



Zwingli United Church of Christ

Celebrating and Sharing God's Love

Zwingli Hill News **December, 2021** **Vol. 59 No.10**

Dear Zwingli Family,

It is no use saying that we are born two thousand years too late to give room to Christ. Nor will those that live at the end of the world have been born too late. Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts.

-Dorothy Day (from *The Catholic Worker*, December 1945, 2)

No matter the year, I'm never quite prepared for Advent or Christmas. The Fall months are full of activity as the program year gears up and special events, projects and responsibilities fill the calendar to the brim. By time late November rolls around and I try to give time to reflect on Advent, I realize just how unprepared I am. Yes, Advent worship services, Christmas Caroling (in usual years), Christmas Eve services and other events happen on time and are meaningful. The Christmas tree goes up, decorations appear in the house and thanks to Sally, gifts are purchased and wrapped. But, giving adequate space for waiting, patience and preparation for the meaning and reason for Advent and Christmas is rare.

Advent means "coming" or "arrival." It is traditionally a time of patient waiting and preparation for celebrating the coming of the Christ Child, the second coming of Christ and the reception of Christ into our hearts. Simone Weil once said that "waiting patiently in expectation is the foundation of the spiritual life," and this is what the season of Advent is to be about. But waiting is hard. Giving space is difficult. Making room in my heart for Christ to dwell and give shape to my life and faith is a struggle at times. The struggle should not be surprising. As Henri Nouwen commented, we live in a culture that tells us again and again to "Get Going! Do something! Show you are able to make a difference! Don't just sit there and wait! ("A Spirituality of Waiting," *The Weavings Reader*). But waiting is what we are called to do. Being prayerful and patient gives deeper meaning to the Advent and Christmas seasons.

There is much that will be happening over the next month in our lives and at church. We'll experience times with friends and family, worship, book studies and fellowship events. There will be decorating, shopping, preparing meals, traveling, and getting the house ready for guests. Some have medical procedures or will be in rehab. Life will happen with all its ups and downs, hardships and blessings, sadness and joy. Sometimes we'll feel like there's not enough time. Through it all, though, I hope we will be able to take a few moments each day or during the week to wait with patience (slow down!) and prepare to receive the Spirit of Christ into our hearts. For it is Christ who gives ultimate meaning to our lives and faith, and who fills our life with light and joy.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas,
Pastor Butch

Table of Contents

| | | | |
|---|--|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Advent Schedule, Christmas Eve Services Schedule | 8 | Christian Education |
| 2 | Advent Stocking, Online/In-person Worship Instructions | 11 | Missions |
| 3 | Congregational Meeting, Continental Breakfast | 15 | Nursery School |
| 4 | Christmas Trees, Epiphany, Prayer Circle, Health News | 16 | Community Event, Volunteers |
| 6 | Fundraisers | 17 | December Birthdays |
| 7 | ONA, Still Going Strong | | |



Sunday, November 28

First Sunday in Advent

Lighting of the First Advent Candle-Peace
Holy Communion

Sunday, December 5

Second Sunday in Advent

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle-
Hope

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday in Advent

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle-Joy
Gaudete Sunday

Congregational Meeting Following the
Service

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle-Love



Christmas Eve
SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Friday, December 24th

5 pm - Family Service

Our service for families with young children (and those of us who love to watch their excitement) will be offered to tell the Christmas story. Watch for more specifics in upcoming bulletins and the Z-News.

7:30 pm - Lessons & Carols, Communion

The Christmas Story is told through scripture and music with soloists and the Bell Choir taking part (virtually). We will also celebrate communion and candle lighting in-person and virtually. Please join in for this well-loved and meaningful service.

No 11:00 pm service this year



*The Advent
Stocking*

The Advent Stocking tradition will be continued by having a designated family place an item in the stocking, and returned the following week with a surprise item for the pastor to discuss during the Children's Message.



