



# Zwingli United Church of Christ

## Celebrating and Sharing God's Love

*Zwingli Hill News*

*December 2020*

*Vol. 58 No. 10*

*Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; God will come and save you."*  
-Isaiah 35:4 (NKJV)

*Do not worry 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.* -Philippians 4:6-7 (NRSV)

Thanksgiving is upon us and Advent too. Both are celebrations and times in the church year that we cherish and anticipate. But, as we know, this Thanksgiving, Advent *and Christmas* will be quite a bit different than what we've experienced in year's past. In the midst of the pandemic, political unrest, and social justice issues requiring needed attention, it's easy to feel weary and worried about what the future holds. We will be worshipping "virtually only" again until at least mid-January. We've been encouraged to curtail family gatherings, or to forego them altogether for the holiday season. It's easy to feel fearful and apprehensive and overwhelmed.

Yet, over and over again in scripture we hear things like, "Do not be afraid," "Be strong," "Wait for the Lord," "Do not worry," "Give thanks," "Pray," and "Look to Jesus and the peace that he gives." We may feel at times like these are simply platitudes without any real substance. However, what I love about the Bible is that the stories and writings and poetry arise from real life, times that were often difficult, scary, and threatening as well as joyful and celebratory. Both Testaments bear witness to moments in the lives of faithful people who faced exile, war, persecution, imprisonment, death, internal church strife, sickness – physical, emotional and spiritual, as well as the joy of new birth, return home and resurrection. So, someone like Paul, or the writer of the passage from Isaiah can certainly understand and empathize with our worries and concerns about an uncertain future and the other issues that concern us. They also teach us valuable lessons about faith. In the midst of their struggles, they were able to give thanks. They were able to trust God. Paul continued to speak boldly about Jesus as the center of his life and proclaimed that God was above all and in all and through all (or, always with us).

So, even as I grieve the losses felt during the pandemic and wonder when we will be able to be together in-person again, I am encouraged to find ways to rejoice and be thankful. I feel a great sense of gratitude for the members and staff at Zwingli who step up and do ministry with a smile on their face and determination in their heart. I am thankful for blessings undeserved and hope I can send a few blessings and help to those who need it. Though I may worry about COVID 19 and how it is affecting our community and world, I can give thanks for those on the front lines that teach us about sacrifice and working together. Though I am sickened by the injustice, lies and harm we witness each day, I can trust in a God of justice and the Prince of Peace who shines light even in the darkest places, and who encourages me – and us – to work all the harder for justice, truth and in our corner of the world.

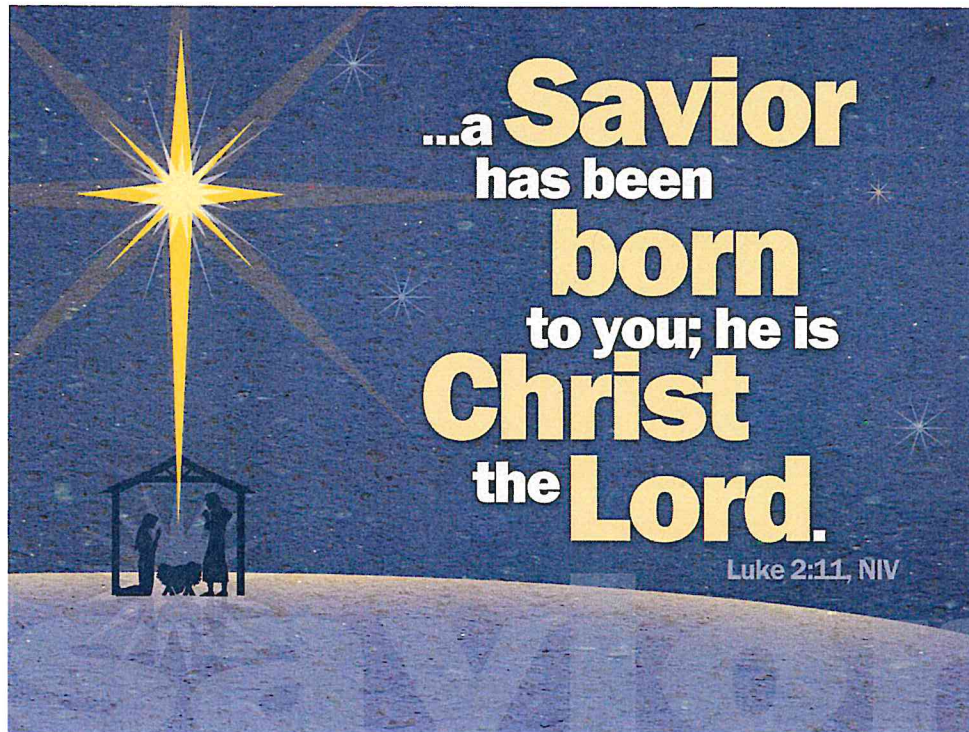
This Thanksgiving and Advent come at a very unique time in our history, when it would be easy and understandable to succumb to worry and pessimism and despair. But, I trust we will be a community of hope, a

church that bears witness to justice and extravagant welcome, a people who seek to work together for the common good, and followers of the way of Jesus that seeks reconciliation and healing. May we also pray without ceasing and give thanks to the God who gives us life.

