

*Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64:8)*

I love the imagery of God as the potter, working the clay into the perfect objects of art that spring from the mind of the creator of all that is. How often we have prayed the prayer that God would shape us, mold us, and perfect us? How often we've recognized the need to tear down the old when things haven't turned out well and start afresh by allowing God to reshape us, renew us, and restore us? The analogy breaks down just a bit in my mind, however, when we remember that the moist, soft, pliable, malleable clay worked so lovingly by the potter is destined for the kiln where it is hardened by the furnace flames which remove all the moisture and all the flexibility. The result may be beautiful, but it is also quite fragile and often irreparable if it is cracked or shattered. Saint Paul alludes to the frailty of the kiln-fired vessels in 2 Corinthians when he reminds us that we hold the gift of the Gospel of Jesus in our hearts, like treasure in clay vessels. I do indeed believe that there can be no better purpose, no higher calling, than to contain the Gospel within our fragile lives.

I believe that we are continually shaped by God. The clay of our lives never dries out, never hardens by the fire, as the potter adds the waters of spiritual baptism with every turn of the potter's wheel. The imperfections continue to be smoothed out, as we are most assuredly a work in progress throughout our lives. So many people seem to think that we reach a place where we can be satisfied, where God is somehow satisfied, and so they are fired in the kiln of their own idea of self-righteousness, forever cast in a single shape of faith, but oh so very fragile. The truth is different, I think. We do not reach a point of holiness and say, "Good enough." No, we are constantly being shaped by the potter, and there is always room for improvement.

Looking back at where we once were, we may well rejoice in the changes God has made in us, in how far we have come spiritually. Martin Luther King, Jr. is quoted as having said:

*"Lord, we ain't what we oughta be.
We ain't what we want to be.
We ain't what we gonna be.
But, thank God, we ain't what we was.."*

God isn't done with us yet, individually or collectively. We are not yet all that God calls us to be. In these days of post-Easter journey, as we celebrate life and hope, let us be aware of the journey and joyfully continue on the path that leads us to love.

A huge shout out to Josh

Dietz - "Mr. Josh"

For all of his time, talents and leadership in creating a Virtual Sunday School Program and producing such upbeat and engaging weekly Sunday School videos!

ULC's very own

"Super" Man!



Thank you



to the Rev. Dr. Herb Gifford
for leading Worship
on April 18th!

Vacation Bible School-
Check out the 2 ways to
enjoy VBS-your choice!
1. "At Home VBS" – watch
our VBS videos emailed
directly to your home **or**
2. Join us Sundays, June
20, 27, July 11, 18, 25 9:45
– 10:30 AM for family VBS:
skits, craft, games outside
& watch our VBS videos at
home.

**Call the office at
610-767-6884 or register
on our website ulclv.org.**

Join us for
"Drive Thru Communion"
May 23rd

10:30-11 Communion
and Summer Worship
Packet Pick up

Enter the parking lot
and proceed to the
covered entrance way.
There Pastor will offer
prayers, communion
and a blessing.

Communion will be served
using individual sealed cups
which include both the wafer
and grape juice.



Virtual Happy Hour

Join us on Zoom every
Sunday at 10:30 AM.

You do not have to be
a "Bible scholar" to join in;
our sessions are very informal.

Watch your emails each week to receive
your Zoom link!

Click to be put on the [Zoom link list!](#)

May 2 - Behind the Curtain – Hosted by
your pastor and the church staff. Take a peek
"behind the curtain" to learn about all that it
takes to hold a worship service at ULC in
2021!

May 9 - Mothers of the Bible – I'm sure
you may be able to name a few...let's
hear their stories on Mothers' Day!

May 16 - brainstorming: what topics/
speakers/leaders would you like to see
next season of Happy Hour – bring your
ideas

**MAY 16TH IS OUR LAST SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE
SPRING—SEE YOU IN THE FALL!**

Egg Hunt 2021 *Drive thru style*

*Union Lutheran Family,
I would like to say "thank you!" to*

*everyone who made the "Easter Egg
Drive Thru" event happen on Saturday.*

*My niece, Jada, LOVED
it so much! She absolutely
had an excellent time.*

*Sincerely grateful,
Stefanie Wassum*



Thanks to the Fellowship Committee for a great event!

85 Children in attendance!



Soldier Campaign & Township Resource Information

Everyone's participation in our "Soldier Campaign" makes a tremendous difference in the lives of our Deployed Military! **THANK YOU.** As we all work together as a community, our troops know that we stand behind them as they serve on our behalf protecting our freedom.

NEED "GOODIE" IDEAS!

