent Birthday cards to me, I **Thank You** very much. It's nice to know that I have friends that take time to do this for me. *Bill Ludwig*

To The Faith United Lutheran Church Family:

First, my sincerest apologies for the lateness of this note, but I really wanted to do this in person at church. Unfortunately this disease is not only causing its own issues, but also adding to already existing health issues.

I wanted to **Humbly Thank** everyone for all your loving thoughts, prayers and cards. All of which made me cry each time I read one, literally. I recently received four (4) at once and could barely get through the third one. I was crying so much I had to pray to the Lord for more strength to finish because I wasn't sure I could take another card. The Lord did provide that strength and I was able to finish, still very much crying. The feeling of warmth, love, prayers and the Holy Spirit was so overwhelming that I could not help myself.

Again, **Thank You** so very much for your thoughts, prayers and cards. I am truly blessed. May God Bless You All! *Sincerely, Dave Harnish*

**Thank You.** Sometimes life is hard to figure out. Challenges and obstacles arise that were never in our plans. Yet God is always there to take me by the hand and guide me though to the good He has for my life. My faith is very strong. I know that God has my life in His hands and I have accepted His will. I need as many prayers and best wishes to give me strength and courage to bear this unfortunate journey.

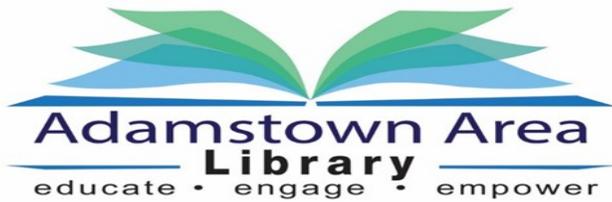
**Thank You** to the FUEL congregation for all your inspiring cards. Your words of encouragement have brightened my day. **Special Thanks** to Pastor Marissa for her calming visits and the peace of mind she has given me. God Bless You and have a joyous holiday. *Donna and Phil Deibler*

**Bible And Breakfast: Saturday, January 14 (Breakfast At 7:30 AM, Bible Study From 8:00-9:00 AM)**



Join Pastor Marissa to read the Epiphany story and learn more about what came after their visit.

Please sign the chart on the cabinet **ONLY** if you are providing a casserole, etc.



## Adamstown Area Library Events

The Adamstown Area Library is a passport office for the United States Department of State. Passports are done by appointment only. Please call 717-484-4200 to make an appointment.

Adamstown Area Library is located at 110 West Main Street in Adamstown, next to the Post Office. Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM, Friday, 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and Saturday, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

**“Budding Bookworms” Preschool Storytime** - Additional times: Every Wednesday at 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Stories and an easy craft for ages 3-6 with adult. January 11, 18, 25.

**Young At Heart** - Wednesday, January 18 from 9:00-11:00 AM. REAL Life Community Services invites you to Young at Heart, with free events for anyone age 60 and up. Join us at the Library for coffee, chatting, games, crafts, and more on the First and Third Wednesday of each month. For more information, call 717-336-7797 or visit REALLCS.org

**“Twinkling Stars” Baby Storytime** - Every Thursday at 10:00 AM. Simple stories, rhymes, puppets, songs, and fingerplays. Bring along your 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten packets to help achieve your goal! For babies with adult. January 12, 19, 26.

**“The Young And The Restless” Toddler Time** - New time! Every Thursday at 11:00 AM. Stories, songs and fingerplays, followed by an easy craft and free play. Bring along your 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten packets to help achieve your goal! For toddlers with adult. January 12, 19, 26.

**Puzzle Palooza** - Every Friday in January from 9:30 AM-1:00 PM. Different puzzles will be on the tables every week. Jigsaw puzzles help develop finger strength, perseverance, and problem-solving skills. Stop in to help your Library friends put one together! For all ages. January 13, 20, 27.

**LEGO Activity Bag Pickup** - Monday, January 9, while supplies last. On the Second Monday of each month there will be a new LEGO® packet for you to pick up, with instructions for a special project. Starting that day, you can pick up a kit in the Library foyer. One (1) per family please. For ages 5-12 years.

**Drop-in STEAM** - Monday, January 9, drop-in from 2:00-5:00 PM for LEGO® Club and winter creations. Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math through games, activities, and projects with Miss Maribeth. An adult is required to accompany children under 8.

