

December Newsletter



St. Jacob's UCC

100 East George St, PO Box 111
Office@stjacobsucc.org — www.stjacobsucc.org — Find us on Facebook!

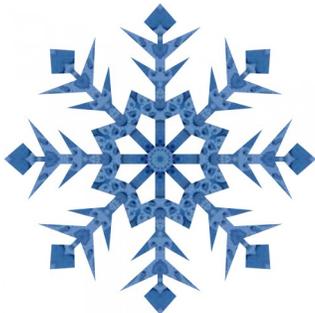
Worship: Sundays at 10:30 am

You're invited to join us live on Facebook

Susan's Scribbles

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Contact Pastor Susan!

717-377-5928

susanbrace@gmail.com

Beloved St Jacobs friends,

It is Advent, again. I know how hopeful that is. And I know how hard it can be. For so many, December is an intense swirl of sorrow and stress. The season has a way of opening our most vulnerable places of memory as we also navigate the expectations of cheerfulness this time of year holds. When folks tell me about wanting to hide under the covers until the new year, I understand. I have also come to know in my bones the fierce hope that lives so deeply in Advent—a hope that draws us beyond complicated holiday cheer and into a season luminous with mystery and possibility.

At the heart of Advent is the story of love that comes to us, that crosses a seemingly impossible distance to meet us, that enters into our life and every single thing it holds. No matter what. Sometimes, my spiritual director, Kate, says, all we can do is “go into the cave of the heart and light a candle to the mystery.” In these days, may the mystery meet you with many graces and with the love and the hope that live at the center of it all. As we enter this season of mystery, I'd like to share a blessing to accompany us. You will find it below this article. With such gratitude for your presence on the path and for the light you bear.

Deep peace to you,

Pastor Susan

An Advent Blessing

Bless Them

Bless Them
 who wait with us
 Who labor with us
 Who see through us

Bless Them
 Who know our limits
 Who push us beyond them
 Who cry out with us

Bless Them
 Who call us to our strengths
 Who tend us in our weakness
 Who dress each ragged wound

Bless Them
 Who laugh in the face of convention
 Who weep for our own pain
 Who bid us come and live

— Jan Richardson “Night Visions”

From Our Consistory President

Jeremiah 33:14-16

"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the LORD is our righteousness."

Hello St. Jacobs Family,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and you were able to spend time with your loved ones enjoying good food and wonderful stories. We are moving quickly into the Advent season and what a truly blessed season that is. Our chicken corn soup fundraiser was very well supported and those that purchased confirmed the soup was wonderful.

We had a wonderful Santa breakfast this year and was very well attended. Thank you to Tim Hinkle for your Santa support we hope you had as much fun as we did watch the excitement in the children's faces as they meet Santa.

December is a very busy month for us all the first event is our Christmas dinner we have invited the St. Jacobs Lutheran family to join for a wonderful meal and games to follow.

Then on December 17th Scout Troop 97 along with St. Jacobs UCC and Lutheran church will be hosting Wreaths Across America at our cemetery St. Jacobs Union Cemetery. Our scout troop has been participating in this event for the last 8 years and their goal this year was to be able to host it here come out and join us for this wonderful event.

Our community is always welcome to join us in any of our events or services and this is a wonderful time of the year to reach out to friends and neighbors to join us.

Sincerely,
Heather

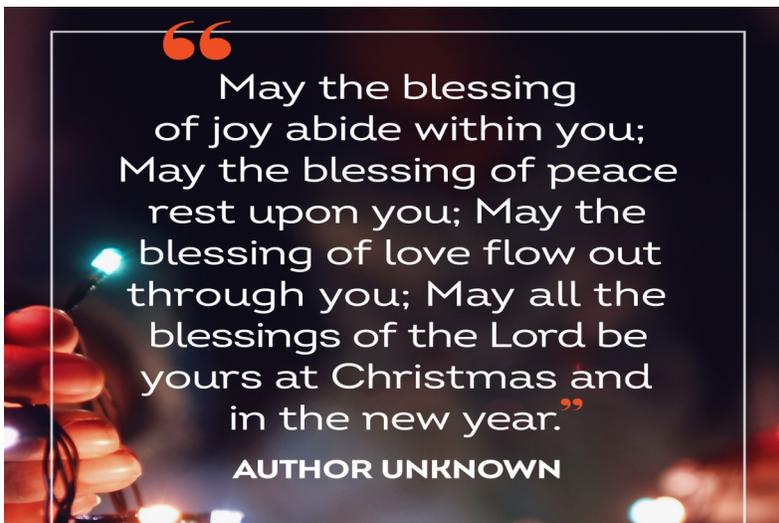
December Calendar

Sundays

December 4th	Second Sunday of Advent also Communion
December 11th	Third Sunday of Advent
December 18th	Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 25th	Christmas Day

Mark your Calendar!

