

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:

The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

May we all enter this New Year with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for all the things and people we've been blessed with, and have often taken for granted. Let us be grateful for each other, for health, warmth, silence, beauty, creativity, friendship, family, fellowship, and those who help us through so many difficult times—the list is endless.

Let us add to whatever resolutions we have made for 2023 to make worship a part of our daily lives, to live with hearts overwhelmed by wonder and awe, to wake up every morning dazzled by grace.

Here is the list of the 10 most common New Years' Resolutions:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Exercise more | Lose weight |
| Get organized | Learn a new skill or hobby |
| Live life to the fullest | Save more money / spend less money |
| Quit smoking | Spend more time with family and friends |
| Travel more | Read more |

Most of these resolutions will be broken or abandoned within the first few weeks of the New Year.

But what if we add to our lists, getting into shape spiritually? What if we make our spiritual life a priority—exercise hospitality every day, immerse ourselves in reading and studying scripture, be intentional about new ways of service personally and communally, blocking off time to pray for one another. In addition, purpose to say some uplifting word to someone every day. Say thank you to those we share our lives with daily. Forgive those who you haven't. Forgive yourself.

We could all set up prayer goals for ourselves, and our families, for 2023.

Setting goals, say the experts, helps us to change our behavior, guides our focus, helps us sustain momentum, and promotes a sense of self mastery—all of which comes down to surrendering more and more of our lives to the Holy Spirit, who leads us into the fullness of life.

May 2023 be a year of growth and maturity for our faith and our congregation. Let us all be diligent to bring the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world in every way open to us, personally and communally. May we all follow the Son wherever He leads us.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry has donated eight handmade baby blankets and one prayer shawl to the Cay Gallagon Life House.

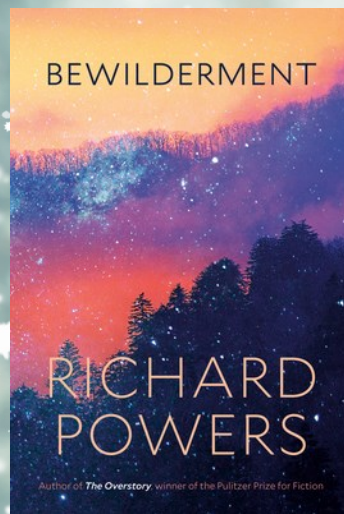
This organization assists homeless and marginalized mothers and pregnant women with the resources and tools to be self-sufficient in the Lehigh Valley. The group is located in Bethlehem. I look forward to having a continued relationship with this organization.

January 2023 Book Club

Our next selection is *Bewilderment* by Richard Powers

Theo Byrne, an astrobiologist, searches for life throughout the cosmos. It's a dream job for a sci-fi-loving loner. He is also single-handedly raising his unusual nine-year-old, Robin, following the death of his wife. Robin is a sensitive, introverted boy who spends hours painting elaborate pictures of endangered animals. He's also prone to erratic behavior and about to be expelled from third grade for smashing his friend in the face. As his son grows more troubled, Theo hopes to keep him off psychoactive drugs. He learns of an experimental neurofeedback treatment to bolster Robin's emotional control, one that involves training the boy on the recorded patterns of his mother's brain.

With its soaring descriptions of the natural world, its tantalizing vision of life beyond, and its account of a father and son's ferocious love, *Bewilderment* invites us to ponder the question: At what cost do we allow our capacities for fear, jealousy and appetite to crush other equally intrinsic gifts, like empathy, courage and forbearance? Let's meet January 22nd to discuss!



Given Away is the book for March! Stay tuned for more exciting info!

NIGHT *to Shine*

SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW**
FOUNDATION

Save the date!!

**FEBRUARY
10TH, 2023**



Riverbend Community Church and the Vine Church will serve as hosts of Night to Shine 2023, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. The unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, celebrating people with special needs will be held in-person by host churches around the world simultaneously on Friday, February 10, 2023. We are excited to be a part of this worldwide movement that God is using as a catalyst to change how cultures embrace people with disabilities and to rally the church worldwide to honor their local community of people with special needs, ensuring they know they are valued and loved.

An event of this magnitude takes many helping hands, and we want to invite those who have a heart for the special needs community to join us in making this night happen!



Get involved today!



RIVERBENDONLINE.ORG/NIGHTTOSHINE

Night to Shine Global Partner



How many of you enjoy putting together puzzles?

Every year our Finance Team is tasked with putting together the “puzzle” of next year’s budget.

There are many pieces to this puzzle:

- During the summer, we begin to work with all of our committees sharing their YTD expenditures and asking them to determine their needs for the next year;
- Property Committee analyzes the costs of maintaining & operating our beautiful facility;
- Staff Support and Finance Committees work together to determine potential staff cost of living adjustments;
- Finance Committee analyzes our year to date income & compares to giving trends from previous years.

Next comes the fun part, we get to put all of the pieces together – hoping and praying that the costs to keep our church facility & programming balance with our anticipated income.



So what do you do when the pieces don't fit together?

Let's take a look at our proposed 2023 budget.