**Genealogy Group** - Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30 PM. This group meets once a month for lively discussions, research help or short talks from genealogy researcher Ken McCrea. Join others with an interest in researching family history and learn more about online resources for genealogy research. For adults and older students.

**Daytime Discoverers: 4-H And Clover Buds At The Library** - Thursday, January 12 at 1:00 PM. Are you doing “at-home” learning? We have had requests to host some daytime programs and we aim to please. Join Miss Jess for exciting and educational programs on the Second Thursday of the month. Future event locations will vary. For families.

**How To Make A Macramé Plant Hanger** - Thursday, January 12 at 3:00 PM. A macramé plant hanger is a simple project you can make to decorate your space. In this free workshop, learn how to make your own. All supplies and instruction will be provided. For adults and older teens. Registration is requested.

**Teen Take And Make Packet Pickup (Beaded Snowflake Ornament)** - Monday, January 16, while supplies last. Get creative with our ready-to-go kits! Check here each month to see what you can learn to make with just a few simple materials, provided to you at no cost, and a few easy instructions. Supplies are limited, so stop by to claim your bag today!

**Monday Marathon Reading Of Harry Potter And The Sorcerer’s Stone** - Monday, January 16. Drop in from 11:00 AM-5:00 PM. Join us in front of the warm and cozy fireplace as we encourage a love of reading. Snacks provided. All ages welcome.

**Almost Perfect Crimes** - Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Join Miss Jess as we discover together “Whodunit!” Upon registration, you will receive the Zoom link and the Mini Murder Mystery Story. Additional clues and evidence will be revealed during our meeting as we try to solve the crime together. For ages teen/adult due to some graphic content.

**Stuffed Animal Sleepover** - On Friday, January 20 your stuffed friends will dance, party and rock the night away! Pictures of their crazy antics will be posted on Facebook for you to enjoy. You can drop them off at the Library any day that week—January 16-20 and pick them up on Saturday, January 21, or the following week.

**Animals In Winter** - Monday, January 23 at 3:00 PM. Learn about the behaviors of the animals that stay active to survive the winter. Explore the life cycle of the hibernators and the ones that migrate south to avoid the cold. Take a hands-on look at furs and other unique features that help them get through winter. Presented by Lancaster County Parks and Recreation Department For Families.

**Block Party** - Monday, January 30 from 10:00-11:00 AM. This is a free play session with blocks, vehicles, people, animals, and more. Children will have the opportunity to build, experiment, manipulate objects, work with others, count, measure, and build vocabulary. For ages 2 and up.

**Winter Reading Bingo** - Through January 31. For readers 18 and older. Pick up a Bingo card at the Library, cozy up with books this winter, and enter to win a beautiful winter prize basket.

**Brighten Someone’s Day Packets** - January 1-March 31. Please help us encourage belonging and inclusion to our communities’ senior residents! Pick up a packet, bring out your artistic side and return beautiful colored pictures to the Library so we can pass them along to our valued friends. All ages.

*Continued on Page 17*

Continued from Page 16

**MJWK (Miss Jess Wants To Know)** - All January. Teens, we want your opinion! Stop in the Young Adult and Teen Graphic Novel Book Section of the Library for the question of the month! With this simple voting passive program, teens can vote with a sticker dot to select their favorite. Results will be posted on our Facebook page at the end of the month. This month is "Social Media Showdown".

**Story Challenge** - All January. Read the story on the window next to the wheelchair ramp. Tell the circulation desk staff the answer to the question for a prize.

**Transportation I SPY Window Game** - Stop in at the Library to "spy with your little eye" all the fun things on the window. List of items changes weekly. When you finish, come inside to receive your congratulatory sticker.

## Christmas Season

Christmas is a special time,  
To celebrate the birthday of our Lord.  
He's a very precious gift from God.  
Given to save this troubled world.

Christmas is the best of holidays  
With its goodwill, its joy and songs.  
With gifts beneath a lighted tree,  
And sin and malice does not belong.

On New's Year's Day we bid the old goodbye,  
And look forward to times unclear,  
Recalling the good, forgetting the bad  
And hope for a promising year.

So let us all be thankful,  
For what the Christmas season brings.  
It will bring new life of every kind,  
When winter gives way to spring.

R. Whitcomb

## Wisdom From MLK



I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love.

