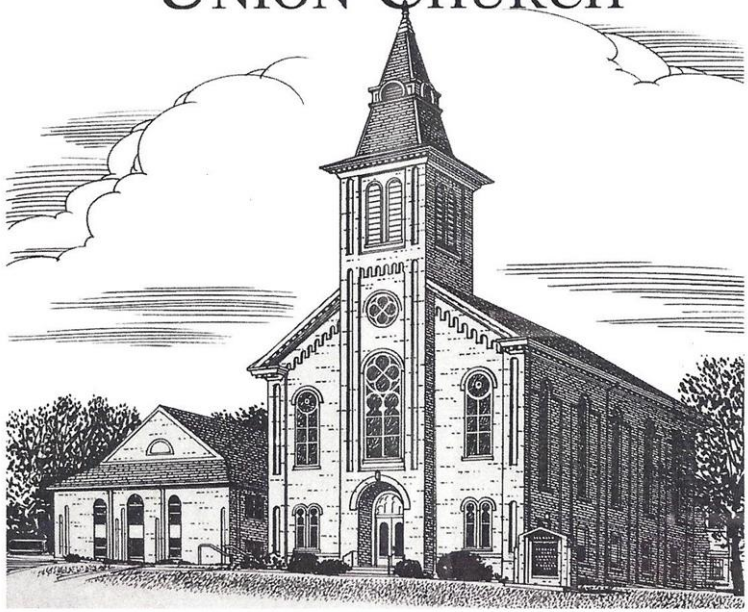


ZIEGELS UNION CHURCH



*9990 Ziegels Church Road
Breinigsville, PA 18031*

***December 2020
Newsletter***

Volume 20, Issue 12



A Message from The Presidents

Holding worship services in a pandemic is definitely challenging, and we would like to thank everyone who has planned and participated in our online, outdoor, and indoor services over the past few months.

Although there have been some "bumps" along the way, we appreciate your patience and understanding as we "iron out" the wrinkles to make everyone as comfortable as we can. We will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves, and make adjustments as needed to provide meaningful worship opportunities as safely as possible, and will communicate any major changes as quickly as possible should they be required.

COVID fatigue affects us all, but our faith and being a church family will see us through these difficult times and strengthen our relationship with God and one another in the future.

May God bless you, your family, our Church, our community, and our nation, and guide us through these trying times and lift up our hearts so that we may see the joy and promise of hope for the upcoming Christmas season.

- Robert Ziegler, Kevin Taylor, Andrew Graff



Please join us for the On-line Worship on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 25 on the Facebook and/or YouTube. All are welcome to view the Worship and please share this with your family and friends to celebrate our blessings!



Christmas Eve Worship Services will be held on Wednesday, December 23 at 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Please be sure to make your reservations with the name of your family and the number of people. You may call the Church at 610-285-6157 or e-mail or call or text Lori at 610-573-9764 or lori1962@verizon.net if you are not able to sign up on this website:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c4ba4a62fa3fd0-christmas>

As always, please wash your hands, wear your masks and be sure to continue with Social Distancing.

Our Church phone system has been repaired and we are able to accept messages again.

The Men's Bible Study Breakfast Group will be meeting every Friday at 7:00 a.m. at Cracker Barrel. All are welcome to enjoy breakfast and study our weekly scriptures!



Lonnie Damiano is organizing a Christmas Stocking Ministry for the children who benefit from the Lowhill Food Pantry.

The Christmas Stockings and gifts will need to be brought to the Church by Friday, December 4.

The Lowhill Food Pantry will be grateful for donations for Christmas. They are in need of stuffing, yams, instant mashed potatoes, veggies, gravy, cream of mushroom soup, fried onions, corn muffin and cake mixes, icing and other fixings. Please contact Lori when you plan to bring the items by December 4.

This Christmas, the Social Services committee will be collecting the following new items for the children of the Lowhill Food Pantry: new small stuffed animals, lap blankets/throws, balls, activity books, colored pencils, washable markers. Items can be placed in the box in the foyer until December 13. If you have questions regarding the donations, please call Kelly Lucarelli at 484-375-8978. Thank you for your willingness to help our community children have a blessed Christmas!



A Message from Lori.....

"When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, 'Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them."
Luke 2:15-20 (NLT)

Mary had quite a lot to keep in her heart. Her life changed dramatically in nine months. She was just a young girl who had an angelic visit and a surprising announcement. She most likely endured months of raised eyebrows and whispered conversations as she passed by her neighbors and friends.

Joseph and Mary traveled a rough road, to be sure, not only the road to Bethlehem, but the path God had sent them down as well. And on that night, she gave birth in a stable. No doctors or nurses or anesthesia, no blanket or a hand knit baby hat for His head. Instead, there were animal smells, animal noises and a group of bewildered shepherds who couldn't wait to see this tiny baby who was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, the Messiah.

Yes, Mary's heart was surely bursting at the seams! And through the years, Mary had many more memories to store away in her heart. She watched Jesus grow, knowing who He was and to whom He belonged. She witnessed the miracles. And she also witnessed the end of His life, the judgment, and the suffering, enough to break any mother's heart a hundred times.

