

JUNIATA U.M. CHURCH
808 North 4th Street
Altoona, PA 16601

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 180
Altoona, PA

Reverend Doctor Michelle Bodle
Office Phone: 814-942-6065
email: juniataumc@atlanticbbn.net
website: www.juniataumc.net

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

~~~~~  
**DECEMBER**

**2024**  
~~~~~

Mission:

Knowing, Loving, and Serving Christ in our Community.



Weekly Sunday Services

Contemporary Service at 9am

Sunday School at 10am

Traditional Worship at 11am

or

View on You Tube

Juniata United Methodist Church, Altoona Pa

MINISTERS --- ALL THE MEMBERS

Reverend Doctor Michelle Bodle

From the Pastor's Desk

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God" - Isaiah 40: 3-5

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have a confession to make. As I pen this at the end of October, I haven't started preparing for Christmas. Or rather, I should say, that normally by this time, I have completed my Christmas shopping and wrapping (a family trait), but that simply hasn't happened this year. I've planned our special services together, but beyond that I am stuck.

Perhaps it is the idea of preparing itself that I am stuck on. Preparing requires intention and forethought. It requires presence in this moment as well as to the future. It can be difficult to prepare, not just for the holidays, but for anything. We are a people who, yes, live with anticipation, but at times that anticipation can almost be overwhelming.

Which is why I so deeply appreciate this season of Advent. It calls for us to slow down and truly prepare not just for the birth of Christ, but for the time when he will come again, victorious! It is a time that isn't about the to-do list leading up to the holidays, but about preparing our hearts, that hard and holy work that is ongoing.

How are you preparing for Christ, my friends? And how can we support you in this journey as your church family?

- Pastor Michelle

12/1 - One worship service
Hanging of the Greens with Communion, Baptism and Refreshments
@10am Advent 1
12/8 - Joel: God's Promised Spirit - Joel 2:12-13, 28-29
Advent 2
12/15 - Spirit of the Lord Upon Me - Isaiah 61:1-11
Advent 3
12/21 - Blue Christmas Service @6pm
12/22 - Jesus' Birth Announced - Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]
Advent 4
12/24 - Christmas Eve Worship @6pm and 8pm
12/29 - 5th Sunday Worship - Messy Church @10am with dish-to-pass lunch
Special Worship Services:

Star Word Reflection Prompt:

- December - Reflect on your star word journey this year - where has it taken you and what have you learned?

Why UMC? – Advent

Since the eighth century, the beginning or first season of the Christian year. Advent focuses on preparing for the coming of Christ. The term is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning to come. The season or period of Advent always includes the four Sundays before Christmas Day. (It begins with the Sunday closest to November 30 and ends with Christmas Eve day.) Because December 25 does not always fall on the same day of the week, the number of days in the Advent season varies from year to year. The liturgical color for Advent is purple.

(Found at: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/glossary-advent>)

From Pastor Michelle's Bookshelf

Faithful Families: 100 Ways to Make the Season Sacred

For Advent and Christmas

By Traci Smith

ISBN: 978-0827211360

Have you ever wondered how to make the season leading up to Christmas and beyond sacred for your family? We all have a list of things we do leading into the holiday season - making cookies, wrapping presents, decorating the house - but do we take the same time to prepare our spirits for the sacredness of the coming of Christ?

Enter Rev. Traci Smith - a pastor and a mom - who has spent time praying about practices that have helped her own family of three kids. I highly recommend this book to anyone with children in your life! While there may be some practices that do not work for your family, I promise that there will be many more that do! Let us grow closer to the Lord together this season!

Important Dates to Remember



- 12/1 - Hanging of the Greens @10am
- 12/2 – SPRC @5:30
- 12/3 - Nurture @6pm
- 12/7 - Church Christmas Dinner
- 12/9 – Worship @5:30
- 12/8 - Youth Group at JUMC 2-4pm
- 12/11 - Yoga Chapel @6pm
- 12/14 - 3 Practice Circle @4pm
- 12/15 - Joyful Noise @2pm
- 12/18 - Teacher's Breakfast
- 12/18 - Trustees @7pm
- 12/19 - Greif Group @7pm
- 12/21 - Blue Christmas Service @6pm
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve Services @6pm and 8pm
- 12/28 - 3 Practice Circle @4pm
- 12/29 - 5th Sunday Worship @10am



Our next 5th Sunday service will be December 29th @10am. We will be engaging in a worship style that began in 2004 in the UK that focuses on intergenerational worship.