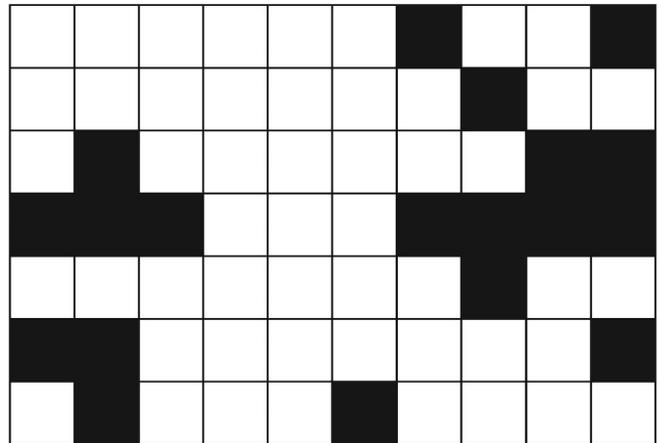
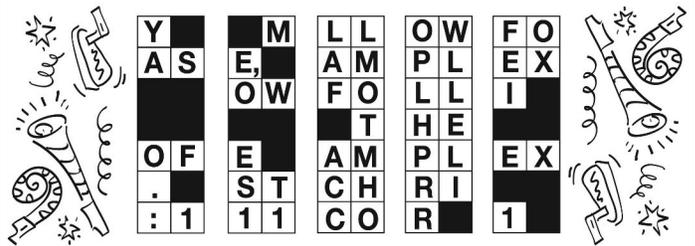
—Martin Luther King Jr.

## Serving Schedule January, February

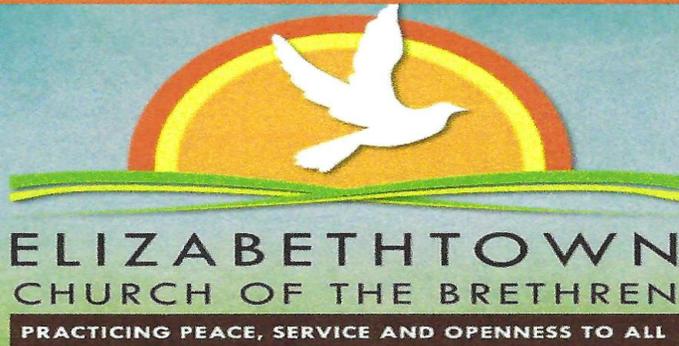
| Date              | Acolyte         | Communion Bread | Altar Committee                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| January 8, 2023   |                 | Lori Wise       | Karlene Cook<br>Doris Reinoehl  |
| January 15, 2023  |                 | Cynthia Hegeman | Karlene Cook<br>Doris Reinoehl  |
| January 22, 2023  |                 | Ann Roseboro    | Lori Stover<br>Ann Roseboro     |
| January 29, 2023  |                 | Mary Stewart    | Lori Stover<br>Ann Roseboro     |
| February 5, 2023  | Lily Arment     |                 | Mary Stewart<br>Joanne Phillips |
| February 12, 2023 | Aaron Wolf      |                 | Mary Stewart<br>Joanne Phillips |
| February 19, 2023 | Kyra Arment     |                 | Janet Hirneisen<br>Dawn Frees   |
| February 26, 2023 | Jackson Leshner | Dawn Frees      | Janet Hirneisen<br>Dawn Frees   |

# Puzzle!

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to complete an NIV Bible verse about an important commitment.



Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1



## The Perils of Christian Nationalism

“Our Christian faith is too expansive to be defined by any national identity—even a nation as beloved as America— and our embrace of American values of equality and inclusion are too profound to privilege any religion, even one as beloved as Christianity.”

— Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate, Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District of the AME Zion Church

“Christian nationalism is the single biggest threat to religious freedom in America.”

— Amanda Tyler, Executive Director, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Freedom

### America’s Promise: Freedom of Religion

The founders ensured our freedom of religion in the First Amendment of the Constitution. They declared that our government cannot establish a religion, and that every religion can be freely exercised (practiced). The First Amendment says that all religions are equal; the government has no favorites. Regardless of where people worship—in a cathedral, mosque, synagogue, church or temple—all religions enjoy the same status and protection in the eyes of the government.

**Christian Nationalism** is a movement whose followers advocate a particular brand of Christianity, which they believe is superior to other religions.

