



From Our Pastor...

Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish

ADVENT WAITING AND WATCHING

Advent is a time of expectant watching and hopeful waiting, a time of eager anticipation and prepared readiness. Jeremiah announces that "the days are surely coming." And Jesus warns that "there will be signs." As the church, we ready ourselves for Christmas, remembering the birth of Jesus, all the while anticipating the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy, "at that time (God) will cause a righteous Branch to spring up, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land." And as we remember the birth of Jesus, we also stand guard and watch for "the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Advent hope is grounded on the promise of God, anticipated through our worship and reflected upon our attentiveness to God's word. We know how, when, and for whom to watch because we have heard God's promise and we remember and attest to the faithfulness of those who witnessed the birth of Jesus and followed in his way. We wait with the assuredness that God shall deliver upon that which God has promised: "the days are surely coming." We also watch with a particular viewpoint beyond the fears and forebodings written upon the ways of the world: "God will cause a righteous Branch to spring up." And we stand guard for the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land."

This Advent season of waiting and watching in December 2020 will be far different than Advents of our past experiences for we continue to have our lives altered in the presence of a viral pandemic. Our thoughts and anticipations are challenged by an ever-present reality of illness and even death; our presumptions of a normal Advent and Christmas are circumvented by social

and communal alterations. But this Advent season may be the most crucial and important time in our lives as we call upon God to awaken us to God's presence and promises, that our prayers in a time of waiting and watchfulness are directed to a hope that realizes and recognizes God's incarnational presence and activity in a world hurting and sorely in need. Now more than ever do we need God's guidance and direction that may lead us beyond this present crisis. Our Advent participation suggests that we are ready and willing to submit ourselves to God's promise and to live our lives under the cosmic and universal Lordship of Jesus Christ. Our Advent participation shall reveal our trust that God's promise is manifested and shall be fulfilled in the coming presence of Jesus Christ. And our Advent participation asserts that we shall not be "weighed down with dissipation and the intoxicating worries of this life," but we shall be alert to God's reign as it draws near.

But again, our Advent participation this year will take on a different look and shape. At least for the first two Sundays of Advent, we will not gather together as a worshipping community in our sanctuaries because of the significant rise of positive COVID-19 cases in our community (though you will be able to view these Advent worship celebrations virtually via our websites and Facebook pages). That is a cause for sadness but not of despair for we know that God will be with us; God's presence will help us so that we are not "weighed down with dissipation and the intoxicating worries of this life." Our familial and social practices of Advent will also likely be altered. Nevertheless, may we continue to bear the promise of the

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Parish Pastor Rev. John D. Yost

Staff Members Of CULC

- Margie Dunkle, Secretary/Asst. Treasurer
Dianne Shuck, Treasurer
Cliff Valentine, Financial Recording Secretary
Loretta Martin, Housekeeping

Council Members of CULC

- Lee Spangler, President & Facilities & Administration
Dave Murray, Vice President & Inreach
Barry Spangler, Council & Recording Secretary, & Inreach
Pearl Gemberling, Outreach
Doug Gemberling, Outreach
Maurice Clouser, Facilities & Administration
Joe Dressler, Outreach
Kim Blyler, Facilities & Admin
Phone: 570-922-1860
Email: culc@dejazzd.com

Parish Council Members

- Lee Spangler, (CULC) President
Jim Schwartz, (FELC) Vice President
Sue Jows, (FELC) Secretary
Drew Christy, (CULC) Treasurer
Dianne Shuck, CULC
Kim Sawyer, FELC

Staff Members of FELC

- Diane Scott, Director of Music
Heather Klose, Church Admin.
Hank Dorman, Sexton
Loretta Martin, Housekeeping

Council Members of FELC

- Linda Skinner, Council President
Sue Jows, Vice President
Gloria Mincemoyer, Treasurer
Logan Bartlett, Secretary -Y
Mike Culp, Council
Ann Beckley, Council
Shirley Heasley, Council
Libby Loss, Council
Sherri Neece, Council
Kim Sawyer, Council
Jim Schwartz, Council
Phone: 570-966-0266
Email: felcmiffilnburg@gmail.com

Website: felcmiffilnburg.org
Facebook: First Evangelical Lutheran Church Miffilnburg PA

CULC Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, December 13th, immediately following worship. Agenda items include: 2021 Budget and Council Elections. Please see Pr. John or any council member if you're willing to be placed on the ballot.

