



# Christ Evangel

Christ United Methodist Church 1020 S. Valley Forge Rd. Lansdale, PA 19446

## Celebrate Christmas at Christ UMC

Sunday, December 17 @ 4:30pm and 7pm: Christmas Collage Concert

Tuesday, December 19 @ 7:30pm: Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 24 @ 9:30am: Sunday Morning Worship (No Sunday School)

Sunday, December 24 @ various times: Christmas Eve Services



These services offer a variety of ways to celebrate and reflect on this special time of year. They are also wonderful opportunities to invite friends, family, and neighbors to join you at church. See the in-depth information about each of these services on page 3 of this newsletter to discover the service(s) that is right for you.



- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2– Glad Tiding Christmas Shop | 19– Evening Fellowship       |
| 3– Cookie Sale                | 19– Blue Christmas Service   |
| 5– Church Council Budget Mtg. | 19– Finance Committee Mtg.   |
| 8– Youth Ice Skating          | 20– Friendly Seniors         |
| 9– Breakfast with Santa       | 20– Endowment Committee Mtg. |
| 11– Deborah Circle            | 21– Cooking for Manna        |
| 13&27– Earthen Vessels        | 21– Care Ministers Mtg.      |
| 14– Board of Trustees         | 21– Welcome Ministries Mtg.  |
| 17– Mission Committee Mtg.    | 24– Christmas Eve Services   |
| 17– Collage Concert           | 27– Schwenkfeld Worship      |

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## Encountering Christ at Christmas



With all of the hoopla of the holidays it could be easy to miss Christ at Christmas.

Surprisingly, as you look at the Biblical stories concerning his birth, encountering Christ right from the start was a “some will – some won’t” proposition. We are going to “visit” all the places of encounter in the Christmas stories during the seasons of Advent and Christmas and see how we may find ourselves among those who do encounter Christ.

The late arriving, First Sunday of Advent, this year will be on December 3. That morning we will experience a “Hanging of the Greens” service. We will not be decorating the sanctuary that morning, but the last piece of each kind of decoration will be put in place with scripture and appropriate carols to help us learn the symbolism of our decorations. Then throughout the season as we see wreaths and holly and lights and trees and more, our thoughts can be returned to Christ and we can encounter him.

Through our scriptures and carols each week we will visit a new place in the story. On December 10th we will go to Nazareth’s Home and encounter Christ in the everyday. On December 17th we will go to Bethlehem’s Stable for the humblest of encounters. On December 24th in the morning we will visit Bethlehem’s Fields for a joyous encounter and at our Christmas Eve services our eyes will be looking up to Heaven’s Star and discover God’s plan for a truly inclusive encounter. December 31st at Jerusalem’s Palace we will see the encounter rejected. Finally, on January 7th along Egypt’s Road we will encounter Jesus as we journey together.

Let’s keep Jesus at the center of all our celebrations this year. How amazing is it that we have a God who comes to us! Be ready to welcome and receive the Christ this Christmas.

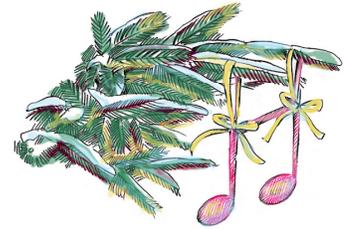
-Pastor Nicholson

### Wise Words from the Welcoming Ministry

As the advent season approaches, let us prepare our hearts to welcome our visitors with warmth and with enthusiasm. May those visitors see that Christ is alive here, and may they continue to worship with us.

## Ninth Annual Christmas Collage Concert

On Sunday, December 17th, at 4:30pm and 7pm, come hear a truly unique musical experience from all corners of the sanctuary! In 60 minutes of uninterrupted music, you will enjoy up to twenty different selections presented by an array of ensembles and soloists. This concert is free and open to the public, so bring your family and friends! It is a great concert for kids! Please note - due to the nature of the concert please arrive early - the doors will close at 4:30pm and 7pm for each concert and we don't want you to miss this awesome event! We will be doing the same concert in the two times to accommodate the audience comfortably.



## Blue Christmas



It's the most wonderful time of the year-but not for everyone. If a loss has dampened your enthusiasm for this season, your care ministers invite you to join us in the sanctuary on Tuesday,

**A Holiday Prayer** December 19th, at 7:30 PM, for our Blue Christmas service. As befits the occasion, the service includes quiet music, along with prayer and scripture, and a candle lighting liturgy.

Loss can take many forms-the loss of a loved one, of our good health, of a job, or of our independence. And grief has no season-it ebbs and flows.

We encourage you to join us, and to invite your family and friends to attend, for this time of remembrance.

