

United Church of Christ of Trappe

December 2021 Newsletter



Rev. Patrick Morris
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Worship Schedule

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© 610-207-7361

Blended Service 9:30 AM

3rd Sunday of Mo. Healing Service 9:30 AM

2nd & 4th Sunday of Mo. Children's Sermon 9:30 AM

THE BABY JESUS

There is no doubt in my mind that the Christmas season is a wonderful time of the year. From a religious standpoint, it is probably the most festive time of the church year. Our church sanctuary is dressed in its finest attire with garlands and wreaths and ribbons and bows and accented with beautifully adorned trees that stand proudly in the front of the church. Each Sunday during Advent we ceremoniously await the coming of our Lord by lighting the Advent Candle. Our church choir and Sunday school are busy working on special music and presentations to enhance our worship experience together. All of this splendor and excitement come to a climax during the final week of Advent when we will gather on Christmas Eve for a special services. And why do we do all of this? We do it to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ child, the Son of God, Immanuel.

Have you given much thought to the concept of a baby's being the mode in which the very presence of God would be manifested in this world? Think about it: a baby – a helpless, powerless, weak, vulnerable, defenseless baby. I love babies; I always have. I am glad that I was born into a family with lots of children who wanted to have lots of children. There was never a lack of babies in our family, babies that needed to be held and cuddled and rocked to sleep. Holidays were always special because of babies. The conversations centered around them were always the same: "Look how much he/she has grown!" "Is he/she walking yet?" "He's going to be as big as his father!"

The Savior of this world was once a baby – a helpless, powerless, weak, vulnerable, defenseless baby; a baby who fed at the breast of his dear mother; a baby who needed to be cuddled and rocked to sleep; a baby whose diaper needed to be changed; a baby who got sick, who cried, who cooed, who made other people like me smile when they looked into his beautiful eyes. This was our Jesus.

I guess it is good for us to remember at times what all the celebration is about. What we are celebrating is the birth of a baby – not a king, not a mighty warrior, not a ruler or a person of great wealth and power, but a baby, a baby who would grow up like any other child, a baby who would become the Savior of the world.

During this season of anticipation and celebration I hope you and your family will take the time to really worship the birth of the baby. And in doing so may you see and understand the simplistic nature of the beginnings of the one we call the Prince of Peace, the Lord of Lords, and the King of Kings. I encourage you to join with us in worship each and every Sunday during the season of Advent and in the celebration of Holy Communion on Sunday, November 28th and on Christmas Eve at 7:00PM.

Come out and join us as we remember once again the birth of the baby, Jesus!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Pat

December Scripture Readings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Dec. 5	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Dec. 12	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Dec. 19	Micah 5:2-5a	Psalms 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
Dec. 24	Isaiah 62:6-12	Psalms 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20
Dec. 26	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalms 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52
Jan. 2	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalms 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9), 10-18

ATTENTION HOMEBOUND MEMBERS!

To all shut-in members at home or nursing homes, and families of the same, please notify the church office with the best day and time I can visit. I have been unable to contact several of you so this would be very helpful. I look forward to seeing you!!! Pastor Pat

A NOTE OF THANKS

I just want to thank everyone for their cards, notes and phone calls during my illness and operations. I especially want to thank those of you who gave me rides to all my appointments in the city and elsewhere. It is great to have a church family who cares about you when you need it most. Linda Miller

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A Word About Worship: United Prayer

Matthew 18:19

Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

United prayer is when you are praying together as a group about one specific thing. It refers to a group of people praying in a focused manner, for a specific objective. *There must be an agreement in the things which they want and for which they pray. The petition to God must be the sincere hope of several hearts and minds centered on the same point.*

The Key to United Prayer is that the group of prayers must be in unity. They must be on the same page praying about the same thing. Everybody must have the belief that God will provide what is requested in the prayer.

A significant issue with United Prayer is when people come together to pray but they are not all praying about the same thing. Since we all have different concerns, it is natural that our prayers may be very different and our prayers may wander in that direction. During this time set aside for United Prayer our personal prayers must be set aside until our personal prayer time. Rather than praying for relatives who aren't feeling well, finances, or guidance, we must be focused and united on the prayer at hand.

This month, we would like to gather our congregation's hearts and minds to pray for our church. Every evening at 7:00 PM, we would ask each member to pray the Prayer for St. Luke's:

Gracious God, You have called us to be part of Your church as members of St. Luke's United Church of Christ.

Make us a community of peacemakers and bridge builders. In the midst of turbulence, let our church make space for the hearing of your still small voice. Bless our St. Luke's family and enable us to do Your will. Keep us one in faith and service; breaking bread together and sharing Your Good News with the world for many years to come. Amen

CHURCH LIFE IS AT IT AGAIN!!!!

Come one come all, Saturday, January 15, 2022 we will meet at O'Grady's Restaurant for our fun and exciting White Elephant Breakfast. Remember those "wonderful" gifts you received and put in the back of your closet??? Well now is the time to clean out that closet and re-gift those wonderful "things". Please remember if you do not have and "things" do not purchase anything over \$10.00. See you in the back room at 10:00am on Saturday Jan. 15th. Then watch for our February happening!!!!

