

# JERUSALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# THE TRAVELER



545 Church Drive, Palmerton, PA 18071 (Trachsville)

[www.jerusalemucc.org](http://www.jerusalemucc.org) / (610)-681-4412

Follow Us on Facebook: Jerusalem Trachsville UCC



## JANUARY 2023

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](mailto: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](mailto:juccsecy@ptd.net)  
(hours subject to change)

**Director of Music:** Shelba Scheffner [shelba.scheffner@gmail.com](mailto:shelba.scheffner@gmail.com)

**Director of Christian Ed:** Marcia Heinick

**Treasurer:** Steph Anderson (610) 681-3878 / [stephand@ptd.net](mailto: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](mailto:wendy.k.hoppel@gmail.com)

**Vice-President:**

**Secretary:**

### Additional Members

Kelli George	Beverly Waibel	Jonathan Borger	Shelba Scheffner
Ed Brader	Tammy Landon	Lorrie Nothstein	Jen Lesisko
Rick Anderson	Jillian Adamson		

# Pastor's Corner



Dear Jerusalem UCC Family and Friends,

Happy 12 Days of Christmas! Today, as I write to you, it is the third day of Christmas! Many times, it seems that people think of Advent as including the 12 Days of Christmas, but actually, the 12 Days begin on Christmas and continue until Epiphany when the Three Kings find Baby Jesus.

The Three Kings travelled for two years to find Baby Jesus, as they came from faraway lands. They were so drawn by the Bethlehem Star that they left their homelands and their positions of high leadership to go to find the world's Messiah. They made a long and arduous journey to a foreign land, in occupied territory to have this unparalleled experience. They knew that the child who was born under that star would have a soul and a mission like no other.

As we continue to celebrate Christmas and this coming New Year, what are we focusing on? Do we realize that God is ever with us with Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel? Are we able to leave our anxiety and concerns aside, and follow our Prince of Peace? Jesus told us not to be afraid. He asked us to follow him, to walk the journey as his companion.

Let us remember that just as the Star guided the Wise Men on their journey in ancient days, so Jesus guides us and walks among us now, throughout all of our lives. Let us hold the hands of our fellow travelers and walk in the light of God.

I want to say a very special thank you to all of our dedicated ministry leadership teams that help us to bring God's love forward and shine God's light into our world! Many people have told me how very beautiful every one of our Advent and Christmas services were, how much they loved all the marvelous music, the warmth of the church, the tenderness of the Children's Program, the beauty of the sanctuary and the welcoming kindness of you, our people.

And our outreach projects were so successful! Thank you to each one of you for participating in all the various Christmas outreach projects in so many ways - to bring God's love to one another and those in need this Christmas season!! We have many new and exciting times ahead at our beloved church! Let us continue to bring the hope, joy and comfort of Christmas to our world every day in 2023 and beyond!

Thank you so much for all of your beautiful Christmas wishes, cards and gifts to me. I feel so very welcomed and loved!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!  
Pastor Marian



## **JANUARY - Weekly Bible Verse**

January 1, 2023 – *Luke 2:22-23* - <sup>22</sup> Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord.” ...

January 8, 2023 – *Matthew 2:10-11* - <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

January 15, 2023 – *Matthew 2:13* - <sup>13</sup> Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you...”

January 22, 2023 – *Matthew 2:19-20* - <sup>19</sup> But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup> saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel...”

January 29, 2023 – *Matthew 2:23* - <sup>23</sup> And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CONSISTORY PRESIDENT

JANUARY 2023



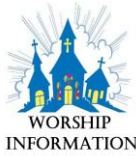
Greetings,

As we come to the end of 2022, I look back on this year with many fond memories of all the activities and fundraisers our church has completed and many joyous occasions that were worthy of celebrations. I’m a little hesitant to list them all for fear of forgetting anything or anybody, but we had one very, very busy year! The fundraisers of Spring and Fall Filling sales, June Flea Market, August Picnic in the grove, September Palmerton Festival, October AppleFest and November Basket Social. We bid a very fond farewell of thanks and gratitude to Pastor Quayle for leading us in worship for almost two years while the Search Committee tirelessly dedicated themselves to find the perfect match in a new pastor that would reflect all our hopes and dreams in leading our New Jerusalem. Reverend Marian Johnson officially became our new pastor in September and Jerusalem United Church of Christ is moving forward in a whirlwind of activity, spiritual growth and physical growth. If you haven’t made a New Year’s resolution yet, make one to attend worship services in the near future, I’m sure you will be pleasantly surprised and delighted with inspiring messages and uplifted music from our praise band!