Blessings in this holiday season –  
Pastor Butch

*Table of Contents*

1	Virtual Worship, Advent Schedule	9	Christian Education
2	Christmas Eve, Advent Stocking, Happiness Hunt	11	Missions
3	Congregational Meeting, Trees, Epiphany	13	Nursery School, PA COVID Alert App
4	Health News	14	Free Wood!
7	Virtual Opportunities, Search Committee Update	15	December Birthdays
8	Ongoing Fundraisers, ONA	16	Kids' Activity Page



*Wishing You a Blessed Christmas!  
Pastor Butch, Pastor Elaine,  
Lisa, Steve, Kristie,  
Linda, Carrie and Karen.*



## **RETURN TO VIRTUAL ONLY WORSHIP**

In light of recent developments regarding COVID cases and hospitalization, and relying on the wisdom of public health experts, the RTC Team has made the very difficult decision to return to "virtual only" worship, beginning Sunday, November 29. We are planning to resume in-person worship beginning Sunday, January 17, 2021. This time period will hopefully carry us through the high-risk holiday period when infections and infection rates are likely to be high. If you have any questions, please send to Lisa at [office@zwingli.org](mailto:office@zwingli.org) and she will direct them to the pastors or RTC team.



## **JOIN US ONLINE EACH SUNDAY FOR WORSHIP!**

Prelude music will begin at 8:45 am.  
Worship will begin at 9 am.

To join us on Facebook Live, go to:  
[www.facebook.com/Zwingli.ucc](https://www.facebook.com/Zwingli.ucc)

Don't have a Facebook Account? No problem –below are directions to watch the worship service without a Facebook account.

1. Click on [www.facebook.com/Zwingli.ucc/live](https://www.facebook.com/Zwingli.ucc/live) at 8:45 am.
2. If video is not playing, click the word "videos" in the left column, then look at the first video thumbnail under "all videos". This should be the most

current Live video. If you are early, you may need to refresh the page by hitting F5 on your keyboard.

3. You DO NOT need to log in or sign up to be able to view the service.
4. Remember, if you load the page before the stream starts, the stream will not pop up. You will need to refresh the page.

To view the worship service at a later date:  
Go to [www.zwingli.org](http://www.zwingli.org) or  
Go to Facebook.com/Zwingliucc or  
Go to Twitter #Zwingliucc or  
Check your weekly Z-News on Monday.



## *Advent Schedule*

### **Sunday, November 29**

#### ***First Sunday in Advent***

*Lighting of the First Advent Candle  
Holy Communion*

### **Sunday, December 6**

#### ***Second Sunday in Advent***

*Lighting of the Second Advent Candle*

### **Sunday, December 13**

#### ***Third Sunday in Advent***

*Lighting of the Third Advent Candle*

*Congregational Meeting Following the  
Service*

### **Sunday, December 20**

#### ***Fourth Sunday in Advent***

*Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle*



## *Christmas Eve* SERVICE

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**  
**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

### **5 pm - Family Service**

Our service for families with young children (and those of us who love to watch their excitement) will be offered virtually with many of our families doing their part to tell the Christmas story in their unique way. Watch for more specifics in the bulletin and join us for virtual candle lighting and "Joy to the World".

### **7:30 pm - Lessons & Carols, Communion**

The Christmas Story is told through scripture and music, with soloists and the Bell Choir taking part (virtually of course). We will also celebrate virtual communion during this service and virtual candle lighting.

**No 11:00 pm service this year**



*The Advent  
Stocking*

### **THE ADVENT STOCKING**

This tradition will be continued by having a designated family each week come by the church at sometime during their week to place an item in the stocking, which will be in the area between the doors. It will be a secret until given to the pastor on Sunday morning.



*HOLIDAY HAPPINESS HUNT*

### **HOLIDAY HAPPINESS HUNT**

The entire congregation is invited to participate in a Sunday afternoon of safe and healthy fun and fellowship. We are doing a scavenger hunt of holiday happiness on Sunday, December 13th 2:00-4:00 pm with a follow up zoom session at 4:30 to share the stories of our holiday fun.

