

God
is still
speaking,

THE TRAVELER



DECEMBER 2018

JERUSALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



545 Church Drive, Palmerton, PA 18071 (Trachsville)

Phone: (610) 681-4412

Facebook: Jerusalem Trachsville UCC

Website: www.jerusalemucc.org

**The Vision of our Church is to increase Faith, Hope,
Love, Community and Belonging.**

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Kathryn Foster
Office Hours: By Appointment

Secretary: Lyn Summers
Office Hours: Tue. thru Fri. 9 a.m. – 1 PM
(hours subject to change)

Director of Music: Shelba Scheffner
Director of Christian Ed: Marcia Heinick
Treasurer: Steph Anderson

Financial Secretary: Debbie Cope
Sexton: Barry George

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President:	Ed Brader	484-357-3551	braderwoodcraft@gmail.com
Vice-President:	Rick Anderson	610-681-3878	Randerson@serviceteam.com
Acting Secretary:	Lyn Summers	610-681-4412	juccsecy@ptd.net
Additional Members:	Terry Goodhile	Paula Abel	Matthew Binder
	Marcia Heinick	Wendy Hoppel	Lorrie Nothstein
	Delbert Knecht	Beverly Waibel	



Dear Members and Friends,

What would we do without the rhythm of the holidays? They come around like clockwork, destined to cause our clothes to tighten and our teeth to decay. A long time ago, God said we really need these times of rest. Arguably, the first “holiday” was the Sabbath, meaning “rest.” God tells the Israelites in Exodus 20, as part of the Ten Commandments, that they should honor the seventh day of a week as a resting day, and keep it Yes... wait for it... HOLY; which means “separate.” Thus, we get “holyday” or “holiday” coming down through the ages from translation to translation. God knows people need rest to be able to function adequately. Doctors and scientists know it too.

Today we have a whole list of special holidays scattered throughout the year. As we part company in order to enjoy these days, we greet each other warmly saying, “Have a nice Christmas,” or “Have a wonderful holiday!”

Christmas is our next Christian holyday. We prepare for this one throughout the month of December. Let’s remember God wants us to rest and find peace and joy in this season. God sent the Spirit of God’s only Son into the world as a human being to make known the truths in the universe. Find the holy in this wonderful season and you will find truth and treasure indeed!

See you in church!

Pastor Kathryn

Christian Education December 2018

Our Sunday School Christmas Program "*The Newest Angel*", will be held on December 16th at the 10:30 service. It promises to be very cute with some special guest helpers! We hope lots of you can attend this service to support our wonderful children.

We will be having rehearsals for the program during Sunday School and again on Saturday December 8th and 15th. The practices will start at 10:00 am. On December 15th after rehearsal, the kids are welcome to come downstairs for a pizza and cookie decorating party.

We will have Sunday School on December 23rd and December 30th. There will not be Nursery on Monday, December 24th at either service. The room will be available if you wish to take your child, but you will need to stay with them.

I hope you all have a beautiful, and blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year

Should you have any questions or concerns please email me at mheinick@ptd.net or call 610-248-4875. Many Blessings!! Marcia Heinick

NURSERY NARRATIVES

One of the children came to Miss Judy upset that others were laughing AT them because they were smiling all the time. After gathering the child onto her lap, she asked what was seen on the pictures behind her on the nursery wall. "Jesus," the child said. "And what is Jesus doing there," she replied. "Smiling at the children," came the response. "Yes," she said, "Jesus is smiling because he enjoys being with the children. That is what all the children in the nursery are smiling about, they enjoy being here at church playing with one another. Look, that child over there is looking and smiling and wants to play with you right now. Why don't you go over and play? The smiling is not laughing at you; it is enjoying being with you." The child happily began playing together with the others. Questions about how we feel come up at times. Following Jesus helps us understand grace and love.

YOUTH GROUP

It's hard to believe that the summer sun and waves have turned so quickly to snow and Christmas music in the air -- time flies, and I hope that all of our church and youth families had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration together. As we move into the Christmas season, the JUCC YRT is wrapping up the year with two activities -- In December, we will be having our annual cookie bake to make treats for our shut-ins, and during our YRT meeting in November, we made 10 gift boxes, as part of Operation Christmas Child. Our next monthly "check-in" is (as always) scheduled for the last Sunday the month -- this month on December 30, from 6-7:30PM. Pizza and drinks/snacks are always provided... come join the fellowship!