- ➔ Small boxes of dry cereal
- ➔ Crackers/cookies/energy bars
- ➔ Potato Chips in a can
- ➔ Tuna Fish/Chicken in pouches
- ➔ All kinds of nuts/granola bars
- ➔ Drink mix singles
- ➔ Travel sizes/toiletries
- ➔ Gum/hard candy wrapped
- ➔ Chapstick/Dental floss
- ➔ Foot/Boot Powder (small sizes)
- ➔ Sunscreen (wipes only)
- ➔ Mosquito repellent with Deet (wipes only)



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SOLDIER PROGRAM, IT IS TRULY APPRECIATED

Please bring in your donated "goodies" to the Township Office and we will fill the boxes, take to the Post Office, and the boxes will be mailed overseas to keep our soldier's spirits high and let them know that they are never forgotten!

A recent thank you note received at the Township

A 1st LT serving in Korea. "I wanted to thank you on behalf of my platoon for the care package you sent to us! I am eternally grateful for the energy & resources that were exhausted in order to make this happen for my platoon. I am responsible for 38 of America's finest soldiers, wish you could have seen the look of pure joy, digging through all the snacks & treats, many of them have not received a single package since arriving in Korea, and it was a special moment to finally see them being recognized for their efforts & sacrifices. Please share our appreciation with everyone who contributed and know that support from people like you allows us to do what we do & persevere!"

Remember, if you have a friend or family in the military deployed overseas and would like us to send a "goodie box", please let us know.

Thank You!!



"Daybreak" is looking for "Bingo Prizes!"

Social Ministry Committee would like to request

\$5 and under items from the dollar store that would work well as Bingo Prizes. Examples may include easy to put on Jewelry for ladies, but they do have Men playing as well.



Daybreak is a service organization that serves people in the Allentown area that may have drug or alcohol issues or that they may be mentally impaired. Daybreak feeds and tends to other needs for these at risk people.

Soldier Campaign and Daybreak items can be delivered to the church office or brought to Outdoor Worship no later than May 30th

Take a moment to see how the ministries of ULC are thriving!

Review of finances- Givings for March were higher than last year by 2.8%. YTD 2021 givings are higher than 2020 by 7.4%. Thanks to the transfer of funds to the general account from rental income, YTD total income is higher than last year by 30.0%.

Expenses for the month are higher than last year by 67.6% and YTD expenses are higher than last year by 16.1%. For the month and YTD, personnel expenses are much higher than last year due to a full complement of salary personnel as opposed to last year and that the February and March payments of pension/healthcare were both posted in March. Most of the month of March 2020 found the building unused allowing utility expenses to be exceptionally low when compared to March 2021.

For the month, snow plow expenses were extremely high in March. As a result, March experienced a loss of \$8,384 vs. last year's gain of \$4,449; however YTD 2021 gain of \$9,311 compares favorably to a loss last year of \$548.

Old Business- Church Council decided to not pursue building an Ash Garden on ULC property since the Union Cemetery will be offering an Ash Garden during this summer.

ULC Reopening Committee continues to review the recommendations from the CDC and ELCA concerning building usage.

New Business - Property Committee asked to investigate air filtration system for the Nave.

Pastor's report - Thank you for all musicians, vocalists, decorators, greeters, youth and fellow staff who helped to celebrate our Holy Week/Easter worship services.

Thank you to the congregation for donating over 800 pairs of socks for Jerusalem House Ministries

Thank you to all who are keeping the ministries of ULC thriving during this difficult time.

Reminder, two delegates needed for the virtual Synod Assembly in June.

Christian Life Committee – planning “commercial” encouraging continued contributions to Future Building Maintenance Fund

Library Committee - planning to hold Bookfest on September 12th (FLC or outdoors)

Youth Group- Sunday morning meetings outside – April 25, May 2, 16 & June 6

monthly summer events: June 23 - Dorney Park; July 17 – Knoebels Family Day; August 14 – Blue Mountain rope course/rock climbing

Christian Education – Vacation Bible School 2021 will give folks 2 options (virtual videos or in-person, outdoor sessions)

Happy Hour and Children's Sunday School will start summer break on May 23rd

Zoom Catechetical Classes have ended for the school year

Ten youth will be Confirmed on May 23rd

Fellowship Committee- offering Summer worship kits for those who are not able to attend parking lot worship

Family Day at Knoebels Amusement Park planned for July 17

Iron Pig tickets reserved for September 3rd game with fireworks

Planning underway for mortgage "burning" celebration

Property Committee - Terry Hoffman is sprucing up the flowerbeds

HVAC unit #8 which controls the Nave was replaced

old computer equipment and televisions will be recycled

contract signed to monitor and treat possible bag worm infestations

Social Ministry Committee- collecting Bingo prizes for the Daybreak Program

Joining North Whitehall's Soldier Campaign – collecting personal care items for our troops