This is how you can participate:

- 1) Sign up to display one of the items - It might already be part of your holiday decorations or might be something you will "hide" in a visible place to be seen by those driving by. We will include your address in the "Participators" list that will be distributed.
- 2) Request lists - one will be of the items you are looking for (with a reminder of why they are significant in our Christmas

celebration) and the other list will be of the homes where you might find those items. Then jump in your car the afternoon of December 13th and see what you can find. When you spot what you think is "the item", beep, wave, and/or roll down your window and call out "Merry Christmas!" (or sing a carol).

3) Offer to be a Shepherds Helper by (safely) delivering a special Christmas greeting to 1 or 2 of our home bound or more isolated members while you are out and about. Similar to the Balloon Brigade earlier this year, we want to make sure no one feels forgotten this Christmas. Details and greeting items will be provided.

Please contact Glady Amspacher by phone, text or email at 443-791-5797 or [gladyamspacher@yahoo.com](mailto:gladyamspacher@yahoo.com) by December 9th to let us know all the ways you would like to participate. We'd love for you to do all three!



### **2020 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

I am calling to order a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2020 via Zoom at 10:30 am. Business will include: a vote to approve the slate of nominees for Council and Ministries who will start their terms January 10, 2021, a slight change for clarification in the Constitution, and the approval of the 2021 proposed church budget. The changes reflect Zwingli's amazing growth in the last ten years. Please call me with your questions at 215-723-9338.

Yours in Christ,  
Ed Bibic,  
Moderator, Church Council



### **BOY SCOUT TROOP #401 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE**

'Tis the Season! Sales begin Black Friday 1-8 pm, then Thursdays and Fridays 6-9, Saturdays 9-9, Sundays 1-8. The Scout Cabin is located at 447 Wile Avenue in Souderton.

The troop is following all safety guidelines for COVID-19. Face coverings are required while shopping for your tree. Scouts will maintain distance and only assist if necessary.

This sale will continue until the trees are all sold out. All profits help with Troop #401's operations, camping gear, membership fees, and to subsidize expensive outings.



On Sunday, January 3, Zwingli will celebrate Epiphany Sunday. Epiphany commemorates the revealing of Jesus as the Messiah and the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentile community. In our tradition, that community is represented by the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child. Join us in worship on this special day as we remember that, like the kings of old, wise people still seek him! We will also share in the sacrament of Holy Communion.



## Healthy Moments

### Celebrating the Holidays During a Pandemic

By Kristie Lowery, Faith Congregational Health Nurse

***‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6***

This COVID-19 pandemic has been stressful and isolating for many people. It has been going on for several months. And now as the family gathering holidays are approaching, the number of COVID 19 cases are increasing rapidly each day. Many people are asking each other about how to handle the holiday get togethers. Unfortunately, family gatherings have the potential of spreading the COVID-19 virus. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) offers some considerations to slow the spread of the virus during small gatherings.

Celebrating virtually or with members of your own household (who are consistently taking measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19) poses the lowest risk for spread. Your household is anyone who currently lives and shares common spaces in your housing unit (such as your house or apartment). This can include family members, as well as roommates or people who are unrelated to you. People who do not currently live in your housing unit, such as college students who are returning home from school for the holidays, should be considered part of different households. In-person gatherings that bring together

family members or friends from different households pose varying levels of risk.

People that should not attend in person holiday gatherings include:

- People with or exposed to Covid-19. Do not host or participate in any in person gatherings if you or anyone in your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has not met the criteria for when it is safe to be around others.
- Do not attend any gatherings if you have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Waiting for COVID-19 test results
- May have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Is at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19

Hosts of gatherings and those attending holiday celebrations should consider precautions suggested by the CDC when bringing together people from different households. Hosts should consider the following:

- Check the COVID-19 infection rates in areas where attendees live on local health department websites. Based on the current status of the pandemic, consider if it is safe to hold or attend the gathering on the proposed date.
- Limit the number of attendees as much as possible to allow people from different households to remain at least 6 feet apart at all times. Guests should avoid direct contact, including handshakes and hugs, with others not from their household.
- Host outdoor rather than indoor gatherings as much as possible. Even outdoors, require guests to wear masks when not eating or drinking.
- Avoid holding gatherings in crowded, poorly ventilated spaces

with persons who are not in your household.

- Increase ventilation by opening windows and doors to the extent that is safe and feasible based on the weather, or by placing central air and heating on continuous circulation.
- If setting up outdoor seating under a pop-up open air tent, ensure guests are still seated with physical distancing in mind. Enclosed 4-wall tents will have less air circulation than open air tents. If outdoor temperature or weather forces you to put up the tent sidewalls, consider leaving one or more sides open or rolling up the bottom 12" of each sidewall to enhance ventilation while still providing a wind break.
- Require guests to wear masks. At gatherings that include persons of different households, everyone should always wear a mask that covers both the mouth and nose, except when eating or drinking. It is also important to stay at least 6 feet away from people who are not in your household at all times.
- Encourage guests to avoid singing or shouting, especially indoors. Keep music levels down so people don't have to shout or speak loudly to be heard.
- Encourage attendees to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Provide guests information about any COVID-19 safety guidelines and steps that will be in place at the gathering to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Provide and/or encourage attendees to bring supplies to help everyone to stay healthy. These include extra masks (do not share or

swap with others), hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, and tissues. Stock bathrooms with enough hand soap and single use towels.

