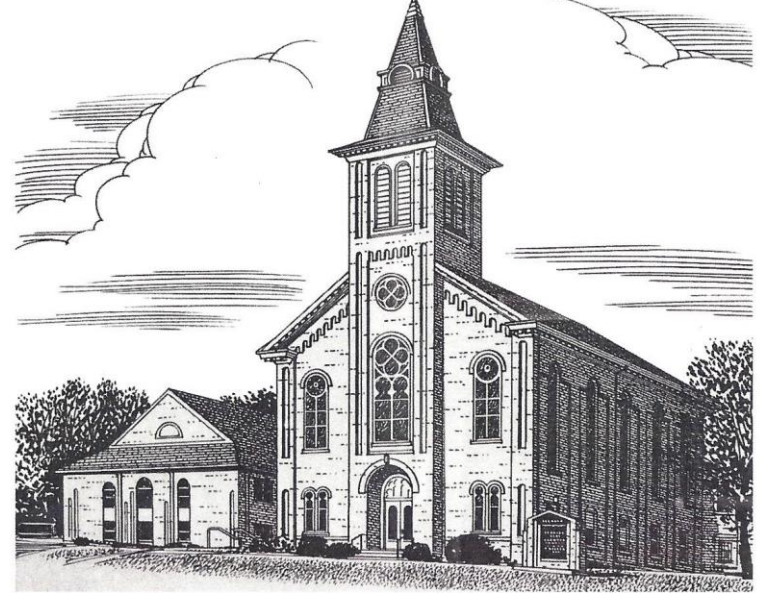


# ZIEGELS UNION CHURCH



## **Contact Information**

You can reach us:

e-mail address: [ziegelschurch@gmail.com](mailto:ziegelschurch@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ziegelschurch.org](http://www.ziegelschurch.org)

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

Phone: 610-285-6157

Rev Andy Meckstroth, Lutheran Interim	484-523-3039
Lori Brawn, Lutheran Administrator	610-573-9764
Rev Kent Rhodehamel, UCC Interim	781-724-4156
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
Andrew Graff, 2018 Union Church Pres.	610-349-0359
David Grillo, 2018 Lutheran Council Pres.	610-928-3506
Don Peters, 2018 UCC Consistory Pres.	610-398-0828
Michele Quier, Newsletter Editor	484-661-6049

9990 Ziegels Church Road  
Breinigsville, PA 18031

The deadline for submissions for the January 2019  
newsletter is Friday, December 14.

Please contact Michele Quier directly or send  
information by email to [MichM7270@gmail.com](mailto:MichM7270@gmail.com)

**December 2018  
Newsletter**

**Volume 18, Issue 12**

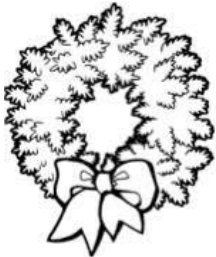


**The sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered on the first and third Sunday of each month** at both the 8:30 a.m. UCC service and 11:05

a.m. Lutheran service. The dates for this month are December 2 and 16. 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.

**We will not have an attendant in the Nursery through the end of this year.** You are welcome to use the Nursery Room or bring your children down into the Fellowship Room and view the service on the television in either rooms.

To anyone who signed up for the **Santa Train Ride on December 8:** Tickets will be given to us at the train station. Please look for Carley Schopf or Shana Hanna who will be distributing tickets starting at 3:30 p.m. GPS address for the Allentown and Auburn Railroad is 232 Railroad Street, Kutztown, PA 19530. Please remember the train leaves at 4 p.m.



**Time for the Wreaths Across America at Ziegels!** The placing of the wreaths will be on Saturday, December 15 at Noon and a ceremony will be held prior to the laying of the wreaths

**The Lowhill Food Pantry would be grateful for donations** of turkey breasts or turkeys and canned or frozen hams for Christmas. They are also in need of stuffing, yams, instant mashed potatoes, veggies, cranberry sauce, cream of mushroom soup, fried onions, corn muffin and cake mixes, icing and other fixings. Frozen items should be placed on the bottom shelf in the freezer in the back of the choir room. Christmas donations should be brought to the Church by December 16. Your gifts will be taken to the pantry for distribution to those in need.