December 3rd	Christmas Dinner Doors Open at 5 PM Dinner at 6 PM
December 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th	Boy Scouts 7 PM
December 10th & 31st	Food Pantry 10-11 AM
December 24th	Christmas Eve Service 5 PM
December 25th	10 AM Worship Service at Lutheran Church



Head Usher

Month	Head Usher
January	Consistory
February	Kathryn Forry
March	Wendell Harper
April	Heather Kuhn
May	Deb Stough
June	Steve Reynolds
July	Consistory
August	Kathryn Forry
September	Scott Becker
October	Steve Reynolds
November	Heather Kuhn
December	Consistory

2022 Alter Guild Schedule

January	Deb Stough & Meghan Kuhn
February	Hilary Barley & Dave Wakeland
March	Scott & Lynn Becker
April	Amy Meyer & Wendy Bubb
May	Heather & Tom Kuhn
June	Church Office Administrator
July	Michele Harper & Dorine Hagarman
August	Sheryl Paules & Heather Kuhn
September	Deneen Harbold & Dorine Hagarman
October	Church Office Administrator
November	Deb Stough & Kathryn Forry
December	Consistory - Communion will be 24 th

From Your Treasurer

The following are summaries of financial information for the month of October, 2022, with Consistory approval 11/27/2022. Weekly church receipt and church and ELC detailed disbursement information is posted by our administrative office.

Let Eric Barley (717) 792-2402 or a Consistory Member know of any questions. Thank you.

ST. JACOB'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OCTOBER, 2022

	GENERAL ACCOUNT	BUILDING ACCOUNT	BENEVOLENCE ACCOUNT
	-----	-----	-----
CHECKING ACCT. BALANCE SEPT. 30, 2022	\$55.34	\$7,979.15	\$4,077.48
RECEIPTS:			
OFFERINGS AND RE- CEIPTS	9,368.00	245.00	206.00
EARLY LEARNING CEN- TER	7,000.00	-----	-----
TRANSFER FROM SAV- INGS	-----	-----	-----
DISBURSEMENTS:			
PAYMENTS	(12,757.05)	0.00	0.00
CHECKING ACCT. BALANCE OCT. 31, 2022	\$3,666.29	\$8,224.15	\$4,283.48
	=====	=====	=====
UNDESIGNATED SAVINGS ACCT. BALANCES	\$8,000.00	\$15,000.59	\$2,000.00
	=====	=====	=====
DESIGNATED OFFERINGS NOT YET REMITTED	-----	\$0.00	\$1,892.41
	=====	=====	=====

From Your Treasurer

**ST. JACOB'S UCC EARLY LEARNING CENTER
SCHEDULE OF NET RESOURCES AVAILABLE
OCTOBER, 2022**

Cash on hand as reconciled	OCTOBER, 2022	\$137,150.45
Credit card charges 10/05/2022 - 11/04/2022, paid 11/07/2022	(3,515.20)	
Perrydell Farm - October, 2022	(325.00)	
Set aside for Phase 1 play area renovation	(37,500.00)	
Memorial donations received to date	(2,310.00)	
Approx. cost of 2 payroll cycles - gross wages plus payroll taxes	(38,532.00)	
Workers' compensation premium 12/20/21 - 12/20/22, paid in advance: \$4,886.00 x 3/24	610.75	
Child Care Consultants tuition support 09/22 and 10/22	4,000.00	
Insurance proceeds to be received	1,628.00	
Staff tuition withholding checks to be deposited	522.75	
PTO + P/R tax + WC obligation as of 10/16/2022	(8,429.05)	

Additional net amounts to be disbursed/set aside	(\$83,849.75)	(83,849.75)
	=====	-----
ELC net resources available October 31, 2022		\$53,300.70
		=====



*Union Sunday School Picnic - Circa 1910
Note, Old Pump Organ*

A Note From the Desk of the Church Historian

With Christmas fast approaching here are five Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas traditions you may or may not know:

1. Hiding The Pickle In The Tree

One of the favorite parts of a Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas for some families is the special tradition of hiding the pickle in the Christmas tree. Some claim that it's an old German game while others claim that it all started thanks to a [Woolworth's department store](#) around the late 1800s.