If you (or your child) are in grades 7-12 and interested in attending an event or learning more, please reach out to me either at church, or by emailing me at jucyouthgroup@gmail.com. Best ~ Jessie Walters



PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Kathryn Bauer and Melissa Waibel

joined our church family at the 9 am service on November 25th.

Kathryn’s son, Brandon Buck, is a member here at JUCC, and her mother, Reba Bauer, who passed away in April, was also a member. Please give her a warm JUCC welcome!

Melissa (Missy) Waibel is Beverly and Ricky Waibel's daughter in law, married to their son, Ryan; they have three children, Peyton, Kaylin, and one child, Colton, who sadly passed away shortly after his birth. Missy helps out with our nursery and other events at JUCC. Missy also sponsors and hosts a yearly fund raiser for Polycystic Kidney Disease. *Welcome!*



Prayer Requests

Shorter term prayer concerns:

Judy Hessinger
Jessie Walters
Betty Wolfe
Mark Stetler
Colin Berger
Linda (Friend of Judy Hessinger)

Anna Bowman
Stephanie Williams
Brenda Nothstein Bunting
Timothy Henning
Kathy McGinty
Bob Dorshimer

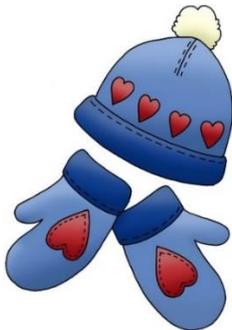
Grace Arnold
Chelsea Pickett
Tom Mace
Joanne Frable
Kevin Costenbader

Longer term prayer concerns:

Jim Buck
Bonnie O’Brien
Dalton Fredericks

Orpha Shaffer
Bob Buck
Terry Cope

Kayla Johnson
Gerald Hawk
Barry Smale



HATS, MITTENS, GLOVES, SCARVES AND SOCKS

for the “Hat and Mitten Tree”

We are collecting hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks to fill the tree. The “Hat and Mitten tree”. All items will be given to the Eldred Community Center for needy children and adults living in the area served by the center. The deadline to place the items on the tree is *Sunday, December 9th*.

DECORATING THE SANCTUARY!

Saturday, December 1st at 10:00 am, we will be gathering to decorate the sanctuary for Advent. We will be putting up the archway greens and lights and the Christmas tree.

Please come and give us a hand!
It's great fun and fellowship too!



Special Christmas Services

December 9th @ 11:30 am

Christmas Caroling Bus & Christmas Boxes for Shut-ins



December 16th @ 10:30 am

Children's Sunday School Program

"The Newest Angel"



December 24th Christmas Eve

4 pm ~ Contemporary Service

7 pm - Traditional Candle Light Service

Joyful Music & Carols, Candlelight

With Powerful Words of Salvation

Come, Feel the warmth

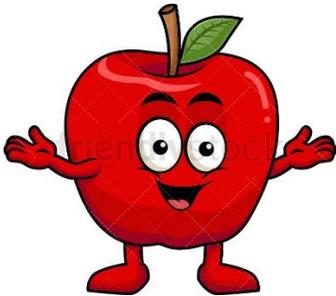
of Christ's Love

We will be collecting and distributing gift boxes for our shut-in members. Donated items may include sugar-free & low sodium treats, tissues, an inspirational book, word-searches or crossword puzzles, calendars, or slipper socks with treads. If unable to shop for items, cash donation is appreciated. I'll shop! We have approximately 16 shut-ins. Boxes will be filled on **Saturday December 8th** @ 9 am and delivered on **December 9th** with the caroling bus. Thanks! Lana



MONTHLY GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Monthly Grief and Loss Support Group at JUCC will meet on December 12th – 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm. Directed by professional counselor, Sue Featro, M.E.D., E.D.D., M.S. Counseling, this group is for people experiencing grief due to trauma, loss or death. The group has been welcoming 2-4 participants during the last few months. It is an effort to assist people in the surrounding community to heal and find peace. *Everyone is welcome!*



APPLE FEST NEWS!

A big heart-felt thanks to everyone who in any way helped to make this year's Applefest a success. The meat raffle tickets sold out this year profiting \$1,669.00 Next year will be our 20th Apple/Fall Fest! After next year, I will be stepping down as chairperson. If anyone is interested in taking over, please see Lana Kuehner so she can assist YOU with the 2019 event!