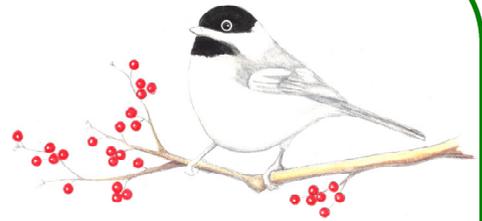
## Christmas Eve Services for All Ages

**3:30 p.m.-** An active service for young children (preschool) and their families.

**6:00 p.m.-** A service of Christmas lessons and carols brought by our older children featuring special music, congregational singing, and candle lighting.

**8:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.-** Celebrating the Nativity through the Sacrament of Holy Communion, preaching the Word, special music, as well as singing of Christmas carols and candle lighting.





## Loving Hearts, Helping Hands: Ways to Help Others

### Glad Tidings Christmas Shop, December 2

Together with our sisters and brothers in the other UM churches in the area we have stocked an amazing Christmas shop for economically challenged families in Norristown. Your help is needed to set up the store on Friday evening, December 1, at 7pm, or to staff the store, help the kids with crafts, or serve the lunch on Saturday from 10-12:30; or join in the clean up at 12:30. This project of the Southern Montgomery County Mission ConneXion (SOMOCO) is building a bridge between UM churches and people in need. Be a part of it. Call Haws Avenue UMC at 610-275-1283 to offer your time.

### Giving Tree

This year, Christ UMC is sponsoring local families with our Giving Tree. The Giving Tree, decorated with gift tags, will be in the lobby soon. Please bring any gift(s) your family is contributing wrapped, with the original tag you selected from the tree attached to the gift, returned to the church by Sunday, December 10th. Participating in this program is a wonderful way to introduce your children to the giving spirit of the season as well as to make an extra-special Christmas for these children and families in the greater Lansdale community. Thanks so much for your generous participation!

### Code Blue Volunteers Needed

During the winter months (December—March) the Montgomery County Health Department declares “Code Blue” if night time temperatures are 20° or below. When this occurs, volunteers and shelter space at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, are ready to provide overnight shelter to North Penn area homeless men. Volunteers from local churches staff the shelter from 7:30 PM to 9:00 AM in three shifts: intake, overnight, and breakfast/clean-up. A hot meal is provided along with a place for the men to sleep and stay warm overnight. New volunteers are provided training on-site during Code Blue nights. Anyone who would like to help out can sign up for time slots through the dedicated Code Blue page on the church website [TrinityLansdale.com](http://TrinityLansdale.com), contact volunteer coordinators: Joe Toy (215-375-2928) and Karen Strobel (267-784-3054), or contact Phil Woodruff (610-584-8595) or Lanny Whitehouse (610-584-5819), our CUMC coordinators.

## Trunk-Or-Treat Success!

Despite the rainy weather and moving Christ UMC's 2nd Annual Trunk-Or-Treat inside, there was an amazing turnout of volunteers, children (160), and parents. Congratulations to the planning committee for another successful event and thank you to everyone who volunteered to make it spectacular!



## Christ UMC Missionaries

In the past month, we have had five members serving around the US and world in various roles. Here are their experiences:

Anne Truscott served in rural La Baliene, Haiti in the southern region from 10/21-28 for medical mission - providing deworming medication for intestinal parasites, anemia testing, height/weight measurement for children, BP screening and health assessment and teaching in several rural villages.



“We saw over 1200 children and adults. We also distributed seeds from the Moringa tree to be planted by villagers plus powdered micronutrients, powdered toothpaste with zinc, acetaminophen and medicinal creams which we mixed and packaged. I have been transformed by the poverty witnessed there in the rural villages where children live literally hand to mouth and struggle just to survive with no running water, flush toilets or electricity. It will take all of us following Jesus' example to show compassion and offer a hand out of poverty to change lives.”



Ken Dickinson joined Carpenter's Calling in October as they returned to Lumberton, NC to continue repairing and rebuilding homes and bringing back normalcy to the area which was severely damaged by Hurricane Matthew.



## Christ UMC Missionaries

**Tom and Janis Harrison** returned to Crisfield, Maryland in October with 30 members from Hopewell UMC to help Shiloh UMC do some much needed repairs on their



sanctuary and parsonage. Another group worked at the Alice B. Tawes Center (Nursing Home) to clear out trees and marsh grass - opening it up for the residents to be able to enjoy the beautiful view of the water. “While Tom worked on these projects, I worked on preparing meals for our team. It is always so special to have the opportunity to help others - and always come home feeling so fortunate to have had the opportunity to interact with so many wonderful people.”

**Robin Bresser** served in the South Park area of Houston, TX that was effected by flooding. They removed damaged drywall, rewired the electrical outlets, installed new insulation and drywall.

