



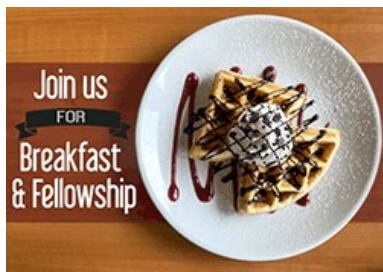
News from Christ Community
United Methodist Church
3939 Park Road, Selinsgrove, PA 17870

DECEMBER 2025



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Join us for worship on Christmas Eve as we celebrate Christ's birth! We will have one service at 6:30pm this year on December 24th. Worship includes Carols, Scripture, Message and the Lighting of Candles. The nursery will be available, but not staffed.



Church Christmas Breakfast

The C.O.O.L. Family Ministry invites you to our Church-wide Christmas Breakfast on December 21st right after 1st service (around 9:30am). We will be providing the bacon and drinks. We are asking that you bring your favorite breakfast casserole or something to complement the meat. We will have food available until 10:30am and people in the kitchen to heat your casseroles that morning. We hope all of you are as excited as we are about the fellowship meal!



The AWANA children have made decorations for their tree at the Selinsgrove Library's "Festival of Trees." Their decorations coincide with the book "How to Eat a Cupcake." You can view their tree during Library hours starting Nov. 24th through January 3rd.



Christmas Card Exchange

The Christian Classics invite you to give Christmas Wishes to fellow church friends starting December 1st. The drop off process is still being determined and we will keep you updated via the bulletin. Please check for cards given to you and pick them up every week. We ask that all cards be picked up by December 31st.

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Shafer
email: eshafer@susumc.org
Phone: (814) 222-7207

Director of Congregational Care: Andy Bucke
email: abucke@susumc.org

Church email: ccumc@ptd.net
Church phone number: 570-743-7303
Web page: ccumchurchselinsgrove.org



A Time to Stop and Wait

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”
~ Matthew 1:23

Our 5th grandchild was born on October 6. Elodie Marie, 8 pounds 1 ounce, 19.5 inches long. We were so excited to meet her! On a Sunday afternoon we rushed through lunch, loaded our bags in the car and made the 3 ½ hour drive to see this beautiful little girl.

She was even more beautiful in person! On the last day of our visit, we were trying really hard to get a nice family picture. Our son was trying to balance the camera on the windowsill and set the timer while we were herding all the kids onto the couch and onto laps and trying to fit everyone in the picture, and Elodie was not happy. She cried through the whole ordeal, probably feeling the stress of all the activity and movement and noise around her.

Once it was over, the crying baby became my responsibility. I was using everything I knew to comfort her. I was bouncing and swaying and singing, but nothing was working. As she moved from crying to hyperventilating, I tried one more thing, more out of surrender than brilliance. I stopped. I stopped bouncing. I stopped swaying. I stopped singing. I stopped everything... and just held her. It was almost instantaneous. She stopped crying, gave me one last look, closed her eyes and fell asleep.

Advent is supposed to be like that. It's supposed to be a time of stopping. Unfortunately, it can be a time of overwhelming activity, stress and noise that overruns any sense of the sacred our hearts long for. Advent invites us to stop, take a moment and breathe deeply. We have arrived once more at the beginning of the Christian story. A time of waiting and setting apart time from the busy-ness of the season for connection with the One who has come in the past, will come in the future, and comes into our present.

God is already holding us. This is a time to realize it and lean into the hope, peace, joy and love that comes in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Emmanuel.

“O come, let us adore Him.”

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Eric

December at Christ Community



8:30am First Service
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Second Service



Christ's Prayer Pantry

The next Free Food Drive Thru will take place on
Saturday, December 20th,
from 10-11am.



Pop Up Seasonal Table

The Pop Up Seasonal Table in the Fellowship Hall will raise money for our yard sale advertising in January 2026. Check out the Christmas and Winter items for purchase.

MEETINGS

December

1st - United Women in Faith, 7:00pm



EVENTS

December

1st - Advent Study begins, 6:00pm
6th - Parent's Night Out, 6:00pm
7th - Christmas Caroling, 3:00pm
7th - Pizza/Movie Night, 5:00pm
11th - Christian Classics Christmas Party,
Silver Moon Banquet Hall, 12:30pm
12th - United Women making Fruit Baskets, 10am
13th - CLA Christmas Show-Leave church
parking lot at 11:45am
17th - Mission Central Work & Holiday Party,
Leave church parking lot at 8:15am
20th - Free Food Drive Thru, 10:00am
21st - Church Christmas Breakfast, 9:30am
24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6:30pm



The Church Office will be closed on
December 25th & 26th for the
Christmas Holiday.



United Women in Faith

Everyone is invited to the December 1st United Women in Faith gathering at 7:00pm. The program will be Pastor Eric & Robin sharing and leading Christmas Carols. A ladies meeting will follow.