The latter legend explains that Woolworth's received a shipment of glass ornaments from Germany that were shaped like various fruits and vegetables. Customers, specifically early German American immigrants, were so taken with the [glass Christmas tree pickle ornament](#) that they invented this fun game to play at Christmastime.

However, some theorize it's more likely that a smooth-talking salesman invented the game to sell this particular ornament. No matter what the origin story is — it's a great way to have some fun before opening presents.

To play, simply designate someone to hide the ornament anywhere they choose in the tree. Then on Christmas day, gather everyone around and invite them to search for the pickle. Whoever is able to find it first gets an extra present, which can be anything you choose, even if it's just a small gift card.

2. Turning The Christmas Tree... Upside Down

Yes, you read that correctly. Another one of the fun Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas traditions is to hang the Christmas tree upside down and decorate it. There are many different ideas on how this practice came into existence.

Some say that hanging the [Christmas tree upside down is a very old European tradition](#) either rooted in religion or a need to save space in small homes. However, in Pennsylvania Dutch country there's a slightly different origin story.

Historians believe that early German immigrants did bring this tradition over from Europe. However, their reason for hanging the tree upside down was a practical one. Oftentimes, tree decorations were made from edible components, like [popcorn, cranberries, or oranges on a string to make a garland](#) for the tree. These early settlers hung their tree upside down so that pests like rats or mice couldn't snack on their decorations.

Today, if you visit Pennsylvania Dutch country, you may still find some houses set up an upside-down tree. Mice may be less of an issue and fake garland is easy to find, but it's a fun way to pay homage to the past. If turning your tree upside down sounds like too much work, you can still enjoy part of this tradition by [purchasing fresh produce like oranges at your local market](#) and turning them into a homemade garland for your tree.

A Note From the Desk of the Church Historian

3. Welcoming The Belsnickel

As strange as it sounds, the Belsnickel is not a Pennsylvania Dutch word to use after someone sneezes — he's actually a figure similar to [Krampus](#), albeit a little less scary.

The Belsnickel is a popular character from German folklore, possibly based on a servant who assisted Saint Nicholas. Every year, the Belsnickel comes by himself a few weeks before Christmas wearing furs and torn, ragged clothing. In his one hand, he holds a [switch made of brushes](#) for the naughty children. But in his pockets, he has lots of candy and other tasty treats for children who are good. Clearly there's some motivation to be good, because being naughty for the year warrants a strike from the Belsnickel's switch.

4. Hanging A Moravian Star

If you've driven around for the holiday season and noticed a particularly pointed star (26 points to be exact) adorning porches, windows, and buildings, you've likely been introduced to the Moravian Star. This [religious epiphany decoration](#) is very popular in Germany. And when a German Christian sect of religious believers known as Moravians arrived in Pennsylvania during the 1700s, they brought this star along with them.

The star itself symbolizes the birth of Jesus and is supposed to also represent the Star of Bethlehem mentioned in the Bible. If you're hanging one according to the tradition, the star is hung on the first Sunday of Advent and it remains up until Epiphany day on January 6th, which represents the coming of the Magi to visit baby Jesus.

Some may display it in keeping with their faith while others display it because they admire the beauty of this pleasingly-shaped star. A place named [Lititz is particularly famous for displaying the Moravian star](#) in honor of the large settlement of Moravians who originally founded the town. However, a drive around other parts of Pennsylvania will show you lots of people enjoy displaying this beautiful, classic decoration.

5. Celebrating Second Christmas

Last but not least is one of our favorite Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas traditions — Second Christmas! While you may think that the Amish lead a reserved lifestyle, they certainly have their own set of fun holiday traditions and love to celebrate as well.