## Ziegels Events During Advent and Christmas

- December 9 – Second Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Shoppe – 12:30 p.m.
- December 15  
Wreaths Across America - Noon
- December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent
- December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Sunday School Christmas Worship – 11:05 a.m.
- December 24, Christmas Eve  
Family Service - 4:00 p.m.  
Family Service - 7:00 p.m.  
Candlelight Service - 9:00 p.m.  
Candlelight Service - 11:00 p.m.
- December 30  
Lessons and Carols – 10:00 a.m.

### Union Fellowship Committee

#### Interested in joining the Union Fellowship Committee?

We will be meeting every second Sunday of the month during Fellowship Hour (10 a.m.) in the Fellowship Room. Please join us to continue planning fellowship activities for the coming year! If you are interested in helping but cannot attend, please see Shana Hanna or Carley Schopf and we will add you to an email list.

#### Mission

The Mission Response Team will hold their next meeting on Monday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m. Discussion will be held on the Spring trip and fundraisers. All are welcome to join the Team!

**The Mission Team will be traveling South to work with Fuller Centers Rebuilders in the second week or third week in March.** A decision has not been made as to where we will be going. We will be checking into places in the Carolinas, Florida and also Texas. If anyone is interested in participating in the trip, please speak to Lori.



**Our Ziegels Sewing Mission is led by Shelly Daniels and is open to all those who are interested in helping** even if you do not

know how to sew. We make pillowcases for local children's hospitals, dresses for "Dress A Girl Around the World" and chemo port cushions. Our next meetings will be on January 23, February 20, March 19 and April 16. If you have any questions please call Shelley Daniels at 610-704-4500 or e-mail her at [Seashell246@gmail.com](mailto:Seashell246@gmail.com). **A Blessing of the Dresses and Pillowcases will be held at both services on Sunday, November 25.**

**The Men's Bible Study Breakfast Group meets every Friday** at 7:00 a.m. at the Cracker Barrel in Fogelsville. All are welcome to enjoy breakfast and study our weekly scriptures!



**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 gifts or come out and learn to knit and crochet.

**The 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, contact Doreen Wynn at 610-481-0143 or [lurvplumeria@yahoo.com](mailto:lurvplumeria@yahoo.com).



### Annual Report Submissions

**All Committee Chairpersons** and organization heads should submit their 2018 reports for the annual report by January 31, 2019

### A Message from Lori

*"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.....He came into the very world He created, but the world didn't recognize Him. He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.....So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."* (John 1:1-5, 10-12, 14, NLT)

As we journey through Advent, preparing our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ, we will hear again the familiar scripture passages, and the hymns we all know and love. The weeks of Advent will pass quickly as we not only come together to light the Advent Candles, but to worship and praise God who sent His only Son for our sake. We will be filled with anticipation as we await not only Mary and Joseph's journey into Bethlehem, but the arrival of the Messiah, the wonder of the shepherds, and the travels of the Wise Men.

Yet as we turn our minds to the more secular traditions of decorating our homes, purchasing gifts and planning family gatherings, we will find ourselves caught up in the craziness of shopping, baking and the materialistic ways of this world. We will find it difficult to attend all the parties and celebrations and to keep the true meaning of the Season forefront in our hearts and minds.

In His entire life Jesus placed **us** first. He was born for **us**, prayed for **us**, taught **us**, suffered and died for **us**. All year through, but especially at Christmas, we need to keep Him at the center of our lives and remember that first "Gift" given to us by God.

Jesus taught us how to care for others. He, by His perfect example, showed us how we are to be in relationship with others, how we are to love each other, and honor even "the least of these." Over 2,000 years ago, the Word walked among us, both fully human and fully divine. He brought light and hope to our broken world. And through the Holy Spirit He continues to light our way and fuel our hope as He moves in and through and around us.