- Limit contact with commonly touched surfaces or shared items such as serving utensils.
- Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and any shared items between use when feasible.
- Use touchless garbage cans if available. Use gloves when removing garbage bags or handling and disposing of trash. Wash hands after removing gloves.

The more of these prevention measures that you put in place, the safer your gathering will be. No one measure is enough to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This year, the holidays will not be the same as previous ones, but it is a time to be creative and inventive to develop new trends and ways to celebrate. Those at high risk for developing the virus may find themselves lonely and isolated this holiday season. Find ways to be in contact with them and lift their spirits by sharing God's love with them. Gifts are not as important as acts of kindness, receiving cards or phone calls, and maybe deliver a plate of cookies. Together we will get through this holiday knowing that Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

#### References

"Holiday Celebrations and Small Gatherings. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>



## The Importance of Getting a Flu Shot During Covid-19

The Flu season has arrived right in the middle of a pandemic. Getting a flu shot has never been more important. Having the flu can weaken your immune system and your resistance to Covid-19.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is possible to have the flu and Covid-19 at the same time.

The American Heart Association has provided Five Reasons to obtain a flu shot.

- Those who skip the flu shot are six times more likely to have a heart attack.
- Having the flu increases your chance of having a stroke by 40%.
- Moms to be are nearly 7% less likely to be hospitalized for the flu if they get a flu shot.
- Children who get a flu vaccine are much less likely to be hospitalized if they do develop the virus.

Seniors and those with heart disease, diabetes or other risk factors are at greater risk from the flu. AARP has issued three reasons why getting the flu vaccine is important.

- Flu vaccine reduces severe illness. It is possible to have the flu and COVID 19 at the same time. Having the flu vaccine will help to decrease the severity of the illness.
- It prevents a crowded health care system. Usually during flu season, hospital beds are full due to patients having the flu. Combine that with Covid-19 and there will definitely be

no room in the inn (hospital). Doing what you can to be healthy and prevent illness will help alleviate the traumatic impact on available hospital beds.

- Flu season could worsen testing delays. A high number of flu cases could also contribute to coronavirus testing delays. Flu and Covid-19 share similar symptoms and both have "flu like symptoms" which makes it harder to diagnose the virus based on symptoms. Testing will need to be done for both which will add more testing needs to a system that is already struggling to meet demands.

This year, it is so important to get the flu shot. If you have not done so already, please obtain one as soon as possible. Do it for you, your family and your neighbors. As the Bible states in Mark 12:31, "...Love your neighbor as yourself."

References:

"Three Reasons You'll Regret Skipping The Flu Shot this Year". AARP Health Conditions and Treatments  
<https://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2020/flu-coronavirus-twindemic.html>

"Get Your Flu Shot Today". American Heart Association. <https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/flu-prevention>





### WEDNESDAY PRAYER CIRCLE

We will meet for Prayer Circle with Pastor Elaine or Pastor Butch **each Wednesday** of the month from 12:00 to 12:30. The zoom invitation will be sent ahead of time. We feel that heartfelt communal prayer is especially needed on a consistent basis as we continue to deal with individual, family and church concerns, the pandemics of COVID 19 and racism, as well as other societal issues and direction.

### INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT ZWINGLI?

Our Membership Class plans in the spring got sidetracked by COVID 19. It's being handled differently, but we certainly welcome anyone who is interested in membership. With the increased use of technology, you can "join" no matter where you are. Please contact the office (215-723-1186 or [office@zwingli.org](mailto:office@zwingli.org)) with your interest and we will be in touch directly to provide the information you need.

### ZWINGLI ZOOM ROOM FELLOWSHIP!

Join us on Sundays following worship for fellowship through Zoom! To join in, follow this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86751925286?pwd=K3lqbEdMcDZHY0pOaEVpSWxqTWMydz09>

Meeting ID: 867 5192 5286

Password: 7231186

Or dial 1-646-558-8656 or 1-312-626-6799.

Follow the prompts. The Meeting ID: 867 5192 5286, Password: 7231186

The meeting ID and Password is good through and including Sunday, December 27.

Adult Electives Class will immediately follow fellowship on the same Zoom address.



