

*The church office will be closed December 23 to
December 26 and December 30 to January 2.
In the event of an emergency you may contact
Lori Brawn at 610-573-9764 or
Marlene Frantz at 610-285-6631*

Contact Information

You can reach us:

e-mail address: ziegelschurch@gmail.com

Website: www.ziegelschurch.org

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 610-285-6157

Rev Jeff Kistler, UCC Interim Pastor	484-788-3743
Rev Andy Meckstroth, Lutheran Interim	484-523-3039
Lori Brawn, Lutheran Administrator	610-573-9764
Marlene Frantz, UCC Admin. Assistant	610-285-6631
Diane Moyer, Church Caretaker	610-285-4751
Jill Bruckart, Director of Music Ministries	610-419-0461
Kristin Folck, Learning Ministries Director	484-860-2549
Kim Lapp, 2017 Union Church Pres.	484-268-8845
David Grillo, 2017 Lutheran Council Pres.	610-928-3506
Don Peters, 2017 UCC Consistory Pres.	610-398-0828
Michele Quier, Newsletter Editor	484-661-6049

ZIEGELS UNION CHURCH



Breinigsville, PA

***December 2017
Newsletter***

Volume 17, Issue 12

The deadline for submissions for the January 2018
newsletter is Friday, December 15.
Please contact Michele Quier directly or send information
by email to MichM7270@gmail.com



The sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered
on the first and third Sunday of each month at
both the 8:30 a.m. Lutheran service and 11:05

a.m. UCC service. The dates for this month are December 3 and 17. Communion will also be served on Christmas Eve at the 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m. and the 11:00 p.m. services.

The gifts and stockings for and the Lowhill Food Pantry should be brought to the Church by Sunday, December 3.

Hanging of the Greens will be on Sunday, December 3.

We are looking for people who can help decorate the church during the Sunday School hour, 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Please help us transform the church as we begin the Christmas season at Ziegels. Please meet in the sanctuary.



This year's annual Advent Night of Music will take place on Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. Music will be provided by our choirs.

We are in need of refreshments for Advent Night of Music on Sunday, December 3.

Donations of the following would be appreciated: cookies, vegetable trays, hors d'oeuvres; cheese balls; crackers, dips; bologna and cheese (cut up); fruit salad (1 qt). If you would be willing to supply any of the above items, please contact Michele Quier at 484-661-6049, the church office at 610-285-6157, or drop a note in the Sunday offering. Assistance would be appreciated to prepare these items and for clean up after the concert. Please let us know if you can help.



Wreaths Across America will be held on Saturday, December 16. We will have a ceremony prior to the laying of the Wreaths and the Wreaths will be placed at noon in the Cemetery. Light refreshments will be served following the event. If you would be willing to

provide food items, cider, etc. please contact Laura Loch at 610-285-6212 or email lcloch3@ptd.net.

Our Blue Christmas Service will be held on Sunday,

December 17, at 1:00 p.m. If you have lost a loved one, if you are suffering from an illness, if your dreams just don't seem to ever come true, perhaps this service is for you. A soup luncheon will be served after the 11:05 a.m. UCC service. After lunch, the Blue Christmas service will be held in the sanctuary. Feel free to invite friends, other family members or neighbors for whom this worship might have special meaning.

Annual Report Submissions

All Committee Chairpersons and organization heads should submit their 2017 reports for the annual report by January 31, 2018.

Need ideas for Christmas Gifts?

- Union Soundz "I saw the Light" CD to benefit the Projection System
- Mission Team Cookbooks to benefit the Mission Team
- Daryl Wolf's "Seasons of My Life" book to benefit the Mission Team

Family Promise in 2018.

Ziegels will be participating in the ministry of Family Promise, an organization that helps homeless families move forward in finding work and a place to live. Thirteen churches in our area will be participating in housing two to three families for four weeks out of the year. Many hands make for light work so there are many opportunities to support this ministry. If you would like to volunteer to shop for food, prep and serve, clean up, help with homework and evening family activities, or be an overnight chaperone please call Lori Brawn at 610-285-6157.

