

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

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

Rev. Denise Haskins
Office Phone: 814-942-6065
email: juniataumc@atlanticbbn.net
website: www.juniataumc.net

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



2025

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

REV. DENISE HASKINS



My mother’s greatest fear for me when growing up was that I would become a hermit. I am an introvert by nature, and spending a lot of time around other people (no matter how much I am enjoying myself) drains my energy. I need regular periods of time to myself to “recharge” my social battery.

During this time of year, when it seems to be dark and cold *all* the time, it’s so easy to choose staying home over facing the elements to spend time with others. And yet, one of the first things God observes about human beings is that “It is not good for man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18).

I can certainly attest to that. Left on my own for too long, I can spiral into depression. Left to my own counsel, I can rationalize bad decisions. Left to observe life from the margins too long, I can become cynical that there is no good in the world.

This Advent season, I invite you to shake off the chains of isolation and hopelessness. Join in the warm embrace of wonder and community here at Juniata as we experience the miracle of this season: God is with us. Emmanuel.

Jesus’ coming into the world offers us transformation: from isolation to community, from scarcity to generosity, from fear to celebration. But we have to embrace it. So step into the light of fellowship, and join us in worship and study, in giving and service, in comfort and laughter. Let us be participants in this life God has gifted us, not just spectators.

And in Christ and the fellowship of others, may we discover anew the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love that God has poured out so generously for us.

Pastor Denise



LEADERSHIP CHANGES

On January 1, 2026, 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 2026 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.



HOLIDAY EVENTS

Saturday, November 29 at 9am - Decorating the church for the season

Sunday, November 30 - 1st Sunday of Advent

- 10am Sunday school
- 11am Combined Worship/Hanging of the Greens
- 12pm Covered Dish Luncheon

Sunday, December 7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 13 at 5pm - Holiday Dinner with Caroling

Sunday, December 14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 17 at 7pm - Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Joyful Noise at 2pm

Wednesday, December 24 at 7p - Christmas Eve worship

- kids are welcome to come in their pajamas



ALTOONA FOOD BANK

For the month of December, please see the attached Reverse Advent Calendar.

Thank you,
Doug Buchanan

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



The item of the month for December is Single Serve Cereal Packs. Please drop off in the gathering room and they will be delivered. You can also drop off your donations at the office location at 2301 Beale Avenue, Altoona, from 8am – 3pm. Thank you for your support of this vital program which serves Altoona Area Elementary Students with food items for the weekend during the school year



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?

Wednesday, December 17th at 7pm

Where?

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

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

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.

There will be tables in the gathering room for your donations. Let's work together to reach others in need



EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.

December 1	box of cereal
December 2	jar of 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 of pasta
December 18	jar of spaghetti sauce
December 19	chicken noodle soup
December 20	tomato soup
December 21	can of corn
December 22	can of mixed vegetables
December 23	can of carrots
December 24	can of green beans



As we have done in the past, we are asking you to please bring in your used Christmas Cards and place in the basket in the gathering room so we may send them to St. Jude Children's Hospital to be "recycled". Thank you!!



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 30th through Dec 14th**. 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, **please print first and last names clearly**.

If you would be willing to deliver cards to our shut-ins, please contact Ruth Mastos.

We would greatly appreciate you mailing cards to the shut-ins outside of the immediate area.

Betty Burket
1490 Yardal Road
State College, PA 16601

Jake Schaffer
11 Federal Street
Brookville, PA 15825

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



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

Week of 12/7 Kay Caber
213 Byron Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602

Week of 12/14 Lois Barr
509 N. 8th Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601

Week of 12/21 Darlene Rose
Concordia at Villa St. Joseph
Room 2216
1030 W State Street
Baden, PA 15005

Week of 12/28 Betty Burket
1490 Yardal Road
State College, PA 16801



The church family wishes to thank Mike and Nita Sanders for their generous contribution towards new greens and bows for our sanctuary at Christmas time. You have helped to make our sanctuary even more beautiful!

Thank you both from all of us at JUMC!!

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



We would like to thank all those who baked and all those who purchased the baked goods during our bake sale on November 23rd. We were blessed with a generous donation of \$439.00 Thank you all!!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday December 4th at 1:00pm in the church gathering room. We will be having devotions, biblical games and discuss the current book that we are reading, "Reforesting Faith". Our meetings will continue to be held on the first Thursday of each month.



JUMC Christmas Giving Tree Toasty Toddler Program at the Family Resource Center



With winter fast approaching, parents may be worried that their little ones will be cold, but with Toasty Toddler, they can obtain free winter wear for **children ages newborn to 5 years old**.