Messy church is:
Christ-Centered
For All-Ages
Engages Creativity
Celebrates
And extends Hospitality

As part of our worship we will be having a dish-to-pass luncheon.

3 PRACTICES

One . I'll be unusually interested in others.

Two . I'll stay in the room with difference

Three . I'll stop comparing my best with your worst

Pastor Michelle has recently been trained in how to lead conversations that matter in a way that helps us to truly listen to each other. We will be offering these conversations to our community as a gift.

Juniata UMC
808 N 4th Street
Altoona, PA 16601

12/14- 4-5pm

Frame: This is a spiritual practice that has become meaningful to me

12/28- 4-5pm

Frame: Here is where I find hope

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 15:4



Pastor Michelle is looking to launch a discipleship group for women at the beginning of 2025 called Dwell groups.

Dwell Groups are a place of intentional discipleship in community focused on spiritual growth. The end result is to become one who can replicate disciples through relational discipleship. In Dwell Groups we focus on Biblical, Gospel-centered discipleship. This may mean re-thinking your definitions of the Gospel and Discipleship to get back to the heart of Scripture.

The groups will meet twice a month, on a day to be determined, for an hour. During this time, we will study scripture together, read books, examine our souls, and pray for one another. The ultimate goal after a year of this rhythm together is that you would launch

your own Dwell group with the people God lays on your heart - friends, colleagues, and/or acquaintances.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please reach out to Pastor Michelle.



YOGACHAPEL

The Spirit of Movement and Meditation

Yoga Chapel Preview Day

December 11th, 2024 @6pm

Juniata UMC
808 N 4th Street
Altoona, PA 16601

Come and hear the scriptures in a new way that invites us to movement, reflection, and prayer.

All levels welcomed.



A Countercultural Discipleship Course

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY

Introducing people to a transformative spirituality with God.



EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Practical skills to launch people into a transformative spirituality with others.

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: It's Impossible to Be Spiritually Mature, While Remaining Emotionally Immature by Peter Scazzero

8-Sessions focusing on Love of God and Love of Others

Seed: Short Term Study beginning January 6th

Books can be ordered from your favorite book seller:
ISBN: 978-0310348498

JUMC Christmas Giving Tree for 2024



This year the Christmas Giving Tree is dedicated to assisting the Juniata Elementary School in filling the closet for children at the school. Please help us fill the closet, yet to be named, with gifts of the following:

Ages of children being served – 5 years old to 11 years old.

Sweatshirts and sweatpants for the children in Grey, Dark Gray, Black or Navy Blue.

Children's winter wear: gloves/ mittens, scarves, hats, or child size coats.

Children's underwear: pants and shirts

Socks (JUMC – Angel Feet will assist with sneakers!)

Age Range	Recommended Size
4-5 years	S (4-5)
6-7 years	M (6-7)
8-9 years	L (8-9)
10-11 years	XL (10-11)



You are invited to a service of quiet reflection and remembrance this Christmas Season.

What is Blue Christmas? A service on the longest night of the year to honor people who have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief or have a hard time finding joy in the Christmas season

Why?

So we can express our pain and find our hope in Christ

When?

Thursday, December 21st at 6pm

Where?

Juniata United Methodist Church
808 N 4th St - Altoona, PA



Christmas Eve Worship

✧ ✧ 6:00 pm - Family
Service

8:00 pm - Traditional
Service

Juniata UMC - 808 N 4th St - Altoona,



Ministry

You are encouraged to send a card or a note and lift them up in your prayers.

12/1	Darlene Rose Concordia at Villa St. Joseph Room 2216 1030 W. State Street Baden, PA 15005
12/8	Diane Helsel 429 Manor Drive Room 318 Ebensburg, PA 15931
12/15	Betty Burket 1490 Yardal Road State College, PA 16601
12/22	Richard D. Robertson Jr. Maybrook Hills D-1 Room 114 301 Valley View Blvd Altoona, PA 16602
12/29	Jake Schaffer 11 Federal Street Brookville, PA 15825



MUSTARD SEED MINISTRY

For the month of December, please donate
Pasta Sauce & Beef Stew



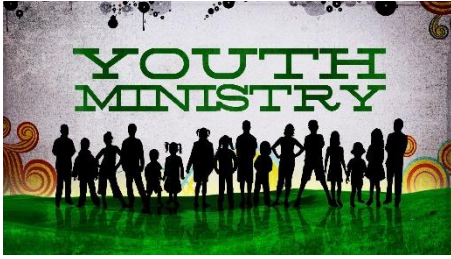
ALTOONA FOOD BANK

For the month of December, please donate
all types of cereals or oatmeal.