Received many thanks from our homebound members for the Easter baskets

Offering envelopes will be added to packets "Fighting Hunger"

Investigating how to support local foster programs for child refugees

Worship/Music Committee - Memorial Day Service scheduled for May 31 at 9 AM in the cemetery

Replaced microphone head set for Pastor to use during parking lot worship

Musical Groups – rehearsals and musical selections scheduled for May

Worship Greeters – committees will be asked to serve

Mortgage Burning Celebrations – helping to plan a special celebration

Next Meeting May 17, 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom



Bible Study

...please consider joining us for our monthly bible study via Zoom! Our next "meeting" is Saturday, May 1, at 8 a.m. In expectation of the Day of Pentecost (Sunday, May 23) we will discuss what it meant to the disciples and what it means for us today.

Please call Linda Rebuck at 610-613-6196 or email at crebuck@hotmail.com
OR

Linda.rebuck@gmail.com to make arrangements or learn more.

We'd love to "see" you!



During the pandemic, many of our church family members and many members of our surrounding community are joining our virtual worship services every week.

We are offering Summer Worship Kits for these folks. Each kit will include a devotional and communion kits.

If you would like a Summer Worship Kit for you or your family, please email the office at office@ulclv.org or call 610-767-6884. Please indicate the number of people in your family. Packets will be ready for pick up at the church Sunday, May 23rd and during office hours the following week.

(If you are unable to pick up your kit, please let us know and we will deliver.)



Join the ULC Youth Group for a
Day at Knoebel's Grove
Saturday, July 17, 2021 12-9pm

FREE Parking **FREE** Admission **FREE** Pavillion
We are in Pavillion Q.

Ride Tickets: 20% discount
\$20.00 book for \$18.00

Sales to begin soon through the church office at
610-767-6884 or Email office@ulclv.org

Tickets are good forever.

Tickets are limited and will not be available at the park.

**WILL HAVE INDIVIDUAL SNACKS AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE AT THE PAVILION AS
WELL AS MASKS, HAND SANITIZER AND FIRST AID KIT.**

PACK YOUR LUNCH OR EAT IN THE PARK.

GREAT VARIETY OF FOODS AT GREAT PRICES.

YOU MAY LEAVE YOUR COOLERS, ETC. AT THE PAVILION.

Join us at the pavilion Q at 5:00 – 5:15 pm for Evening Vespers

www.knoebels.com

800-487-4386

391 Knoebels Blvd, Route 487, Elysburg, PA 17824

Let us praise God, who plants the seeds and reaps the harvest.

Blessed Be God Forever!

Today we seek God's blessing on these seeds and the crops they will produce.

Christ reminds us that, unless the seed is planted in the earth and dies, it will not yield fruit. As these seeds grow and are cared for, may they be signs of the new life that comes from God.

If you have received a mailed newsletter-please find a packet of seeds to plant.

IN LOVING
Memory

Charles W. Stopp, Esq.

November 20, 1948—March 28, 2021



Thank you to all who have helped with Our Pantry. It has been used heavily during winter.

We are asking for nonperishable food items.

It is our goal to provide items which can be made into hot meals.

Again, thank all of you, job well done!!!!

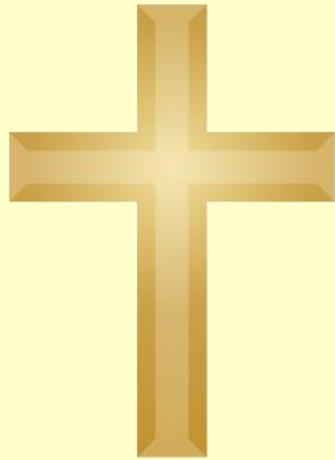
Submitted by Irene Folk

"Thank you for all of your support for ULC's Little Pantry. We are very grateful for the donations. We are asking that you place your donations inside the church during church hours, so that our dedicated team can check expiration dates and ensure that our supplies are being used in a timely manner."

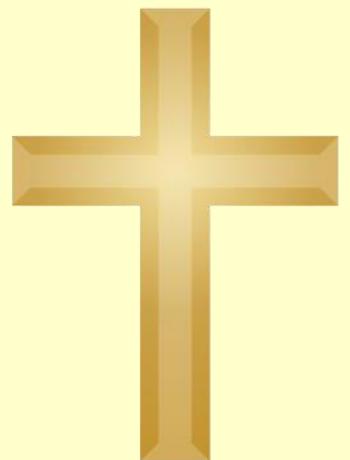
Submitted by The Social Ministry Committee