“I was shown that the Lord is ever present. I was in Houston to rebuild homes and share the Lord's love but it was Dorothy (our homeowner), even though she just lived through a flood and was displaced from her home, who showed the Lord's



love to us. Dorothy told me at our first meeting that she just wanted to be in her home to die and seem to have no hope. By the end of the first day's work I could see her spirits rise. She was excited about the work that was completed and even brought her friends over to see. She then told our team that she wanted to provide lunch for us. The next day Dorothy and our team sat and shared lunch and fellowship together.



### VBS Reunion

30 kids and 18 volunteers came out on December 11th to pack 200 duffel bags with toiletries, coloring books, and stuffed animals for children in foster care.



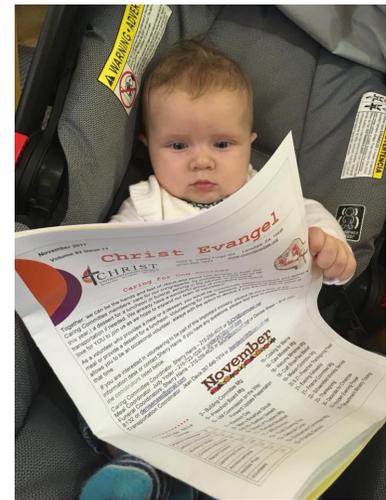
### Circuit Kids Corner

December will be a month filled with fun ways for our children to serve others!

**On December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, our children will work together to make several no-sew blankets that will go out to families in Philadelphia who have recently been homeless but are now moving into new homes. These families need a lot of the basics, including warm blankets to stay warm in the winter.

**And December 10<sup>th</sup>**, all children 4 years through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us as we Christmas carol at Brittany Pointe. We will walk over to the nursing facility after the Christmas Pageant, during the second service, and parents will pick up their children at the Willowbrook entrance after worship.

We hope you can join us for these fun events!



It's never too early to start reading the *Christ Evangel* for all your CUMC info.

Join Us!

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## UMM's Annual Breakfast with Santa



Santa will be in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 9th from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m.! There will be plenty of pancakes and sausage for everyone. There will not be ticket sales, but if you plan to attend the breakfast, sign up in the Lobby. This will help us to determine how much food will be needed. Kids will get to talk to Santa and have their picture taken with him, too. The best part is that it's not expensive: only \$3.00 for adults and \$1.50 per child (under 12). The maximum any family will have to pay is \$8.00 and you can't beat that! Manna on Main Street clients will be our guests for this annual Breakfast with Santa. Please extend to them Christ Church's usual warm welcome. Please see Joe Miller or Lanny Whitehouse with questions.

*Many adult and youth helpers are needed to make this event a success. If you are able to help in the kitchen, please contact Ed Horvath at 267-664-3082. If your talents are better used in the dining room, please contact Pat Shuey at 610-489-3539 or pshuey062886@gmail.com.*

## Celebration of the Completion of Construction

After many months of living with construction it will be a blessing to have construction finally completed. This is something to be celebrated! All that remains in the new year are the AV upgrades and the completion of our organ, both of which will begin soon. With the very full schedule of Advent and Christmas events in December we felt it best to hold this celebration on the first Sunday in January. Therefore on January 7<sup>th</sup> we will have one service at 9:30 a.m. with no Sunday School. A covered dish brunch will follow the service in the fellowship hall. Details will follow. Be sure to mark this on your calendar. Pastor and Mrs. Gary Knerr will be with us to help us celebrate. What a great way to start the new year!



## Congregation Invited to December Church Council

The 2018 Operating Budget for Christ UMC will be presented at the Church Council meeting to be held on Tuesday evening, December 5th, 7:00 pm at the church. All church members are invited to attend and hear the presentation, ask questions and express their views prior to the Church Council's vote. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Hospitality Desk, Welcome/Information table in the café or lobby, and in the Church Office. Feel free to contact Phil Woodruff or any member of the Finance Committee with your questions.



### Friendly Seniors Activities

Please join the Friendly Seniors group of adults 55+ on Wed., Dec. 20 at 12:00 noon, in Fellowship Hall for a delicious holiday meal catered by Steve Vincent of All About Catering.

Our menu includes:

Sliced Turkey & Gravy

Roast Eye Round in Au Jus

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Green Beans Almondine

Spring Mix Salad w/Candied Walnuts

Rolls & Butter

Assorted Cookies

Coffee & Tea

After the delicious meal, we will be entertained by the Rev. Susan Ketterer, pastor of Bethel Hill UMC, who will sing and play Christmas music for us. She is a talented musician: vocalist, pianist, and song-writer and is looking forward to spending time with our group and leading us in a carol sing!

