

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS, 5-7 PM at Faith UMC for 5th-12th graders. Each week there are dinner, games and a lesson. For more info contact Pastor Jason (717-333-9238). **No Gretna Glen trips until Jan. 21 (3:30-7PM). No Youth Group on Dec 24 or 31.**

GRIEFSHARE GROUP to help people find support and process the loss of loved ones meets every other Monday from 5-6 PM at Faith UMC. **Next Meetings: December 18 & January 8.**

CHATTING VIA ZOOM on Mondays at 6:30 PM: This member-led, discussion group meets online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86190453518?pwd=cEVDeDljeThaaWVlYjIjQWmZjTm5oUT09>.

BIBLE STUDY on Wednesdays at 6:30pm at Oregon Community UMC in Fellowship Hall led by Mike.

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY at 10AM in Faith UMC Fellowship Hall with Pastor Jason. No session on Dec 29.

THE CHURCH & SOCIETY TEAM engages in improving our community by standing up against injustice. **Next meeting: Jan 17 at 5:30 PM (3rd Thursdays).** To learn more, contact Renee Norman. [Roadmap For Justice: POWER Interfaith Convention in Harrisburg on Feb 19.](#) To be a part of the team working on **Bail Reform & Representation for persons accused of crimes**, join the Zoom Session at Noon every Wednesday: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82483314676?pwd=K2ZtZGQ0LzBOeIVlVXQwUk5LR2VFQT09>

JUNIOR CHURCH TEACHERS NEEDED AT FAITH UMC: Teaching our children about our faith is a core mission of church. We need people to take turns teaching 3 year-4th grade students during the 10:30AM Service.

LITITZ MEALS ON WHEELS has an urgent and on-going need for volunteer cooks. Follow pre-printed easy menus for 50-60 people. Contact Jewel Shaub at 717-626-4352 or tjshaub@gmail.com or John Huber at 717-627-1176 or jehuber@ptd.net or leave a message at 717-626-2500.

IMPACT MISSION LUNCH CREW needs volunteers on Thursdays, 10AM-Noon. Volunteer for 1 or more Thursdays a month (or some Wednesdays). **Help make bagged lunches for Impact volunteers** at Christ UMC, 935 E. Walnut St., Lancaster. Contact Sue Grimm Mattox at sgrimm1028@gmail.com or 717.575.6414

LUMINA KIDS NIGHT needs volunteers for Monday evenings on January 8, 22, & 29. They need 3-4 adults to play with the kids and provide a light supper for 15 students. To volunteer or get more info, contact Pastor Jason.

OCUMC SECRET SISTER PROGRAM: Women will secretly send their “sister” notes of encouragement & small gifts all year long—as well as praying for one another. If you are interested, please contact Jackie Black (717) 572-1521 or Bobbi Ann Stone (717) 844-1574. Please turn in your info sheets to them ASAP.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES DURING ADVENT: Prayerfully consider if you would like to help with any of these projects. *We do not expect you to donate to each one.* Please participate as your heart and capacity leads you.

- **UDOBO PRE-SCHOOL:** We support the Udobo School in Durban, South Africa at Christmas. Visit <http://UdoboSchool.com> for details. Your gift will help provide food, educational supplies & teaching staff. Checks can be made out to *Faith UMC* with “Udobo School” in the memo or donate online to that fund at www.faithumc.us. All gifts in the Faith UMC Christmas offering envelopes, those marked for Udobo School, as well as all unmarked gifts in the Christmas Eve offering plate will go directly to the school.
- **CHRIST HOME FOR KIDS & BLACKFEET UMC PARISH:** If you are interested in making a donation you can send a check made out to *Oregon Community UMC* with the specific ministry marked in the memo line. You can mail it to Oregon Community, 1214 Creek Rd., Lititz, PA 17543 or put it in the offering plate Christmas Eve.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS: January 7, 14 & 28 at Noon at Faith UMC. If you are interested in learning more about the UMC and our local churches, & are considering becoming a member, contact Pastor Jason.

25 PRAYS OF CHRISTMAS: Join us for 25 days of prayers. There is one prayer a day starting Dec 1. The prayer list is available on our website, by using <http://oregoncommunityumc.us/25PrayersOfChristmas.pdf>.

Welcome to Oregon Community United Methodist Church



Address: 1214 Creek Road, Lititz, PA 17543

Church Phone: (717) 656-7198

Website: OregonCommunityUMC.us

Facebook: Oregon Community UMC

Pastor: The Rev. Jason Perkowski

jbperkowski@gmail.com or (717) 333-9238

Mission of Oregon Community United Methodist Church:
**“Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation
of our community and the world.”**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY at 9:00 AM at Oregon Community UMC
& BROADCAST at 10:30 AM from Faith UMC on Facebook & church websites.**

OFFICE HOURS: Pastor Jason is generally available Mon-Thurs from about 10-5pm. He is spending time with family from Friday at Noon through Saturday. If there is an emergency, please leave a detailed message.

Oregon Community United Methodist Church

December 17, 2023 at 9:00 AM – 3rd Sunday of Advent: Joy aka Gaudete Sunday

WELCOME: We gather this Advent to remember all the ways that God has been revealed to us, including the Christmas Miracle of Jesus' birth. We prepare ourselves through this season for His Second Coming. You are welcome in this sacred space no matter who you are; from where you have come; what experiences, struggles or gifts you bring; or the questions, doubts & beliefs you carry. We are glad you are on this journey with us—and pray you find what you came looking for!

GREETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & CENTERING PRAYER

Pastor Jason

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Jason & God's People

Have you noticed? Are you paying attention? God is doing a new thing.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

You know the captives? God is bringing freedom. You know the brokenhearted? God is bringing healing.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

Beloved, listen. God is calling you. To be freed and to free your neighbors. To be healed and to heal your community. To testify to the Light among us.

We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.

So, let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one whose coming we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath.

We come to watch, to wait, and to worship in the fierce joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.

.Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY aka GAUDETE

Mike & Paula Shifflet

*HYMN

Marching to Zion

UMH #733 v. 1-3

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Mike Shifflet

This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Jason

OUR OFFERINGS OF PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS

Pastor Jason

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #95

*Offertory Prayer

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 126

Mike Shifflet

This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

*HYMN

O Come, O Come (Emmanuel)

UMH #211

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Mike Shifflet

This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH #895

*HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart

UMH #160 v. 1, 2, 5

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Mike Shifflet

This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Our Fierce Joy

Pastor Jason

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

Pastor Jason

*HYMN

Joy to the World

UMH #246

* You are invited to stand in body or in Spirit

Pianist: Jody Wiker **Pastor:** The Rev. Jason Perkowski **Ministers:** The People of God

Liturgists: December 3 Dot Lange; 10 Bob Jolly; 17 Mike Shifflet; 24 Ralph Stone

BIRTHDAYS: December 6 Paula Shifflet; 19 Sharon Garner; 27 Annabelle Fritsch; 30 Ralph Stone

PRAYER REQUESTS: Larry Cooper, continued healing and relief from back surgery, pain and an infection; Gene Denlinger, healing; Dustin Oakes, esophagus; Dot's sister, Margaret; Bob Perkowski, upcoming back surgery; Cynthia Kelly's mother, broken hip; all those in mourning; Kathy Fisher, healing from hip surgery; Vince Habel, healing; Shirley Baker, healing; Cheryl Cooper healing from surgery & MS; Bruce, hamstring; Fritsch & Stone family; Rev. Dorcas, healing from cancer; Cynthia from NJ, battling cancer; Shirley Gehr; Kevin's kidneys (Joetta's grandson); Brent Rollins, healing after spinal surgery; Denny Armstrong, healing after colon surgery; Josh & Megan (Jackie's grandkids); Foster families; Kathy Muth, cellulitis; Jack Muth, brain cancer; Chuck Flory, ALS; Bob Rinier; Judy Brivchik, eyesight; all those with cancer; Campus Ministries; Bishop John Schol, Conference Staff, DS Jenny Freymoyer, Pastors and Laity. **PRAISES:** God's presence and healings. **PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD:** The people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine & Russia; Wisdom & safety for government officials globally; President Joe Biden and VP Kamala Harris; Healthy and gentle campaigns and election process; Prayers for all political candidates—safety & wisdom; Victims of gun violence; The UMC & disaffiliations; Veterans & Service members; police & medical personnel; the sick & caregivers; victims of violence & racism; peace, wisdom & reconciliation; abused persons & abusers; all affected by disasters; refugees & immigrants; the hungry, homeless & incarcerated; students, teachers & administration; libraries & staff; those struggling with addictions or mental illness; seniors; those grieving; our ministries & our community.



OFFERINGS: Thank you to everyone that supports our ministries. **Please consider if you are able to make a gift.** You can set up recurring donations through your own financial institution or at www.OregonCommunityUMC.US or via the QR Code. You can direct gifts to the **General Ministry, Building Funds, or UMCOR relief efforts (via <https://umcmmission.org>.)** We are able to receive gifts from **Required Minimum Distributions** from tax deferred **Retirement Accounts** (of those over 73 years of age), **Stocks, Bonds, Investments, Foundations, IRAs, etc.**

IN NEED OF HELP? Contact Pastor Jason, dial 2-1-1 or visit www.211.org to reach the **United Way Call Center** for social services. **The Crisis Intervention Lifeline is (717) 394-2631 or dial 9-8-8.**

LONG MEMORIAL FREE GROCERIES for those in need every Friday Night at 6pm. You can drive up and receive groceries to help support you through the week. *Volunteers are needed from 5-6pm.*

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE – Thur, Dec. 21 at 7PM at Long Memorial UMC. For many, Christmas is a bittersweet season with long nights in which we remember persons and events that have been a part of our lives in the past, but are now changed or gone. We offer a meditative worship service that allows time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts to celebrate the coming of Christ. You are invited to join us for this service of music, word and communion.

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING SERVICE at Oregon Community UMC at 9:00am on Dec. 24th (or 10:30am at Faith UMC if that better suits your schedule). *Join us after the service for refreshments in the fellowship hall.*

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE at Faith UMC at 7pm on Dec. 24th. This is a joint service with members of Oregon Community UMC & Faith UMC. Families will worship together in this service of carols and a retelling of the Christmas story. We will also share in Communion.

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT: On Feb. 2-4 the Youth will go to Gretna Glen for the Winter Blast Youth Retreat. Contact Pastor Jason to register. Permission Slips are needed. Cost is \$120, but \$60 will be covered from Youth Fundraisers. **\$30 is due when you sign up and \$30 is due by January 15, 2024.** **YOUNG ADULTS WINTER RETREAT: On Feb. 23-25 the Young Adults (HS Grad-30 years old) will go to Gretna Glen for the Winter Blast Youth Retreat.** Cost is \$120, but scholarships are available from the camp. **Register directly through the camp. Info is available at: <https://gretnaglen.org/event/18460122-2024-02-23-young-adult-retreat/>**