

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENT GIVING: This year Oregon Community UMC will once again support two ministries 1) **BLACKFEET UMC PARISH** is a ministry that Oregon Community has been supporting for years. They are a joint parish in Montana that does ministry on the Native American reservation. For more info you can explore: <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/910092/>. 2) **CHRIST HOME FOR CHILDREN in Paradise, PA.** They support children in need in a group home setting who have been removed from their homes due to crises, neglect, or abuse. For more info: <https://www.christshome.org/childrens-services/>

FAITH UMC JOB OPPORTUNITIES: Seeking maturing Christian candidates. Details visit www.FaithUMC.US
OFFICE MANAGER / ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT for approx. 20 hours per week in-office to provide administrative support for Pastor, Finance Committee, and church ministries. This includes managing communications, developing weekly worship materials and digital newsletters, and supporting financial accounting with the Treasurer. Strong tech and communication skills necessary. **PIANIST to help lead worship on Sunday Morning** at 10:30AM as well as a one-hour midweek rehearsal. Stipend is \$100/week. Able to play at a blended service with contemporary and traditional elements.

OCUMC ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL at 8 AM meets in the Fellowship Hall—restarts on January 5.

YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS, 5-7 PM at Faith UMC for 5th-12th graders. Each week there is dinner, games & a lesson. All students are invited to join us. Sign up to be the 2nd adult and/or provide a meal in the hall or by contacting Pastor Jason. **No meeting Dec 22 & 29. *We will go to Gretna Glen Camp on Sun, Jan. 19 (3:30-7pm).***

GRIEFSHARE helps people process the loss of loved ones and to find support from peers. This is open to the church and community. ***We will be starting a new round of classes after the New Year.***

THE CHURCH & SOCIETY TEAM engages in improving our community by standing up against injustice. **There will not be a December meeting. Next meeting: January 16 at 5:00 PM (3rd Thursdays). Join us by Zoom only at:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82735304374?pwd=eDBSZHRCZVphSnh2TENDZ0xrdG0vQT09>. To learn more, contact Renee Norman. The **Criminal Justice & Bail Reform Team**, meets online at Noon every other Wed. (*Jan 8 & 22*): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82483314676?pwd=K2ZtZGQ0LzBOelVlVXQwUk5LR2VFOT09>. Reimagine Justice Lancaster meets online at Noon on Tuesdays of the opposite weeks (*Jan 14*) at: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82819147194?pwd=BF8E8JopVvfExanCW0QPjJ7p9DcbDq.1>

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at 10 AM in Faith UMC Fellowship Hall. *No Bible Study Dec. 27.*

OREGON COMMUNITY UMC COAT DRIVE: Thank you to everyone who donated coats to those in need.

MEDICINE BOTTLE COLLECTION: We send *small* prescription pill bottles to clinics in poor countries. ***Please remove all labels and sticky residue.*** A basket is on the table in the lobby at OCUMC—or at Faith UMC.

PUZZLE PALOOZA! DO YOU LOVE JIGSAW PUZZLES? Join us at Faith UMC on **Saturday, January 25, 2025 from 10:00am to 11:30am (check-in at 9:30am).** Get your team of 2-4 together and **let's race to complete a 500-piece puzzle. The winning team gets a prize along with bragging rights!** ALL teams get to keep their puzzles after the event. **The cost is \$40 per team, due at time of registration. Information and registration is available at www.FaithUMC.US under Events.** *To join with another team please contact Gwen or the office.*

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 FRIDAY NIGHT FREE GROCERIES for those in need every week at 6pm.

THREADS OF FAITH: If you like to knit, sew, crochet or quilt, we would like to invite you to Threads of Faith! Join us from **10am - Noon the first Saturday of each month!** Work on your projects while we chat and share talents in the Fellowship Hall at Faith UMC! **Our next gathering will be Sat., January 4.**

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 Sanctuary at 9:00 AM at Oregon Community UMC
BROADCAST ONLINE at 10:30 AM from Faith UMC on Facebook
& church websites under *Online Worship*.**

OFFICE HOURS: Pastor Jason is generally available Mon-Thurs from about 9-3pm. He is spending time with family from Friday at Noon through Saturday. If there is an emergency, please leave a detailed message.