Here is a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to be your guest for this special holiday luncheon! The cost of this delicious meal and musical presentation is just \$12. **Please sign up by December 10** on the reservation sheet located on the wall near Pastor Gary's greeting area. Also please indicate if you would be willing to share two dozen of your favorite cookies for our dessert.



### Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will have its annual Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 11. The meal is \$15.00 and catered by Steve Vincent. The children from the church preschool will present Christmas songs. Call Gloria Woodland at 215-368-2373 to make a reservation for dinner. Deadline is Sunday, December 3.



### Stitching Sisters

Stitching Sisters is taking a break during the month of December. However, mark your calendar to join them on January 25th.



## Announcements

### Do Your Holiday Shopping with Grocery and Gift Cards



With the Christmas and New Year holidays approaching, we hope you will consider purchasing Grocery Gift Cards at our Hospitality Desk for your holiday food shopping. Christ UMC earns a minimum of 5% on all gift card sales for Acme, Giant, Henning's, ShopRite, and Weis food stores plus a generous 25% for Lansdale Deli sales. In addition, you may purchase gift cards for Kohl's, CVS, Applebee's, Boston Market, Boscov's, and i-Tunes for those on your Christmas gift list. All earnings from the sale of Grocery and Gift Cards are applied against our church mortgage principle.

Please join this "painless" way to help retire our mortgage debt.

### 2017 Safe Sanctuary Training

Are you a Sunday school teacher? Do you serve in the nursery regularly or even once in a while? Do you assist with youth group? If so, then it is essential that you take a few minutes to complete our 2017 annual review. This is a requirement of the Annual Conference for all who volunteer with children. You can find our online review at <http://www.cumclansdale.org/home-page/safe-sanctuary-review>. **This month is your last chance to complete the review.**

### A Note of Thanks

This note is from Sadie Esh.

"A thank you for the money given to the Amish youth group, when they presented a program at your church on September 30. It covered all but a little bit of the cost of the bus. The youth were surprised at the monetary gift and grateful for it. The youth had such a worthwhile and enjoyable time."



# Volunteers

## Ushers

**8:30am** Jim Hare, Tony Trifiletti, Jeff Baer, Mark Stauffer, Ray McClain, and John Sullivan

**11:00am** Al Scott, Joe Loscalzo, Jack Ripley, Dana Ripley, Michael Horvath, John Renner, Krystyna Supplee, Mark Supplee, Terrence Hamill, and Sarah Hamill

**Captain:** Phil Woodruff

## Sound Technicians

<b>8:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>3</b> Ryan Fealy	Nick Hill
<b>10</b> Bill Schaefer	Erich Griener
<b>17</b> Steve Fallows	
<b>24</b> Chet Coupe (9:30)	
<b>31</b> Ryan Fealy	

## Circuit Kids Helpers

**3** Anne Marie Legates & Jessica Snyder  
**10** Kathy Barlick & Brian Hadka  
**17** Tina Hooper & Janellen Reid  
**24**  
**31** Nancy Kralik

## Flowers

<b>Altar</b>	<b>Pedestal</b>
<b>3</b> Joan Todd	Dot Gillespie
<b>10</b> Phil Woodruff	Phil Woodruff
<b>17</b> Nadene Stauffer	Kevin Woodland
<b>24</b> Barb Gingrich	
<b>31</b> Allison King	Allison King

## Nursery Volunteers

<b>8:30am</b>	<b>9:45am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>3</b> Jessica Snyder & Wendy Clemmer	Carolyn Hadka	Judi Plummer & Laura McCarney
<b>10</b> Liz Zearfoss	Allana Mathis	Diane Bresser & Alice Neil
<b>17</b> Kristi Weatherwax	Becky Wagner	Anne Marie Legates & Emily Geesaman
<b>24</b>		
<b>31</b> Iain Campbell	Hillary McCartney	Kathy Ellis & Laura McCarney

## Greeters

<b>8:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>3</b> Anna & Bruce Shelton	Fred & Carol Wynne
<b>10</b> Suzanne Williams	Joanne Montana & Grace Eroh
<b>17</b> Jim & Liz Zearfoss	Fred & Jean Davis
<b>24</b>	Jan Sawicki (9:30)
<b>31</b>	Fred & Carol Wynne

## Children's Sermon

**3** Pastor Bernhardt  
**10** Pastor Bernhardt  
**17** Nancy Shane  
**24** Warren Shuey  
**31**

## Reichley Class Leader

Richard Weand

## Lay Readers

<b>8:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>3</b> Jill Benchouk	Deb Scott
<b>10</b>	
<b>17</b> Nancy Albacker	Joanne Montana
<b>24</b>	Tim Weir (9:30)
<b>31</b> Jill Benchouk	Frieda Bailey



# December