### Key Beliefs of Christian Nationalists

- America is God’s chosen nation.
- America was established as a Christian nation.
- Christianity is woven into the fabric of America.
- Governments should make laws to keep America Christian.
- Christianity should be privileged above other religions.
- Christian symbols should be dominant in public places.

A small minority of Christians, mostly white, hold these beliefs. Some of them decry the waning influence of their views of Christianity in American life and what they see as the increasing persecution of Christians. And some fear being outnumbered by non-white people. Christian nationalism gives extremist groups a license for bigotry and violence. Some politicians exploit its sentiments for political gain. And for others, it is a strong heartfelt conviction.

### Transforming and Fighting

Christian nationalists want to transform society by infusing their values and policies into all levels of government. This vision energizes some politicians, who believe they are called—even anointed by God—to promote Christian nationalism. They say that the separation of church and state is an old myth. In their mind, church and state blend together.

Christian nationalists have a crusading mentality. Believing that God is by their side, they feel empowered to fight a cosmic battle between Good and Evil. This sense of Christian superiority may incite some to use violence in the name of God.

### Christian Nationalism Threatens Religious Freedom by

- Eroding the principle of the separation of church and state.
- Defying the First Amendment (establishment and free exercise clauses).
- Treating non-Christian religions and their members as second-class.
- Restricting the rights of non-Christian religions.
- Threatening to impose Christian nationalist policies on all U.S. citizens.
- Overturning America’s promise of religious pluralism, justice, and equality.

### Which Jesus?

Christian nationalists prize power, domination, and exclusion. Their American-made Jesus is militant, hard nosed, and domineering. He’s a Jesus who carries a sword and attacks his foes. This movement distorts the biblical Jesus and flips the core values of Christian faith upside down. The Jesus of the Gospels rejected nationalism. He refused to retaliate when beaten and nailed to a cross. He preached love for enemies. He blessed peacemakers and urged his followers to love their neighbors as their selves. He emphatically replaced domination with service to others. Jesus invited everyone to the table: Jews and non-Jews, prostitutes and tax collectors, outcasts and religious leaders. All were welcome. Jesus established a global kingdom that goes beyond national boundaries. The God of Jesus has no favorite nation. His sun shines on the evil and the good; his rain falls on the just and unjust. So to whom do we pledge our allegiance? To the “Jesus” of Christian nationalism, or the Jesus of the Gospels?

### Protecting America’s Promise

The cost of silence compels us to speak out. We deplore Christian nationalism. Our understanding of Jesus calls us to stand strong for the country we love and for the faith we cherish. We applaud America’s promise to protect religious freedom—so that every faith is treated with dignity and equality.

Sponsored by the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren <https://www.etowncob.org>,  
adopted by the congregation on October 9, 2022.

Endorsed and supported by Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness <https://lancasterinterchurchpeacewitness.org>.

Resources:  
Statement by prominent national evangelical leaders: “Say ‘No’ to Christian Nationalism”  
Statement by Christians Against Christian Nationalism: Christians Against Christian Nationalism statement  
Lecture by Professor Greg Carey, Lancaster Theological Seminary: “The Dangers of Christian Nationalism”



# KID'S PAGE

## TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

### What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:
  - Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
  - Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
  - Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
  - Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
  - Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
  - Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.
3. Share the Creation story — and the snack — with a friend!



## Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

*Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.*

**FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH**

- God made wild animals and livestock. ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God said, "Let there be light." \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
- God gathered the waters under the sky into one place. \_ ○ \_ \_ \_
- God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky." \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
- God created plants and trees. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
- God separated the light from the darkness. \_ ○ \_ \_ \_
- God made the water teem with living creatures. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God made the sun and moon. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
- God made birds fly above the earth. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God made stars. \_ ○ \_ \_ \_
- God created mankind in his own image. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

God \_aw all tha \_ he \_ad ma \_e, an \_ \_t was ve \_y g \_od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answer: sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fourth, fifth, fourth, sixth, God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

**Hospice & Community Care and the Pathways Center for Grief & Loss are offering the following programs.**

**As we are taking all necessary precautions for the health and safety of our patients and families, staff, volunteers and visitors related to the Coronavirus outbreak, our support group will be held In-Person and via**

**Zoom. Call the Pathways Center at (717) 391-2413 or (800) 924-7610 to receive Zoom credentials.**

### **ADULT DROP-IN GROUPS**

These free meetings, held online via Zoom and In-Person, include a presentation and an informal time to talk with others. Call the Pathways Center at (717) 391-2413 or (800) 924-7610 to discuss with a bereavement counselor who will also provide the log-in information.