**WORSHIP
WITH US**

**JOIN US IN-PERSON
OR
ONLINE SUNDAY WORSHIP!**

***Follow the directions below for your choice
of worship.***



IN-PERSON WORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

The Return to Church (RTC) team continues to require masking indoors **for all** who attend services or use our buildings. We also ask those attending on Sunday mornings to speak and sing softly during worship services. The Hymnals, Songbooks, and Bibles have been returned to the sanctuary.

We continue the policy requiring masks due to a persistently high level of COVID-19

cases, variant effects, hospitalizations, and information gleaned from Montgomery County and the CDC.

We will continue to monitor pertinent information as we always have and make ongoing decisions about restrictions as new information is available. We ask for *your patience* and hope our church community can be flexible enough to move in and out of restrictions with ease, if necessary, as we keep in mind the safety of our congregation and the community at large.

We continue to ask for your help in protecting our entire congregation by staying home if you feel sick or are experiencing any of the following:

- Any symptoms of Covid-19 – cough, fever, loss of smell and/or taste, headache, or shortness of breath.
- Have cared for or been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with Covid-19 in the past 14 days. (Please note that this does not apply to health care professionals.)
- Have been advised to self-quarantine.
- Are currently infected with Covid-19 or are undergoing treatment for Covid-19.

Thank you for your continued support of our Zwingli community. The RTC Committee



ONLINE WORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

To Worship On-Line, follow the directions below:

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

To join us on Facebook Live, please do the following:

Type the following web address
www.facebook.com/Zwingli.ucc

(Note: Don't have a Facebook Account?
No problem - directions to watch the worship service without a Facebook account can be found at the bottom of announcement.)

To view the worship service at a later date:

Go to www.zwingli.org or
Go to Facebook.com/Zwingliucc or
Go to Twitter #Zwingliucc or
Check your weekly Z-News on Monday.

**Directions to view worship service without creating a Facebook account:

1. Type in web address:
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.



2021 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

I am calling to order a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2021, both in-person and via Zoom at 10:00 am. Business will include: a vote to approve the slate of nominees for Council and Ministries who will start their terms January 9, 2022, and the approval of the 2022 proposed church budget. The changes reflect Zwingli's amazing growth in the last ten years. A Zoom link will follow for those choosing to attend from home. Please call me with your questions at 215-723-9338.

Yours in Christ,
Ed Bibic,
Moderator, Church Council

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Join us for a continental breakfast on the second Sunday of each month The Ministry of Shepherds will provide the food – you provide the fellowship! We'll finish in time for worship at 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast will be December 12 at 8:00.
Hope to see you there.



**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 2, 2022, 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.



WEDNESDAY PRAYER CIRCLE

We will meet for Prayer Circle with Pastor Alan 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.



**Healthy Moments
Finding the K.I.S.S During the Christmas
Holiday
By Kristie Lowery, Faith Congregational
Health Nurse**

Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.
Romans 14:6

Our feelings about the holidays are very personal. Some may be happy, some may be sad, and others may be ambivalent. The holidays can be stressful for various reasons. Trying to juggle too many things and trying to keep all the balls in the air while trying to keep others happy or meet

their expectations can be difficult. Over scheduling, over indulging, and over spending are some of the conflicts that contribute to the stress. Determining how much time to spend with family members combined with work demands and other expectations for you can lead to frustration and wishing the holidays were over or could be skipped entirely.

Johns Hopkins has published "Ten Tips for Enjoying the Holidays". The goal is to try to enjoy the holiday as much as possible. The article suggests following the tips to make the most of your holiday season.

