

JERUSALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE TRAVELER



545 Church Drive, Palmerton, PA 18071 (Trachsville)

www.jerusalemucc.org / (610)-681-4412

Follow Us on Facebook: Jerusalem Trachsville UCC



DECEMBER 2022

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

Pastor: Rev. Marian Johnson

(610) 462-3150

Email: pastormarianj@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Jillian Adamson

Office: (610) 681-4412

Office Hours: Tue. thru Fri. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Email: juccsecy@ptd.net

(hours subject to change)

Director of Music: Shelba Scheffner

shelba.scheffner@gmail.com

Director of Christian Ed: Marcia Heinick

Treasurer:

Steph Anderson

(610) 681-3878 / stephand@ptd.net

Financial Secretary: Jillian Adamson

(610) 681-4412

Sexton:

Barry George

CHURCH CONSISTORY

President: Wendy Hoppel

610-577-6772

wendy.k.hoppel@gmail.com

Vice-President: Jaclyn Wonderly

570-249-0943

jwonderly@me.com

Secretary:

Additional Members

Barry George

Bob Buck

Duane Hawk

Kelli George

Beverly Waibel

Jonathan Borger

Shelba Scheffner

Ed Brader

Tammy Landon



Dear Jerusalem UCC Family and Friends,

Happy December!! As the song, *The Christmas Waltz*, tell us “*It’s that time of year when the world falls in love ...*”, it does seem there is more love and goodwill in the air. As we prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus, we are called to prepare an open place in our hearts for God’s transforming love. Even if we have had a difficult year and have faced hardship and adversity, God the Father calls us to make way to receive the new hope found in the little baby Jesus. A new beginning, a new comfort, a new opportunity to love is placed before us.

Joseph and Mary traveled many miles over primitive roads in unsafe territories to go to Bethlehem and answer the call on their lives – that Jesus might be born in the city where King David was born 1,000 years earlier. Many times, God’s call on our lives requires traveling across challenging terrain to bring forth our mission and purpose, yet, in doing so, God’s dreams for us and His people come into being.

From the first time I visited our church this past June, I experienced your dedication to sharing the love of Jesus Christ in our world. And I witnessed the joy in which you do so. Let us continue to share the Christmas joy that many feel only in December, but that our church expresses all year long. Let us continue to bring the hope and promise of God to his people! Let us continue to “fall in love” with an unconditional, agape love for one another, the spiritual love that transforms each person and so, truly changes the entire world! Our being lovingly present to those around us changes lives within our church and within our wider communities in which we live!

I am so looking forward to my first Christmas season with all of you most loving, wonderful new friends and fellow travelers on the road to Bethlehem! Merry Christmas season and may every blessing be upon you and your families!