LATEST COVID INFORMATION:

Worship: NO in-person worship November 29th or December 6th. Virtual services will be posted on the church websites. As the pandemic develops, changes will continue and updates will be posted as quickly as possible.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

John & Mindy Yost	12/05	33 years
Lance & Janice Wagner	12/06	34 years
Randy & Laurie Harvey	12/15	41 years
Rick & Darlene Endy	12/16	43 years
Gary & Janet Hackenberg	12/20	51 years
Jim & Barb Randecker	12/27	53 years
Jim & Carol Shipton	12/30	54 years

In Our Prayers:

Winifred Aikey
 Jan Beckley
 Roger Dunkle
 Mike Flickinger
 Doug & Pearl Gemberling
 Ron & Darlene Ulrich & family
 Tom Watters
 Ethel Musser
 Eric Powell & Family
 Ken Smith
 John Snook
 Helen Troup
 Tom Watters
 Wendy Norton
 Diane Reamer
 John Bowersox
 John Dunkle
 Josh Frank
 Gary & Barb Gemberling
 Carol Gross
 Allen Hornberger
 Toni Hostelley
 Cindy & Dave Janaes
 Paul Kratzer, Jr.
 Janet Meyer
 Harry Moyer
 John Mumper
 Kim Roberts
 Richard Rowe
 Gerry Shively
 Jasmine & Paisley Speece
 Glen VanDyke
 Karen Zimmerman
In Our Military:
 Brandi Gemberling
 5169 Heathglen Cir
 Virginia Beach, VA 23456
 Thaddeus Miller
 Zachary Miller



Kyle Blyler	12/01	John Schnure	12/15
Edward Henry	12/02	Chuck Spurr	12/15
Nicholas Hornig	12/02	Jennifer Keister	12/16
Clayton Reed	12/04	Donna Culp	12/17
Clara Conrad	12/05	Garrett Girton	12/19
Thomas Orren	12/06	Gaven Girton	12/19
Adam Gemberling	12/07	John Watson Jr.	12/19
Bethany Umholtz	12/10	Jeffrey Crossland	12/20
James Adams	12/11	Kevin Shuck	12/20
		Judy Moyer	12/23
		Dave Weaver	12/23
		Jason Fritz	12/24
		Peggy Kron	12/25
		Logan Mensch	12/27
		Torey Showalter	12/27
		Brennan Snyder	12/27
		Jim Bailey	12/30
		Georgie Linke	12/30
		Carol Schwartz	12/31



Shut-Ins:

Please take a moment to send Christmas Greetings to our shut-ins

Jim & Jan Beckley
 425 Market St.
 Mifflinburg, PA 17844
 570-966-4289
Jim & Florence Boop
 1795 Swengel Rd.
 Mifflinburg, PA 17844
Carolyn Bowersox
 Rolling Hills Manor*
 17350 Old Turnpike Rd.
 Millmont, PA 17845
Barbara Grimooris
 Rolling Hills Manor*
Joan Herman
 Rolling Hills Manor*

Georgie Linke-birthday 12/30

Riverwoods
 3201 River Road
 Lewisburg, PA 17837
Betty Loudenslager
 Elmcroft Assisted Living
 2421 Old Turnpike Rd.
 Lewisburg, PA 17837
Ethel Musser
 Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village
 305 E. Tressler Blvd. Apt. 407
 Lewisburg, PA 17837
Helen Pirone
Meda Struble
 209 Mifflin Place
 Mifflinburg, PA 17844
Ron Ulrich
 Rolling Hills Manor*
Connie Wagner
 1135 Cold Run Road
 Millmont, PA 17845

CULC Prayer List:

In an effort to keep our prayer list current, we are going to clear the list on a quarterly basis. **A new list will begin January, April, July and October. If you want to continue an existing prayer request or have a new prayer concern, please contact Margie.**