What better gift could you give this Christmas than to share the hope and light and peace that Christ has brought into this world?

Christmas Blessings,  
Lori

## LEARNING MINISTRIES

### **Sunday School**

Classes are held each Sunday from September through June for children and youth age 1 through Eighth grade. Children in Pre-K through 6 grade are asked to gather in the Timothy Room, Beginners are asked to meet in the Genesis Room, and Confirmands are asked to meet in the Acts Room at 10:00 a.m. and classes will end at 10:55 a.m.

### **Confirmation Class Happenings**

The Class meets upstairs in the Acts Room from 10:00 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.

Did you know that the Christian Education 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 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 to your congregation and marked Confirmation Program. Any support is greatly appreciated!

### **Christmas Program**

On Sunday, December 23, the children of the Sunday School and Confirmation Program will be participating in the 11:05 a.m. service sharing their Christmas program. The younger classes have been working on a song and there will be plenty opportunities to participate in the Christmas Skit.

### **Early Communion Class**

On Sunday, February 24, the Sunday School will be offering an Early Communion Class from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Please RSVP by February 24 to Kristin Folck at 484-860-2549 or KristinFolck@gmail.com.

### **The Christmas Shoppe**

On Sunday, December 9, 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. From 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., 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 5 and under are asked to have an adult with them. If you would like to help, please contact Kristin Folck.

### **QUAKE 2019**

On Friday, February 8, the Confirmation Class will be leaving for Allentown Youth Quake! All confirmed youth are invited to join us as Junior Guides! Permission slips are available outside of the Christian Education Office or can be sent via email. If you are interested please contact Kristin or Kelly or send an email to [ZiegelsChristianEducation@outlook.com](mailto:ZiegelsChristianEducation@outlook.com)

## Fundraising Opportunities

The Sunday School is fundraising for future events. Fundraisers for "That's my Pan" and "Fun Pasta" going on now! Information is available outside of the Christian Education Office. Checks can be made out to Ziegels Sunday School. All orders are due by December 7 to ensure Christmas delivery.

### Perfect Attendance

The following students are recognized for their faithful attendance during the month of October:

Angelina Fugazzotto, Colton Hanna, Quinly Hanna, John Schopf, Alex Taylor, and Emma Taylor.

### Family Promise

On Thursday, November 29 we began our program with Family Promise by welcoming a father, a daughter and a son. We are very thankful to have had these guests stay with us at the Church. Steve Hemerly, Terry Oplinger, Winona Schappell, and Sarah Taylor came out to help clean and set up the room for the the family and we appreciate all those who volunteered to host the guests: Kerry Merkel, David and KellyAnn Purugganan and their children, Winona Shappell, and Sarah Taylor. We also give thanks to Sandy Rothermel who did the grocery shopping and Diane Hemerly, Kerry Merkel, Terry Oplinger, the Purugganan's, and Carley Schopf who prepared meals, Helen Gambler and Kim Lapp who helped to set up and clean up. On Friday night Christa, Emma and Alex Taylor, and Dan and Alivia Fox came out to play and do crafts with the family. Terry Oplinger, Randy and June Wert, and Ralph Wilhide helped to clean up after the family left on Sunday momrning. In a few weeks we will have the next date for our guests, most likely in February or early March. Monetary donations are welcomed to help provide food, and we welcome all members who would like to come out and spend time with the families who are here for a week. Thank you all so much !

## Lowhill Food Pantry

In the month of October we contributed 109 pounds of food. The current needs are pancake mix and syrup, cereal and boxed potatoes.

The Blessings Room is always in need of towels, bed linens, and with the cold weather approaching warm socks and blankets are also needed. The Pantry is always grateful for whatever is donated to them.

**Thank you** can not be said enough for the support the Food Pantry/Blessings Room receives from the members of Ziegels Union Church.