And, last but certainly not least, the long-awaited building addition. It’s almost completed! Years and years of planning, dreaming, changing, waiting, hoping and praying and the anticipation to see it materialize step by step, week by week - it is a dream come true. Most of us just stare at it in awe and amazement and find we have to actually pinch ourselves in disbelief, it’s not a mirage, our eyes are not playing tricks on us - a vision that has finally been fulfilled.

But we are not finished yet - 2023 will be jam packed with a multitude of activities too! We will be remodeling our beautiful beloved sanctuary in time to celebrate our 175th Anniversary. Imagine all those years of worshiping God and giving him thanks and praise, imagine all of our ancestors that have gone before us, making so many, many sacrifices both physically and financially. I am filled with gratitude and am humbled that we are part of this long tradition of change and acceptance with the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will continue to participate in our prior fundraisers and activities, but also look forward to creating new ones, new programs in reaching out to our members (both current and future ones that we have not met) and the communities that surround us. So what can you do? Come. Come to worship. Come to church and see your new Jerusalem, feel His Holy Spirit. Feel the Love and acceptance that your congregation can give to you, the Caring and Compassion that Pastor Marian will show you and all your friends and family that enter through our doors. Come and be a part of our Vision in the new year of 2023!

Keep the Faith, Wendy



# 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.

The service can be viewed live on our Facebook page and on our website after the conclusion.

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

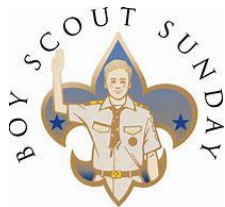


**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> we will have Holy Communion. Elements are provided by the church. Thank you to Kim Williams & Shirley Hawk for volunteering to perform this service.**

## INSTALLATION OF NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS FOR 2023 SUNDAY, JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:00AM

Joining Jerusalem UCC Consistory is Lorrie Nothstein, Jen Lesisko, Rick Anderson and Jillian Adamson.

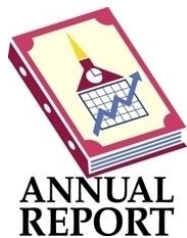
Thank you and farewell to Jaclyn Wonderly, Barry George, Bob Buck and Duane Hawk. Thank you for your sharing your gifts and for your dedication to our church!



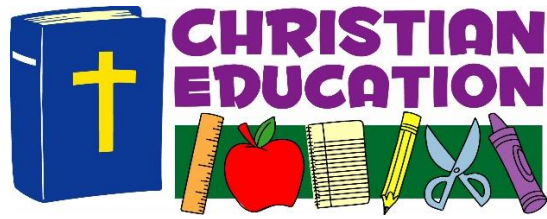
**Boy Scout Sunday is February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. We will also be doing a canned soup drive that Sunday. Watch for more details.**



**Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins – February 22<sup>nd</sup>**



**ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE TUESDAY, JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>**



## Christian Education

On December 11<sup>th</sup> we put on our Children's Program. It was designed with the help of the Sunday School Students and teachers: Rachael Shafer, Emily Murphy and Marcia Heinick. All of the poems are original. We sat in Sunday School and wrote some of them together. The kids also helped with the staging ideas. It is so remarkable to see how the Holy Spirit is alive and well, working with and through these beautiful children. We would like to thank Shelba Scheffner, Lynn Rice, Paul Rice and Jen Heilakka for their musical talents and Chuck Scitney who worked with our young musicians on Silent Night

A very special thank you to the wonderful Nursery School teachers and helpers: Natalie Bojko, Judy Hessinger, Tina Oertner and the Youth who have helped throughout this year: Dominick and Cameron Bojko, Camryn and Riley Bonser, Anna and AJ Borger, Lila Borger, Emily and Brianna Shupp.

A very special thanks to our amazing and dedicated Sunday School teachers: Rachael Shafer, Emily Murphy, Tammy Landon, and Beverly Waibel. Thank you to Reverend Jennika Borger, or as she likes to be called "just Jennika", for her incredible work with our Confirmands.

Our Church is so blessed with the Youth Group Leaders Rick Anderson and Jonathon Borger.

I would like to thank Jillian Adamson for all her help throughout the year

Last but not least we would like to thank Pastor Marian. She brings such a beautiful light and presence to our church family and we look forward to many years of spirit-filled days working with our most precious babies, children and youth.