WELCOME: We gather together to worship God: The Father, The Son, & the Holy Spirit. We celebrate that The Holy Spirit came upon the Virgin Mary, the Word of God became flesh within her, & on this night some 2024 years ago she brought the only begotten Son, Jesus, into the world. 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. Together, we seek to honor & understand the gift of the Christ Child! We are so glad you are here!

PRELUDE

Jody & Anthony Wiker

“Comfort, Comfort, All My People” Robert Mann; “Taladh Chriosta” arr. by David Johnson;
“Gesu Bambino” by Pietro Yon arr. by Last Resorts Music;
“Il est ne, Le Divin Enfant” arr. By Last Resorts Music; “A La Nanita Nana” arr. by Last Resorts Music.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jason

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Jason & God’s People

For you who are filled to the brim with happiness, **Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**
For you who are mourning the loss of family and friends, **Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**
For you who feel like you are tripping about in darkness, **Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**
For you who rest in gratitude and contentment, **Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**
For you who feel the ache of loneliness, **Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**
For you who are surrounded by unlikely yet beautiful companionship,
Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.
Come, let us worship the birth of our Savior! **Come, let us worship God who came to dwell among us!**
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2024

*HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH #234 v. 1 & 2

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES & CHRIST CANDLE

Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).
Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. “His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this” (Isaiah 9:7).
We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go. *(Light ALL candles)*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

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

*HYMN

Joy to the World

UMH #246 v. 1, 2, 4

CHILDREN’S TIME

Pastor Jason

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-5

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

*HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH #230 v. 1, 2, 4

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:6-14

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

*HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH #220 v. 1 & 2

THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Pastor Jason

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

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

*HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

UMH #251

COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord’s Table to receive God’s forgiveness and grace through Communion

UMH #12-13

CONFESSION:

God of Light, we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light. We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune. We follow the dim lights that call us to be more religious by following rules. We follow the fading light of personal salvation. Forgive us for not seeking the true Light of Your love for all the world. Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus, who commanded us to love one another. Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion, and justice, in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed. In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray. Amen.
(Written by Rev. Mindi and posted at <http://rev-o-lution.org/>)

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mary Did You Know

Pastor Jason

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING & THE LORD’S PRAYER

UMH #13-14 & #895

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

UMH #15

UMH #224

HOMILY

Joy

Pastor Jason

BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH

Pastor Jason

*HYMN

Silent Night

UMH #239

* 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 1 Bob Jolly; 8 Dot Lange; 15 Mike Shifflet; 22 Ralph Stone; 29 Pastor Jason

BIRTHDAYS:

December 7: Paula Shifflet; 19: Sharon Garner; 27: Annabelle Fritsch; 30: Ralph Stone

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Cheryl & the family of Larry Cooper on his passing; Valerie Cooper, lost vision in eye; Twins & Sister settling back with parents; Nat (friend of Wikers), healing; Joanne (Jackie’s sister), scleroderma and other significant health issues; Stone & Fritsch family, healing; Erin’s father, healing from infection; Shifflet’s friend Valerie with cancer that is now in remission; Gary Sellard, chemotherapy; Bernadine’s friend Betty for healing; Andrew, freedom from addictions; Vince Habel, heart & kidney problems; Shirley Baker, and Cheryl Cooper for healing; Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi; DS Freymoyer & EPAUMC Staff; unity & love in the church; Patty’s ALS; Jane Hess, healing; Denny Armstrong, kidney failure; Alfred Byrd, lungs; All those battling cancer; Kathy Muth, cellulitis; Jack Muth, brain cancer; Chuck Flory, ALS; Judy Brivchik, eyesight; **PRAISES:** God’s faithful love ministry for 150 years at Oregon Community UMC. **PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD:** Wisdom & safety for all government officials; President Joe Biden and VP Kamala Harris; Peaceful transfer of power; President-elect Donald Trump and VP-elect JD Vance; NarSarah Clinic in Sierra Leone; Udobo School in Durban, South Africa; Christ Home for Children; Blackfeet UMC Parish; The people of Israel, Palestine, the Middle East, Ukraine & Russia; Veterans & military service members; police & medical personnel; the sick & caregivers; victims of violence & racism; all affected by disasters; refugees & immigrants; the hungry, homeless; incarcerated; design of new prison and its programs; all struggling with addictions or mental illness; schools; campus ministries; foster families; seniors; those grieving; etc.