“Let us give back as we have been given to”



With winter weather approaching, we wanted to remind you of our policy regarding inclement weather. If the Altoona Area School District either has a virtual day or cancels school due to weather, all events and meetings in the church building will also be canceled. If the school is operating on a delay, we will follow our normal schedule. In the event of inclement weather on a Sunday, we have an emergency alert system called "One Call Tell All." If you have changed your phone number or have disconnected your landline, please let the church office know, so we can have the most up-to-date contact information for you for the alert system.



On November 10th, 7 youth from three churches gathered to go bowling for combined youth group. Our next meeting will be December 8th at 2pm to bake Christmas cookies and watch a Christmas movie at Juniata United Methodist Church.



SANTA'S HELPERS

Santa's Helpers are collecting your **Christmas cards for attending members of the church**. This is a way to spread your holiday wishes and to keep costs down by not using the postal service. Baskets are located at each entrance from **Nov 24th through Dec 8th**. Card bags can be picked up in the Gathering Room beginning December 15th. Please remember to put cards in the baskets only for regularly attending members to be sure the recipients get them before Christmas. No return address or full address on the envelopes is necessary, **just clearly print first and last names.**

If you would be willing to deliver cards to our Shut-in's, please contact Ruth Mastos with questions.

We would greatly appreciate you mailing the 2 Shut-ins outside of the immediate area.

Betty Burket
1490 Yardal Road
State College, PA 16601

Jake Schaffer
11 Federal Street
Brookville, PA 15825

Diane Helsel
429 Manor Drive
Room 318
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Darlene Rose
Concordia at Villa St Joseph
Room 2216
1030 W. State Street
Baden, PA 15005



CASH DAY NOTICE:

Greeting congregation members! Finance has selected **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH**, as cash day.

As a reminder, cash days are usually conducted twice each year. The purpose is to increase the current expense balance so we are able to meet our required financial obligations.

On Cash days we are asking members to give above and beyond your usual tithing. We see it as generous giving. Thank you, in advance, for giving to cash day!