Starting in January, Pastor Marian will hold a Family service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. The Sunday School kids are invited to sit with their families during the service and at times may be requested to help read or participate in the service in some way. On those Sundays we will not hold Sunday School, but there will be Nursery.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year

Marcia Heinick





*“...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  | Gavin Stroup          |
| Eric Breiner                 | Faye Haydt      | Katie Huelskamp       |
| Sherry Longacre              | David           | Marveline Costenbader |
| Doris Behler                 | Barbara Borger  | Darlene Serfass       |
| Steven Rohner & Family       | Bonnie Beers    | Ed Hoppel             |
| Larry George                 | Colin Berger    | Kathy                 |
| Danielle & Family            | Cheryl & Family | Joseph & Family       |
| The Family of Mildred Lehman | Perma Berger    |                       |

**Longer term prayer concerns:**

- |                   |                 |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dalton Fredericks | Barry Smale     | Linda Mackes                      |
| Elizabeth Krause  | Timothy Henning | Joanne Frable                     |
| Helen Smale       | Anna Bowman     | Marla Schmidt                     |
| Micheal McCabe    | Lana Kuehner    | Bill Yelland and Family           |
| Mildred Green     | Alverta Strohl  | Jean George                       |
| Lenora Robertson  | Bob Buck        | Anna (Laura Maliszewski’s sister) |

**Answered Prayers**

Duane Hawk

**MONTHLY GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP**

The Monthly Grief and Loss Support Group at JUCS meets twice a month – on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm, and the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.** Thanks to God and to the members of JUCS who make it possible!



**JUCS QUILT & CRAFTS GROUP**

Our group will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. **In January we will meet on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 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.



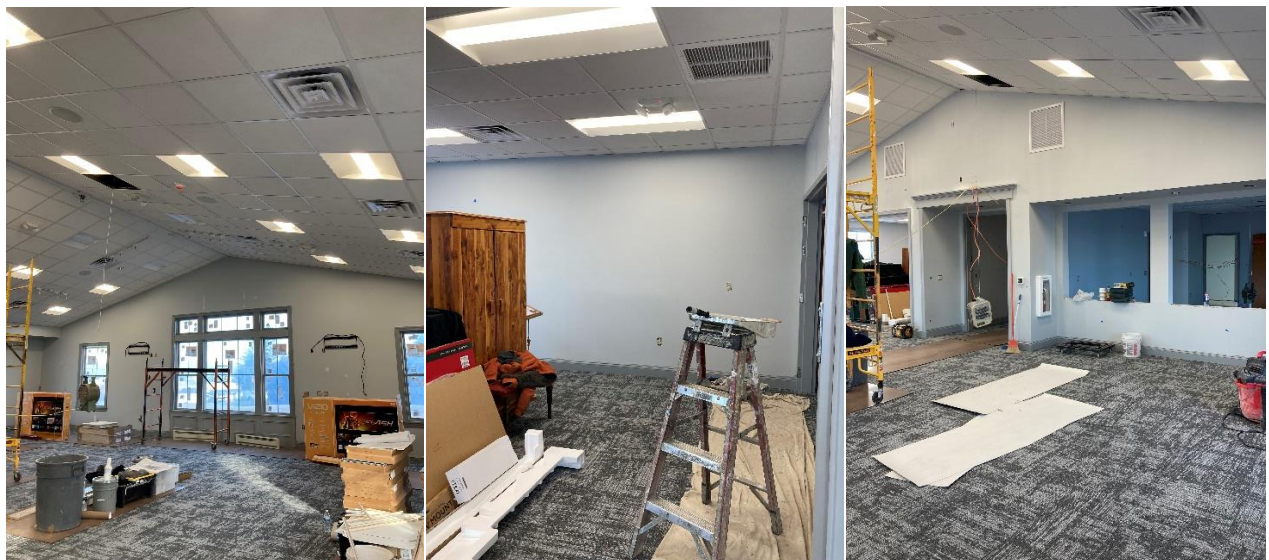
# Jerusalem UCC Building Update!

- Construction progress continues on schedule.
- The installation of the ceiling grid system and the panels for the multi-purpose room are completed.
- All flooring materials have been installed.
- Byron Adamson is close to completing the audio and visual systems. Thank you to Byron for all your time and efforts in securing and installing the latest technology.
- The installation of the bathroom partitions has been completed. Bathroom fixtures will be installed shortly.
- Interior framing and rough wiring of the newly reconfigured old nursery area is close to completion. Drywall and painting work will soon begin in this space.
- On behalf of all of our church family, The Building Committee sends out a “BIG THANK YOU” to all who have honored your pledge commitments, and those who continue their monthly financial support. Every dollar counts.