1. *Reflect on what is important to you during the holidays.* The importance of the holiday may change over the years depending on where you are in your life journey. Ponder what you would like to do over the holidays and who you would like to spend time. Determine ahead of time what will give meaning to your holiday.
2. *Make a plan as early as possible about what you will do during the holidays.* Consider at least one activity that is important to you to celebrate the holiday. Plan activities to do with family and friends, but also consider some volunteer activities. Making a plan well in advance can give you something to look forward to and will give you some control over your schedule.
3. *Communicate clearly how others can assist or support you.* It is not necessary for one person to do all the preparation for the holidays. Accept offers to help shop, wrap or cook. Some people cannot recognize how to assist if you do not make it known what would help. Most people are happy to help if they understand what is needed.
4. *Realize the holiday season is a marathon, not a sprint.* Preparations do not need to be done in one day. Pace yourself. Social gatherings are

good, but it is important to consider your own mental and physical health before accepting invitations. Doing too much contributes to greater stress. Acknowledge that you cannot do everything for everyone. Practice saying "no" without guilt.

5. *Maintain a healthy lifestyle.* As much as possible, make good food choices and relax to restore energy. Sticking to a daily routine including exercise will improve your endurance and coping of the holidays.
6. *Manage your spending.* There are many distractions wanting your attention and for you to spend money. Advertisements on the television, social media, and inserts in the newspapers are a constant temptation of things to buy. It is best to stick to a budget. Thoughtfulness does not need to be accompanied with a hefty price tag. Some gift solutions include reducing the number of gifts, initiating a gift exchange, giving to a favorite charity in family member names, providing gift certificates for babysitting, snow shoveling, a home cooked meal or time together.
7. *Monitor alcohol and medications, both individually and together.* It is easy to overindulge in alcohol over the holidays, overlooking the interaction with medications. If you do not usually drink alcohol, consider beforehand how alcohol and your medications may interact, especially if you are taking a new medication or an increased dose.
8. *Manage your expectations for family gatherings.* Multiple generations and multiple families celebrating together can be challenging with many conversations occurring at one time, chaos with gift wrappings, and dealing with a variety of

personalities. Be clear about what you need the most and flexible about the rest.

9. *Think ahead about stories or observations from the past as a family that you would like to share.* It is good to reflect on how a family tradition began. Share funny stories about the holidays when you were a child.
10. *Reflect on what went well this holiday season and improvements you would like to make for next year.* Focus on the term "K.I.S.S". Keep it short and simple.

Most of all, reflect on the *Reason for the Season!* Jesus lay in a manger with swaddling clothes and no frills or decorations. The commercialism of Christmas is not what makes Christmas. The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of Jesus birth and the extreme love of God, who sent the baby to us. Focusing on that concept puts things into perspective as to what is important and what can decrease your stress for the holidays. May each of you and your families have a blessed, stress-free Christmas!

References
[Ten Tips for Enjoying the Holidays | Johns Hopkins Medicine](#)
Downloaded 10/27/21.



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, 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!



ONA IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The ONA Implementation team held their first meeting on November 15. We began to brainstorm how we can bring our new ONA Covenant to life in our church and in our community. Some of the ideas are:

- Partner with the Souderton Area School District Gay/Straight Alliance Group.
- Research yard signs/banners/flags
- Research PFLAG meetings
- Promote our covenant on the upcoming new website. Share helpful resources regarding the lgbtq+ community
- Highlight and celebrate special awareness days
- Add pronouns to our name tags
- Set up a Zwingli table at Pride events
- Fundraise and educate members and friends about the Trevor Project and the Covenant House.
- Host a celebration event once we have some projects in place.

If you have ideas or thoughts on how you would like Zwingli to implement this promise, please let one of our team members know. (Lisa Cinciripini, Carolyn Leake, Rhonda Moyer, Joan Yeager, Pastor Alan Miles).