Your finance committee

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

On January 1, 2025, some of the Leadership for the church will change. If you are currently on Leadership, Finance, Trustees, Nurture or Outreach and are not serving during the 2025 year, but have a key to the church, please turn your key into the office by December 30th. This helps to have the keys redistributed to the new leaders. Also, please clean out your mailboxes as new leadership members are assigned a mailbox. Thank you so much for your leadership this past year.

~~~~~

### **COME AND SEE!!!**

The shepherds came because the angel said to them, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people...a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. (Luke 2:10-12)

So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in a manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child. (Luke 2:16-17)

### **COME AND SEE!!!**

...Andrew was one of the two disciples who heard what John had said. He had also followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was find his brother Simon. He told him, "We have found the Messiah." And he brought Simon to Jesus. (John 1:40-42)

### **COME AND SEE!!!**

The agnel said to the women, "do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead...'" (Mark 28:5-7a)

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples, Suddenly Jesus met them. (Mark 28:8)

Dear Brother and Sisters,

As the body of Christ at Juniata United Methodist Church I bring these scriptures to your attention because this is what we're called to do for our God. As believers in Jesus Messiah, we're called to do as the angels, shepherds, disciples, women at the tomb, and all the saints who have gone before us inviting others to Come and See! To go into all the world and proclaim the Good News!

You may say come and see what? Come and see what I see. See the love of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Come and see!

Come and see children and youth Sunday School. See how the children are learning and asking questions. Like last Sunday in the Youth class when they asked Miss Leslie and me why we do what we do. Why teach? Our collective answer is that we want them to experience what we did and what we learned when we were their age. The relationships we built around our faith and love of Jesus have had lasting impact in our lives an in our faith walk.

### **COME AND SEE!!!**

How Jesus is still at work today in the Discipleship Ministries that are offered here at the Church.

Joyful Noise Services for those with special needs. All are welcome. To see the pure joy in our sanctuary is truly a gift from God for the children and adults who attend.

Outreach and Nurture Programs. Teacher's Breakfast which was a success and continues to let them know that they are cared for by praying for a specific teacher and class each week and posting the Teacher's Name on the sign outside that faces the school. School staff and families can see by the sign that we are caring for them.

Card Ministries, Bible Studies, Prayer Group, Prayer Chains, Choir, Sunday School (a goal of Sunday School for all ages), Chair Dancing, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Special Services, Angel Feet, Yoga Chapel, 3 Practice Circles, and many others.

We are truly blessed by the King! We are blessed to be a blessing. We are called to be disciples for Jesus Christ. Please invite someone to Come and See! Bring a friend. Join a small group. We are all called to share the love of Jesus and to go and tell what he has done for us!

Lord, please guide us in the ways that we should be in service to the King of Kings by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Grace and Peace,  
Becky Ivory

# REVERSE

# Advent Calendar



**EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE, DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A FOOD BANK.**

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

**During the upcoming season of Advent, JUMC is continuing to contribute to the Altoona Food Bank in a different way.**

**Follow the calendar and deliver your food donations to the church  
Monday thru Thursday anytime from 9am–2:30pm or  
bring the items with you on Christmas Eve.  
Let's work together to reach others in need**



## December

### Birthdays at JUMC



|                  |                                                                |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Brenda Robison<br>David Ivory<br>Darlene Rose                  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Kelly Barr<br>Thad Carter<br>Samantha McDowell<br>Connie Smith |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Bruce Snyder<br>Kylee Turek                                    |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Kyle Wenzel                                                    |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Dana Giger                                                     |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Jamie Gibson<br>Jackson Stalter                                |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Joshua DeGennaro                                               |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Ian McCurdy<br>Logan Nichole Smith                             |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Bob Green                                                      |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Donna Chestney<br>Shane Rhone                                  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Kristina Huey                                                  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Wesley Lane                                                    |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Victoria Williams                                              |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Maleah Koch                                                    |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Paige Wenzel                                                   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Baxter Caldwell<br>Sarah McCurdy-Ritchie                       |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Tom Schmitt                                                    |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Robyn Turek<br>Mark Taylor                                     |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> | Crystal Snyder                                                 |

\*\*If we missed anyone or have a wrong date, please call the church office at 814-942-6065





# DECEMBER 2024



| Sunday                                                                                               | Monday                                         | Tuesday                                                    | Wednesday                                                                                                    | Thursday                                                                  | Friday | Saturday                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b><br>9:00am Contemporary Svc<br>10:00am Sunday School<br>11:00am Traditional Svc |                                                | <b>Altoona Food Bank</b><br>All Types of Cereal or Oatmeal | <b>Mustard Seed</b><br>Variety Flavor Boxes of Oatmeal Spam                                                  |                                                                           |        |                                  |
| 1<br>10am - Hanging of the Greens                                                                    | 2<br>6:30pm Seeds Study                        | 3<br>11am Bible Study<br>6pm Nurture                       | 4<br>11am Chair Dancing<br>7pm Prayer Group                                                                  | 5<br>9am Communion Service-Chapel<br>5:30pm Backpacks                     | 6      | 7<br>5pm Church Christmas Dinner |
| 8<br>2-4pm Youth Group JUMC                                                                          | 9<br>6:30pm Seeds Study                        | 10<br>*Cakes Saint Vincent DePaul*<br>11am Bible Study     | 11<br>11am Chair Dancing<br>6pm Yoga Chapel<br>7pm Prayer Group                                              | 12<br>No Communion Service-Chapel<br>5:30pm Backpacks                     | 13     | 14<br>4pm 3 Practice Circle      |
| 15<br>2pm Joyful Noise                                                                               | 16<br>6:30pm Seeds Study                       | 17<br>11am Bible Study                                     | 18<br>**NEWSLETTER** DUE<br>7am Teachers Breakfast<br>11am Chair Dancing<br>7pm Prayer Group<br>7pm Trustees | 19<br>9am Communion Service-Chapel<br>5:30pm Backpacks<br>7pm Grief Group | 20     | 21<br>6pm Blue Christmas Service |
|                                                                                                      | 23<br>**FOLDERS**<br>9am<br>6:30pm Seeds Study | 24<br>11am Bible Study<br>6pm & 8pm Christmas Eve Services | 25<br>                    | 26<br>No Communion Service-Chapel<br>No Backpacks                         | 27     | 28<br>4pm 3 Practice Circle      |
| 29<br>10am - 5th Sunday Worship                                                                      | 30<br>No Seeds Study                           |                                                            |                                                                                                              |                                                                           |        |                                  |