

JERUSALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE TRAVELER



545 Church Drive, Palmerton, PA 18071 (Trachsville)

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

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NOVEMBER 2023

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

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Kelli George

Beverly Waibel

Jonathan Borger

Shelba Scheffner

Ed Brader

Tammy Landon

Jen Lesisko

Jillian Adamson



Dear Jerusalem Family and Friends,

What a special time of celebration it has been! Our church's 175th anniversary celebration was a marvelous success! Our theme, "Come Home to Jerusalem UCC" certainly proved to be true. People from all around came to share in our big day! All of you, our friends and neighbors as well as community dignitaries attended our service and open house.

Many special thanks to Wendy Hoppel, our Consistory President, who led us in our preparations this past year and to our wonderful anniversary committee for a celebration that will long be remembered! There are so many levels of preparing for an event such as this and so much love and dedication were involved. From the historical displays to the commemorative film, no detail was spared. A special thank you to James Shafer who created a magnificent film about our church, our ministry and our people who truly are the heartbeat of our church. I'm sure that Jesus and all the communion of saints are pleased with what we accomplished. Each person's contribution in every area of the celebration this past year is deeply appreciated, whether artistic, musical, food-related, preparing the building, beautifying the rooms, or participating in/preparing the service!

After the event was over, my friend Judy and I saw a beautiful rainbow arching from one side of the sky to the other. As we looked out the window of Hope Hall with all the historical displays in our view, we saw the rainbow arch. I felt that the heavens were sending a message of gratitude for the reverence, the love and the care that we gave as we honored all the prior generations and decades of ministry.

And now, we look ahead to Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays. Let's move forward into the days with gratitude and happy anticipation, as God moves here in our church on the mountain. Applefest was a big success and now on to the Basket Social. Then, there will be the making of 1500 pounds of filling! Many thanks to Lorrie, Beverly and all the team members that work so tirelessly on all these activities!

And we also help those in need with our grocery ministry and so many other programs. This month, we will be starting a few small groups. We will have a Seekers group for those who may have questions, and we will have a Bible Study group to learn how to apply the teachings of the Bible to daily living. Looking forward to continuing our journey together. Happy month of giving thanks and sharing God's abundant love! And remember that Jesus loves you and so do I!

May God's many blessings be yours always,
Pastor Marian

PS And thanks so much to Jillian for all the extra help!

NOVEMBER - Weekly Scripture

Sunday, November 5, 2023 – Psalm 107:1-3 *“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story, those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.”*

Sunday, November 12, 2023 – Philippians 4:6-7 *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

Sunday, November 19, 2023 – Psalm 103:2-5 *“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.”*

Sunday, November 26, 2023 – 1Thessalonians 5:16-18 *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

MESSAGE FROM THE CONSISTORY PRESIDENT NOVEMBER 2023



Greetings!

October has been one very busy month at Jerusalem UCC! We started with Applefest and a big shout out to Lorrie Nothstein for heading this very popular fundraiser and all the many helping hands. The weather that didn't cooperate and forced everyone inside to Hope Hall turned into be a very successful day. Apple dumplings, pies, pumpkins, apples, cider, Happy Bowls, Hot Dogs, Mac and cheese, apple sausage and much, much more satisfied a lot of people's appetites. Big thank you to the Hawks for their entertaining talents, we all love them! A job well done everyone!

Sunday, October 15 brought us to our much anticipated 175th Anniversary Celebration. As we approached this special day Pastor Marian and I found ourselves getting more and more excited, nervous and maybe a little bit worried that everything would turn out perfectly as planned. We compared it to a wedding, planning almost an entire year in advance with literally hundreds of details for what we hoped would be a spectacular day. So many details to discuss and make final decisions on which events and activities we wanted to include in this event. Needless to say, we had many, many hard working and dedicated members that showed us all of their hidden talents and helped in making these decisions! Jim Shafer and Mom/Dad MaryAnn and Jim Shafer worked on our T-Shirt and sweatshirt design and logo. “Welcome Home . . . We're Waiting for You” became our beautiful motto that showed everyone what JUCC in Trachsville truly stands for, we all proudly wore our shirts at our picnic, Palmerton Festival and Apple fest! MaryAnn also made the stunning floral arrangements that were displayed in Hope Hall and the Friendship Room. We then asked everyone for their recipes to create a cookbook. Dean and Lavona Berger, Tammy Landon and Mike Shafer did a magnificent job in not only coordinating the cookbook recipes but also adding pictures, history and

helpful hints. If you purchased a cookbook for yourself already, get another one for a friend for a great Christmas present, it truly will be a gift that keeps on giving! This cookbook also enforces our true love for food that we are famous for at Trachsville! Then came all the pictures, books, documents, bulletins, and numerous other cherished items that you dear members of the congregation shared with us. As Pastor Marian meandered in the attic, treasures found were boxes and cabinets full of ledgers and notebooks, pictures and certificates giving us a look back in time from the 1800's to present day. I'm going to apologize for not being able to display all the items that were donated for our viewing pleasure but please know that all your items were appreciated and please speak with me to make sure all your items are returned. Jim Shafer did an outstanding job in creating a top-notch professional video incorporating these "antique pictures" from the past and our present-day activities, the progress of seeing our new addition rising from ground up and snapshots of our members participating in the life of our church. I think I can speak for everyone and say we were bursting with gratitude on how beautiful this video turned into a true work of art and showed the true spirit of JUC. Thank you, Jim!