ONA COVENANT

At Zwingli United Church of Christ, we promise to engage and nurture Christ's light in all of God's people, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity, race or ethnic background, social status, soul

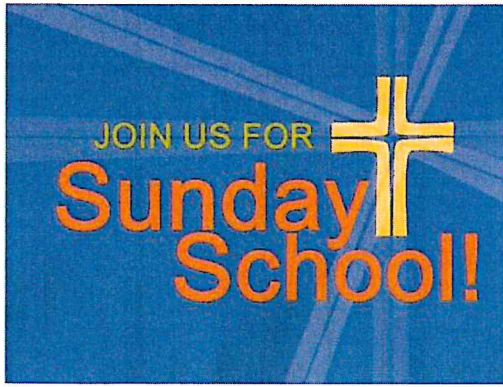
injury, religious beliefs, age, and physical, mental, or addiction challenges.

We aspire to be a counterweight to exclusion and discrimination. We choose to purposefully welcome and include all people in every aspect of our church family including worship, fellowship, and leadership, lay and ordained, and will meet you where you are on life's journey to share God's love with you. It is our commitment that all members should feel and be safe, as we express God's universal and unconditional love in our church, community and daily lives.



STILL GOING STRONG

On Thursday, December 2nd at noon, SGS will hold its monthly meeting. We will resume our tradition of creating Christmas bags for the church members that we wish to remember. Bring your lunch; we'll have cookies for dessert and put together the bags. Hope to see you there.



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Christian education is important, and so children and youth Sunday school will continue to meet during the winter months indoors in the education wing, from 10:30 - 11:30 AM, every Sunday. Masks are required.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS/HELPERS WANTED

If you are interested in teaching or being a helper for our Prek - 2nd grade class or our 3rd - 5th grade class, please sign up on the sign up genius link.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4FADAA2BAAFE3-sunday>

If you are interested in teaching or being a helper for our youth group Sunday school, please use the sign up genius link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f49afa62ca02-youth>

FUN SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITY

On Sunday, November 7, the children's Bible lesson was *The Widow's Offering* from the scripture Mark 12:43-44:

- *Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'*

One of our games to go with this scripture was "Guess How Many Coins". The children were given a piece of paper and marker and had to guess how much money was in the jar. Whoever was closest to the correct amount got to decide what organization would receive the money. Organizations that some of the students suggested were animal rescues, community sports team, food cupboards, etc. Guesses ranged from 95 cents to \$3,005!

The actual amount in the jar was \$27.31. The lucky winner was Jenna Vogt who guessed \$25. She was so close!

When asked where she would like the money donated to, she said: Mr. Beast #TeamSeas. She explained that this organization cleans trash from the rivers, the beaches and the oceans around the world.

#TeamSeas is a global effort with an audacious goal to raise \$30M to remove 30M pounds of trash.

The nonprofits they are partnering with are Ocean Conservancy (Tax ID Number: 23-7245152) and The Ocean Cleanup North Pacific Foundation (Tax ID Number: 81-5132355), both of which are U.S. 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organizations.

The Sunday School donation of \$30 will be split equally between Ocean Conservancy and The Ocean Cleanup, and will be used for verified trash removal of \$1 to one pound.

We actually had two lessons in one day – the importance of giving back to God with a cheerful heart and understanding that we have been given the responsible to act as stewards of God's creation - to care for, manage, oversee and protect all that God owns. Donating to this organization will help protect God's creation.



YOUTH GROUP SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship Help
December 29 – Holiday Party!

Starting on Sunday, November 28, Youth Group will be studying the book, *The Redemption of Scrooge*. Books will be provided for the youth!

SUPPORT THE BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME ANGEL TREE – SPONSORED BY THE ZWINGLI SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Things are back to normal this year for the Bethany Children's Home Angel Tree. We 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 lists out in the atrium and place it (UNWRAPPED) in the box in the breezeway before the atrium by Sunday, December 5th.

OR

Purchase a gift from this Amazon Wish List:

<http://shorturl.at/lnqH6>

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.

2. You will need to put in a new shipping address for any items ordered off the Amazon Wish List. Please use:
**Bethany Children's Home
Amazon Gift Registry**

**1863 Bethany Rd
Womelsdorf, PA 19567**
3. Items purchased from the lists picked up in the atrium need to be dropped off in the donation box at the church by December 5th.