With my prayers for you to have a Blessed and Merry Christmas Season,

Pastor Marian



MESSAGE FROM THE CONSISTORY PRESIDENT
DECEMBER 2022



Greetings,

“When I’m worried and I can’t sleep. I count my blessings instead of sheep. And I fall asleep counting my blessings” - I recently heard this dear, old-time song while channel surfing one afternoon throughout all those music channels I get on my cable tv. They don’t make songs like that anymore! I can’t tell you how many times I heard that line from family members over the years, especially from my Dad as he was complaining about the choice of rock music my sister and I would listen to on our AM radio back in the 70’s. Ha! Ha! Ha! Now I’m dating myself! This song stayed in my head for several days, especially when I went to bed at night, mulling over the day’s events and preparing my mind for prayers and sleep. I thought about all those nights throughout my life when I couldn’t sleep worrying about things that troubled me. Starting way back when I was in school and worried about a big test or project due, financial worries, sick children, car repairs, purchasing a house, aging parents, deaths of dear friends and relatives, problems at work and yes, problems at church. How many of you have lost sleep at night worrying, wondering, hoping and praying? I’m sure all of you have your hands up. I wish I would have thought about this little song years ago, I might have added quite a few more hours of much needed sleep in my lifetime. It seems especially appropriate that we think about all the things we are blessed within our lives as we are about to celebrate Thanksgiving. I love the Thanksgiving holiday, especially this year. We no longer have to worry about isolation with Covid concerns and we can once again gather with our friends, family and church. Thanksgiving is and always will be my favorite holiday. No stress about buying gifts, shopping in crowded stores, not a lot of decorating, only thinking about gathering together with family and friends, catching up and sharing a lot of great food (especially yummy desserts in my family). Anytime my family gets the chance to gather, I find myself thinking about all the time that has now passed and all the memories we shared over the years. The joy of new family members through weddings and new babies as our families grew and also some very sad times as we said goodbye to grandparents, parents, family, friends and neighbors. My husband Paul and I now find ourselves being “the old people” in the family, when did that happen? And what about this amazing church of ours? At our recent Consistory meeting, Pastor Marian shared with us how unique our Jerusalem church truly is. While most churches surrounding us in the Penn North East Conference found it very difficult to bounce back after Covid and found themselves joining with other churches or very sadly closing their doors, our attendance remained at 45 to 50 people, and we took that large leap of faith to continue with our dream of building that addition. We were blessed to find a full-time pastor that shared our dream, breathing new life and excitement into our worship service and teaching us about our love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our very dear Pastor Marian teaches us every day, not only on a Sunday, about a deeper love for our God and ourselves, kindness, gentleness and caring for each other. What a blessed recipe for life we can all learn. And It Is Contagious! As disciples of Jerusalem UCC, we are spreading the word to come and see that we are new and improved! Uplifting messages, a spiritually moving praise band with awesome music (drums, guitar, string bass, saxophone, keyboard all with very talented soloists). We have now been averaging 90 to 100 people for worship services, new faces, families with children, members returning after Covid, old friends and of course our dear dedicated weekly attenders. We are on the move and I find that I no longer lose sleep worrying about our church because these days, I fall asleep counting my blessings, how about you? Give it a try!

Keep the Faith,
Wendy

DECEMBER - Weekly Bible Verse

December 4, 2022 - *Matthew 1:18* - Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

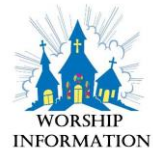
December 11, 2022 - *Matthew 1:20,21* - . . . Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

December 18, 2022 - *Matthew 1:23* - Behold, the virgin shall be with Child, and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated "God with us."

December 25, 2022 - *Luke 2:11* - For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Merry Christmas Everyone and Happy Birthday Jesus!



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP



Come worship with us at 10:00AM inside in our beautiful sanctuary!

You can also remain in your vehicle in the parking lot and listen on 95.5 FM.

You can also watch live on Facebook and view the service on our website after the conclusion.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



Sunday, December 4th we will have Holy Communion. Elements are provided by the church. Thank you to Kim Williams & Shirley Hawk for volunteering to perform this service.



We are planning to have two Christmas Eve Services.

5:00 p.m. in the Picnic Grove (weather permitting)

7:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary

Christmas Day – 10:00am worship service

Join Us at
Advent Worship



**Join us in remembering who God is
As you learn to embrace God with us — as the Father, Son and
Spirit. Please join us for a festive and spirited Advent Season!
We welcome you as the Christmas season unfolds.**



Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 2:00 pm

We will sing Christmas carols for our church members on our shut-in list on December 10th.

The bus leaves the church promptly at 2:00pm.

Special thanks to Leon and Danielle George for donating the bus and to Barry George for driving us this year. A sign-up sheet is on the counter in the back of the church or you can call the church office. We hope you can join us for this delightful holiday occasion!!



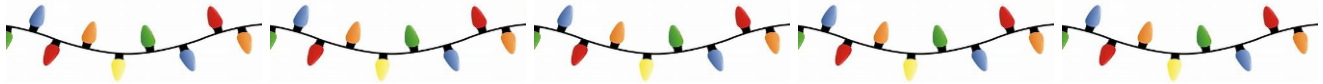
Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 11th during our worship service

We will have dress rehearsal for the program on

Saturday, December 10th at 10:00am.

Children, please arrive by 9:30am to get into costume.



DECORATING THE GROVE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

We will decorate our picnic grove for the 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 18th after the service. Please join us if you are free to help.