Special guests, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, PNEC Conference Minister presented us with a plaque commemorating our 175th year of worshiping God in our beautiful church and also joined Pastor Marian in the blessing of our remodeled sanctuary and our new Hope Hall. Our local State Representative Mr. Doyle Heffley was also in attendance and shared an amusing story of his connection with our church and he too presented us with a 175th Anniversary commendation. Also bringing us special well wishes and a delightful message, Rev. Kenneth Melber of Jerusalem Lutheran our sister church across the street. And that wasn't all - our youth and directors presented the church with a hand painted picture of a tree of which all the children helped paint the leaves with their thumbprints. Ask the children how they did it and what it represents! We also gave thanks and praise to all the construction workers, painters, renovation teams and to Rick Anderson and Ed Brader for their tireless efforts in building this new addition.

The music for the day was astounding, our praise band outdid themselves in selecting Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord, Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone), Revive Me and The Church's One Foundation sung by the alumni choir was a real treat to hear, I know they enjoyed singing for us as much as the congregation enjoyed listening to them. In keeping with our rich Pennsylvania Dutch heritage, everyone was delighted to hear Robert Andrews recite the Lord's Prayer in English as well as "in Dutch", it truly was music to everyone's ears.

We all moved from the sanctuary back to Hope Hall where after the blessing, we were treated to a delicious lunch of wraps and hoagies (a big thank you to Ricky and Beverly for ordering from Kunkletown General Store as well as many other little things they do like setting up the coffee every morning), veggies, snacks and huge amounts of baked goods. A spectacular large sheet cake with a picture of one of our stained-glass windows was arranged by Dean and Lavona Berger and another thank you to all our members that brought all those yummy desserts, I lost count of how many were there! We had a crew of people helping early Saturday morning to cut and chop veggies and cheese and make dip (Thank you Bonnie Beers, Wendy Miller, Barry Smale, Dean and Lavona Berger). I was amazed at how many people stayed and socialized, viewed all the historic displays and shared their pleasure in this special celebration. So many smiling faces and all rooms filled with joy and laughter, what a wonderful way to end this much anticipated day! It was beyond our expectations to see all our members, friends and special guests. As I sat back and watched everyone enjoy themselves in this momentous occasion, I was thinking ahead 25 years to what our 200th Anniversary might look like - I'm pretty sure that I will not be here (or maybe I will be one of the oldest members present like Leonard Borger and Alverta Strohl) but looking at all our young families and children I have the

utmost faith that our church will be alive and thriving all because we give thanks and praise to God and we serve Him and our people with Love and Kindness.

I have to say a special thank you to the best Secretary of all time, Jillian Adamson, she is the true backbone of this church. With her friendly voice and helpful manner, grand central communication, and her top-notch professional abilities, she runs our office like a well-oiled machine, we are so fortunate to have her and all the details she handles for us not only for this special day but every week in the activities of our church. Also, to Stephanie Anderson who keeps us floating financially and the most important jobs of all, paying our bills, and watching our budget. Thank you to all the people that helped in any way by attending the meetings, hours upon hours of preparation and planning, and deep cleaning all the corners and the last-minute repairs to numerous areas both in and outside this beautiful church of ours (thank you Rick Anderson, Barry George, Paul Hoppel and Gary Eckley). And last but not least, an extra special thank you to Pastor Marian in putting all her time and energy into not only being the best pastor JUCC has ever had but to having a vision of what our 175th Anniversary worship service should be and have all the groups represented. For envisioning what the new Friendship Room should look like with the help of a group of young adults (CrissaRobin and Matt Sterner, Rachel and Mike Shafer, Jason Bonser and Jillian and Byron Adamson) creating an area that is now warm, inviting and comfortable and says to people “come on in, sit down and chat a bit” how fitting that it feels like “Welcome Home - We were waiting for you”.
Keep the Faith- Wendy



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP



Join us for worship Sunday mornings at 10:00AM in our beautiful church sanctuary!

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

Our service can be viewed live on Facebook and on our website after the conclusion of the service.