### FAITH REFLECTION ON FACEBOOK LIVE!

Tuesdays at 12 noon of each week. Pastor Butch or Pastor Elaine will provide a short 6-8-minute faith reflection on Zwingli's Facebook page. Please join in with other friends and members as we strive to make connection and share our faith. You can simply go to Zwingli's Facebook page at the appropriate time.

### SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has received another profile and after promising initial and second interviews with the candidate, are continuing the process toward calling a new Associate Pastor. The next steps involve the candidate meeting with the Elders, then Council, and then with the congregation to offer a trial sermon and a chance to meet and greet. Though there

is progress, we still have a ways to go! Please keep the search committee and process in your prayers. Also, please offer your thanks to the committee members who have gone above the call of duty with the search process. We will keep you informed of news and progress. (Search Committee: Mark Comden (Chair), Jim Bush, Chris Jalboot, Dr. Angela Mosby, Dr. Karen Rosenberger, Pastor Butch)



**SUPPORT ZWINGLI BY SHOPPING AT AMAZONSMILE!**

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase to the Zwingli UCC general fund. Just go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), designate Zwingli United Church of Christ as your charity, and start shopping for all your Christmas needs! Or type in this link which will take you directly to Zwingli's Amazon page: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6291301>



**GROCERY GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER**

Buy your groceries and help Zwingli all at the same time!

This fundraiser benefits the Zwingli General Fund! Purchase a **GIANT Store, Landis Supermarket or Shop-Rite** gift card from Zwingli Church and 5% of your purchase goes directly into the General Fund. Cards are available for purchase through the church office during the week.



**FUNDRAISING WITH FOOD**

Just a reminder that we have partnered with Fasageo's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria, 724 Ridge Rd., Sellersville, PA for an ongoing fundraiser. Fasageo's will return 10% of any food sales purchased to Zwingli. You just need to inform them when placing your order for dine in, pick up, or delivery that you are a member of Zwingli. It's that simple!



a just world for all  
[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)

**ONA**

We appreciate the interest that has been shown for our Open And Affirming journey and welcome your continued participation. In December, we will offer 2 classes during Adult Electives that will focus on the importance of covenants and how UCC congregations have used them in welcoming and affirming all God's people. Please join us on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> to learn about covenants and their importance in the UCC.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ZWINGLI THIS FALL

Children/Youth in-person Sunday School has been postponed until better weather or in-person worship resumes. We will keep you informed. In the meantime, we will be providing some crafts and Advent activities throughout the Advent Season, and we are working on videos and/or story time to stay connected. A special "Thank you!" to the teachers and volunteers who made sure our children and youth had Sunday School sessions throughout the fall, and to all the parents/grandparents who brought the kids to enjoy it.



## SUPPORT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ANGEL TREE FOR BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME!

Things look a little different this year for the Bethany Children's Home Angel Tree. We will not have decorated angels available for you to take home. There are two ways you can participate in this important ministry.

1. Purchase a NEW gift from the list below and place it (UNWRAPPED) in the box in the vestibule by Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.
  2. Purchase a gift from this Amazon Wish List:  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3DG2BPP3UQAED?ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_wl\\_dp\\_ytzTZWVVecslT](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3DG2BPP3UQAED?ref=cm_sw_em_r_wl_dp_ytzTZWVVecslT)
- You will need to select the shipping address for any items ordered off of the Amazon Wish List. Please select "Bethany Children's Home's Gift Registry Address". When you go to check out, the SHIP TO will show as Bethany Children's Home, WOMELSDORF, PA.
  - You may receive a notice that this could be a duplicate gift – that is ok. Bethany needs multiple orders of all the items on our wish list. Go ahead and order the item even if it's a duplicate.

**Even though things feel different this year, we thank you for your continued support of this mission.**

## BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME CHRISTMAS SHOPPING LIST

Youth are 10 - 21 years of age. Take a shopping list with you and bring your **new, unwrapped gifts** to Zwingli no later than **Sunday, 12/13/20**.

**Recreation:** pickleball paddles and balls, agility ladders, 29.5" basketballs, kick balls & playground balls, large easy up tent, Nalgene water bottles

**Teen Girls Clothing:** (Juniors and Misses Sizes Small-2X) sweatpants, panties – size 5,6,7 & 8, sports bras/bralettes, socks-all types, pajamas, bath robes, tank tops, rubber-soled slippers, gym shorts, snow boots

**Teen Boys Clothing:** (Men's Sizes Small-2XL): sweatpants, boxer briefs, socks-all types,

pajama pants,  
white t-shirts, gym shorts, rubber-soled  
slippers or slides, robes, snow boots