JUCC Youth Group

Baking Cookies – December 4th from 12pm-4pm

Christmas Ornament Project – December 11th from 12pm – 2pm



*“...pray for one another, so that you may be healed.” (James 5:13)
 “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing...” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17)
 As disciples of Jesus, we seek to pray daily.
 Below is a list of those who need our prayers.*

We are currently updating our prayer request lists and are also adding an *Answered Prayers* list. Please speak to Pastor Marian or a member of our Care Team to make any additions or changes.

Shorter term prayer concerns:

Mark & Kathy Stetler	Buzz Hill	Mary Beth Beers
Judy Hessinger	Joseph Turoscy	Betty Nothstein
Gavin Stroup	Lenora Robertson	Eric Breiner
Faye Haydt	Marie Andrews	Katie Huelskamp
Sherry Longacre	Bob Buck	David
Marveline Costenbader	Anna (Laura Maliszewski's sister)	
The Family of Shawn Everett	The Family of Mathias Hoffman	

Longer term prayer concerns:

Dalton Fredericks	Barry Smale	Linda Mackes
Elizabeth Krause	Timothy Henning	Joanne Frable
Helen Smale	Anna Bowman	Millie Lehman
Marla Schmidt	Micheal McCabe	Lana Kuehner
Bill Yelland and Family	Mildred Green	Alverta Strohl

Answered Prayers

Duane Hawk

MONTHLY GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

The Monthly Grief and Loss Support Group at JUCC meets twice a month – on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm, and the 4th Thursday at 6:30pm. **The group is presently being held on a web platform.** 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. It is an effort to assist people in the surrounding community to heal and find peace. **Please contact the church office for the link, or check for the invitation link on our Facebook page.** People are managing to find and make use of this important ministry. Thanks to God and to the members of JUCC who make it possible!



JUCC QUILT & CRAFTS GROUP

Our group will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. **In December we will meet on December 8th from 10am-3 pm.** We have a variety of crafts happening, from quilting to cross stitch to bag making. We welcome any crafters to join us. Some friends just stop by to hang out with our lively group - that is good, too! Social distancing is easy in the church basement, with each person having at least one large table to work on. Please see Shelba or call the church office if you need further information.



Jerusalem UCC Building Update!

Our church addition project continues to move forward on schedule.

This past month of November the insulating of the duct work and ceiling area of the multi-purpose room were completed. The drywall and spackle work were also completed, as well as the installation of the plywood subfloor.

Next on the schedule for the month of December will be painting of the interior walls and ceiling, and opening of the doorway from the existing building into the addition. Also, interior-trim work will begin.

The Building Committee would like to thank Byron Adamson for his work on completing the rough wiring for the audio/visual system. Thank you, Byron.

Finally, a BIG THANK YOU, to all who continue to support our project financially, either by honoring your pledge commitments or making regular monthly contributions in our weekly offerings. Every dollar counts and is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Building Addition Committee

COME GROW WITH US!



We are looking to once again begin sign-ups for “teams” to help with the coffee and snack preparation on Sunday mornings. If you are available to assist, please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship room or contact the church office.



For our members that use Facebook don't forget you can share our online services with your friends and family. In this way, we can reach more people with our messages of love and hope. Simply click the “share” button under our Facebook video!



Music & Worship

- Our 10:00 services are held indoors. We will look forward to another season of outdoor worship and fellowship in 2023. (EXCEPT for Christmas Eve – stay tuned for more info on that!). Access via Facebook Live and radio transmission continues.
- All of our worship services are special, but October 9th was especially so as Rebecca and Kevin Kleintop brought their children – Callahan and Murphy – to be baptized. The JUCC church family promised their love, support and care to these little ones and their big brother.
- Thanks to the Praise Band for carrying on while I was out in the Western part of the country visiting our youngest son in October. So blessed to minister with these wonderful folks!
- On October 30th we celebrated Reformation Sunday and All Saint's Day. Pastor Marian led us in a meaningful service to celebrate those of our church family who went to be with our Lord during the past year: Edwin Longacre, Marvin Borger, Mitchell Kreger, Doris Byerly, James Buck, Edna Schoenberger, June Easterday, Ada Frederick, and all those known and unknown. The Praise Band offered a beautiful musical tribute – Well Done.
- As always, sincere appreciation goes to members of our Praise Band who were with us in October– Lynn and Paul Rice, Chuck Scitney, Dave Eveland and Jen Heilakka. We are a lively group of people – clapping and even some dancing in the aisles – all happy to be together and doing God's work!