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, 12/05/21**.

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 (all sizes), bath robes, tank tops, rubber-soled slippers, gym shorts, snow boots

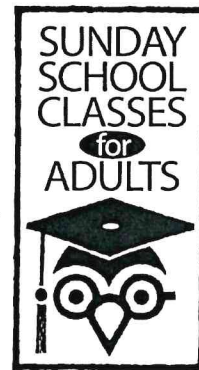
Teen Boys Clothing: (Men's Sizes Small-2XL): sweatpants, boxer briefs, socks (all types), pajama pants, white t-shirts (all sizes), gym shorts, rubber-soled slippers or slides, robes, snow boots

Accessories: Umbrellas, electric digital alarm clock with no radio, wash baskets, rain ponchos, rain boots, large storage containers, tissue paper, wrapping paper

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: shower caddies, 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, hangers, 4 slice toasters, MP3 players, flashlights and nightlights.

Gift Cards: Walmart, Target, Lowe's, Home Depot, TJ Maxx/Marshall's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Redner's, Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Ross, Michael's, Hobby Lobby

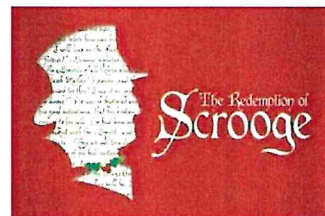


ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We will meet every Sunday morning in person at 10:30 am (except the first Sunday when we join Adult Electives at 10:30.) We will be studying traditional Sunday School themes based on the Standard Sunday School Commentary. Our teachers are Jonathan Widgins, Toni Kramlik and Charlotte Kramer. The themes for 2021-2022 will be:

Dec, Jan, Feb 2022: Justice, Law, History
Mar, Apr, May 2022: God Frees and Redeems

Jun, Jul, Aug 2022: Partners in a New Creation



THE REDEMPTION OF SCROOGE

Wednesdays at 7 PM

Starting December 1, 2021

Join us for a four-week Advent study on *The Redemption of Scrooge*. We will look at how our faith can be impacted by the story of Scrooge, and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, Future. I hope you'll join us for this study which is sure to bring some extra Christmas cheer this holiday season.

Books are available for purchase on Amazon or you can contact the church office if you would like us to place a group order. The cost of the book is \$10. Or, order it from Amazon here: shorturl.at/fjpOQ

Signup by emailing Pastor Alan at pastoralan@zwingli.org



ADULT ELECTIVES THIS FALL

We will continue our practice of combining Adult Electives and Bible Study on the first Sunday of each month.

Topics for upcoming weeks will be:

November 28

God's Love is for Everyone

Acceptance and welcome of LGBTQ members is sometimes difficult for some denominations. We will view a film entitled, "God's Love is for Everyone" which focuses on a Mennonite church in rural Illinois which went through a discernment process of welcome and acceptance.

December 5

Adult Electives will meet jointly with the Adult Bible Study class this morning in the sanctuary.

December 12

To be determined.

December 19

Adult Electives will meet jointly with the Adult Bible Study class this morning in the sanctuary. We will study Justice and Righteousness led by Jonathan Widgins

December 26

No class today. Merry Christmas!

January 2, 2022

Adult Electives will meet jointly with the Adult Bible Study class this morning in the sanctuary.

January 9, 2022

Are you ready for the 2021 Tax Season? Join us as our own tax expert, Carol Mattes brings us up to date on new changes we can expect, the 1040SR (Senior IRS form & other filing forms). Learn how to protect yourself from Identity Theft and gain a better understanding of the Required Minimum Distribution (RMDs) for retirement accounts.

