Zwingli Hill News

December 2022 Vol. 60 No. 10

Join us for worship at 9 am each Sunday!

Happy Advent and Christmas Seasons!

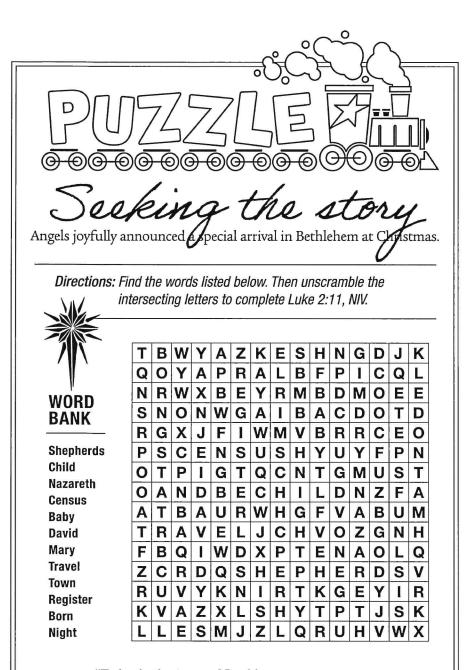


Blessings, Zwingli United Church of Christ Staff

Ame Tristic Him

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"Today in the town of David a ____ _ _ _ has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV



Sunday, November 27 First Sunday in Advent

Lighting of the First Advent Candle Holy Communion

Wednesday, November 30 Advent Bible Study

The Heart That Grew Three Sizes

Sunday, December 4 Second Sunday in Advent

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle 7:30 pm Souderton Alumni Men's Chorus Concert

Wednesday, December 7 Advent Bible Study

The Heart That Grew Three Sizes

Sunday, December 11 Third Sunday in Advent

Continental Breakfast at 8 am
Lighting of the Third Advent Candle
Congregational Meeting Following the
Service

Wednesday, December 14 Advent Bible Study

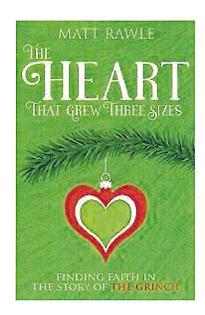
The Heart That Grew Three Sizes

Sunday, December 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Wednesday, December 21 Advent Bible Study

The Heart That Grew Three Sizes



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY The Heart That Grew Three Sizes

We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know that he did. He hated it so much, celebrating was simply forbid.

In this new Advent study, we will explore the faith themes in the Christmas classic, How the Grinch Stole Christmas! including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

Sign up by emailing <u>pastoralan@zwingli.org</u>, or by contacting the church office.



We plan to continue the Advent Stocking Children's Message Series during Advent. Be on the lookout for the stocking and let us know if you have something you'd really like to contribute to the stocking this year. Ideas should be relevant to the Christmas / Advent season. Email pastoralan@zwingli.org.

The Community is Cordially Invited to Attend:

A Festive Choral Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 4, 2022 7:30 P.M.

Souderton Alumni Men's Chorus Classic Men's Chorus Anthems Nostalgic Holiday Songs Jon Leight, Director ~ Vincent Ryan, Organ Beverly Stover and Susie Childs, Piano

No Tickets Required ~ Free Will Offering!

Zwingli United Church of Christ 350 Wile Avenue, Souderton 18964 215.723.1186 ~ www.zwingli.org

Angel Tree



Please support the Bethany Children's Home Angel Tree – sponsored by the Zwingli Sunday School program

It's almost Advent, so that means it is time for the Bethany Children's Home Angel Tree. We will have decorated angels available for you to take home starting on November 27. There are two ways you can participate in this important ministry.

- Purchase a NEW gift from the lists out in the atrium and place it (UNWRAPPED) in the box in the breezeway by end of day on Sunday, December 18.
 OR
 Purchase a gift from this Amazon Wish List: https://amzn.to/3MYx5cN
 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.
- 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

Items purchased from the lists picked up in the atrium need to be dropped off in the donation box at the church by end of day on Sunday, December 18.





BOY SCOUT TROOP #401 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Tis the Season! Sales begin Black Friday 1-9 pm, then Wednesdays 6-8, Saturdays 9-9, Sundays 12-8. The Scout Cabin is located at 447 Wile Avenue in Souderton, across from the Souderton Pool.

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.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the Troop or tree sales, please reach out to them on Facebook or Instagram!





CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES Saturday, December 24th

5 pm - Family Service

Join us for a kid-friendly Christmas eve service put on by our children and youth. The service will end just in time to spend the rest of Christmas eve at home with your beloved families.