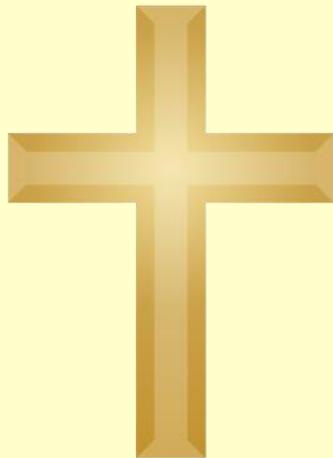
*Four of our children
received their first
communion on
Maundy Thursday.*



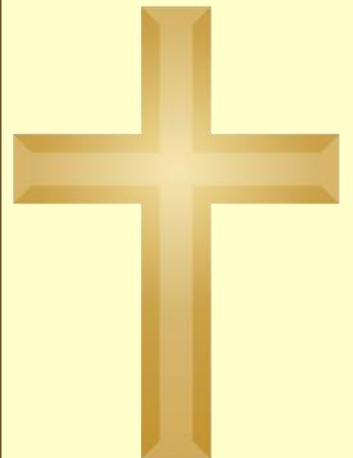
William Geren



Rocco Kennedy



Brinley Norman



Jack Yaniger

ULC Youth Group

Thomson's Hoagie Fundraiser

The Sale will run April 22 - May 20, 2021)

\$4 each - Money due at time of pick up - cash or check
Delivery will be May 27th 2021 from 4-6 pm in the family life center.

Red – Cooked Ham, Cooked Salami, White American Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Hot Peppers, & Italian Dressing Pack
White – Cooked Ham, Cooked Salami, White American Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion & Italian Dressing Pack
Yellow - Cooked Ham, Cooked Salami, White American Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Hot Peppers, & Italian Dressing Pack
Green - Cooked Ham, Cooked Salami, White American Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato & Italian Dressing Pack
Orange – Ham & Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato & Mustard Packet
Tan – Turkey, Lettuce, Tomato & Mayo Packet
Black – Roast Beef, Lettuce, Tomato & Mayo Packet
Blue – Tuna, Celery, Lettuce, Onion, Mayo, Eggs & Tomato
Veggie – Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato & Italian Dressing Packet

Select the hoagies by color and quantity and then:
email office@ulclv.org



Summer Grilling Raffle

**\$5 A TICKET FOR A CHANCE
TO WIN ONE OF **THREE****

meat packs



**1 PKG. SMOKED TURKEY KIELBASA
1 LB. TURKEY OR CHICKEN SAUSAGE
1 BELL & EVAN'S ORGANIC CHICKEN BREAST
1 LB. MARINATED CHICKEN**

WAYS TO PURCHASE CHANCES:

- 1. CALL THE OFFICE - 610-767-6884**
- 2. EMAIL THE OFFICE - OFFICE@ULCLV.ORG**
- 3. WWW.ULCLV.ORG UNDER THE FUNDRAISER TAB**



**ENTRY DEADLINE MAY 30
DRAWING WILL BE JUNE 1 @ 2 PM
YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM EVENT**

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCQpW13xOT3NPN8k5CXIHUPW](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQpW13xOT3NPN8k5CXIHUPW)

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE TUNED IN TO WIN

Proceeds benefit the Youth Group of ULC



5500 Route 873 Schnecksville, PA 18078

610-767-6884 Church Office

Website: www.ulclv.org **email:** office @ulclv.org

Facebook.com/ulclv

Miller-Keystone Blood Center #1258 - ULC

Staff	
Pastor	The Rev. Gordon A. Camp
	pastor@ulclv.org
	Cell 610-554-8061
Pastor Emeritus	The Rev. Dennis W. Moore
Asst. to the Pastor	Cathy C. Shaffer
Director of Music	Susan Frickert
Asst. Office Administrator	Katie Stauter
Sexton	Terry P. Hoffman
Parish Nurses	Dorothy Bealer
	Jane Borbe

Congregation Council Members			
Officers		Committee Liaisons	
President	Patti Hoffman	Worship and Music	Lynne Banzhoff
Vice President	David Geiger	Library Committee	Robert Drews
Secretary	Kandy Lang	Property Committee	David Geiger
Treasurer	Cathy Shaffer	Finance Committee	Hannah Geiger
		Comm. & Reopening Team	Brian Geren
Union Board Representatives		Social Ministry	Sally Grim
Vice President	David Geiger	Staff Support	Debra Grundstrom
Secretary	Brian Geren	Christian Life	Kim Kuhlman
Member	Robert Drews	Christian Education	Gail Lafferty
Member	Sally Grim	Social Ministry	Kandy Lang
Alternate 1	Lynne Banzhoff	Fellowship	Jason Marakovits
Alternate 2	Debra Grundstrom		

"Our Mission is to follow Jesus and serve as He would."