2018 APPLE FEST STATS

Income	\$5161.40	~	Expenses	\$1702.60
Profit	\$3455.80	~	Tithe	\$3110.22



“Write Now” will meet on

December 13th @ 7 p.m.

Call Mary Beth Beers @ 610-377-9779,

Lorraine Weiss @ 610-826-4310

or the church office at 610-681-4412 for more information

Everyone is welcome!

DECEMBER GREETERS ARE...

December 2 – Lyn Summers

December 9 – Jen & Lee Lesisko

December 16 – Deb Cope & Sue Levandusky

December 23 – Livia & Logan Mackes

December 30 – Keith & Lorrie Nothstein

Be **A** Greeter!



DECEMBER FLOWERS & BULLETIN SPONSORS

December 2 – Rev. Kathryn Foster in honor of her daughter Jessie’s birthday

December 9 – Lynn & Paul Rice in memory of their fathers Barry Rice & Paul Schwarzbach

December 16 – Lana Kuehner in honor of her great nephew Nolan’s 6th birthday today

December 23 – Rick & Steph Anderson in honor of their wedding anniversary on
December 22nd

December 30 – Paul & Wendy Hoppel in honor of their son Nicholas’ 30th birthday

DECEMBER SCRIPTURE READERS

Dec 2 – Lana Kuehner / Dec 9 – Saralyn Sarandis

Dec 16 – Steph Anderson / Dec 23 – Livia Mackes

Dec 30 – Wendy Hoppel

*If you would like to read scripture during our service,
please contact Lyn at the office and let her know!*

BASKET RAFFLE NEWS!

Thank You to everyone who attended or helped out in any way with the Basket Raffle & Bazaar. We had a total of 81 items for the raffle plus 13 items for the special drawing. We had a great turnout and the event was a success!

Income - \$2,721.80 ~ Expenses - \$74.00

Profit - \$2,647.80

Thank you All!!



55 & ALIVE FOR LADIES!

We will be meeting the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month.

December meetings will be on the 4th & 18th @ 11:30 am.

Bring a bag lunch. We’ll provide coffee, tea, water or soda.

HOLIDAY HOMECOMING CHORUS

Presents: ***“Songs of Christmas”***

December 9 @ 7 p.m. at the

First United Church of Christ in Palmerton

Our own Lana Kuehner, Paul Hoppel and

Mary Beth Beers are participating!

Sponsored by Country Harvest Family Market



**LOOKING FOR AN INEXPENSIVE EXCHANGE GIFT
OR A STOCKING STUFFER ???**

55 & ALIVE! IS SELLING "STREAK-LESS" CLOTHS

Your solution to invisible glass – one wipe is twice the shine!!

This spotless, lintless & dustless cleaner safely removes bugs, tar, grease, nicotine haze & more on windows, mirrors, windshields, TVs, computer screens, etc. Details cars, boats & motorcycles. No chemicals – just water. Wet it in water, wring out & wipe!! Absolutely, positively, never streaks. Reusable & eco-friendly. Made in the USA. Available now through Jerusalem UCC church office (610-681-4412) and/or a member of the 55+ Alive Group for only \$5.00!! Proceeds to benefit local non-profit group(s).



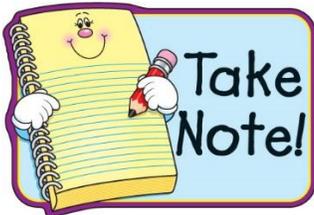
NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS

Installation and Ordination of new Consistory Members
Bob Buck, Barry George, Saralyn Sarandis, Duane Hawk, and Jackie Wonderly will take place at the 10:30 service on January 13, 2019.

FUTURE BUILDING USE COMMITTEE

On Monday, December 3rd, the Towamensing Township Zoning Hearing Board will hear our appeal for the needed variance for our building addition. If the outcome is positive, we will then proceed to finalize construction drawings and begin the process of obtaining bids. We will continue to provide updates as information becomes available!

~ The Future Building Use Committee



The **January 2019** Newsletter will go to print on **December 28th**. Articles not received by **December 21st** may not make it into print. Contact the office if you have something you would like to submit.

WORDS OF WISDOM – FROM THE LADIES OF 55 & ALIVE!



Words are like a honeycomb...sweet to the taste and healing to the bones...

Proverbs 16:24

Jerusalem UCC CCLI license number 2745745



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