7:30 pm - Lessons & Carols

The Christmas Story is told through scripture and music, with both the Adult Choir and Bell Choir taking part.

Candle lighting at both services.



Staying Healthy During the Holidays By Kristie Lowery, Faith Community Nurse

"Dear Friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well." 3 John 1:2

As the saying goes, 'Tis the Season" and we are preparing for the Advent Season. With the preparation for Christmas, we may find ourselves caught up in the preparation and holiday activities, as well as spending time with family and friends. However, the very things that make up the holiday preparation can also affect our health. But there are things that we all can do to protect our health and help us to enjoy the holidays and the "Reason for the Season".

Mana Medical Associates of Arkansas suggest *I*:

- Drink plenty of water. Choose water rather than alcohol, soda, and juice.
- 2. Get a flu shot. About the time we start gearing up for the holidays, the flu bug arrives in full force. Holiday celebrations often involve traveling and spending time with other people. The most effective way to prevent the flu is to get the flu vaccine. The sooner you get the vaccine, the sooner you will build up your immunity for the flu.

- 3. Manage stress. There are many distractions and things happening during the season that can increase your stress level. Stress that is left unchecked can contribute to many problems, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity and diabetes. Stay healthy during the holidays by managing your stress.
- 4. Wash your hands often. Washing hands can help prevent sickness and prevent the spread of germs. Wash your hands thoroughly and wash your hands often.
- 5. Foodborne illness. According to the CDC, more than 48 million people per year become sick from a foodborne illness. It is important to thoroughly clean utensils, cook foods to recommended temperatures, and properly store perishable foods,
- 6. Make time for exercise. While dealing with the holiday preparations and celebrations, it is easy to overlook physical activity. Prioritize physical activity and make time to be active.
- 7. Healthy holiday traditions. Consider making some new healthy traditions by going for a walk after
 Thanksgiving dinner. Plan an annual Black Friday hike. Throw the football in the yard. Go for a bike ride, or walk around the neighborhood and sing carols.
- Make healthy food choices. Plan a healthy holiday menu and fill your plate with healthy foods. Choose

green beans instead of green bean casserole, corn instead of candy corn. If you know that healthy dishes may not be a focus of the meal, offer to bring a salad or vegetable tray.

- 9. Decorating safety. It is not uncommon for accidents to occur while climbing ladders and stringing lights on the roof. Think safety first when going up and down the ladder and pay attention to children trying to assist with the project by trying to follow you up the ladder.
- 10. Winter weather. I personally enjoy a little white for a few days over Christmas. The snow on the Christmas trees is beautiful. But the pretty snow can also be a hazard with slick roads and icy sidewalks. Pay extra attention to weather forecasts if traveling to areas with winter weather.

I am wishing you all a blessed healthy holiday filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Reference:

10 Tips to Stay Healthy During the Holidays. Medical Associates of Northwest Arkansas. Website by Haden Interactive. 2022.

2022 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

I am calling to order a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2022 immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on the slate of nominees for 2023 Church Council and Church Ministries and to vote on the proposed 2023 Mission Plan for Zwingli UCC. Please plan to attend this important meeting involving the operations and leadership of your church. If you have any questions or proposals for the agenda, please contact me at 215-723-9338.

Questions regarding the Mission Plan can be directed to the Ministry of Stewards whose members are Rick Rogers (Chairperson), Tara Kuhnsman, Charlotte Kramer and Joanne Kramlik. See you on December 11th!

Sincerely, Ed Bibic, Moderator, Church Council.



ZWINGLI FALL CLEAN-UP Saturday, December 10, 2022 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Please bring your favorite garden rake and work gloves

Refreshments will be provided



CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

December 11 - Arrive at church a couple minutes earlier and enjoy a continental breakfast. The Shepherds will be hosting a Continental Breakfast between 8:00 and 9:00. Join us in the Family Life Center for Bagels and cream cheese, fruit, and yogurt, and of course, baked goods. Grab a cup of coffee and join us for breakfast and fellowship.



<u>URGENT STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE -</u> <u>CATCHING UP TO EXPENSES</u>

The August plea for additional offerings to help the church catch up with expenses resulted in an almost doubling of offerings in September compared to August. Thank you for the generous giving. Total 2022 offerings as of October 31, 2022, however, are about \$44,200 less than this same time last year. This is a reversal of our status earlier this year. Between the lower giving and higher expenses, Zwingli still remains nearly \$53,000 behind expenses.