Just like [Boxing Day in the U.K.](#), Second Christmas is observed the day after Christmas. The Amish take this day off as well and use it to visit more families and friends that they couldn't spend time with on Christmas day. It's always hard to fit seeing everyone into one day, especially when you have a large family. Second Christmas gives both children and adults more time to see their loved ones and celebrate the holiday.

While most Americans may not get to observe Second Christmas, there certainly is nothing like spending the holidays together. Perhaps that's why so many of these Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas practices have withstood the test of time. Each one offers a fun way to celebrate the beauty of the season and gather around for some quality time with those we cherish.

Happy Christmas!!
En hallecher Grischdaag!!
Frohe Weihnachten!!

Consistory Minutes

10.16.22

Those Present: Heather Kuhn, Pastor Susan, Eric Barley, Scott Becker, Katie Hagarman, and Shanna Conrad.

Pastor Susan opens with a silent prayer. Eric goes over Treasurer's Report. Wants to know if we have anything to add to ask H & H so we have all the information we need. We should move ahead with them to seal up the building and repair cracks and missing mortar joints before the weather gets too bad. Heather makes a motion to go with H&H and Scott seconds, sent an email to get a third.

Everyone is going over Consistory Minutes. Jay was on the roof and did some minor repairs with caulking some cracks and things. Sent an email to get minutes approved. We want to get the floors waxed need information on people to do it for best cost. ELC will be closed Nov. 24 & 25. Teacher in Service Nov 28. November 26th Breakfast with Santa 8-10 am. Breakfast, crafts for kids, look into dollar tree finds. Ask if someone wants to volunteer for crafts and they can have a free breakfast. ELC Santa Workshop will be in December sometime. Theme Days Everyday next 2 weeks. Trunk r Treat 28th. Jay will help work on the infant wall. Move doors around to get the best utilization and save money on repairs. Fire Inspection 10/20 8AM.

Pastor Susan has been meeting with the ELC on Wednesdays. Have a clear vision statement and know who you are as a church. Make a packet about our church and who we are for the Breakfast with Santa. Lent starts Feb 26th and we want to have a service where we decide who we are in January. Who do we appeal to as a church? Healing service and open door service once a month. More outreach to those who are curious. How can we embody God's love in an invitational way?

Invitation for Breakfast with Santa make it more like an invite. Make an invitation to have people rent out our hall. Reach out to intermural teams to use our building. Angelica Kutsch renting out the building Oct 22nd 12-4. Christian Paules got his eagle scout award and they want to rent the hall for it Nov 13th 12-4 and they can do it without cost since they did such a wonderful job with the stairs.

Pumpkin Roll Orders put it on the sign and hiring teachers also on sign. Sold 50 dinners, 53 quarts, and had 40 extra for the pot pie. We are going to freeze it and people can still buy it.

Almost at the end of the season for mowing. Also winterize the mowers. Mowing this week hopefully for the last time depending on weather. Pot pie sale went well cleared about \$1000. Ghost Tour was a blast. When do we want to start decorating for Advent? It starts Nov 27th on Nov 20th maybe set up for Advent then? We will discuss further.

Lord's Prayer is said and meeting adjourned.

ELC Happenings

The month of November is always exciting around the Center as children gathered for Friendsgiving for Lunch with their families. Miss Cassandra and Miss Dorine cooked up a traditional Thanksgiving Lunch, which was delicious! We appreciate all of the effort that the ELC staff exhibited in hosting such a successful event.

The children started the month by learning about transportation and community helpers. Some classes used empty boxes for children to create make-believe transportation. Children also dressed up as different Community Helpers in their Learning Centers. Learning about the community in which the children live is an important concept.

During the last weeks of November, children will learn about the harvest and the Thanksgiving Holiday. Activities surrounding this holiday will be created for children to learn more about this holiday. The Center will be closed on Thanksgiving, November 24 and 25. Staff will participate in Professional Development on Monday, November 28.

The Pumpkin Roll Fundraiser was a huge success, as over 230 pumpkin rolls were baked, filled, wrapped, and delivered to families in mid- November. An upcoming Church fundraiser is the Santa Breakfast, which will be held on November 26. Children will also get to shop for family and friends in Santa's Secret Shop, which will be held in the early weeks of December.