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

**Sunday, November 5th is Holy Communion. Elements are provided by the church.
Thank you to Kim Williams & Shirley Hawk for volunteering to perform this service.**



**There will be two Christmas Eve Services this year.
We will have our morning worship service at 10:00pm and
in addition, we will have an evening service at 7:00pm.
Both services will be held in our beautiful church sanctuary!**



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Dear JUCC Members,

Greetings to our congregation in the name of Jesus Christ! Prayers that you are doing well and blessed beyond measure. We'd like to take this opportunity to make you aware of our very important Annual Congregational Meeting that will be held ***Sunday, December 10, 2023 immediately following our 10:00am worship service.*** It's important for us to come together to approve the proposed 2024 budget and elect a new consistory member for 2024. The proposed budget for next year is attached below for you to view. We hope to see you on December 10th!

Blessings,
Jerusalem United Church of Christ

	PROPOSED BUDGET 2023	ACTUAL 10/1/2022 TO 45199	DIFFERENCE FROM BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET 2024
2024 BUDGET PROPOSAL				
INCOME				
CHURCH COMMITTEE DONATIONS				
Fellowship Fundraisers				
AppleFest - 2022	\$8,000.00	\$6,086.49	-\$1,913.51	\$7,000.00
Annual Basket Raffle and Bazaar - 2022	\$3,000.00	\$3,370.37	\$370.37	\$3,200.00
Flea Market - 2023	\$4,000.00	\$3,491.33	-\$508.67	\$4,000.00
Spring Filling Sale - 2023	\$2,000.00	\$2,266.56	\$266.56	\$2,200.00
Fall Filling Sale - 2022	\$3,000.00	\$3,594.02	\$594.02	\$3,500.00
Fellowship Donation	\$0.00	\$5.59	\$5.59	\$0.00
55 & Alive!	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Group	\$400.00	\$1,123.91	\$723.91	\$1,000.00
TOTAL CHURCH COMMITTEE DONATIONS	\$20,400.00	\$19,938.27	-\$461.73	\$20,900.00
SPECIAL SERVICES				
Christmas Offering	\$4,000.00	\$2,789.00	-\$1,211.00	\$4,000.00
Ash Wednesday/Maundy Thursday	\$300.00	\$335.00	\$35.00	\$300.00
Easter	\$1,500.00	\$1,461.00	-\$39.00	\$1,500.00
Good Friday	\$200.00	\$224.00	\$24.00	\$200.00
Lenten Service	\$300.00	\$318.00	\$18.00	\$300.00
TOTAL SPECIAL SERVICES	\$6,300.00	\$5,127.00	-\$1,173.00	\$6,300.00
WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS				
Church Usage Fee	\$2,500.00	\$2,015.00	-\$485.00	\$2,500.00
Communion	\$3,000.00	\$4,507.00	\$1,507.00	\$4,500.00
Flowers & Bulletins (includes Holidays)	\$2,500.00	\$2,803.00	\$303.00	\$2,500.00
Loose Plate	\$2,000.00	\$6,077.65	\$4,077.65	\$6,500.00
Good Will Offering	\$500.00	\$6,447.30	\$5,947.30	\$7,000.00
Christian Ed-Sunday School	\$100.00	\$91.00	-\$9.00	\$100.00
Weekly Envelopes	\$116,700.00	\$121,102.00	\$4,402.00	\$126,280.00
TOTAL WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS	\$127,300.00	\$143,042.95	\$15,742.95	\$149,380.00

FROM OTHER ACCOUNTS				
Ryman Fund (Sanctuary Remodeling)	\$0.00	\$59,074.30	\$59,074.30	\$0.00
Choir Account Closing	\$0.00	\$10,921.19	\$10,921.19	\$0.00
First Northern Bank Mortgage Transfers	\$0.00	\$350,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$0.00
Building Fund (Addition Project)	\$0.00	\$399,795.63	\$399,795.63	\$0.00
TOTAL FROM OTHER ACCOUNTS	\$0.00	\$819,791.12	\$819,791.12	\$0.00
FUND RAISING				
Register Tapes	\$600.00	\$286.18	-\$313.82	\$300.00
Recycled Cans & Clothing/Shoes	\$600.00	\$109.90	-\$490.10	\$150.00
Palmerton Festival - 2023	\$18,000.00	\$19,508.54	\$1,508.54	\$18,000.00
Picnic Income - 2023	\$9,000.00	\$9,360.95	\$360.95	\$9,000.00
Misc. Fundraisers	\$0.00	\$8,250.61	\$8,250.61	\$8,000.00
TOTAL FUND RAISING	\$28,200.00	\$37,516.18	\$9,316.18	\$35,450.00
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME				
Donations for New Pews	\$0.00	\$37,400.00	\$37,400.00	\$0.00
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$0.00	\$37,400.00	\$37,400.00	\$0.00
MISSIONS				
CACPAC/JUCC Food Pantry	\$2,500.00	\$2,964.00	\$464.00	\$3,000.00
Neighbors in Need/Retired Clergy	\$400.00	\$0.00	-\$400.00	\$400.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$350.00	\$0.00	-\$350.00	\$350.00
Misc. (Discretionary, Oper. Christmas Child)	\$4,000.00	\$330.00	-\$3,670.00	\$4,000.00
Strengthen The Church	\$225.00	\$0.00	-\$225.00	\$225.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	\$7,475.00	\$3,294.00	-\$4,181.00	\$7,975.00
REIMBURSED EXPENSES				
From Memorial Fund (Grief & Loss)	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
From Maintenance Fund	\$1,000.00	\$2,534.38	\$1,534.38	\$2,000.00
TOTAL REIMBURSED EXPENSES	\$1,000.00	\$4,034.38	\$3,034.38	\$3,000.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$190,675.00	\$1,070,143.90	\$879,468.90	\$223,005.00