I can imagine Mary as an old woman, sitting in her rocking chair, wrapped in a blanket, and recounting the events of her life, telling His story from her perspective. She is sitting with Luke and he is listening intently to her words from beginning to end. I can see her smiling as she recalls Jesus birth, His teenage years and His years of ministry. Tears fall from her cheeks as she remembers the end. A mother's joy and a mother's pain. From this encounter, Luke is inspired to write the words "...but Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart."

May we all spend this Advent and Christmas preparing our hearts and minds for the birth of our Savior and may we all ponder the miracle of Jesus in our hearts throughout the coming year.

Christmas Blessings to all !

Lori

Christian Education

Sunday School Elections for 2021 will take place on December 13 immediately following the service. Nominations are being accepted for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you are interested in running for a position or would like to nominate someone, please call Kelly at 484-375-8978 or e-mail on ZiegelsChristianEducation@outlook.com. Thank you!

Zoom Sunday School

Sunday School continues to "meet" in our Zoom Room! Sparky joins us for our Bible story, we play games, and get to know each other. A Zoom break out room for the older and younger classes will also be held during our time together so that the children can "see" their teachers and friends.

A reminder that there will be NO Sunday School on November 29 or December 27!

The topics for December are: "Healing Miracles," "The Woman at the Well," "Christmas," and "The Prodigal Son."

Resource Packets have been distributed to all registered students! If you are missing anything please contact us on ZiegelsChristianEducation@outlook.com or call or text our direct line 484-504-9069.

Registration for Sunday School is available online by visiting this link or by following the link on CE Facebook: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeSUZTPsmkrwASiY-Desd5AMWlh6nyzu97bhHU2We7jr1FWA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Christian Education continues to evaluate our Sunday School Program. We do not have a return date for Sunday School in the church. Thank you for your patience and understanding! When we have a date, we will be sure to let all the Sunday School families know!

Zoom Confirmation

Confirmation continues to “meet” in our Zoom Room at 10:40 a.m. We begin with a Worship Watch Party and lead into our lesson for the week. Our topics for December are: “The Syrophenician Woman,” “Sadducees and Pharisees,” “Mary and Martha.” The Confirmands will also be working on a special skit for our Christmas Eve Services.

Adult and Family Opportunities

30-Day Bible Challenge for Adults

Beginning on November 27, Ziegels Christian Education will share a scripture a day on our Facebook Page, sharing the story of the birth of Jesus. A Bible-Reading Journal will be available to print at home, will be available outside of the Sunday School Office or can be mailed. Please contact Kristin or Kelly at ZiegelsChristianEducation@outlook.com or by calling or texting our direct line 484-504-9069 for more information.

24-Day Bible/Coloring Challenge for Kids

Beginning on December 1 Ziegels Christian Education will share a scripture a day, on our Facebook Page, sharing the story of the birth of Jesus. Along with a Kid-Friendly Bible Journal, a coloring book for each day will be included. Materials will be available to print at home, can be picked up outside of the Sunday School Office or can be mailed. Contact us on ZiegelsChristianEducation@outlook.com or call or text our direct line 484-504-9069 for more information.

The Lowhill Food Pantry

For the month of October, the Church provided 110 pounds of food for the pantry. During October, the pantry served 55 family units (106 adults, 65 children, and 21 senior citizens for a total of 192 people). The current needs are pancake mix and syrup, spaghetti sauce, boxed potatoes and bath soap. For the Blessings Room, socks for all ages are always needed.

Pantry hours for the month of December are Saturday December 5, Wednesday December 16, and Thursday December 17.

Thank You for your continued support and involvement in this much needed community project.

Mail

I would like to take this time, to thank Michele Quier for all the work she did for our Sewing Mission, the last 8 months. She has made 3,161 face masks and has raised \$2,175.00 for our Sewing Mission. Job well done -thank you Michele!

Also, I want to extend a BIG thank you to the following members of the Sewing Mission (Pat Elliot, Diane Hemerly, Winona Schappell, and Lori Brawn) for sewing dresses, pillowcases, and port pillows from their homes.

Because of these Ladies, we are able to continue to serve needy children locally and around the world.

A big thank you to you all !! Blessings, Shelley Daniels



Thank
You

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

- **Lowhill Food Pantry Sponsor:** Wayne and Chris Bower.
- **Website Sponsor:** Donald and Debbie Peters.

Thank you to:

- Lonnie Damiano for organizing the Christmas Stocking Ministry and all those who filled the stockings, gave gifts, and shared monetary contributions for the Lowhill Food Pantry.
- Laura Loch for organizing the Wreaths Across America event and to those who have donated money for the wreaths.
- the Rothermel's who worked with Thrivent for turkey breasts and all those who have given food donations and monetary donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas for those who receive their needs from the Lowhill Food Pantry.
- Myrena Frantz who is our new Webmaster in training.
- our Union Fellowship Committee for the wonderful Advent Calendar and items they have shared with us.

Contact Information

Website: www.ziegelschurch.org
Church Office Hours: 8:00 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	484-456-6701
Kristin Folck, Christian Education Director	484-860-2549
Rob Ziegler, 2020 Union Church President	484-333-0601
Kevin Taylor, 2020 Lutheran Council Pres.	610-351-4321
Andy Graff, 2020 UCC Consistory President	610-349-0359
Lori Brawn, Newsletter Editor	610-573-9764

The deadline for submissions
for the January 2021 newsletter is Monday, December 14.
Please contact Lori Brawn directly or send information by
email to Lori1962@verizon.net.