We hear children singing the Alphabet song daily, as well as other Nursery Rhymes as they continue to learn more about Phonemic Awareness and beginning reading concepts. Children in Preschool learn about shapes by playing a game called, 'Where is the Turkey?' and they have to guess which shape the turkey is hiding behind. Fun activities (cooking, art, Christian Education, music, science, etc) abound as children master colors and positional words through games and songs.

The holidays will soon be here and children will be singing Christmas carols as they learn more about Jesus' birth. After all, Jesus is the reason for the Season!





December 17, 2022
St. Jacob's Union Cemetery
 Hosted by
Cub Pack / Scout Troop 97
St. Jacob's Lutheran & UCC churches
 Sponson PASJUC
 Contact 717-792-4326

Christmas
DINNER PARTY
 100 E George St York New Salem, PA 17371
 December 3rd Doors open at 5 PM
 and Dinner is at 6 PM
 Ages 12+= \$12 Ages 6-11= \$6
 Ages 5 and under Free

Christmas Eve Service
 AT 5PM AT ST JACOBS UNITED
 CHURCH OF CHRIST
 100 E GEORGE ST
 YORK NEW SALEM PA, 17371



Do you want to be **Confirmed?**

Join us Sunday 10:30 AM
to talk to Pastor Susan to
see what we need to do
to get you Confirmed!

St Jacob's United Church of Christ

St Jacob's Clothing Drive

Wants you to please donate any winter
items you are able to. Such as blankets,
gloves, mittens, scarves, coats, and hats.



We Thank You For
Your Donations!



Christmas SERVICE

St Jacob's Lutheran Church
99 E George St
York New Salem PA, 17371
See You At 10 AM!

To add prayer concerns, contact Lorrie Bechtel

Phone 717-818-4726

Call, Text or Email lorrieriley@comcast.net

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER
so that you may be healed
 THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS PERSON
is Powerful & Effective
 James 5:16

Prayer for Comfort

Dear Father,
 I lie in the arms of your love
 and pour out my anxious thoughts to you.
 Abba, I'm choosing to rest here
 in the warmth of your embrace.
 I give you the things I cannot face,
 the struggles, the trials and the fears.
 Father, I will let my tears fall on you,
 for I know you catch every one
 and will never let me go.

Sasha M	Betty H	Dorine G	Nancy
Linda & Earle W		Bobby G	Shawn G
Candy	Barb	Barry	Katie M
Savanna	Dan M	Ukraine	David
Bud & Wendy B		Grace F	Deb S
Amy & Scott M		Steve O	Rev. Susan
Baby Judah and Family			



22nd- Doug & Kathy Landis

4th- Tracy Goodyear 23rd- Meghan Kuhn-Gardner

6th- Denise Hoffman 24th- Dave Wakeland

John Dayton Eyster 26th- Jayson Landis

Rich Forry 28th- Braylee Yost

13th- Zachary Arthur Murray

15th-Lynn Becker

19th- Steven Forry

20th- Deneen Harbold

St. Jacob's United Church of Christ

Everyone is Welcome!

100 East George Street
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Phone: 717-792-4326

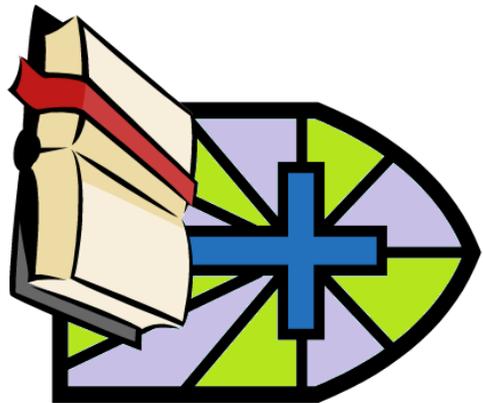
Church E-mail: Office@stjacobsucc.org

Pastor's E-mail:

Find us on Facebook— LIVE!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.STJACOBSUCC.ORG



St. Jacob's Mission Statement

We, the family of St. Jacob's United Church of Christ, called by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit and following the example of Jesus Christ, will strive to be ambassadors of God's will by:

- Caring for others and ourselves through love and compassion
- Teaching God's word
- Accepting and seeing all people as children of God
- Committing ourselves to these responsibilities in an ever changing society.