	PROPOSED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE	PROPOSED
2024 BUDGET PROPOSAL	BUDGET	10/1/2022 TO	FROM	BUDGET
	2023	45199	BUDGET	2024
EXPENSES				
ADMINISTRATION				
Church Office Secretary Salary	\$12,956.00	\$12,016.13	-\$939.87	\$13,345.00
Office Equipment/Computer/Upgrades	\$1,200.00	\$1,606.74	\$406.74	\$1,500.00
Internet Access/ZOOM Account	\$1,400.00	\$1,217.12	-\$182.88	\$1,400.00
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$646.50	-\$353.50	\$1,000.00
Supplies (office)	\$600.00	\$960.06	\$360.06	\$600.00
Telephone	\$1,150.00	\$805.61	-\$344.39	\$1,150.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$18,306.00	\$17,252.16	-\$1,053.84	\$18,995.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION				
VBS Supplies	\$450.00	\$159.22	-\$290.78	\$450.00
Youth Ministry	\$800.00	\$1,797.00	\$997.00	\$800.00
Sunday School Curriculum	\$300.00	\$0.00	-\$300.00	\$300.00
Christian Ed./Confirmation Supplies	\$500.00	\$1,076.15	\$576.15	\$800.00
TOTAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$2,050.00	\$3,032.37	\$982.37	\$2,350.00
CHURCH EXPENSES				
Registration Fees (SGC License, Sam's Club)	\$225.00	\$145.00	-\$80.00	\$225.00
Advertising/Website	\$1,500.00	\$1,889.00	\$389.00	\$2,000.00
Electric (utility bills)	\$4,000.00	\$7,582.15	\$3,582.15	\$6,000.00
Flowers & Bulletins (includes Holidays)	\$2,300.00	\$3,175.00	\$875.00	\$2,300.00
Garbage/Dumpster for Grove	\$975.00	\$1,021.50	\$46.50	\$975.00
Insurance				
Builder's Risk Insurance (no longer needed)	\$5,636.00	\$4,878.00	-\$758.00	\$0.00
Workmen's Comp. - Disability	\$1,150.00	\$867.00	-\$283.00	\$1,150.00
Business Catastrophe/Liability	\$12,750.00	\$9,122.75	-\$3,627.25	\$12,750.00
Total Insurance	\$19,536.00	\$14,867.75	-\$4,668.25	\$13,900.00