A message from Lori.....

As I flip through my calendar for December I wonder when, and how, it became so jam packed with things to do. Every weekend there is an event to attend or a party to host. I'm sure you know the feeling. Don't misunderstand; I am looking forward to all the activities of the Holidays, but in the back of my mind I am wondering when I will do the things not listed in my day planner, such as decorate the house, shop for gifts, write Christmas cards to family and friends, and bake cookies. And oh yes, work!

I imagine Mary and Joseph had full calendars and many things to do when they set off for Bethlehem. Mary had to prepare for the birth of her baby, and soon Joseph would have a family to feed and to clothe. The shepherds had their hands full watching over their flocks and keeping an eye out for danger, but off they went as well; and the wise men, well, we know they followed that star for quite some time. All of these people, I would imagine, had prior commitments, family responsibilities, and mundane daily chores, but each of them set these things aside to be present as God's amazing plan unfolded.

As we journey ahead into December, and dive head first into all the planning, we must remember what we are planning and preparing for. It will be easy for us to become consumed by the commercialism and glitz of Christmas. We will spend too much money, eat too many cookies and cakes, party too much with friends, and then it will be over. We will wake up on January 2 with pounds to lose, gifts to return, houses to un-decorate, credit card bills to pay, and a few long cold months until Spring.

God offers us an alternative to this type of Christmas. He invites us to allow Him to lead us through Advent, to read the scriptures, to pray, and to serve others. By drawing close to God, we are able to keep ourselves grounded and centered. We are able to appreciate the gift of love that God sent us that very first Christmas and every Christmas

since.

As Jesus grew, He experienced the pressures of a demanding world, just as we do. He was pulled in many directions.....one person.....expected to be everything to every person who needed Him. Jesus knew the secret to a balanced life. Jesus went away and prayed in solitude (Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16). He prayed for all believers (John 17:11-21), He prayed in praise (Luke 10:21), and thanksgiving (Mark 14:22), and Jesus prayed in times of sorrow and pain (Luke 22:44, Matthew 27:46). Jesus knew the key to His peace and balance was constant communication with His Father.

Paul writes, in his letter to the Philippians, "*Therefore God elevated Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*" (Philippians 2:9-11, NLT)

Come to the Father this Advent and Christmas season and let Him fill your heart with all that is good and pure and right.

Christmas Blessings.

Lori

Thrivent Action Team. Think about an unmet need in our community and how you could help. Thrivent offers a Community Impact Card in the amount of \$250.00 for seed money to get our projects off the ground and make a bigger impact. Cards can be used to support the Mission Team or Family Promise or other events and fundraisers in our Community. All Thrivent Benefit members are eligible for two cards per year, and associate members are eligible for one card per year with a maximum of three. Included in the package are t-shirts, a promotional banner and

invitations and thank you cards. Please see Lori if you are interested in joining Thrivent to support our Church ministries.

We are in the process of preparing 120 CleanUp Buckets for Church World Services. These buckets will be sent to help those recovering from Hurricane Harvey, Irma and other natural disasters. We are seeking donations to help us collect the items needed to fill these buckets. After the items are collected we will be offering an January Assembly Party to prepare the buckets for shipping. Each bucket will contain 4 scouring pads, 7 sponges (including one large), scrub brush, 18 Easy Wipes, (2) 25 oz. laundry detergent, 16 oz. disinfectant dish soap, 12-16 oz. household cleaner, 48-50 clothespins, 100 ft. clothesline, 5 dusk masks, 2 pairs non-latex gloves, work gloves, 30 heavy duty 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll, and one 6 or 9 oz. bottle of insect repellent. The totals we will need are:

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|--|------------------|
| 375 scouring pads | 95 scrub brushes |
| 700 small sponges | 1,602 Easy Wipes |
| 110 large sponges | 435 dust masks |
| (120) 100' clotheslines | |
| (110) 16 ounce disinfectant dish soap | |
| (240) 25 ounces laundry soap | |
| (120) 12 ounce household cleaner | |
| (114) packs of 48-50 clothespins | |
| 120 pairs of work gloves with leather palms or all leather | |
| (120) 30 heavy duty trash bags on a roll | |
| (120) 6 or 9 ounce bottle of insect repellent | |

If you would like to supply the items for one bucket or make a donation of one particular item we would be so happy for your help. Items should be brought to church by the end of the year. Please let Lori know what you'll bring so that we can mark it off the list !!!