Thank you,

Building Addition Committee

**COME GROW WITH US!**





## Music & Worship

- Our 10:00 indoor services continue as well as Facebook Live and radio access. November marked the changing of the seasons with our church decorated for Fall/Thanksgiving, and then Advent. Thanks to all who help to add those beautiful touches to our sanctuary.
- We honored our Veterans on November 11 with music and the Word. Members and friends enjoyed the slide presentation put together by Lynn Mastio Rice to honor and commemorate our Veterans. We also love her artistic touches on the Power Points each Sunday.
- November 27 marked the first Sunday of Advent – Prepare the way for the Lord! We lit the Candle of Hope as we sang O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. We were also happy to witness the baptism of Adam William Davidick Jr, son of Kim and Adam Davidick. Big brothers Jeremy and Wyatt assisted Pastor Marian in formally bringing their little brother into our church family.
- Chuck Scitney and I, plus friends Tracey and Jaylyn Rowe visited Mrs. Bush's Personal Care Home on November 30<sup>th</sup>. We played and sang sacred and secular songs to hopefully cheer the residents and add some early Christmas spirit. We very much enjoy bringing our music ministry to our friends there.
- We are so blessed to have our musicians with us every Sunday – we love what we do and hope that our members and friends are uplifted by our music. Thank you to all who sang and played this month – Lynn and Paul Rice, Chuck Scitney, Dave Eveland, Renee Mowad and Jen Heilakka. We also thank Pastor Marian who enthusiastically supports us in doing God's work!

Shelba Scheffner



**JERUSALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST YOUTH GROUP  
"YOUTH REASON TOGETHER"**

The JUCC youth group, aka "Youth Reason Together", or YRT, has a schedule of fun events and activities planned! Monthly meetings are set for the last Sunday of every month, at 6:00PM at the church. In these meetings, our young people (grades 7-12) can find support among each other, the leaders, and with God as our guide. All Are Welcome!!

**Youth Group Directors**

**Rick Anderson, Jonathan Borger & Jaclyn Wonderly**



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE YOUTH, THEIR LEADERS & THEIR FAMILIES who prepared the trays of delicious cookies for our Home Hero members. Also, A BIG THANK YOU to all who delivered the cookies and Christmas cards. Everyone was gracious for the homemade cookies & couldn't thank the Church enough for the thoughtfulness!**



**MESSAGE FROM THE HILLS**

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Youth Group for their delicious cookies and the carolers for their inspiring rendition of Christmas music.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn & Buzz Hill



**JANUARY FLOWERS & BULLETINS  
SPONSORS**



**January 1<sup>st</sup> - Tammy Landon in honor of son Cory.**

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**January 8<sup>th</sup> - Jamie & Darren Rockwell in honor of daughter Blair's birthday.**

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**January 15<sup>th</sup> - Jillian & Byron Adamson in honor of wedding anniversary on January 17<sup>th</sup>.**

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**January 22<sup>nd</sup> - Lisa & Rick Williams in memory of their son, Seth Andrew.**

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**January 29<sup>th</sup> - NO SPONSOR**



**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)

## **JANUARY LAY LEADERS**

January 1<sup>st</sup> – Steph Anderson

January 8<sup>th</sup> – Ed Brader

January 15<sup>th</sup> – Jillian Adamson

January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Lisa Hawk & Kim Williams

January 29<sup>th</sup> – Lynn Mastio Rice

## **PLEASE CONSIDER...**

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



**Friday, January 20th, 6:30 pm in the church sanctuary.**

***"Courageous"* 2011 · PG-13 · 2h 9m**

**When a tragedy strikes close to home, four police officers struggle with their faith and their roles as husbands and fathers. Together they make a decision that will change all of their lives.**

**Free popcorn and drinks.**



## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

### **Jerusalem United Church of Christ 2023 Events**

#### **Easter Filling Sale**

April 1, 2023

Deadline to order: March 18, 2023

#### **Annual 2-Day Flea Market**

Fri., June 9, 2023 & Sat., June 10, 2023

#### **Annual Community Picnic**

Sat., August 12, 2023

#### **"Happy Bowl" at Palmerton Community Festival**

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

#### **Apple & Fall Festival**

Sat., October 7, 2023

#### **Fall Basket & Bazaar**

Sat., November 4, 2023

#### **Holiday Filling Sale**

November 18, 2023

Deadline to order: November 4, 2023



## JUCC SOUP SALE

**Super Bowl Sunday - February 12, 2023**

**\$7.00 per quart**

**Ham & Bean, Beef Vegetable, Chicken Noodle**

Payment is due upon ordering. Order forms are in the weekly announcements and on the counter in the back of the church. Please place order and payment in the offering plate or give to Tammy Landon or Beverly Waibel. You can also call the church office to place your order.

Orders must be picked up at the church after the worship service on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>.  
If not picked up that day the soup will be frozen.

**Deadline to order is Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.**

We will be collecting canned soup on "Souper" Bowl Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.  
The items collected will be donated to CACPAC.



**We will be serving FREE Breakfast Sandwiches**  
**February 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:45am – 9:45am**  
(Last order will be taken at 9:45am)

**Sausage or Canadian Bacon with egg and cheese on a roll.**  
**A donation jar will be placed on the counter.**



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!

### **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.**



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



If you have an article to submit for the February Newsletter, Please email it to Jillian by **Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**. FMI call 610-681-4412 or email [juccsecy@ptd.net](mailto:juccsecy@ptd.net)



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