**Accessories:** Umbrellas, electric digital  
alarm clock  
with no radio, wash baskets, rain ponchos,  
rain boots

**Activity Items:** art and craft kits, adult  
coloring books, paint-by-number, tie dye  
kits (with white shirts and pillowcases), card  
stock, paint brushes, hand-held games,  
board games, scrapbook paper, canvas  
boards, yarn and crochet and knitting  
needles, Lego sets, sketch books, hard  
bound journals, Gimp, embroidery thread,  
fuse beads and fuse bead bases, Sharpie  
markers, acrylic paint, stencils, calligraphy  
ink, small wooden projects, gesso paint  
primer, Michael's gift cards

**Cottage Needs:** small bins with handles to  
hold toiletries, bed pillows, twin sheet sets,  
twin zippered waterproof mattress pads,  
bath towels, pool towels,  
shower curtain liners, shower curtain rings,  
kitchen dish cloths/towels, twin comforters,  
4 slice toasters, MP3 players, flashlights and  
nightlights.



### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have learned to transition quite  
smoothly from Fellowship to Adult Electives  
or Bible Study each Sunday morning at  
10:30. Classes have been well attended

(but there's always room for more). On the  
first Sunday of each month we continue to  
combine our Adult Electives with the Adult  
Bible Study class.

We have some excellent opportunities  
coming up in the next few weeks:

**November 29** we will hear a Native  
American perspective on this week's  
celebration of giving thanks from Tribal  
Elder Feather Suneagle.

**December 6** - Combined Adult Electives  
and Adult Bible Study

**December 13** - Pastor Butch will help us  
understand the history and significance of  
covenants, especially within the United  
Church of Christ - a covenantal  
denomination.

**December 20** - We will look at how  
covenants have helped congregations  
understand their commitments to welcome  
and affirm those often neglected by faith  
communities and how covenants build  
trust among the disenfranchised.

**December 27** - No Adult Electives class



### LYFT FELLOWSHIP

We're having a Christmas Pajama Party (or  
Christmas sweater, if you prefer) on  
Sunday, Dec 6th at 6:30 pm via zoom. You  
will receive trivia quizzes and scrambled  
carols to figure out as a family. We'll share  
cookie recipes (and watch each other eat  
them LOL), share some Christmas traditions,  
and plan how to make this an awesome  
Christmas even with a pandemic  
happening.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR ZWINGLI  
ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

We meet every Sunday morning via Zoom at 11:30 am (except the first Sunday when we combine with Adult Electives.) We will be studying traditional Sunday School themes based on the Standard Sunday School Commentary. Our teachers are *Larry Moss, Jonathan Widgins, Charlotte Kramer, and Pete Kispert*. The themes for 2020-2021 will be:

Fall 2020: Love for One Another

Winter 2020-2021: New Testament Call

Spring 2021: Prophets & God's Covenant

Summer 2021: Confident Hope

Join our Sunday School Zoom Meeting by clicking on the link in your Sunday morning bulletin.

# MISSIONS



**ADVENT MISSION PROJECT**

The Advent Mission Project this year supports the Last Chance Ranch in Quakertown, a volunteer non-profit organization. Their mission is dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating equines, farm animals and other domestic animals including dogs and cats, and also educating the public regarding humane and responsible treatment of pets and

other animals. Check out their website at [www.lastchanceranch.org](http://www.lastchanceranch.org) for a comprehensive list of the supplies that we will be collecting. Once in, click on **Donate**, scroll down to **Supplies**, then click on **Supplies & Materials Wish List**. We will receive all donations on two days in December; Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am until noon and Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 until 5:00 pm.

**CHRISTMAS FUND APPEAL**

For all the sacrifices that clergy and lay church workers have made in our congregations, over 100 years ago the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ created the **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund**, to help support them in retirement and during times of emergency need through emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Over the past nine months, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically. In such a time as this, the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

**LOCAL MILLER-KEYSTONE  
SATELLITE CENTER OPENING**

Starting December 29<sup>th</sup> M-K is opening a center at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at 69 W. Broad St. Souderton the last Tuesday of every month from 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm. This will be only for specialized collections;

i.e. platelets, plasma, double-red cells, and Priority blood types. Donors must sign up ahead of time at [www.giveapint.org](http://www.giveapint.org). The need still exists for donors who recovered from COVID-19. The donor must be free of symptoms due to COVID-19 for at least 28 days.



### **MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD DRIVE**

Date: Monday, January 18, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Location: Zwingli UCC Family Life Center

Miller-Keystone is an independent, not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that is the sole blood provider to 29 hospitals in 9 Pennsylvania counties and 2 New Jersey counties. Included are Grand View Health, St. Luke's Hospital, and Lehigh Valley Health.

We are again teaming up with Zion Mennonite Church for this Martin Luther King Jr. Day event. You can register on-line at **GIVEaPINT.org**. Click on **Give Blood** on the top left, click on the **Schedule Now** box, key in your zip code, choose **Include Mobil Drives**, set both dates to **01/18/2021**, then click on **Search**. Choose the Zwingli UCC **Schedule** and pick your time.