At our December bi-annual meeting, Church Council presented the budget for 2023 with an increase of **only 1.5%** over 2022 – that sounds like a reasonable increase, right?

Let's take a look at our proposed 2023 budget.

At our December bi-annual meeting, Church Council presented the budget for 2023 with an increase of **only 1.5%** over 2022 – that sounds like a reasonable increase, right?

However, as of end of November our income is \$29,573.95 or (9.3%) lower than 2021, so to build a budget using the anticipated 2022 income would not be wise.

So given this data, the Finance Committee looked at the anticipated 2023 expenses. Is there anywhere that we can cut expenses? As you all know, electricity rates are increasing, contracts for snow plowing are on the rise, plus much more. We determined that the projected expenses were reasonable and could not be lowered.

So, if we can't cut expenses and we can't justify increasing our expected income we are left with this simple math problem

projected income of	\$335,000
projected expenses of	- <u>381,000</u>
That leaves us with a projected deficit of	\$ 46,000

What is our game plan? The church does have cash reserves to help to bridge this gap temporarily. Do not worry, the “for sale sign” is not going to be swinging from the steeple anytime soon. **BUT, we do need everyone's help.**

Please prayerfully consider:

Can you make an additional contribution? Can you increase your weekly offering? Can you sign up for electronic giving so that your offering is here every week even if you are not able to be here? Do you have stock that you could donate?

For more details, please do not hesitate to contact our Treasurer, Cathy Shaffer, at treasurer@ulclv.org.

There are many ways to grow our income.

With everyone's help, we can fill the missing piece for funding our 2023 ministries.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Please check out our Sunday School Christmas Play (Little Packages) available online on the church's YouTube page.

Our little superstars
did an awesome job putting it together!

Sunday School will resume on
Sunday, January 8th at 10:15am!

We hope to see you there!

Youth helping Youth at ULC!

The youth did a
great job shopping,
wrapping, &
delivering all gifts to
Jerusalem House.
Pastor Dan Adams at
Jerusalem house
shares,

"God bless you all. This
is such a blessing. Your
kids are wonderful!" .



Exciting New Addition to our Worship Life together!

In response to the growing number of requests from congregational members, the Worship and Music Committee has unanimously recommended to Church Council that we offer a Service of Praise one Sunday per month, for a six month period, February 2023 through July 2023, after which we will evaluate the congregation's response. Our talented Praise Band will lead the service, accompanied by guitar, drums and piano. This is a perfect opportunity for any singers out there who have been thinking of singing with us to start coming to our Saturday morning rehearsals at 8:30 a.m. We are also looking for some additional guitarists (please contact Susan Frickert for details). Our Praise Service will usually be the second Sunday of the month, with the exception of April (Easter is the second Sunday, so our new monthly worship will be moved to April 16). There may be another month in which we may need to schedule it on the third Sunday, so watch for updates! With the installation of our new gifted organ the week of January 9th, you can bet Susan Frickert will be using more organ in the remaining "blended" services, so they might feel a bit more traditional than previously. Music is truly a language, and there no language that God can't speak! We rejoice that we have the people and resources to effectively offer this enhancement to our worship life at ULC.



Women
of the
Word

**WOW Bi-
ble Study**
The first

**Saturday of each month at 9 a.m.
in room 202**

Try something new for 2023 and join our small group of women as we begin a new four-session study from the GATHER magazine on the Ten Commandments written by ELCA pastor Christa von Zychlin.

Pastor von Zychlin will help us see how these commandments are more than they may appear at first glance. For example, Pastor von Zychlin says Martin Luther taught that the commandment, "Do not kill," means not only refraining from murder, but actively promoting the health and life of others. Get ready to explore old and new interpretations of God's laws, using Luther's Small and Large Catechism and more!

Church Directory

Didn't get your photo taken yet?

We have added more times!

**Contact Katie and she can find
a time that fits your schedule.**

610-767-6884

office@ulclv.org

Chicken Pot Pie Dinner

Sponsored by the Journeymen of ULC

Union Lutheran Church
5500 Route 873
Schnecksville, Pa 18078

JANUARY 14, 2023
4:30 - 7:00 PM

\$12 adult presale
\$15 @ door
\$5 Children 3-12



Tickets: Call 610-767-6884
Email office@ulclv.org
www.ulclv.org
(click on ticket sales)

Union Evangelical Lutheran Church

5500 Route 873 Schnecksville, PA 18078

610-767-6884 Church Office

Website: www.ulclv.org **email:** office@ulclv.org **Facebook:** [facebook.com/ulclv](https://www.facebook.com/ulclv)

Union Lutheran Staff

Pastor	The Rev. Gordon A. Camp
	pastor@ulclv.org Cell 610-554-8061
Pastor Emeritus	The Rev. Dennis W. Moore
Treasurer	Cathy C. Shaffer
Director of Music	Susan Frickert
Communication Specialist	Katie Stauter
Sexton	Terry P. Hoffman
Faith Formation Coordinator	Josh Dietz
Parish Nurses	Dottie Bealer and Jane Borbe