MISSIONS

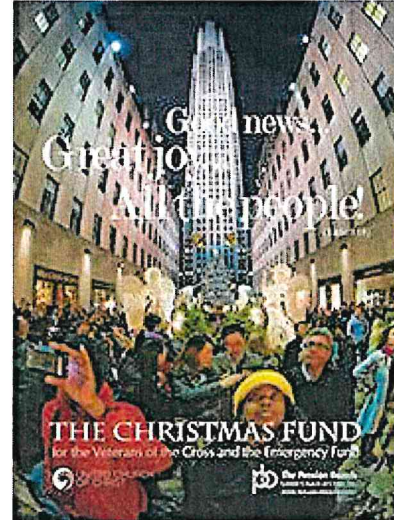
ADVENT MISSION PROJECT

This year's project benefits CHOP Primary Care offices through the Reach Out & Read program. The local Souderton CHOP PC office has moved to their new location at 4 S. County Line Rd., previously Biggies. The Reach Out and Read program provides new developmentally appropriate books to take home for each child from 6 months to 5 years old who visits a CHOP office. The material used for the covers of books for the younger children is also taken into consideration because it generally ends up in their mouths at some point. Consequently, Reach Out & Read only accepts financial donations in order to purchase the books from preferred sources. Each book costs \$2.75. So 10 books cost \$27.50, 100 books \$275, etc.

NOTE: Prior to COVID they accepted new or gently used books for their waiting rooms, but stopped that practice for now. In each exam room the doctor and Nurse Practitioner (NP) teaches parents the importance of reading aloud to their young children every day based on research showing that the first 1,000 days of a child's life are the most critical in terms of brain development. The pediatricians and NPs offer age-appropriate tips and encouragement which has proven that when they promote literacy readiness according to the Reach Out and Read model the following occurs:

- Parents are two and a half times more likely to read to their children.
- Parents are two times more likely to read to their children more than three times a week.
- Families are two and a half times more likely to enjoy reading together or have books in the home.
- Children's language development is improved by three to six months.
- Children's language ability improves with increased exposure to Reach Out and Read.

Please consider supporting this year's Advent mission project with a donation that allows the purchase of 10 books or 100 books. However any amount donated will be greatly appreciated. Let's help young families give their children a head start in life.



CHRISTMAS FUND

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. 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.

The collection this year will be Sunday December 19th. Thank you!



MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER

JANUARY BLOOD DRIVE

The blood drive will be held at Zwingli on Martin Luther King Day, Monday January 17th, from 12:00 noon until 6:00 pm. You can register today on-line at GIVEaPINT.org. Click on Give Blood on the top left, click on the Schedule Now box, key in 18964 for the Zip Code, leave Mobil Drives set to Yes, set both dates to 01/17/2022, then click on Search. Choose the Zwingli United Church of Christ Schedule and pick your time. For further information, contact Jim See at 21m5ee@comcast.net. NOTE: You can give blood even if you recently received the COVID vaccine.

A question was raised this past year with schedules being shifted around, if you can give blood at another Miller-Keystone blood drive and have it credited to Zwingli. The answer is YES. Key-cards are available on the Missioners table. When you're donating at a location other than Zwingli, have them swipe the card when you check-in and your donation will be credited back to Zwingli. You may take extra cards for friends and family. However regardless who uses the card, the donation will be credited back to Zwingli. Also, this is only good at Miller-Keystone drives.

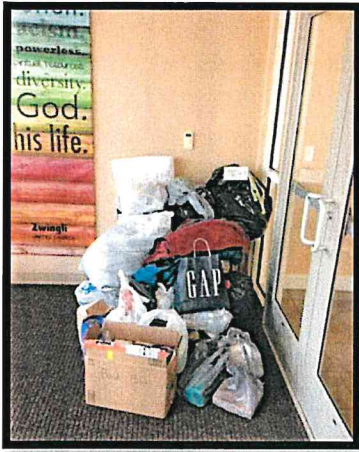
THANK YOU!

Special thanks to all who contributed to the Neighbors In Need appeal last month. A total of \$1,125 was forwarded to the conference which is a 34% increase over last year. Thank you, thank you, thank you.