If you have any questions contact Jim See at 215-257-4160 or e-mail at [21m5ee@comcast.net](mailto:21m5ee@comcast.net). If you would like Jim to schedule the time slot for you, please provide him with a preferred time.

To speed your time donating, you can fill out the Donor History Questionnaire by going to **GIVEaPINT.org** and clicking on the **iScreen** box on the right. You can do this only on the morning of the drive. Once

completed, print a copy and bring it with you.

16 year olds are allowed to donate blood. Print the permission slip from the M-K web site and bring it to the drive, signed by a parent or guardian.



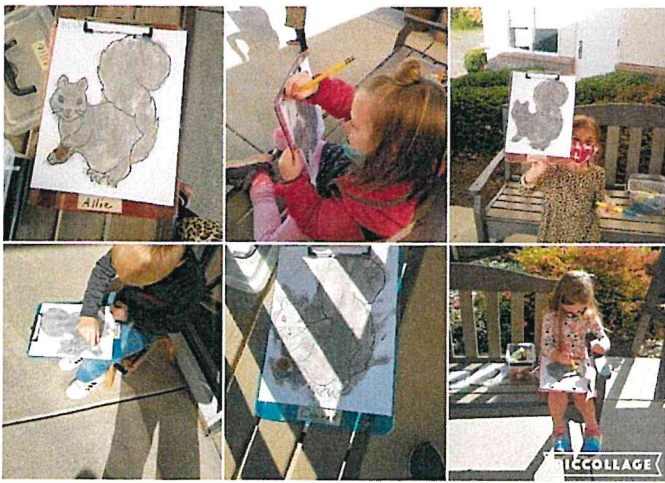
### **THANKSGIVING FOOD DONATION UPDATE**

Thanks to all who donated either individual grocery items or complete food bags to Keystone Opportunity Center's annual drive. They received over 370 bags of food compared to last year's total of over 400. All food items were delivered to families in need.

### **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH & NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

Thank you to everyone who donated to these appeals. \$380 was donated to Strengthen The Church and \$835 to Neighbors In Need. The Missioners sincerely appreciate your participation in both appeals that were initiated late this year due to the pandemic. Your generosity will help both causes.

**Enclosed is a news update from Kate Saurerman in Brazil. Kate is a missionary that Zwingli supports.**



## **ZWINGLI NURSERY SCHOOL UPDATE**

November was a festive and fun month. We had a special Yellow Day and wore our yellow Zwingli tee shirts and had show and tell. We celebrated 2 birthdays in our class! We made several fall projects including: gray squirrel, a scarecrow, a fall leaf with poem and a sunflower sponge painting complete with sunflower seeds. We enjoyed the many warmer days of fall that allowed more time outside doing our projects, reading books, and being on the playground!



## **COVID ALERT PA**

The COVID Alert PA is a free mobile app offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Health that is designed to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The App uses Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) technology and the Exposure Notification System developed by the Apple and Google to help notify and give public health guidance to anyone who may have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

When someone receives a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, they will receive a call from

the Department of Health or their county or municipal health department within 24-72 hours. If the individual has the COVID Alert PA app on their phone, the public health representative will ask if they are willing to accept a 6-digit validation code. If the individual agrees and enters the 6-digit code in the app, they are given the option to share their random Bluetooth keys with other app users. Other app users' phones routinely check if they have ever been in close contact (e.g., within six feet for fifteen minutes or more) with a phone that shared those same Bluetooth keys. If there is a match, the app will let them know they came in close contact with someone who was diagnosed with COVID-19. This is called an Exposure Alert. The app never collects or reveals the identity of any person using the app, and never reveals who has been diagnosed as positive for COVID-19.

This app is voluntary, but the more Pennsylvanians that adopt the app, the more effective it will be at stopping the spread of COVID. Local communities, groups, and organizations can utilize the app to help ensure people are notified when they have been in close contact with someone who tested positive, so they can take steps to protect themselves and others. We encourage Pennsylvanians who are 18 and older with a smartphone to unite against COVID by downloading the app when it is made available in September.

For more information, go to <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/COVIDAlert.aspx>



**IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED**

Due to privacy procedures implemented by all healthcare facilities, it is much more difficult for the church to obtain information about patients than it has been in the past. **If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, or at a rehab or other health facility, please let the church office and the pastor(s) know directly.** This is the only way you can be certain this information will be received.



**STAY INFORMED**

If you want to stay current on what Zwingli Ministries and Council are doing, contact Lisa in the office for an electronic copy. See the wonderful ideas that are being shared by your leaders!