Shelba Scheffner



★ **Movie** ★ **NIGHT** ★

Friday, December 16th at 6:30 pm in the church sanctuary.

***"Soul Surfer"* 2011 • PG • 1h 52m**

Teenage surfer Bethany Hamilton overcomes the odds and her own fears of returning to the water after losing her left arm in a shark attack.

Free popcorn and drinks.



A BIG THANK YOU to everyone that helped out in anyway or by donating baked goods, items to sell, baskets, gift cards or cash prizes for the basket raffle. We had a total of 70 items for the raffle with a profit of \$3,345.37! The turnout and event was a huge success!

Fun and Fellowship were enjoyed by ALL!



A Huge Thank You to everyone that helped in anyway preparing & making the filling! We made a total of 1458 lbs. It was a day of FUN & Fellowship, and a GREAT SUCCESS! We do have some extras if anyone is interested in purchasing for Christmas! First come, first served. You can contact the office or Beverly!



DECEMBER FLOWERS & BULLETINS **SPONSORS**



December 4th - Paula Gower in honor of all family members with December birthdays

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**December 11<sup>th</sup> - Lana Kuehner in honor of great-nephew Nolan Zavagansky's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 16<sup>th</sup> by Aunt Lana**

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December 18th - Lois & Eugene Strohl in memory of Kermit Kreimoyer Jr.

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**December 25<sup>th</sup> - Rick & Steph Anderson in honor of the many gifts of the Christmas season and our 12<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary which is December 22<sup>nd</sup>**



### **INTERESTED IN SPONSORING FLOWERS & BULLETINS FOR 2023?**

If you would like to sponsor flowers & bulletins (\$35 donation) for a Sunday in 2023, please contact Jillian Adamson at the church office.

You can reach her by phone at 610-681-4412 or by e-mail at [juccsecy@ptd.net](mailto:juccsecy@ptd.net)

#### **DECEMBER LAY LEADERS**

*December 4<sup>th</sup>* – Ed Brader

*December 11<sup>th</sup>* – Patti Snyder

*December 18<sup>th</sup>* – Lisa Hawk & Kim Williams

*December 25<sup>th</sup>* – Lynn Mastio Rice

#### **PLEASE CONSIDER...**

**Volunteering to read scriptures at our 10:00am Sunday service.** We are always in need of readers and would love to have some new voices! Contact Jillian at the church office for available dates!



**56 hats**

**56 pairs of gloves and mittens**

**15 sets of hats and gloves/mittens**

**2 pairs of ear muffs**

**101 pairs of socks and slippers**

**16 scarves**

**3 men's undershirts**

**1 lady's camisole**

**A big warm "THANK YOU" for everything given to decorate the "Hat and Mitten tree." The tree was FILLED and the basket next to the tree was FILLED! All the items were taken to the Eldred Community Center for needy people living in the area served by the center. Your generosity and kindness are appreciated.**

**Donna Mackes**



*Our Mission-Helping Those in Need  
Struggling with the holidays quickly approaching?  
Concerned about having enough food for Christmas Dinner?  
We want to help you!*

## **“Jerusalem United Church of Christ Trachsville Family Pantry”**

**Reserve Your Ready to Prepare Family Christmas Dinner**

Turkey  
Stuffing/potatoes  
Butter, Gravy  
Cranberry sauce  
Sweet potatoes  
Corn, Green Beans  
Pie

Limited Dinners Available

**Reserve your dinner**

Call the church office 610-681-4412

**Deadline to Order: Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 1 p.m.**

**Christmas Dinner Pickup:  
Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, Noon – 2 p.m.  
Jerusalem United Church of Christ  
545 Church Drive  
Palmerton (Trachsville), PA 18071  
610-681-4412**

The JUCC Family Pantry is an ongoing mission. We provide meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as grocery pick-ups a few times a year for local families in need. If you would like to contribute, please send a check marked “Food Pantry” to the church or drop your donation in the offering plate during our weekly worship service. Thank you!