**Coping With The Loss Of A Child (Of Any Age):** Monday, January 16, 6:30-8:00 PM, In-Person at Pathways Center For Grief & Loss, 4075 Old Harrisburg Pike, Mount Joy. Groups are led by Master's-level counselors and volunteers who have experienced the same type of loss. They provide time to share experiences and ask questions. Groups are designed for those within the first two years following the death of a loved one. Call to register. **Registration deadline is one week prior to the group.**

**Coping With The Loss Of A Spouse Or Companion:** Tuesday, January 10, 6:30-8:00 PM; Tuesday, January 24, 2:00-3:30 PM, In-Person at Pathways Center For Grief & Loss, 4075 Old Harrisburg Pike, Mount Joy. Wednesday, February 1, 6:30-8:00 PM, Via Zoom. Groups are led by Master's-level counselors and volunteers who have experienced the same type of loss. They provide time to share experiences and ask questions. Groups are designed for those within the first two years following the death of a loved one. Call to register. **Registration deadline is one week prior to the group.**

**Coping With The Loss Of A Parent Or Sibling:** Tuesday, February 7, 6:30-8:00 PM, Via Zoom. Groups are led by Master's-level counselors and volunteers who have experienced the same type of loss. They provide time to share experiences and ask questions. Groups are designed for those within the first two years following the death of a loved one. Call to register. **Registration deadline is one week prior to the group.**

**Newly Bereaved Program (3 Week Series):** Wednesdays, January 11, 18, 25, 2:00-3:30 PM, In-Person at Pathways Center For Grief & Loss, 4075 Old Harrisburg Pike, Mount Joy. Wednesdays, February 8, 15, 22, 6:30-8:00 PM, Via Zoom. If your loss was recent, this series provides an overview of common grief responses and will help you to begin to identify coping tools. Space is limited; registration required. Call to discuss with a bereavement counselor to determine if the group will meet your needs. **Registration deadline: one week prior to the start of the group.**

**Mindful & Grief: Practical Tools For Living (4 Week Series):** Tuesday, February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2:00-3:30 PM, In-Person at Pathways Center For Grief & Loss, 4075 Old Harrisburg Pike, Mount Joy. This series will address the benefits of practicing mindfulness as a tool for being present with your grief and improving your overall well-being. Marygrace Lomboy, CRNP, Hospice & Community Care, will provide several forms of mindfulness to practice each week and help you connect mindfulness tools to common grief reactions. Space is limited; registration required. Call to discuss with a bereavement counselor to determine if the group will meet your needs. **Registration deadline: January 26.**

**GRASP (Grief Recovery After A Substance Passing):** Tuesday, January 16, 6:30-8:00 PM, In-Person at Pathways Center For Grief & Loss, 4075 Old Harrisburg Pike, Mount Joy. This monthly group provides sources of help, compassion, and understanding for families or individuals who have had a loved one die as a result of substance abuse or addiction. Pre-registration for new attendees is required. For more information about location or Zoom details, or to register, contact Marjorie Paradise at mparadise810@comcast.net or (717) 951-2720.

**Bereavement Workshop: What Now? Post-Holiday Survival Tips:** Virtually Via Zoom, Thursday, January 26, 6:30-8:00 PM. **Registration deadline: January 24.** Many grieving individuals find themselves wanting to just "get through" the holidays as quickly as possible, aware of the many triggers that can accompany the holiday season. When the new year arrives and there is less to do, people may be surprised that they feel "let down" and a bit lost. This workshop will provide helpful tips for coping with your loss during those long winter months. To register, visit [pathways.hccnet.org/groups](http://pathways.hccnet.org/groups) or call the Pathways Center.

**Support For Caregivers:** If you are caring for a loved one, who is caring for you? Hospice & Community Care offers an online support group for caregivers of a loved one who is seriously ill. This group offers a place to share your experience with others who may understand. Offered the third Thursday of every month, 6:30-8:00 PM, the sessions are facilitated by a Master's-level counselor and a trained volunteer who has been a caregiver. To receive the link to participate in this free virtual opportunity, call (717) 391-2413 to speak with a counselor.