**FREE WOOD!**

We still have wood! Three dead ash trees were cut down and are now available to the public to cut up and take home. Wood is located in the Zwingli parking lot.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MAILING ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY MAILING IS MONDAY, JANUARY 11**

**2020 YEAR END REPORTS ARE DUE MONDAY, JANUARY 4**

\*\*\*\*\*

A/V TEAM

Jonathan Widgins, Ed Bibic, Mark Comden, Kristie Lowery, Lisa Cinciripini

\*\*\*\*\*

Butch Kuykendall, D.Min. ....Senior Pastor  
Elaine Ely.....Interim Associate Pastor  
Steve Emery.....Music Director, Bell Choir Dir.  
Lisa Cinciripini.....Office Administrator  
Kristie Lowery .....Office Assistant  
Linda Cuddahy .....Nursery Caregiver





# LET IT snow!

Create a winter wonderland with this fun craft.



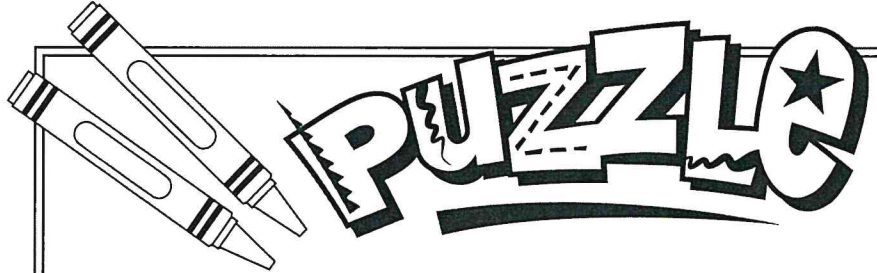
### What you need:

- Glass jar with lid but no label
- Laminated photo (that will fit in the jar)
- Small plastic Christmas trinkets
- Hot or waterproof glue
- Container with spout
- 1 cup distilled water
- 3 tsp. glycerin
- Glitter



### What you do:

1. Unscrew lid and flip jar upside down. Glue the photo and trinkets to the inside of the lid, standing upright.
2. In a container, mix water and glycerin. Pour the mixture into the jar, leaving space at the top.
3. Spoon in some glitter.
4. When glue is dry, attach the decorated lid tightly. Shake the jar to see "snow" swirl and settle.



## WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

*Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.*



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
☃ for	☃ give	☃ come	☃ together	☃ around	☃ after
☃ self	☃ into	☃ settle	☃ eternal	☃ thanks	☃ forgive
☃ God	☃ LORD	☃ says	☃ without	☃ Christ	☃ warmth
☃ love	☃ sins	☃ scarlet	☃ other	☃ light	☃ praise
☃ red	☃ star	☃ white	☃ snow	☃ winter	☃ peace

EXIT

"\_\_\_\_\_ now, let us \_\_\_\_\_ the matter," \_\_\_\_\_ the  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Though your \_\_\_\_\_ are like \_\_\_\_\_,  
 they shall be as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ ...."

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow

## News From Kate Sauerman In Brazil

### Missionary With Shores Of Grace, November 2020

Dear friends and family,

I am happy to be sending a (very) warm greeting from Recife. I made it home, finally on Sept 20 and have been settling back into life here. It felt like a time warp, walking back into my apartment, untouched and as I had left it months ago before the pandemic. Over the past few weeks little by little our team has been returning from around Brazil and around the world. While I was quarantined in the states, much has changed here. We had to shut down our café in the red light district as well as the base where we housed staff and visitors, as there was no business or movement to stay open. We are now headquartered out of a new base in another part of the city. This base does not offer housing, but has plenty of space for our various offices, worship, sports and meetings. The new base is also currently housing a smaller version of the café that closed during lockdown.

Brasil is famous for its coffee, but less commonly known is the fact that in the late 1800s, much of Recife's prostitution happened inside and through cafes. Our café was intended to be a redeemed picture of this early use; a safe place for women to come off the streets, find resources for help, and breath between clients. While it is unfortunately no longer operating in the red light district, we intend for the cafe to serve as an exit strategy for women leaving the sex trade, and point of prevention in providing alternative employment to street work. We are currently waiting on the final paperwork from the government to (re)open. Due to our new location (while we are continuing outreaches into Recife), we are also expanding to reach the prostitution district and homeless camps on this side of town. We are all in a new learning curve as the pandemic has caused much change in the rhythm of street life.

I hope this email finds you well and taking care of yourselves. My heart is with you during this especially difficult moment in time. Please have a wonderful Thanksgiving! I have been so blessed by the gratitude of the community around me upon returning to Brasil. Though we may have little materially here, we are rich in relationship. I pray that your families and friendships will be strengthened in the coming holiday season, and that hope would overwhelm you again. We have so much to be thankful for!

Love,  
Kate