Mission

The Mission Response Team will hold their next meeting on Monday, January 22 at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion will be held on fundraising and future work projects. Please join us!

Our next **Shrimp Boil** will be held on Sunday, April 29 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

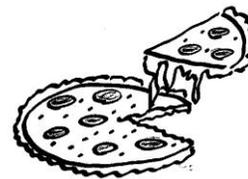
Sunday School

Classes are held each Sunday from September through May for children and youth age 1 through twelfth grade. Children are asked to gather in their classrooms by 10:00 a.m. and classes will end at 10:55 a.m.

Our Confirmation Class meets upstairs in the Acts Room from 10:00 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. The class will meet on December 3, 10, 17. There is no class on December 24 or 31. Our lesson for December is "The Ten Commandments". We will also be working on our Learning Goals and helping to set up and prepare for the Christmas Shoppe.

Perfect Attendance

Pre-K: Angelina Fugazzotto, Eli Yerger Jaxon Masters
Kindergarten and 1st Grade: Dana Yerger, Paulo Fugazzotto
2nd and 3rd Grade: Vinnie Fugazzotto, Anna Longenderfer
4th, 5th and 6th Grade: Hailey Green, Sarah Longenderfer, Makela Frantz
Confirmation: Kira Schaffer, Kaleb Beers, Ryan Cardinale



The Sunday School will be selling Little Caesars Pizza Kits! If you would be interested in ordering a kit, please see any student or the sign-up form outside of the Christian Education Office. Final order date and delivery date will be announced! Please check

your bulletins for further information.

Join your child in Sunday School on Sunday,

December 3 for an introduction to our Christmas Shoppe Advent Event! At 10:00 a.m. we will be sharing information and a craft that ties into and introduces our event. Parents are encouraged to attend!



On Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 a.m. the children of the Sunday School will participate in a family friendly worship service, where we will light the fourth Advent candle. More information will be available soon!

Christian Education

If you have an interest in the Christian Education of our members and would like to be involved in future events, please join us. A Sunday School teacher or helper from each class is asked to attend. Our next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, January 22.

Did you know that the Learning Ministries Committee has calculated that it costs \$220.00 per student per year for the Confirmation Program? Each family in the program is asked for a donation of \$100.00 per year, but for some this is a major financial hardship. If you would like to sponsor a student, a donation in any amount may be made out to your congregation and marked Confirmation Program. Any support is greatly appreciated!

On Sunday, December 10, we will be holding "The Christmas Shoppe." This is an advent experience for children and their families! "The Christmas Shoppe" is an event where children will hear the Christmas story, create Christmas symbols, and participate in a worship service with their families. Following the 11:05 a.m. service. Children and their families are invited to meet in the Fellowship Room. A light lunch will be provided. Volunteers are needed to be crafters and bakers! This is an all ages event! Children under 3 are asked to have an adult with them. If you would like to help, please contact Kristin Folck.

The Christmas Shoppe is in need of the following items. If

you would like to donate any of these items please bring to the Christian Education Office: Christmas Cards, 75 Tootsie Pops, 1 skein of brown yarn, 100 small gold safety pins
1 skein of tan yarn, red, white, yellow and gold curling ribbon

10 rolls ¼ inch white ribbon

The Christmas Shoppe is also in need of luncheon items. If you would like to provide any of the following items, please contact Kristin Folck:

Crock pots of soup (4)
6 bags of salad mix
2 bags of croutons

3 bags of shredded cheese
4 loaves of Italian bread
desserts

Youth Group

Youth Group Events are being planned. Please check your bulletins for upcoming events. If you would be interested in helping with any upcoming events, please contact Kristin at KristinFolck@gmail.com or 484-860-2549.