Parent's Night Out

A Parent's Night Out is taking place on Saturday, December 6th, at 6:00pm. This is open to all children ages 3-4 (who are potty trained) through 12th grade. Drop off your kids at the church for a fun-filled evening while you run errands, have a quiet meal together or go Christmas shopping. Please register by 11/29.

You may call Priscilla Werner or sign up online. Informational flyers are at the Welcome Center Desk.



United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith will be packing fruit baskets on Friday, December 12th, at 10:00am for shut-ins. We are taking donations of packaged cookies, candy or crackers. Please place donations in the kitchen and mark them for the Fruit Baskets by December 11th. We will accept monetary donations for fruit which can be given to any member. If you can help pack or deliver baskets, please contact Jill Nace at 570-988-1781.



Pastor's Christmas Gift

This year we will be accepting monetary donations as a "Christmas Love Offering" for Pastor Eric. Anyone choosing to contribute to this congregational gift is asked to clearly mark your regular offering envelope (designating the amount of the gift) OR place your gift in a separate envelope that will be provided at the sanctuary entrance. Gifts can also be dropped off at the church office window throughout the week during regular hours. **Gifts will be accepted through Sunday, December 21st.**



Christian Classics Christmas Luncheon

The Christian Classics Christmas Party Luncheon will be held at the Silver Moon Banquet Hall and will take place at 12:30pm on Thursday, December 11th.



Mission Central Sojourners

The next Mission Central Sojourners Trip is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17th. We will vanpool from the church parking lot at 8:15am and return by 3:30pm. We will enjoy a Work & Holiday Pizza Party with the Mission Central Staff. Sign up on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.



Christ's Prayer Pantry ministry would like to thank all those who made food and monetary donations for the Thanksgiving holiday. GOD IS GOOD! Your donations were received very gratefully by families-big smiles and some clapping included!

The need continues. With Christmas just around the corner, and winter bills going up, we can make a difference. Our next food distribution is Saturday, December 20th, from 10-11AM. If you are able, boxed cereal is a big need, as well as peanut butter, pasta, rice and canned soups. Giant Foods has small 1.5 lb pre-sliced hams that will help feed a small family for about \$7 each. Please make sure any fresh, frozen or refrigerated donations are stored appropriately. Only canned, boxed and dried goods should be deposited in the collection carts.

God bless you and thank you all, from the bottom of our hearts!

Christ's Prayer Pantry volunteers

Blizzard of A Yard Sale



Friday and Saturday, January 30 and 31, 2026

Our now Annual Churchwide Yard Sale

Mark your calendars to reserve the date!

Organizing and Pricing Helpers are Needed Tuesday & Thursday
Mornings from 10:00am to Noon - Please sign up on Church Bulletin Board
January 15th, 2026 will be the cut-off for donations. We Thank You!

Children & Youth Moments

Hello Church Family,

Happy December! I would like to thank everyone who donated candy and volunteered to help with our Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat. This year we had a s'mores station that was enjoyed by all. We saw a lot of great costumes and the kids were smiling and having fun.

Our next event is coming up on December 6th. We will have a Parent's Night Out. This event is open to all children ages 3-4 (who are potty trained) through 12th grade. Drop off your kids at the church for a fun-filled evening. A sign up sheet is posted for volunteer help. We are blessed to have such wonderful volunteers! We have a new Sunday School room and welcome all children from kindergarten to 5th grade.

God Bless You, Priscilla Werner

In an effort to have updated information in our newsletter, we are redoing the birthday & anniversary lists.

If you don't see your name and would like it added, please contact the church office by phone or email.

December Birthdays



01 Lorraine Hottenfeller	17 Bill Dalius Sr.
04 Denise Rachau	21 Virginia Host
05 Debra Shuck	22 Joe Wagner
07 Sandra Deppen	24 Morgan Doyle
08 Jaxon John	24 Chet Telatovich
09 Rusty Moerschbacher	31 Gage John
11 Teresa Heim	
14 Gavin Carroll	
14 Scott Nace	
16 Chuck Lilley	

December Anniversaries



18/1993	Scott & LeeAnn White
19/1964	Ralph & Dottie Weiser
21/2024	Joe & Gina Wagner
29/1957	Gloria & Bill Dalius Sr.



"I call to you in times of trouble, because you answer my prayers." ~Psalm 86:7

If you have a prayer request, call Delores Kauffman (570)743-8322, Barb Inch (570)837-5384 or the church office (570)743-7303.

Please remember our shut-in members with a visit, phone call, or "Thinking of You" card to let them know that we miss them. If we have missed anyone on this list, please call the church office.