Sexton Salary	\$2,264.00	\$1,645.49	-\$618.51	\$2,332.00
Maintenance Contracts	\$100.00	\$175.00	\$75.00	\$100.00
Coffee/Snack/Dessert Purchases	\$500.00	\$1,506.30	\$1,006.30	\$500.00
Miscellaneous/Security Monitoring	\$500.00	\$1,876.14	\$1,376.14	\$500.00
Music Director Salary	\$11,226.00	\$11,226.02	\$0.02	\$11,226.00
Music & Video Supplies	\$500.00	\$2,525.96	\$2,025.96	\$500.00
Offering Envelopes	\$1,450.00	\$1,643.46	\$193.46	\$1,450.00
Oil for Church/Propane for Grove	\$6,500.00	\$8,814.14	\$2,314.14	\$6,500.00
Other Employment Expenses				
Guest Organist	\$375.00	\$0.00	-\$375.00	\$375.00
Guest Preacher	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Guest Musicians	\$9,300.00	\$12,945.00	\$3,645.00	\$14,180.00
Total Other Employment Expenses	\$9,675.00	\$12,945.00	\$3,270.00	\$14,555.00
Pastoral Compensation				
Pastor Salary	\$56,000.00	\$56,000.10	\$0.10	\$58,240.00
Pastor Housing	\$14,000.00	\$13,999.96	-\$0.04	\$14,000.00
Pension, Life & Dis., Health & Dental	\$19,850.00	\$20,929.39	\$1,079.39	\$20,500.00
Social Security Reimbursement	\$5,355.00	\$5,354.96	-\$0.04	\$5,355.00
Conferences and Meetings	\$150.00	\$250.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
Continuing Ed.	\$150.00	\$0.00	-\$150.00	\$150.00
Mileage (Pastor)	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	-\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Total Pastoral Compensation	\$98,005.00	\$96,534.41	-\$1,470.59	\$100,895.00
Snow Removal	\$2,500.00	\$1,295.00	-\$1,205.00	\$1,200.00
Supplies (paper towels, soap)	\$300.00	\$420.93	\$120.93	\$300.00
Worship Supplies	\$2,500.00	\$1,848.67	-\$651.33	\$1,800.00
Taxes (Payroll-Employers Share)	\$2,023.00	\$2,707.36	\$684.36	\$2,023.00
Bldg. Repair & Grove Maintenance	\$0.00	\$2,429.16	\$2,429.16	\$1,000.00
Mortgage Payment	\$0.00	\$17,533.72	\$17,533.72	\$12,000.00
TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES	\$186,935.00	\$214,091.69	\$27,156.69	\$203,626.00
NEW BUILDING PROJECTS	\$0.00	\$819,529.95	\$819,529.95	\$0.00
MISSION SUPPORT				
Misc. (Grief, Ukraine Relief, OCC, Family Promise)	\$4,000.00	\$3,909.35	-\$90.65	\$4,000.00
Christmas Eve Cash Donated	\$500.00	\$6,118.00	\$5,618.00	\$3,000.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$500.00	\$504.87	\$4.87	\$1,000.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$350.00	\$330.00	-\$20.00	\$350.00
Strengthen Church/Retired Clergy	\$350.00	\$0.00	-\$350.00	\$350.00
CACPAC/JUCC Food Pantry	\$2,500.00	\$3,227.68	\$727.68	\$2,500.00
Our Christian World Mission	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
TOTAL MISSION SUPPORT	\$10,200.00	\$16,089.90	\$5,889.90	\$13,200.00
PROFESSIONAL FEES				
Accounting (Quickbooks Payroll Svc.)	\$700.00	\$957.18	\$257.18	\$700.00
Professional Fees (Bank, Pay Pal & Legal Fees)	\$150.00	\$99.63	-\$50.37	\$150.00
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$850.00	\$1,056.81	\$206.81	\$850.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$197,985.00	\$1,050,768.35	\$852,783.35	\$217,676.00
NET INCOME/LOSS:	-\$7,310.00	\$19,375.55	\$26,685.55	\$5,329.00
10/18/23-CURRENT GENERAL FUND: \$109,772.62		-\$10,660.02	:BLDG. PROJECT OVERAGE ABSORBED	
		\$30,035.57	:ACTUAL INCOME WITHOUT BLDG. PROJECT	

Note: This year has been a crazy ride for our Church's finances. As you can see, we had a lot of building project expenses between our new Hope Hall addition, our Friendship Room, and our Sanctuary renovations. The majority of the new building project was covered by donations, with a smaller \$350,000 mortgage which was taken to make up for the increased construction costs post-COVID. We have been making principal and interest payments of \$2275.11 since March, 2023, and have collected on average \$1,100.00 per month in Building Fund donations over the last 6 months, thus the line item which has been added for Mortgage Payments. We received over \$59,000 from the Ryman Fund, donations for all of the new pews, plus donations from current and past Church members. We think our musicians have done a wonderful job, and have proposed a \$5.00 per week increase across the board. Our organist Shelba Scheffner has declined an increase to help support the raises. Our hourly employees will receive a 3% hourly increase, and our Pastor will receive a 4% increase in salary. I think this proposed budget is a good balance of our needs in the coming year now that things have settled down relative to our building and renovation projects. We are in a good position financially, and I look forward to what the future holds for us, as we continue to grow, and welcome people to come back home to Jerusalem UCC!

God Bless! - Steph Anderson, Treasurer



*“...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.*

Please speak to Pastor Marian or a member of our Care Team to make any additions or changes.