December 2 Becky Duncan
December 4 Joshua Leneweaver
December 6 Melanie Prudom
December 9 Chase Edward Salerno
December 10 Kendall Davidson



December 14 Joshua Gray
December 16 Sarah Brand
December 22 Walter Daller IV
December 28 Amy Conrad

ATTENTION, ATTENTION

The monthly Women's Breakfast will be held on the SECOND Thursday of each month at 9:00am in the Spring Ford Dinner in Spring City, our old stomping grounds. Please ask for the St. Luke's group and they will let you know where we are. Please plan on joining us and catching up with each other. BUT remember there will be no breakfast on January 13th, it will be Saturday, January 15th. White Elephant Breakfast.

ANOTHER NEWS ITEM

Pastor Pat's new address is 101 Orchard View Road, Reading, PA 19606



ANGEL TAGS

Please remember Salvation Army Angel tag donations are due back to the church **no later than Sunday, December 5th**. Please place the gift(s) for your child in a clean gift bag and place the bag in the Missions box by Prayer Wall. Our friend Major Jeny from the Salvation Army will be picking them up the following week and we will be sure to take pictures. It's always a big pile of generosity that will bring smiles to the faces of parents and children alike.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

Sunday, December 19th is the date for the last special Missions offering for this year. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years. It provides emergency grants, supplements to small annuities and health premiums and holiday thank you checks each December to lower-income retirees. UCC congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

Please use the special envelope provided early in the year for your donation. Or make sure you add a note to your check to designate it for this purpose. Thank you for your support!

For more information and a testimony by a beneficiary, watch this heartwarming video. (Get out your box of tissues first.)

[Good News...Great Joy...All The People! 2021 Christmas Fund - YouTube](#)



December Sunday Leader Schedule



Church Access Volunteers - Volunteers are needed to open and close the church on Sundays. Please see **Nancy Claycomb** to schedule and review tasks. If you wish to be an usher/greeter please see **Brenda Kurtz** or sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

9:30 Blended Service

	<u>Lay Leader</u>	<u>Children's Time</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Dec. 5	Jim Narrigan			
Dec. 12	Tom Lloyd			
Dec. 19	Sue Linkenhoker			
Dec. 24	Corie Bowers			
Dec. 26	Bev Spaid			
Jan. 2	Kathy Narrigan			

Sunday Leader Scheduling Note

If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, **please find a replacement** by switching dates with someone on the schedule and contact the church office as soon as possible so we may make note of the change. **If you are unable to find a replacement, please contact the church office and we will be happy to do so.**

Articles for the Sunday bulletin are due in the church office by Wednesday. Newsletter deadline for the January Newsletter is December 22nd and mailing is December 27th.

PRAYER LIST

People in need of prayers: The Dallar Family, Nancy Leneweaver, Linda Miller, Nick Iacorinno, Amy Miller.

People with on-going conditions and prayer needs: Barbara and Mark Nieweg, Betty Murphy, Casey S., Debbie Parker, Eli and Ella Vivian, Elsa Thomas, Greg Kimmich, Jack Murphy, Mike Richardson, Mitzie Oxenham, Nancy Lewis, Rod Bowers, Tim Heiser and Tricia White Heiser.

DO YOU LIKE TO SHOP?

St. Luke's UCC is now registered for [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). Go to www.smile.amazon.com and type in "St. Luke's United Church of Christ Trappe" for all your future Amazon orders and St. Luke's will receive .5% of the proceeds. Have fun shopping and THANK YOU!









Amazon Smile Update! Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "St. Luke's United Church of Christ of Trappe" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone.
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features.
3. Select "St. Luke's United Church of Christ of Trappe" as your charity.
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app.



December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 Audubon Symphony	2 7:30 GANON	3	4  Order your Poinsettias
5 9:30 Service in Sanctuary with Rev. Gary Dierolf And also on Zoom <small>[SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT]</small>  Angel Tags Due	6 7:00 Missions	7 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Elders 7:30 Council	8	9 9:00 Women's Breakfast <div>Poinsettia Orders Due</div> 7:00 Finance 7:30 GANON	10 7:30 Audubon Symphony Orchestra Concert	11
Pastor Pat Vacation						
12 9:30 Service in Sanctuary, Children's Sermon with Rev. Morris And on Zoom <small>[THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT]</small>  1:00 Christmas Caroling 	13	14	15 7:30 Audubon Symphony	16 7:30 GANON 7:30 Toastmasters	17	18
19 9:30 Healing Service in Sanctuary with Rev. Morris And also on Zoom <small>[FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT]</small> 	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 10:00 Bible Study	22 9:00 Men's Breakfast	23 7:30 GANON	24  7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service COMMUNION	25  CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed
26 9:30 Service in Sanctuary with Rev. Morris And also on Zoom	27 NEWSLETTER MAILING	28 10:00 Bible Study	29	30 7:30 GANON	31 NEW YEARS EVE 	

**ST. LUKE'S U.C.C. OF TRAPPE
200 WEST MAIN STREET
COLLEGEVILLE PA 19426-2007**

DECEMBER Newsletter

**Dated Material-
Deliver Promptly**



St. Luke's Mission Statement

**Centered in God,
guided by His Word,
we share Christ's love with all.**