*Opportunity Arises*  
*DON'T MISS OUT*  
***PEWS PEWS PEWS***

Jerusalem United Church of Christ is offering our church families an opportunity to purchase a new church pew for our sanctuary in honor and/or memory of family and/or friends. The cost of a pew is \$1,700.00. Names of the individuals participating in this endeavor will be displayed in the sanctuary on a "Recognition Plaque."

Options are available to be part of this opportunity.

**Option A:** Purchase entire pew(s) at a cost of \$1,700.00 each.

**Option B:** Split a pew(s) with one other family/friend at a cost of \$850.00 per family/friend per pew.

**Option C:** Multiple families/friends divide up the cost of a pew(s) to total \$1,700.00 per pew.

Submit Pew form along with payment to JUCC.

**Deadline: Saturday, December 31, 2022 (All payments will be noted on your 2022 Giving Statement)**

**\*Questions: Contact Kelli George- email:[kellig@ptd.net](mailto:kellig@ptd.net) or 610-762-5299**



## PEW FORM

**Option A:** Purchase entire pew(s) at a cost of \$1,700.00 each.

**Option B:** Split a pew(s) with one other family/friend at a cost of \$850.00 per family/friend per pew.

**Option C:** Multiple families/friends divide up the cost of a pew(s) to total \$1,700.00 per pew.

Submit Pew form along with payment to JUCC.

Circle Option:    **A**        **B**        **C**                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Person completing form: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) displayed on "Recognition Plaque": \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pew in Honor/Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Payment (Cash/Check \*include check number(s)): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) with amount to credit on each 2022 Giving Statement:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**\*Deadline: Saturday, December 31, 2022 (All payments will be noted on your 2022 Giving Statement)**

**\*Questions: Contact Kelli George- email: [kellig@ptd.net](mailto:kellig@ptd.net) or 610-762-5299**





### 175th Anniversary Committee

Next year in 2023 we will be celebrating our 175th year of loving God, loving our people, loving our community, and loving this beautiful house of worship here in Trachsville. We have been making numerous plans to build our new addition, remodel our sanctuary with new paint, new pews, carpeting and new ceiling options. But we would also like to form a committee to plan special worship services, do some research on former pastors of the church, and appeal to any members that would have those amazing old-time photos of days gone by. We would openly welcome any of our senior citizens that were active in this church since they were children and can reminisce about how things “used to be years ago”. Please look for upcoming meeting dates, we would love to have you join us as we research the past ages of our church.



### Register Tapes

Kinsley's ShopRite: Brodheadsville ONLY.

**NO other stores such as Giant, Other ShopRite stores/locations.  
NO Senior Citizens Discounts, Pharmacy sales slips, Alcohol sales.**

Weis: Brodheadsville ONLY.

**NO other Stores or Locations accepted.**

**Senior Citizens Discount slips ARE acceptable.**

**NO Pharmacy sales slips, Alcohol sales or Gas sales slips.**

Winter Weather  
Delays & Closings

**Check JUCC Facebook page or website for updates on  
cancellations, changes, delays or postponements.**

## **Newsletter**

If you have an article to submit for the January Newsletter,

Please email it to Jillian by **Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**.

FMI call 610-681-4412 or email [juccsecy@ptd.net](mailto:juccsecy@ptd.net)



**Update your  
contact info!**

### **Has your contact information changed?**

If your mailing address, phone number or email address have changed please contact the church office to update your information. 610-681-4412 or [juccsecy@ptd.net](mailto:juccsecy@ptd.net)

*"For unto you is born ...a Saviour,  
which is Christ the Lord."*

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

*Luke 2:11*

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Jerusalem UCC CCLI license number 2745745



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Facebook: Jerusalem Trachsville UCC