Shorter term prayer concerns:

Jillian Hessinger	Ron & Joanne Frable	Grace Guldin
Buzz Hill	Mary Beth Beers	Katie Huelskamp
David	Doris Behler	Marveline Costenbader
Barbara Borger	Danielle & Family	Our Troops
Our Church Family	Kelsey	Chris Hahn
Kathy Kuehner & Family	Crissa Carroll	Neal Murphy
Dean Hahn	Dennis Smale	Stephanie Pfancook
Dale Eckley	Ayden Conklin	Family of Christopher McCann
Judy Hessinger	Travels scheduled to Holy Land by friends	
Mocha	Dennis & Family	Cathy Braun

Longer term prayer concerns:

Dalton Fredericks	Linda Mackes	Elizabeth Krause
Timothy Henning	Helen Smale	Anna Bowman
Marla Schmidt	Michael McCabe	Lana Kuehner
Mildred Green	Alverta Strohl	Jean George
Bill Yelland and Family	Sharon	Bob Buck
David Garrigues	Lori George	Tina
All who have experienced a loss		All people and families in need

Answered Prayer

Duane Hawk	Larry George	Ed Hoppel
Perma Berger	Dwight Hawk	Barry Smale
Cathy	Mark Goodhile	Tori
Megan Fredericks	Michael	Bonnie Beers
Dean Berger	Carey & Family	
Gerald & Lenora Robertson		

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.** Thanks to God and to the members of JUCC who make it possible!

Music & Worship Recap

- Our first service in the newly remodeled sanctuary was held on September 10th due to the threat of rain. Our church family was excited to see the beautiful new pews, walls and flooring. The Praise Band LOVED the new speaker system which sounded wonderful and was much less noticeable than the huge main speakers of before. THANK YOU, Byron Adamson, for your hard work and expertise! Pastor Marian preached the timeless message of Love One Another, and we heard a Memory Moment which featured the history of our church picnics.
- A chilly, foggy morning with a threat of showers sent us indoors on September 17th, which was also our first 10:00 service. We celebrated Rally Day, and all children and Sunday School teachers were called forward to receive the blessings of Pastor Marian and the congregation for a new season of learning about God and His creation. All members and friends who work as teachers, administrators, school personnel and encouragers of our youth were blessed as well. Our Praise Band closed with “Love Will Hold Us Together”.
- September 24th brought another rainy Sunday, but our sanctuary was warm and cheerful with the fellowship and love of our church family. The platform area in the front of the church has become crowded with musicians and instruments – what a wonderful problem to have. And so, our singers were moved to the upper alter area – we all liked the extra elbow room. Matt and CrissaRobin Sterner joined us this morning on flute and sax, and Pastor Marian preached on “God’s Marvelous Mercy”.
- The annual data reporting was completed for our Christian Copyright License (CCLI). This is a requirement of the CCLI license which we subscribe to on a yearly basis, and which keeps us in compliance to use copyrighted music for our Live Feeds, projection of lyrics on the big screens, and all print material.
- Sincere thanks, as always, to Pastor Marian and our worship team, and thanks to our church members and friends who support and encourage our ministry. We are so blessed at Jerusalem UCC!

Shelba Scheffner

QUILT & CRAFTS GROUP

Our group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, 10:00 – 3:00. We are now in Hope Hall, our beautiful new addition (with SUPERIOR lighting!). We generally work on our own projects, or do some group work on charity quilts. If you’ve always wanted to learn to make quilts (of any kind), we have experts who love to teach! We also have machines to use, if you don’t have your own. Recently, we have branched out into basket-making at a different location. This is fun, too. We just love creating!

For more information, feel free to contact Shelba Scheffner at 610/704-3756 or our church office.

LETTER FROM JILLIAN HESSINGER

Dear Jerusalem UCC,

It has been quite a journey! It's not over yet, but I wanted to celebrate and share some answered prayers that have taken place along the way. You have possibly heard Pastor Marian ask for prayers for me, have seen my name on the prayer list or if you've spoken to my parents, Paul and Wendy Hoppel, you might have heard some of my story. To anyone that thought of me, prayed for me, put me on their prayer lists, visited me in the hospital, sat with me, fed me, called, sent cards, sent messages, sent beautiful and funny photos, sent texts, emails, and those of you who followed and responded to my husband, Micah's updates, on Facebook and my family's updates and text chains I can't begin to thank you enough! I am truly blessed and grateful to have such a phenomenal force of positive encouraging family, friends, and acquaintances behind me! I am sending love and blessings back to you tenfold. After almost 3 weeks in the hospital, I finally received a diagnosis, a treatment plan and then was discharged. That was definitely something to celebrate as an answered prayer. And we did celebrate! My amazing Mom made me my favorite home cooked meal (not hospital food, I definitely celebrated that!) of pork and homemade sauerkraut (Dad made that), mashed potatoes and lima beans with a from scratch chocolate cake for dessert! An extra special thank you goes out to Pastor Marian. I have found her to be an awesome pastor, prayer warrior, visionary for positive results and an overall great cheerleader for healing. She came to see me in the hospital and called to check on me often. While I was happy to finally be home and discharged from the hospital, there were other complications that occurred. "Shine Jesus Shine" is one of my favorite church songs and one of my favorite books is titled Ever-Flowing Streams. Pastor Marian suggested a vision of a flowing stream for a solution to one of those complications after I was home from the hospital. She didn't know how meaningful the song and book were to me, but yet she had me envision flowing streams. The idea of envisioning flowing streams was to heal my veins and for them to accept the infusion I needed. The previous week I wasn't able to get the weekly infusion due to blood clots in one arm and extremely bruised arms and fragile veins in the other arm. Her suggested envisioning worked and our prayers were answered by being able to get the next three infusions I needed to complete the first part of my treatment plan! I don't believe that is a coincidence, I believe that is the Holy Spirit working! The chorus of "Shine Jesus Shine" goes like this Shine, Jesus, shine Fill this land with the Father's glory Blaze, Spirit, blaze Set our hearts on fire Flow, river, flow Flood the nations with grace and mercy Send forth your word Lord, and let there be light Thank you Pastor Marian for being a blazing spirit and light! God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are certainly shining their grace, mercy and healing through her word and deed! We can celebrate Pastor Marian and all of the answered prayers she facilitated. I have also been thoroughly blessed with a supportive husband and daughter that are holding everything together, a wonderful sister and her family, a caring brother and his family, my incredible parents, my faithful mother-in-law and a great crew of in-home nurses, occupational therapists and physical therapists. They have been an answer to my prayers and another thing to celebrate! Going forward, there is a lot more to figure out yet. I humbly ask that if you could keep me in your prayers and keep thinking positive thoughts for a little longer, I would greatly appreciate it. I am seeking healing and a full and successful recovery with functional hands and feet. I would like to wholeheartedly thank you all again and let you know how truly grateful I am! Keep the faith, keep celebrating and keep sharing the Good News!