There have been a lot of mission outreach needs presented to the congregation recently and we certainly don't want to take away support for these local and world-wide critical needs, but Zwingli UCC is also a critical mission and ministry for sharing God's love and it is also in critical need of your support. The Ministry of Stewards requests that each member of congregation prayerfully consider how you can help support Zwingli's critical mission in sharing God's love either through a one-time gift or by an increase in regular giving for the remainder of the year. Thank you!



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Join us Sunday mornings at 10:15 am in the sanctuary for the following classes:

December 4 Joint Adult Bible Study Led by Toni Kramlik

December 11 Spirituality and Pop Culture

Join us as we discuss the spiritual and cultural implications of Christmas movies and how popular culture has changed how we feel about Christmas, led by Pastor Alan.

December 18 Welcome Project PA

Welcome Project PA is an organization that strives to be a diverse, safe place for the marginalized and vulnerable populations. It seeks to bring about positive social change to improve the quality of life for these individuals and families in the Greater Philadelphia area. Join us to learn

how The Welcome Project PA helps our community and how Zwingli will be working with them. This ONA presentation will be led by Niki Kulp.

January 8 Keystone Opportunity Center

We are excited to have the new Keystone Opportunity Executive Director, Brandon Trombetta, give us an overview of their current and future projects for our community.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS/HELPERS WANTED

If you are interested in teaching or being a helper for our PreK through 5th grade class, please reach out to Erin Chalmers. Please see the Sign-up genius links below to volunteer. Any time you can help is appreciated. Thank you! Children's Sunday School https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4 FADAA2BAAFE3-zwinali

Children's Sunday School: https://bit.ly/zwkidsSStchrs

Youth Sunday School: https://bit.ly/ZwngYthSSteachers



GREETING CARDS

In January, the Ministry of Shepherds will bring the signing of greeting cards back to church. We all receive greeting/note cards from charities we support. If you do not use them, please consider passing them on the Ministry of Shepherds. You may drop them off at the church office. Thank you.



YOUTH AND LYFT EVENTS

Look for Christmas activities coming out soon for Lyft and Youth Groups. Information will be emailed to families prior to each event. Any questions and concerns should be directed to Pastor Alan. Email pastoralan@zwingli.org for more information and to get on our mailing list.



JOIN US IN-PERSON OR ONLINE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Follow the directions below for your choice of worship.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

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

RETURN TO CHURCH GUIDELINES

After consultation with CDC guidelines, Montgomery County, and county COVID levels, *masking is optional*.

We continue to ask for your help in protecting our entire congregation and the wider community by staying home if you have mild symptoms, such as congestion or cough, and especially if you feel sick in any way.

Please stay home if you have experienced any of the following:

- Any Symptoms of COVID-19
- Have been exposed to Covid-19 over the last five days
- Have been advised to selfquarantine
- Are currently infected with Covid-19 or are undergoing treatment with Covid-19
- If you are unvaccinated, we recommend that you wear a mask or enjoy our services and special church events from home.
- Get vaccinated as soon as possible and keep up with vaccination boosters!! We encourage this out of our deep care for you.

We will continue to monitor pertinent information and make ongoing decisions about mitigation efforts 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.



ON-LINE WORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

- Click on
 <u>www.facebook.com/Zwingli.ucc/live</u>
 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.

If you miss our live broadcast, you can watch at a later time:

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



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.







CWSBLANKETS.ORG/DONATE

ADVENT MISSION APPEAL

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the Church World Service Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

Through the generosity of Church World Services partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters. This year the Missioners decided to support the CWS Blanket program. Blankets are provided, not just for those in need, but also when disasters hit. The Advent appeal will begin November 27th and Blanket Sunday will be December 18th. However, donations can continue to be submitted through the end of the year. One blanket is provided to those in need for every \$10 collected. Please help blanket the world in love.



2023 CALENDARS AND GAME BOOKS

Collection has resumed for puzzle/game books for Bethany and calendars for SCI Phoenix prison. Both boxes have been moved to the floor in front of the Missioners table. Please note that spiral bound calendars cannot be sent to the prison, even plastic spiral bindings. They will be discarded.



advertise outside our church, followed by letting local funeral homes know about the availability. We will retain three sites as a donation for three needy families. Contact Ed Bibic for more information ebibic@verizon.net

CHRISTMAS FUND

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired cleray and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities & 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 18th. Thank you!

BURIAL PLOTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



Due to a generous member donation, Zwingli has twelve grave sites at Whitemarsh Memorial Park. We are offering nine grave sites for sale at \$1,000 each, plus a \$295 transfer fee. Transfer fees will most likely go up on November 2. After our members are given priority, we will then



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!



SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET

GIANT, Landis and Shop Rite Gift Cards

By purchasing **store gifts cards** from Zwingli Church, on a Sunday morning or throughout the week, you help contribute 5% of your store spending to the general fund of our church. AND, it doesn't cost you a cent. Purchase a \$25, \$50 or \$100 gift card to **Giant Stores, Landis Supermarket or Shop Rite** through the church office. Thank you for your participation in this program!

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! Or type in this link which will take you directly to Zwingli's Amazon page:

https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6291301



FASAGEO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA FUNDRAISER

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!



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 26-27 for the Christmas holiday.



WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS

If there are cancellations due to inclement weather, please check the following:

Worship Service

Website: <u>www.zwingli.org</u> and check the Twitter feed on the left side of screen.

Facebook: ZwingliUCC

Church Office: 215-723-1186 Call Lisa at 215-808-8926

Evening Events/Activities

If the Souderton Area School District dismisses early or is closed due to inclement weather, all evening events will be cancelled unless you hear directly from your leader.

KEYSTONE OPPORTUNITY CENTER

Current Needs

Fresh Produce: apples, oranges, bananas, carrots, potatoes, onions, celery, bags of lettuce

Cereal & Oatmeal

Pancake Mix (complete)

Pancake Syrup

Meals in a Can: spaghettios w/meatballs,

ravioli, beefaroni Baked Beans

Canned meats: tuna, chicken, ham,

salmon

Spaghetti Sauce

Canned Fruit in juice

Condiments: ketchup, mayonnaise,

mustard, and oil

Sugar (1 lb.box or 5 lb. bags)

Sugar and Flour

Gluten Free Products

Laundry Soap Paper Towels Toilet Paper

Gluten Free, Sugar Free and Low/No

Sodium Products (for families with special

dietary needs)

We do not accept adult incontinence products, adult diapers or baby food.

We ask that you please check the expiration dates on all donated items.

Any donation from the list above, whether large or small, is always greatly appreciated. Thank you for taking the time to help those in need. Your generous gift will help us to continue to serve families and neighbors in the Souderton Area School District and build better lives for themselves. The families we serve appreciate your generous donations.

THE YEAR END REPORTS ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE ON JANUARY 9!

JANUARY-FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE JANUARY16.

PLEASE INCLUDE ANY INFORMATION FOR ALL OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

SUNDAY MORNING USHERS/GREETERS

December 4 Ed & Sue Rauch

Gene & Rhonda Moyer

December 11 Dale & Susie Woodland

Dave & Carol Reiff

December 18 Jen Smeed, Larry Moss

Pete & Pam Myers

December 25 Charlotte Kramer, Carol Wenger

Rick & Missy Rogers

January 1 Rhonda Moyer, Gene Mattes

Kristie Lowery, Mark Comden

January 8 Jess & Mike Jalboot

John & Laurie Reynolds

January 15 The Chalmers Family

Lee & Lois Hunsicker

January 22 Barry & Lois Johnston

Joan Yeager, Gladys Amspacher January 29 Joanne & LaMar Kratz

Liz Bibic, Jonathan Kratz

ACOLYTE

December 4 Cali Smeed
December 11 Caleb Jalboot
December 18 Adalyn Neff
December 25 Claire Jalboot

REFRESHMENTS

December 4
December 11
December 18
December 18
December 25
Missy Rogers, Eleta Hittinger
Sue Pro, Sandy Schuler
Erin Chalmers, Lois Hunsicker
n/a

January 1 n/a

Refreshments Continued

January 8 Marian Eide, Rhonda Moyer

January 15 Gladys Amspacher, Susie Woodland

January 22 Elders

January 29 Joey Bush, Lois Hunsicker

FACEBOOK MONITOR

December 4 Kristie Lowery
December 11 Toni Kramlik
December 18 Lisa Cinciripini
December 24 5 pm Lisa Cinciripini

7:30 pm n/a

December 25 n/a

January 1
January 8
January 15
January 22
Sue Wack
Laurie Reynolds
Tony Villareal
Kristie Lowery

January 29

Toni Kramlik

MONEY COUNTERS

Steward of the Month: Tara Kuhnsman

December 4 Charlotte Kramer, Tara Kuhnsman

December 11 Carol & Dave Reiff

December 18 Tara Kuhnsman, Joanne Kramlik

December 24 Stewards December 25 Stewards

Zwingli UCC Staff

Butch Kuykendall, D.Min......Senior Pastor Alan Miles, M.Div........Associate Pastor Steve Emery......Director of Music/Organist 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 Some images used in this publication are used with permission from Bogdan Rosu, Freepik, and High Quality Icons.











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.

9.12.21