THANK YOU, AGAIN!!

A total of 20 complete Thanksgiving food bags were assembled by the congregation plus 2 extra gift cards. Because food bags were dropped off directly at the Keystone Opportunity Center office last year, we don't have a comparison. However it almost matches Zwingli's 2019 collection. These bags will be given to Keystone's clients along with their normal monthly allowance. Thank you for your support of this program as its benefits are felt locally.



OVERWHELMING BUSH HOUSE RESPONSE

Thank you to all who donated items to respond to the request for help with the Bush House resident's immediate needs. The box was full to overflowing. Plus bags of donations were on the table next to it and bags on the floor. Everything from toiletries to winter coats. For something that was first announced Sunday at worship and due in 4 days, it was amazing! On Friday we heard back from the coordinator at BARC Development Services who was coordinating this effort. She said that "Quakertown borough has thankfully been overwhelmed by the community's kindness and ran out of space to collect items. I have been in touch with two other agencies in the community about receiving the items to be distributed. Thank you again for your support!"

So although all of what we donated may not go to Bush House residents, they will be going to others in need. That's an unexpected blessing to the agencies serving others who also need help.

On behalf of the Missioners we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Also special thanks to Barry Johnston who picked up the items and delivered them to BARC.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MISSIONARY – KATE SAURMAN



Happy November my friends. These updates have been few and far between recently. I apologize for that - it's not for lack of things to say. I have been busy continuing to develop a team of counselors and a program to provide care for our staff. This takes many forms, from planning meetings, processing with worn out missionaries, debriefing, helping staff transition onto and off the field. I am also currently working on the media team creating content for Shores awareness/fundraising campaigns. The ability to serve in these areas has been a lifeline over the past 1.5 years, as I can perform my responsibilities to some extent remotely when quarantined or dealing with my health. However, my greatest joy continues to be spending time with our girls and ministering through the arts. This month I took pregnancy photos for two incredible women and I want to briefly share their stories (with names changed) below:



Our team met Isabel in the red light district a few years ago, and she has since decided to leave prostitution. Isabel lives in one of Recife's more dangerous slums which had previously been closed to us. To better support her, we began visiting her home weekly, (as long as the community is not shut down due to gang wars). Isabel has begun hosting her neighbors for these times of worship and Bible study, and it is amazing to see God touching a whole community through her life.



The second maternity shoot is for Michelle, a beautiful 15 year old girl who recently moved into our rescue home. She had early complications in the pregnancy which predicted her son would be born months pre-mature. Miraculously after much prayer, the doctors have found her condition completely reversed and she is on par to carry full term. Both of these women are due to give birth within a few weeks!

On a totally different note, I also wanted to send a quick update on my recovery before closing. I am still on strict orders still not to overextend myself. This has been very challenging as I really LOVE what we do but I'm learning day by day how to pace myself and heal. I am so grateful to everyone who has been praying and donating to this journey. With your help I have already covered about 2/3 of my bills from treatment this summer! It could be some time yet until my body is at 100% and I will also have the costs of ongoing care for a little while, so if you feel led to give, you can still do so through the link below. I am so overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. May God give back in a greater measure than what you have poured out both in encouragement and finances!

<https://www.modernday.org/field-workers/saurman/>

Ok well that's it for now. I hope to do better at keeping in touch and pray you have a great Thanksgiving!

Blessings,
Kate



ZWINGLI NURSERY SCHOOL UPDATE

In November we enjoyed the cooler, crisp fall temperatures. We learned the color yellow, while reviewing red and orange. The older students learned the letters Ee, Ff, and Gg and the numbers 3 and 4, while the younger students focused on the new shape of the rectangle. We made many fall crafts such as a scarecrow, painting fall leaves and a gray squirrel. The teachers and parents had phone conferences to discuss their child's beginning of school progress. We have truly enjoyed our first 3 months at school with our new friends!!!!