Advent and Christmas Activities

Worship Services
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship:
 4:00PM at CULC 7:00PM at FELC
Sunday, December 27th: 10:00AM at FELC
Sunday, January 3rd: 10:00AM at CULC

Worship and COVID
 Please keep the following in mind as COVID numbers in our area are again on the rise:

- ⇒ You must wear a mask to attend worship.
- ⇒ Please maintain social distancing guidelines.
- ⇒ If you have COVID or have been in contact with anyone who has had it, please do not come to the church until the appropriate quarantine time has been exhausted.
- ⇒ You will be seated by an usher to a seat that has been socially distanced from others (members of your immediate family may sit together).
- ⇒ At this time of uncertainty please be aware that protocols may change quickly! Please check the church website (felcmifflinburg.org and 4bellschurch.com) for updates relating to worship services.
- ⇒ Unfortunately, it may be necessary to cancel a worship service at the last minute and we will do our best to inform you and make any changes published as quickly as possible.

FELC Poinsettias
 This year, poinsettias were purchased in advance. We selected 10 red and 10 white. You may still sponsor the flowers the same as in previous years. The orders will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis (*for choice of color*). If the orders exceed the quantity purchased we will order more at that time. Order forms can be picked up at the rear of the sanctuary or from the office. **Deadline to have your sponsorship information published is Sunday, December 13th.**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
 Hope's Haven will not be having a children's Christmas party this year, however they are asking for donations of small boxes of crayons and coloring books which they can pass out to the children who come to Hope's Haven. Donations are due December 13. If you have any questions, talk to Kim Blyler or Gary Hackenberg.

Reverse Advent Calendar
Support this MACY activity!
 Remember the days you ate a piece of chocolate every day in December until Christmas from a calendar? **You can still eat that chocolate daily** but we are asking you to place an item each day in a cardboard box that can be used by families in need in our area. All collections are given to the United Way and last year they thanked us over and over again!

Much needed items include: canned fruit and vegetables, canned soups and stews (that are as rounded as a meal as possible), canned beans (especially black), chicken and beef broth, spaghetti sauce, salsa, canned tuna, other canned meats (chicken, etc.)

If possible, try to avoid: juices (too much sugar), candy and desserts, rice/pasta (these are cheap and clients can use their money for these), anything perishable (no refrigeration or freezer available)

Toiletries needed: toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent (BIG need), fabric softener, toothpaste (no brushes), body wash, shampoo, hand soap, deodorant, lotions, pony tail holders, combs and brushes, and feminine products

All items can be dropped off at the church. Please see Kim Sawyer if you have any questions.

CULC Poinsettias
 We have pre-ordered 20 poinsettias which will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you would like to provide a plant or two for our holiday services, fill out the following and return it to Janice Wagner or Margie.

Poinsettia Order Form
 Cost: \$10.00
 Order Deadline: until all have been purchased
 Return with Payment to:
 Janice Wagner or Margie Dunkle

GIVEN BY _____

In memory of: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

In honor of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

Number of Plants Ordered: _____
 Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

From the Pastor (con't. from pg. 1)

miracle of God coming to us in the flesh, a presence of grace, mercy, and love, a presence to draw each and every one us to the ways of righteousness and holiness. Advent asks of us: shall our values and dreams be shaped by the promise of God incarnate in Jesus Christ? Do we hope for and expect a future that is indicative of the care and concern God has for us as expressed in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus? Are we able to "see" this season of Advent as one of hope in God's possibilities, the possibility in Christ Jesus that favors health and comfort over disease and disorder, that encourages peace and goodwill for all over that which disturbs by way of hate and violence, that embraces life and life eternal over all that promulgates defeat and death?

"The days are surely coming!" How shall we "read" the signs? How shall we discern the times? Will we be able to "see" the arriving presence of Jesus bringing to fulfillment God's promise? Shall we be adventurous bearers of expectant hope in the promise of God as fulfilled in the arriving presence of Jesus Christ? How shall God find us this Advent: alert and ready for who and what is to come or sluggish and weary from where the recent past has taken us? With eager anticipation and unbridled hope, what shall we seek: hopefully a joyous song led by a choir of angels that announces the arriving presence of Jesus who changes the present by revealing the gift of salvation and the eternal execution of justice and righteousness for all?

