

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS, 5-7 PM at Faith UMC for 5th-12th graders. Each week there are dinner, games and a lesson. Sign up to be the 2nd adult and/or to provide a meal. For more info contact Pastor Jason. **The next Gretna Glen trip is January 21 (3:30-7PM). No sessions Dec 24 or 31.**

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT: On Feb. 2-4 the Youth will go to Gretna Glen for the Winter Blast Youth Retreat. Please sign up by the Youth Bulletin Board. 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. **Register directly through the camp.** Info is available at: <https://gretnaglen.org/event/18460122-2024-02-23-young-adult-retreat/>

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: January 8 & 22 (No session January 1)**

CHATTING on Mondays at 6:30 PM: No session 12/25 or 1/1. This member-led, discussion group meets online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86190453518?pwd=cEVDeDljeThaaWVlYjIjQWmZjTm5oUT09>.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY at Oregon Community UMC, 6:30PM. No Session Dec. 27 or Jan 3. They will begin studying Obadiah on Jan 10.

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at 10AM in Faith UMC Fellowship Hall. 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=K2ZtZGQ0LzBOelVlVXQwUk5LR2VFOT09>

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.

MEDICINE BOTTLE COLLECTION: Please remove labels & residue. A basket is under the table in the hall.

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 24, 2023 at 9:00 AM – 4th Sunday of Advent: Love

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

Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Love is coming near.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

The Hope Bringer, Peace Maker, Joy Sustainer grows in a womb, preparing to be born among us.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

With Mary, we long for the coming of the Child who will transform the world, bringing justice where injustice reigns, fullness where hunger persists, and favor to the ones the world calls lowly.

We wait in the love of the coming Messiah that transforms us.

So let us join our voices and our lives in magnifying God, our Savior!

We come to wait and to declare the coming of the Love that transforms us! Amen.

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

*HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

UMH #218 v. 1, 2, 4

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Ralph Stone

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

*HYMN

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

UMH #203 v. 1, 2, 4

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Jason

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

Ralph Stone

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

*HYMN

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

UMH #480 v. 1-3

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Ralph Stone

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

*HYMN

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

UMH #198

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

Pastor Jason

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #95

*Offertory Prayer

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

UMH #895

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:46b-55

Ralph Stone

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

SERMON

Love that Transforms Us

Pastor Jason

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

Pastor Jason

*HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

UMH #240

** 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; 31 Pastor Jason

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

PRAYER REQUESTS: Garner Family, strep throat; Mark Fahnestock, cancer; Frank & Charlene, health; Alfred Byrd, lungs; Joanne, scleroderma; Larry Cooper, continued healing and relief from back surgery, pain and an infection; Gene Denlinger, healing; Ralph's brother, infection; 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.

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. There will be refreshments after the service.

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 half of 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. Half of unmarked gifts in the Christmas Eve offering plate will also go there.