St. Martha Center - 470 Manor Avenue, Downingtown, PA 19335

Alice Zeeger, Room 102A

Richfield Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center - 631 Main Street, Richfield, PA 17086
Virginia Host, Room 10

Heather Court at Nottingham Village
281 Ironstone Drive, Northumberland, PA 17857
Peg Sowers, No room number is needed

The Manor at Penn Village - 51 Rte. 204, Selinsgrove PA 17870

Margaret Wendt, Room 307



Paul Aungst, Box 42, Hummels Wharf, PA 17831

WAITING HERE FOR YOU

... An Advent Journey of Hope by Louie Giglio

A season overflowing with anticipation. Christmas comes the same time each year with great hope and promise of a baby born long ago. But this season meant for joy, is often consumed by busyness, pressure, mixed emotions, and is gone as quickly as it came.

What is it all for?

In this four session study, we are reminded that it is in the richness of Advent – a season of expected waiting and preparation – that we find the answer. And it is throughout this waiting season that we prepare our hearts to greet December 25th with joy, peace, hope, & a refreshed promise in our Newborn King!

A four week Advent Study – Monday Evenings 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in Sanctuary of CCUMC

Monday, December 1	God Is Working While You Wait	Lamentations 3: 25-26
Monday, December 8	God Will Use Your Waiting	Romans 8:25
Monday, December 15	Waiting On God And With God	Psalms 40: 1-2
Monday, December 22	God Is Waiting For You	Isaiah 30:18

All are invited to join this Small Group Bible Study and prepare for this Advent Season – perhaps a fresh new look for you on the WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS. Louie Giglio founder of PASSION MINISTRIES video with group discussion, questions, Bible exploration, personal study/reflection ... and so much more!

Hope you can join us! You will be blessed!

Facilitators Mark/Brenda Reinard ... Discussion Leaders, Karen John/Carol Bogar
If you can't make a session ... no problem ... just send us a text ... if weather is inclement, we will update you and most likely not meet ... Safety first!
Sign Up Sheet in Fellowship Hall ... Bulletin Board





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United Methodist Church
3939 Park Road
Selinsgrove, PA 17870



OPPORTUNITIES AT CHRIST COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

General Information

Weekly Services

8:30a.m. - Service of Praise
9:45a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
11:00a.m. - Traditional Service

CHURCH OFFICE

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:00am-1:00pm
Phone 570-743-7303

Senior Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Shafer

Director of Congregational Care :
Andy Bucke

Director of Music Ministries:
Liz Stevenson

Secretary: Pam Eister

Pianist: Josh Stevenson

Sexton: Heidi Carroll

Children's Sunday School

Nursery Beginners, grades 1 & 2
Primary, Pre-K & K Middlers, grades 3-5
Sundays, 9:45-10:45am

Youth Sunday School

Grades 6-12
Sundays, 9:45-10:45am

Youth Group

Grades 6-12
Meets Tuesday afternoons during
the school year from
4:00-5:30pm

Awana

6:00 P.M. Wednesdays for age 3-Grade 6
September-April

Adults

Sunday School Classes
9:45-10:45am

Elective Class - The Book of Revelation

Agape Class - Harmony of the Gospels

Music Ministry Aug.-May

Bell Choir 5:45 p.m. - Tuesday
Chancel Choir 6:45 p.m. - Tuesday
Praise Team As Needed

Seniors

Christian Classics usually meet on the
second Thursday of each month.

Women

United Women in Faith meet on the first
Monday of even numbered months at
7:00 p.m.

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 6pm Advent Study 7pm United Women	<i>2</i> 9am Prayer Time 4pm Youth Group 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	<i>3</i> 6pm Awana	<i>4</i> 	<i>5</i> 	<i>6</i> 6pm Parent's Night Out
<i>7</i> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 3pm Christmas Caroling 5pm Pizza & Movie	<i>8</i> 6pm Advent Study	<i>9</i> 9am Prayer Time 4pm Youth Group 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	<i>10</i> 6pm Awana	<i>11</i> 12:30pm Christian Classics Christmas Party @ Silver Moon Banquet Hall	<i>12</i> 10am United Women Making Fruit Baskets	<i>13</i> 11:45am Leave church parking lot for CLA Christmas Show
<i>14</i> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship	<i>15</i> 6pm Advent Study	<i>16</i> 9am Prayer Time 4pm Youth Group 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	<i>17</i> 8:15am Mission Central 6pm Awana	<i>18</i> 	<i>19</i> 	<i>20</i> 10am Free Food Drive Thru
<i>21</i> 8:30am Worship 9:30am Church-wide Christmas Breakfast 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship	<i>22</i> 6pm Advent Study	<i>23</i> 9am Prayer Time No Youth Group No Handbells No Choir	<i>24 Christmas Eve</i> No Awana 6:30pm Worship Service	<i>25 Christmas Day</i> Church Office Closed	<i>26</i> Church Office Closed	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship	<i>29</i> 	<i>30</i> 9am Prayer Time No Youth Group No Handbells No Choir	<i>31 New Year's Eve</i> No Awana			