**Individual Grief Support:** The Pathways Center offers individual grief consultation for adults, children, teens and families. In-person support sessions are provided in Mount Joy and York, while adhering to the Center for Disease Control's recommended guidelines. Individual sessions by phone or online via Zoom are also an option. Counselors are available any time Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM. Evening appointments may sometimes be available. Call the Pathways Center, (717) 391-2413, for more information or to set up an appointment.

**Social Dine-Out Options:** Do you feel as though the opportunities to socialize have changed after the death of your loved one? Does it seem as though the only people who truly understand what you are going through are others who are also grieving? The Pathways Center offers a variety of social options to choose from. Each participant pays for their own meal. These gatherings are facilitated by trained bereavement volunteers who have also experienced loss in the past.

**Ladies Lunch: Wednesday, January 25, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, Loxley's Restaurant, 500 Centerville Road, Lancaster.** RSVP to Marie Roach at 717-823-9889 (text or telephone) by noon the day before the event.

**Dinner Out (For Men And Women): Saturday, January 14, 2:00 PM, Silver Spring Family Restaurant, 3653 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster.** RSVP to Connie Whitacre at 717-577-1138 or [pathways@hospicecommunity.org](mailto:pathways@hospicecommunity.org) at least three days prior to the event.

# Community Events

REAL LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES INVITES YOU TO



## YOUNG AT HEART

FREE EVENTS FOR ANYONE AGE 60 AND UP  
COFFEE, CHATTING, CRAFTS, GAMES AND MORE!

**1st & 3rd Wednesday Mornings**  
**8:30am – 11:00am**

Adamstown Area Library  
110 West Main Street Adamstown, PA 19501

For more information or to RSVP call 717-336-7797  
or visit our website at REALCS.ORG.



## First Friday Food Drive

On the 1st Friday of each month  
Between 3pm - 5pm  
Drop off items at Warehouse 916

### PLEASE NOTE:

All unexpired, unopened, nonperishable food donations are accepted. We list the items we REALLY need on our website each month and on Facebook. Thank you! For more information or questions, contact our office at 717-336-7797.

REINHOLDS, ADAMSTOWN AND SURROUNDING COCALICO AREA

## FOOD PANTRY

EASS has a satellite location at  
**Swamp Lutheran Church**

every 2nd Wednesday of the month  
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Call 717.733.0345 or 717.336.2849  
to let us know you are coming



Join us at Peter's Porch!



- 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month, 8:00 - 10:00am  
Faith United Lutheran Church  
357 Walnut Street  
Denver, PA 17543  
717.336.2141  
www.FaithUnited-elca.org
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, 8:00 - 10:00am  
Lititz Mennonite Church  
165 East Front Street  
Lititz, PA 17543  
717.626.8327  
www.LititzMC.org
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, 8:00 - 10:00am  
Zion Lutheran Church  
435 Main Street  
Akron, PA 17543  
717.859.2100  
www.ZionAkron.org
- 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday (STARTING 7/28/18), 8:00 - 10:00am  
Landis Valley Christian Fellowship Church  
2420 Kissel Hill Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
717.569.6051  
www.LandisValleyFellowship.org

Providing a free breakfast and a bag of food for our neighbors  
There is donated clothing at Lititz and Akron Peter Porches

Are you at risk of being evicted or having your utilities shut off?

ERAP Can Help!

### The Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Eligibility is determined by:

- Income
- Covid-19 Experience
- Must a renter of a home or lot

For more details and to receive help, contact:

**Ephrata Area Social Services**  
By Appointment b/x Mon-Fri, 9—4  
717-733-0345 Or...

**Northern Lancaster Hub**  
By Appointment  
717-723-8258

Or visit:  
[www.LancasterHelp.rent](http://www.LancasterHelp.rent)

For those who do not qualify for ERAP, please reach out for help anyway before the situation becomes a crisis.



Swamp Lutheran Church

**Denver Women's Club Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**  
**7:00 PM**

### Minute To Win It! Fun Night

A fun night with games, prizes, and lots of laughs!