Hope and pray! Wait and watch! Be ready! Advent is here and Jesus is on his way! We will advise you of a return to in-person worship experiences and activities as they are presented.

*Blessings,
Pr. John*

FELC Office Information

Due to the COVID pandemic the office is currently closed to visitors. The office will continue to be staffed; however, the hours may vary slightly.

Heather will be out of the office on medical leave from Tuesday, December 15th through Christmas, possibly until the New Year. There will be volunteers covering the office to answer the telephone and handle any needs that may arise. If you have an urgent or emergency need, please contact Pr. John at 570-837-9232.

We will continue to update via email and website as more is known.

FELC Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas Offering (*especially marked envelopes, checks with "Christmas offering" in the memo line and all loose monies*) will be donated to DIG Furniture Bank. DIG was founded by Emily Mrusko, a former member of FELC who was an active youth participant! DIG Furniture Bank is located in Lewisburg; a nonprofit organization that provides used furniture and household

CONDOLENCES...

Janet Hileman

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Janet A. Hileman. Janet, 81, passed away on Saturday, October 24, at Green Ridge Village, Newville.

She was born June 10, 1939 in Mt. Union to the late Lincoln G. and Verna J. (Rorer) Hileman.

She is survived by her brother, Garry Hileman of Mt. Union; two nieces, Kimberly (husband Paul) Strizzi of Mt. Holly Springs; Lee Ann (husband Tom) Swanekamp; four nephews, D. Michael (wife Cathy) Hileman of Carlisle; Jeffrey (wife Lorraine) Hileman of Shippensburg; Matt Lupfer (wife Theresa) and Mark Lupfer (wife Vicky) of Kissimmee, FL; four great nieces and nephews, Heather Kenyon, Tyler Hileman, Jennifer Wolfe and Morgan Lupfer; and a Great-Great Nephew, Camden Kenyon. In addition to her parents, Janet was preceded in death by her brother, Jerry Hileman (surviving wife, Glenna Hileman).

She was a very active member of Christ's United Lutheran Church where she was also instrumental in the formation of Hope's Haven Food Pantry. She taught health and physical education for 34 years at Mifflinburg High School

A memorial service celebrating Janet's life was held on November 14, with Pastor John officiating. Burial will be private and held at the convenience of the family. Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Janet to Hope's Haven Food Pantry, 13765 Old Turnpike Rd. Millmont, PA 17845.

Richard Schnure

We also extend condolences to Richard Schnure's family. Richard, 82, a resident of Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village since 1998, formerly of Laurelton, entered into rest on Sunday, October 25, at Evangelical Community Hospital.

He was born July 25, 1938 in Northumberland County, a son of the late Sanford and Marian (VanKirk) Schnure.

Richard was an avid baseball follower, baseball card collector, and a big fan of the Yankees and Babe Ruth era. He had a vast knowledge of baseball, general history, and biblical facts. Richard enjoyed reading, reminiscing about family, receiving visitors, and attending family gatherings. He was always upbeat, friendly, and loved sharing his knowledge with others.

He is survived by many cousins.

The funeral was conducted on October 29 with Rev. Marian K. Anderson, officiating. Burial was in Hartleton Cemetery.

goods to people in need. They help people get back on their feet after homelessness, incarceration, or other significant life changes by partnering with local agencies who are on the frontline of helping people find housing. Once a client is housed, they are referred to DIG to discuss needs and arrange delivery. They understand that home serves as the platform people need to achieve a . . .con't. Pg. 5



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Ministerium Backpack Program

The churches of the Mifflinburg Ministerium are providing backpacks of food for students in the Mifflinburg School District for weekends when they may not have a hot meal.