Blessings,
Jillian Hessinger



JERUSALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST YOUTH GROUP

The JUCC youth group has a schedule of fun events and activities planned! Monthly meetings are set for the last Sunday of every month, after worship. 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 & Melissa Waibel



The Youth Group is hosting a breakfast before worship on Sunday, November 19th from 8:30am - 9:45am.

They will also be holding a bake sale before & after church.

Donations of baked goods are appreciated.

Funds raised will go towards Youth Group activities.

YOUTH GROUP UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sunday, November 19th– Breakfast before worship and Bake Sale before and after church service to help raise money for the Youth Group activities. Spread the word to everyone to donate baked goods.

November – Feed the family – Details to follow

December – Cookie Baking – Dec. 2nd at 8:00am

Cosmic Bowling and Roller Skating are activities that were also discussed at our last meeting.

We will determine a date for some time during the winter months.

We are starting our JUCC small groups this month!

Thursday, November 9th from 1:00pm - 2:30pm will be our first meeting for a Bible Study group.

Applying biblical teachings and understanding Jesus' mission will be the focus. We will have discussions, music and prayer as part of our time together. This group will likely meet twice a month. At the first meeting, we will determine the best day and time to meet. Please speak with Pastor Marian with your interest or with any questions.

Sunday, November 12th from 6:00pm - 7:30pm will be our first monthly meeting for *The Seekers*.

This group is designed for adults who are looking for spiritual understanding and have questions about how to find God in daily living. Gatherings, activities and educational field trips will be part of this group experience. Currently, we do not have child care provided, but we will work to find someone to help. Please speak with Pastor Marian, CrissaRobin or Matt Sterner regarding your interest or with any questions.

Confirmation Students and Parents: October 29th at 11:30am, Pastor Marian would like to meet briefly with all of you in Hope Hall. As the Youth Group prepares to go on their hike and eat their pizza, Pastor Marian will review the upcoming Confirmation Class schedule for this year. If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact Jillian in the office or Pastor Marian to stay updated on the plans for this year.

Thanks!



IT'S A POT LUCK!!

Join us for great food, fun & fellowship
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH AFTER CHURCH IN HOPE HALL
Bring your favorite dish to share.



What an awesome day we had at this year's Apple Fest! Despite the weather, we had great music (thanks Duane & Lisa) and great food! It was so wonderful to see so many people enjoying themselves! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and made it a huge success!
Also thank you to everyone who came out to support us! We are blessed!

The profit for the Apple Fest is \$6480.07



NOVEMBER FLOWERS & BULLETINS **SPONSORS**



November 5th – Sloan, Stacy & Tanner Burnett in honor of Paige Burnett's 19th birthday

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**November 12<sup>th</sup> – Lisa & Rick Williams in honor of daughter, Brittany's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>**

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**November 19th - Byron, Jillian, Willow & Keith Adamson in honor of
daughter/sister, Sierra's 24th birthday on Nov. 22nd**

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**November 26<sup>th</sup> – Shirley Hawk in memory of husband, Raymond Hawk's birthday**



### **INTERESTED IN SPONSORING FLOWERS & BULLETINS FOR 2024?**

**If you would like to sponsor flowers & bulletins (\$35 donation) for a Sunday in 2024,  
please contact Jillian Adamson at the church office.**