## 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.

**Annual Craft Raffle at Weisenberg/Lowhill Township Historical Society.** First prize – Hummingbirds Quilt, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – crocheted afghan with matching pillows. Tickets are \$2.00 each or \$5.00 for three. The drawing will be on Saturday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m. during the Holiday Cookie Event. For information call 610-395-1665.

**The Lowhill Lights of Wonder Christmas Event** will be held on December 7 to 9, 13 to 15, 21 to 23 and 26 to 29 at 6:00 p.m., 6:45 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. All donations will benefit those with Autism.

## **Thank You To Our Sponsors!**

The following people are the sponsors for the month of December:

- **Lowhill Food Pantry Sponsor:** Wayne and Chris Bower
- **Website Sponsor:** Maynard and Annabelle Koplin

## **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

## **Thank you to:**

- all those who placed butterflies on our tree in memory of loved ones and those who placed pictures on the windowsills.
- those who attended the Veterans "Thanks Giving," and to Carley Schopf and Shana Hanna who planned the event, and to those who volunteered to help.
- to those who help with our Sewing Mission.
- to those who donated turkeys, hams, and side dishes for the Lowhill Food Pantry.
- those who sponsored the Website and the Food Pantry in 2018.
- everyone who participated, volunteered, and supported our Mission Team. And thanks to all who gave monetary donations.
- those who have given Thrivent Action Team cards to the Mission Team, the Sewing Mission, Sunshine Center PreSchool, and the Thanksgiving Eve Love Feast.
- the families and volunteers who have attended our Family Friendly Worship Services this year.
- all who have joined us in supporting and housing families for Family Promise. We give thanks for so many that have donated food, linens and have made monetary donations, and those who have volunteered to come out and support the families.
- everyone who attended our Advent Night of Music. We give special thanks to the Glenn Hofmann Trio – Dolcetto and our choir members for an amazing evening. We also give thanks to those who donated food and prepared for our time of fellowship. And we thank all those who made monetary donations for our Freewill Offering which was given to Angel 34.

## **Mailbag**

Thank you for the invitation to partake in Reformation Study and the Soup Dinner of 2017. I received a thorough explanation of the history of Ziegels Union Church and met great church members. The introduction to the Reformation Holiday and Martin Luther nailing his 95 Thesis on the door of All Saint's Church in Wittenberg, Electorate of Saxony in the Holy Roman Empire, was an enlightening religious experience. The soup was delicious. The All Saint's service was religiously rewarding. Information was collected to complete a paper for the Psychology of Religion Class in 2017. Special thanks to Nadine Host and Pat Elliot. May God Bless You All, Sherri Hawk

To all the members of the Social Ministry Committee, I, as president of the Resident Council, want to thank all of you for coming to Kutztown Manor and playing bingo with residents. I know they like their Bingo. It was so gracious of you giving of your time and spending a wonderful evening with the residents. I know they really enjoyed the lovely prizes they received by winning at Bingo. They were very happy. They also enjoyed their Halloween bags. I'm so thankful to know caring people like you from Ziegels Church. Yours Truly, Irene Kressley

To the members of the Sewing Mission, You matter. You make a difference. Your generosity has a profound and lasting impact on children and their families....When you volunteer, you are making a commitment to share that most precious of resources – your time – to make life better for those in need. I want you to know just how much your dedication is appreciated by everyone at Case for Smiles and that we are forever grateful you.....Words cannot adequately express the gratitude that I, the board and staff wish to convey. Please know that your volunteerism is recognized and appreciated, valued and cherished. Thank you, Cindy Kerr, Founder

On behalf of our Historical Society, we thank you for allowing us to use your facility for our annual banquet. We had many positive comments about the location of the Church within our township and the easy access to the building. Sepcial thanks to Marlene Frantza dn Bob Lilley for their working with us. The Board of Directors, Weisenberg/Lowhill Township Historical Society

### **Union Church Committee Minutes**

The Union Meeting was cancelled in November.

The next Union Church Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m.