Sunday Fellowship Hour Needs Volunteers!

Everyone likes to have the drinks and tasty baked goods during the fellowship hour on a Sunday. Volunteers are needed in order for this to happen and not much time is required. People are needed for set up, clean up and for baking the treats. Sign-up sheets are located in the fellowship hall. If you have questions, please contact Doreen Wynn at 610-481-0143 or luvplumeria@yahoo.com.



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. The group makes Prayer Shawls, Baptismal blankets and scarves. All are invited to attend this group and share your gift, or come out and learn to knit and crochet.



The Men's Prayer Breakfast Group meets every Friday at 7:00 a.m. at the Cracker Barrel in Fogelsville. All are welcome!

Thank You To Our Sponsors!

For the month of December:

- **Lowhill Food Pantry Sponsor:** Carl and Katharine Hoch
- **Website Sponsor:** Diane and Mike Moyer in honor of the birth of our Lord and Savior

Community News



Zumba classes at Ziegels are held in the Acts Room on Monday evenings beginning at 6:00 p.m. Missi Fuggazotto is the instructor. The cost is \$30.00 for 6 classes or \$7.00 per class.

Please bring a towel and water. *Childcare is not provided.*

The Lowhill Food Pantry would be grateful for donations of turkey breasts and hams for Christmas. They are also in need of stuffing, yams, instant mashed potatoes, veggies, cranberry sauce. Please bring your donations to the Church by December 10. Frozen items should be placed on the bottom shelf in the freezer. Your gifts will be taken to the pantry for distribution to those in need.

Our contribution to the Lowhill Food Pantry for the month of October was 180 pounds. Again THANK YOU cannot be said enough to our members who give items for both the Pantry and the Blessings Room. Please know these items are so appreciated by the clients and they make a great difference in their daily lives.

The current suggested items for the Food Pantry are jelly, hamburger helper, canned pasta's, canned fruit (no peaches), shampoo and cleaning products. As always when purchasing/donating items, please keep in mind the need for the item to not carry an expired or soon to be expired

date. The suggested items for the Blessings Room are socks of all sizes but especially children's socks, gloves and hats for all ages, and Christmas decorations. As always keep in mind that the items are all new or gently used.

579 lbs of produce were donated from our Harvest Home display in September. Thank-you!

Saturday, December 9 the Weisenburg Lowhill Township Historical Society will be having their annual Christmas Cookie and Soup Sale. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 2:00 p.m. Their store will be open for gift shopping along with an area reserved for children to work on various crafts. Lyon Creek Farm will again be selling their beautiful wreaths, swags, and cemetery logs. The historical society also will be collecting non-perishable items for the Lowhill Food Pantry.

At 2:00 p.m. the winning ticket will be selected for the quilt that our quilters (Sally Drabick, Althea Hahn, Gloria Hausman, Barbara Moyer, Michele Quier, Karen Rex, and Donna Snyder) have been working on since July of this year. The queen size quilt is a lover's knot design in blue and white colors. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please contact one of the quilters. Tickets are \$2.00 per ticket, \$5.00 for (3) tickets. You do not need to be present to win.

Thank you to:

- to everyone who brought pictures of loved ones for All Saints' Sunday and to all those who placed butterflies on the Memory Tree.
- to all who donated turkeys, hams and fixings for the Lowhill Food Pantry for Thanksgiving Meals.
- to everyone who sponsored flowers, bulletins, the Food Pantry, Nursery and the Website throughout 2017. Your support is greatly appreciated.
- to those who set up, cleaned up, and provided baked

items this year for our Fellowship Hour. Your help is appreciated.

- to everyone who supported the Mission Team in 2017. We appreciate your prayers and financial support as we continue to minister to those in need.