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, pick up a Pre-Council Report from the vestibule or contact Lisa in the office for an electronic copy. See the wonderful ideas that are being shared by your leaders!



MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Shop for unique handmade and re-purposed items. Great for gifting. All proceeds benefit the Mennonite Central Committee.

Shop Hours will be:

Thursday, December 2: 9 am – 8 pm
Friday, December 3: 9 am – 8 pm
Saturday, December 4: 9 am – 5 pm
December 6-11: 9 am – 6 pm

Darning Egg Gifts
737 Hagey Center Drive
Unit C
Souderton, PA 18964

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MAILING
ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY
MAILING IS
MONDAY, JANUARY 10**

**2020 YEAR END REPORTS ARE DUE
MONDAY, JANUARY 3**

SUNDAY MORNING USHERS/GREETERS

- November 28 Sue Wack, Larry Moss
Pam and Pete Myers
- December 5 Gene and Rhonda Moyer
Kristie Lowery, Marian Eide
- December 12 Jen Smeed, Miles Smeed
Ed and Sue Rauch
- December 19 Mike and Jess Jalboot
Laurie and John Reynolds

REFRESHMENTS

- November 28 Pam Myers, Karen Kispert
- December 5 Kristie Lowery, Charlotte Kramer
- December 12 Toni Kramlik, Joey Bush
- December 19 Betsy Villareal, Myra See
- December 26 Ministry of Educators

FACEBOOK MONITOR

- November 28 Laurie Reynolds
- December 5 Tony Villareal
- December 12 Laurie Reynolds
- December 19 Lisa Cinciripini

MONEY COUNTERS

- November 28 Lee and Lois Hunsicker
- December Steward of the Month: Charlotte Kramer
- December 5 Charlotte Kramer, Marian Eide
- December 12 Lee and Lois Hunsicker
- December 19 Carol and Dave Reiff
- December 26 Ed and Liz Bibic

TRUSTEE ON DUTY-DECEMBER –Tom Cinciripini

Zwingli UCC Staff

Butch Kuykendall, D.Min.....Senior Pastor
Alan Miles, M.Div..... Associate Pastor
Steve Emery.....Director of Music/Organist
Linda Cuddahy.....Nursery Caregiver
Lisa Cinciripini.....Office Administrator
Kristie Lowery.....Office Assistant

Zwingli United Church of Christ, 350 Wile Avenue, Souderton, PA

Phone: 215-723-1186 Fax: 215-723-5402

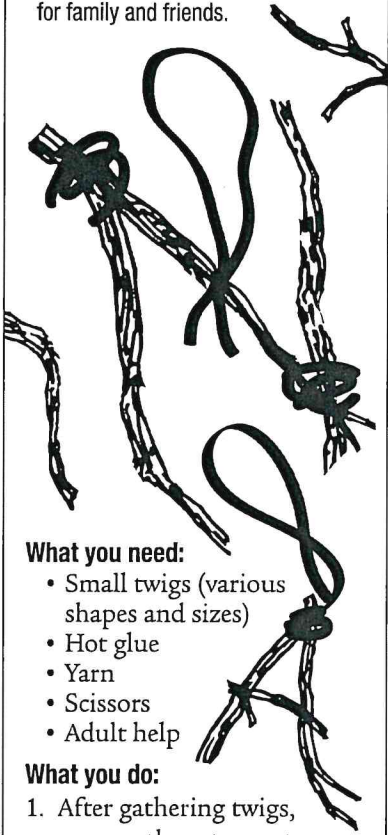
www.zwingli.org office@zwingli.org

Office Hours: M- TH: 8:30-4:30, F: 8:30-3:30
Closed Daily 12-1



SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.

Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the ✦ path that leads to baby Jesus.

Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

LD OG NCAKNRIENFSE RYHMR

Answer: gold, frankincense, myrrh