Juniata United Methodist Church dedicates this year's **Giving Tree** to providing gloves, hats, and scarves to the little ones in this program. Our **Christmas Giving Tree** will begin to accept these items in November and continue through and include Christmas. Gloves will be used to decorate the tree. Let's see how decorated the tree can be this year. Please put your items under the tree and will take care of decorating the tree with the items. The program accepts new hats, scarves, gloves, coats and snowsuits for children sizes 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months as well as 2T-5T, 5, 6, 7, and 8. A full report on this year's **Giving Tree** will appear in the January 2026 newsletter.

Toasty Toddler, don't you just love the name? Toasty Toddler is a program that served over 600 littles last year and collected and distributed winter coats, hats and gloves to Blair County children under the Family Resource Center of the United Way of the Southern Alleghenies. This program was established by the Blair County Department of Social Services in the early 2000s and aims to help small children keep warm in the winter



Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” NIV Luke 2:11 – 12

Many thanks to the volunteers that helped to provide sneakers for the African Children’s Choir – October 20th: Jonathan and Leslie Gibson, Sherrie and Doug Buchanan, and Sandy Michael. We were truly blessed by this experience. Each child received sneakers, a cloth backpack, and a journal. Packs of boys’ and girls’ socks were given to the counselors to have on hand for the children’s needs. Many thanks to the congregation for your support and donations.

We are thankful for our volunteers for October 25th: Linda Mallery, Connie Jones, Vicky Schmidt, Michelle Zitsch and of course our scheduler, Bill Ellick. Children served: 34 and this included 12 children visiting for the first time. We also provided sneakers for an AASD child. In addition, we were able to purchase BILLY Sneakers / Boots for three children. We are thankful for the grant to provide these specialized sneakers and boots to the children in our community. The cost of BILLY sneakers is substantial, but it is well worth the cost for these children to have what they need.

Volunteers scheduled for November 15th: Donna Chestney, Linda Mallery and Sandy Michael. Thank you!

Our Stats as of November 8th : 3106 children served and over 7629 pairs provided. (At times, we provide homeless children with two pairs of sneakers when the need is known.) All children continue to receive socks and a book.

We also want to say THANK YOU for supporting JUMC Angel Feet Ministry:

- ✓ JUMC congregation and friends of JUMC Angel Feet Ministry for the prayers and ongoing financial, sneakers, and sock donations to the Ministry.
- ✓ UPMC Altoona Foundation - \$1,000 Sponsorship.
- ✓ Kiwanis - \$500 Donation
- ✓ Claysburg UMC - \$500 Donation
- ✓ Anonymous Donor - \$6,500
- ✓ We especially appreciate our volunteers this holiday season. Their dedication and service are exemplary.
- ✓ We continue to write grants for sneakers, BILLY sneakers, and books.
- ✓ We appreciate the grant opportunities that have come in our direction during the past year.
- ✓ Angel Feet appreciates the published notices in the Altoona Mirror – Religion Section.
- ✓ We appreciate new volunteers for the program. Two recently have offered to assist.
- ✓ Our buyers, Irma and Janette, are doing a fantastic job of finding sneakers and good deals.



Blessings to you all at this wonderful **Christmas season**. Thank you for sharing your blessings and praying for our Angel Feet families. Please feel free to let us know if you have any needs, have questions, or need our business cards to share with families. We do appreciate your donations! Just a reminder that appointments for Angel Feet are called to 814-799-5053. Please continue your prayers for this God’s ministry in our church. If you would like to visit JUMC Angel Feet, please just let us know.

Merry Christmas, Dee Martin-Spallone

December Birthdays at JUMC



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

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



DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altoona Food Bank Reverse Advent Calendar	1	2 11am Bible Study	3 11am Chair Dancing	4 1pm Woman's Group 5:30pm Backpacks 6:30pm Choir at Wehnwood	5	6
7 2 nd Sunday of Advent	8 6:30pm Seeds Study	9 *Cakes for St Vincent DePaul* 11am Bible Study	10 11am Chair Dancing	11 5:30pm Backpacks 6:30pm Choir at Wehnwood	12	13 5pm Holiday Party
14 3 rd Sunday of Advent	15 6:30pm Seeds Study	16 11am Bible Study	17 *NEWSLETTER DUE* 11am Chair Dancing 7pm Blue Christmas Service	18 5:30pm Backpacks 6:30pm Choir at Wehnwood	19	20
21 4 th Sunday of Advent 2pm Joyful Noise	22 9am *FOLDERS* **5:30pm** Backpacks 6:30pm Seeds Study	23 11am Bible Study	24 11am Chair Dancing 7pm Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27
28	29 6:30pm Seeds Study	30	31 		SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00am Contemporary Svc 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Svc	