The Ministerium is asking for help with this program through donations of the following items:

- Single Serving Pudding Cups
- Single Serving cereals or Pop Tarts
- Peanut Butter or Cheese Cracker Packs
- Single Serving Applesauce or Fruit Cups
- Individual Microwavable Macaroni & Cheese
- Gummies - Dried Fruit - Granola or Protein Bars
- Individual Microwavable Chef Boy R Dee Products
- Microwavable Individual Pasta Meals (e.g.: Chef Boy-R-Dee, Mac & Cheese)

CULC will be in charge of filling and distributing backpacks in December and FELC will cover May's distribution.

Community Christmas Meal Cookie Donations Needed

First Lutheran will be sponsoring a free meal give away to local residents on Saturday, December 5th beginning at noon. Each person will receive a complete ham dinner. We would like to include a plate of homemade Christmas cookies for each family. Therefore, we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to make cookies (3 to 4 dozen). Please let Sue Jows or Libby Loss know if you are willing to donate. Cookies should be placed in a disposable container. Please bring your cookies to the Church on Thursday, December 3rd between 9 & 2. There will be a table inside the alley door to put them on. Thanks so much.

YOUTH NEWS



College/Military Care Packages a hit!

Thankful for our post secondary young adults who have had a crazy year...study at college...go home...study online...either way, they have fall finals and in place of the usual care packages we send...they received Subway gift cards this year! Here are a few of the messages received of their appreciation! ♥

- ☺Thank you so much for the card/gift card!!
- ☺Made my day thanks for always thinkin of me and for fueling my subway addiction!!!
- ☺Just saw the card from the Youth Group, Aubrey and I wanted to say thank you so much for the gift cards!
- ☺I just got your card... I'm not the best at checking my mailbox hehe but thank you so much for the thoughtful gesture and kind words, you are the best
- ☺Thanks so much for the continued support from my church. I really appreciate it! Happy Thanksgiving ♥

Volunteer Story Tellers Needed

We are looking for Volunteer Story Tellers to READ and RECORD a short story from the Children's Spark Story Bible. These video clips will then be uploaded on the FELC website and FB page so that our young families have the opportunity to view them.

During these unique times, most young families have not felt comfortable in returning to in person church and we felt this would be a great way to reach out to them. As of now we hope to get this started ASAP and will run through the end of this year...most likely through the winter months also.

If you have an interest please contact Ann Beckley, Christian Education Chair, @ 570-966-0646, email her at beckleyann07@gmail.com or text her at 570-490-0242.

We are looking for READERS of all ages!
Please consider helping with this outreach!

MACY/Mini-MACY

Please contact Kim Sawyer regarding any questions concerning upcoming scheduled events. She will have up to date information regarding the schedules and COVID restrictions.

FELC Christmas Offering *con't.*

of stability. To learn more about their efforts, visit their website at www.digfb.org, follow them on Facebook or Instagram (@DIGFurnitureBank), or give them a call at (570) 658-9880.



DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC 7:00PM: FELC Council	3	4	5
6 Worship: <i>No in person worship</i> 6PM: MACY Dinner/ Devo's - Fee's	7	8	9 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC	10	11	12
13 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	14 10:30AM: Bible Study - CULC <i>*Heather (FELC) off on medical leave.... See pg. 4</i>	15 10:30AM: Bible Study - FELC 7:00PM: Council - CULC	16 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC	17 7:00PM: Bible Study - CULC	18	19
20 Worship: 8:30AM: CULC 10:30 AM: FELC	21	22	23 10:00AM: Hope's Haven - CULC	24 Candlelight Worship 4:00PM: CULC 8:00PM: FELC 	25	26
27 Worship: 10:00AM: Combined worship @ FELC	28	29	30	31		

December Bible Study Schedule

Monday
10:30 a.m.
CULC
Dec. 14th

Tuesday
10:30 a.m.
FELC
Dec. 15th

Thursday
7:00 p.m.
CULC
Dec. 17th

CULC December Volunteers:
Altar: Maurice & Barb Clouser
No other volunteers at this time

FELC December Volunteers:
Chief Usher: Council
Ushers:
12/13: Barb Randecker & Kim Sawyer
12/20: Kim Wagner & Shirley Heasley
Christmas Eve: Kim Sawyer, Jim Schwartz
Linda Skinner, Sue Jows,
12/27: Dave Weaver