#### **NOVEMBER LAY LEADERS**

**November 5<sup>th</sup> – Lisa Hawk & Kim Williams**

**November 12<sup>th</sup> – Family Sunday**

**November 19<sup>th</sup> – Lynn Mastio Rice**

**November 26<sup>th</sup> – Steph Andreson**

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

**Volunteering to read scriptures during our Sunday morning 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!



# Homemade Holiday Filling Sale



 Same Filling as in our Original Happy Bowl 

**\$8.50 for a 2 lb. container**

**\$18.00 for a 5 lb. container**

**All orders due by November 4<sup>th</sup>**

Pick up at church:

Sat., November 18<sup>th</sup> from 12pm – 3pm or  
Sun., November 19<sup>th</sup> after worship service  
(between 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.)



To order, call the church office at 610-681-4412  
or Beverly at (610) 377-5811



545 Church Dr., Palmerton, PA 18071  
(Trachsville)  
(Large White Church Off Route 209  
behind Towamensing Fire Co.)



# Annual Basket Raffle & Bazaar

Saturday, November 4, 2023

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- BASKETS TO BE RAFFLED
- BAKED GOODS
- HOLIDAY ITEMS

*Drawing at 2:00pm*

Food to eat in or take out: **HOMEMADE SOUP, HOT DOGS, BARBEQUE, HALUSHKI & BEVERAGES**



**We will need donations of Baskets filled with items, OR gift cards, gift certificates, or cash prizes with a MINIMUM \$20.00 value.** New & gently used Thanksgiving & Christmas items or crafts may be donated to sell! Everyone enjoys the Bargain Table!

**PLEASE NOTE: We have FREE baskets available at the church.**



**Baked goods will be needed for our Bake Sale!**

Donated items & baskets may be brought to the Church office between 9:00am & 12:00(NOON) on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> or Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>!

**The Work Schedule Is As Follows:**

**Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** - 1:00pm-4:00pm - Make Soups in Hope Hall

**Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** - 9:00am - 12:00pm – Set up

**Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** - 7:30am - Final Set up

9:00am - Event Starts

2:00pm - Baskets Raffled followed by cleanup

Anyone willing to help or needs information PLEASE CONTACT Beverly Waibel.

**LET'S CONTINUE THE GREAT SUPPORT,  
FELLOWSHIP & FUN WORKING TOGETHER!**



*Our Mission-Helping Those in Need  
Concerned about having enough food for Thanksgiving Dinner?  
We want to help you!*

**“Jerusalem United Church of Christ Trachsville Family Pantry”**  
**Reserve Your Ready to Prepare Family Thanksgiving 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:

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD BY 1PM**

Thanksgiving Dinner Pick up:

Saturday, November 18th

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Jerusalem United Church of Christ  
545 Church Drive Palmerton, PA 18071



The JUCS 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!

**POINSETTIA SALE**

JUCS will be doing the annual Poinsettia sale for Christmas. The deadline for the poinsettia orders is November 19th. The cost will be the same as last year, \$10.00 per plant. Watch the upcoming weekly announcements for the order form.



**HATS, MITTENS, GLOVES, SCARVES AND SOCKS  
for the  
"Hat and Mitten tree"**

We are again collecting hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks to fill the tree. The "Hat and Mitten tree" will be ready to be filled with your gifts of hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks by Sunday, November 5. All items will be given to the Food Pantry at 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, November 26.



**WE WILL DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS ON  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> AT 4:00PM. PLEASE JOIN US IF YOU'RE ABLE TO!**



**Donations for Operation Christmas Child do not have to be put in a shoe box this year!** If you would like to contribute, you can either buy items for one or multiple boxes or multiple items (like small notebooks or crayons or pencils, balls, socks, personal care items, small stuffed animals). Keep in mind everything must fit in a shoebox. We are not allowed to put any food-type items in the boxes, used items, war-related items, liquids or lotions). If you want to see a list of items, please go to [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) and look for the info on shoe boxes. Or if you don't like to shop, you can drop a check or envelope in the offering plate and mark it OCC.

**THE DEADLINE TO DONATE ITEMS IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>.**



**Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm in Hope Hall.**

***"The Santa Clause" 1994 · PG · 1h 37m***

**When a man inadvertently makes Santa fall off his roof on Christmas Eve, he finds himself magically recruited to take his place.**

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 9, 2023 at 2:00 pm**

We will sing Christmas carols for our Home Heroes on December 9<sup>th</sup>.  
The bus leaves the church promptly at 2:00pm.



### **Children's Christmas Program**

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> during our worship service**



### **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.**



If you have an article to submit for the December Newsletter,  
Please email it to Jillian by **Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**.  
FMI call 610-681-4412 or email [juccsecy@ptd.net](mailto:juccsecy@ptd.net)



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Jerusalem UCC CCLI license number 2745745



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