**Faith United Fellowship Hall**  
**Everyone Welcome**

Introducing a new place in Northern Lancaster County for those experiencing homelessness



Open every Wednesday and Thursday from 8AM - 1PM starting April 7 at the Community Commons - side entrance 560 South Reading Rd. Ephrata, PA, 17522



**FAITH UNITED EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**357 WALNUT STREET**  
**P O BOX 157**  
**DENVER PA 17517-0157**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**IN THIS ISSUE**

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Elevator Update, Fully Funded.....   | 1     |
| Annual Contribution Statements.....  | 1     |
| Church Office Closed.....  | 1     |
| Pastor Marissa's Information.....  | 1     |
| February Book Club.....  | 1     |
| Undecorate The Sanctuary.....  | 1     |
| February 2023 Newsletter Article Deadline.....   | 1     |
| 2023 Offering Envelopes.....   | 2     |
| Newsletter Update.....   | 2     |
| Wanted.....  | 2     |
| Church Office Requests.....  | 2     |
| Stewardship Opportunities.....   | 2     |
| Email Address Updates.....   | 2     |
| Photo Use Practice.....  | 2     |
| Staff.....   | 2     |
| From Pastor Marissa Becklin: <i>Baptism Of Our Lord</i> .....  | 3-4   |
| Congregation Council: <i>December 7, 2022 Minutes</i> .....  | 5     |
| Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes.....   | 5     |
| Congregation Council Meeting.....  | 5     |
| Congregation Council.....  | 5     |
| Adult Education About Lutheranism After Worship.....   | 5     |
| January Birthdays/Anniversary.....   | 6     |
| February Birthdays.....  | 6     |
| 80+ January/February Birthdays.....  | 6     |
| Communion Bread.....   | 6     |
| January/February Food Collection.....  | 6     |
| Coffee And Conversation.....   | 6     |
| Church Cookbooks.....  | 6     |
| Needing Tech Helpers On Sunday Mornings.....   | 6     |
| Home Blessings For Epiphany.....   | 6     |
| Church Office Hours.....   | 6     |
| What's Happening At Faith United? <i>Cozy Comforters Donation, Sunset Photo, Prayer Candles, Christmas Eve</i> .....   | 7     |
| Follow Us On Instagram.....  | 7     |
| January/February Calendar Of Events.....   | 8     |
| <i>The Upper Room And Christ In Our Home</i> Daily Devotionals.....  | 9     |
| Peter's Porch: <i>Dates, Volunteering</i> .....  | 9     |
| January Book Club.....   | 9     |
| Proverbs Bible Study.....  | 9     |
| Bible Quiz.....  | 9     |
| Christian Symbol.....  | 9     |
| Connect With Us On Facebook.....   | 9     |
| Arlene Slabach's Story.....  | 10-11 |
| Kid's Church.....  | 11    |
| Become Part Of Our Church Family.....  | 11    |
| In Loving Memory: <i>Peggy Dewald</i> .....  | 11    |
| Confirmation For 7 <sup>th</sup> And 8 <sup>th</sup> Graders.....  | 11    |
| Cozy Comforters Looking For Gently Used Fabric.....  | 11    |
| Epiphany.....  | 11    |
| January/February Worship.....  | 12    |
| Altar Flower/Bulletin Sponsor Sign-Up.....   | 12    |
| Committee Contacts.....  | 12    |
| Serving In January, February And March.....  | 13    |
| In Our Prayers.....  | 14    |
| Update: Masks Optional.....  | 14    |
| Free Take Out Only Community Meal.....   | 14    |
| Devotional Walking Group.....  | 14    |
| Communion Visits By Request.....   | 14    |
| The Day After Christmas Poem.....  | 15    |
| Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity.....  | 15    |
| Thank You.....   | 15    |
| January Bible And Breakfast.....   | 15    |
| Adamstown Area Library Events.....   | 16-17 |
| Wisdom From MLK.....   | 17    |
| Serving Schedule - January, February: <i>Acolyte, Communion Bread, Altar Committee</i> .....   | 17    |
| Christmas Season Poem.....   | 17    |
| Puzzle.....  | 17    |
| <i>The Perils Of Christian Nationalism</i> .....   | 18    |
| Kid's Page: <i>Tasty Creations, Ordering The Days Puzzle</i> .....   | 19    |
| Hospice & Community Care And Pathways Center For Grief & Loss Programs.....  | 20    |
| Community Events: <i>REAL Life Young At Heart Event, Peter's Porches, The Hive, Emergency Rental Assistance Program, REAL Life First Friday Food Drive, Swamp Lutheran Church Food Pantry, Denver Women's Club Meeting</i> ..... | 21    |