



February always feels like an in-between time—winter is still holding on, but the days are getting longer little by little. We're past the fresh beginnings of January but not yet to the anticipation of Spring and Easter. It's a season that invites us to settle in, to deepen rather than to start something new.

This year, I've been thinking about what it means to be faithful in the ordinary moments. We often look for God in the dramatic—the mountaintop experiences, the clear answers to prayer, the moments when everything clicks into place. But most of our lives unfold in the quiet rhythms of February days: the same commute, the same conversations, the same struggles and small joys.

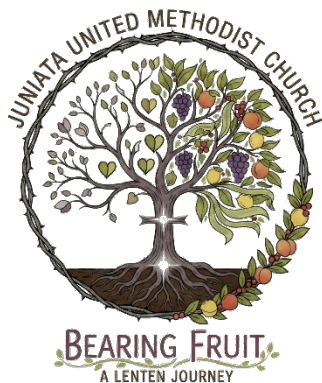
Jesus spent most of his life in such ordinariness—thirty years in Nazareth before three years of ministry. Those hidden years mattered. They shaped him. And I wonder if our challenge is to trust that God is equally as present in our Februaries as in our Easters, equally at work in the routine as in the remarkable.

As we move through this month, I encourage you to notice where faithfulness shows up in simple ways: the person who quietly unlocks the doors and turns on the lights each Sunday, the phone call to check on a friend, the decision to pray even when you don't feel like it, the choice to show up when it would be easier to stay home.

We'll gather for worship, we'll care for one another, we'll keep seeking God together. Nothing flashy—just faithful. And that, I believe, is more than enough.

Rev. Denise Haskins

I will be adjusting my office hours to be Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9a-12noon beginning in February. To ensure I can give you my full attention and respect everyone's time, I ask that you please schedule appointments in advance. I'm also happy to meet with people at other times and places as fits our mutual schedules.



Jesus taught with metaphors that were familiar to the people in a mostly agrarian society. Nowadays most of us rely on the grocery store for the food that graces our tables. But whether you grew up on a farm, you've planted a backyard garden, or you struggle to keep a potted plant alive, you can probably still appreciate the concept of bearing fruit.

This Lenten season, we will be exploring what it means to bear spiritual "fruit" in our lives as we acknowledge our own barrenness (on Ash Wednesday), submit to pruning (early Lent), abide in Christ (mid-Lent), and bear fruit that lasts as we approach Easter – the ultimate fruit that brings life from death itself.

Join us for this special time of realigning our lives to God's will and becoming disciples who blossom in the light of our Savior!

Ash Wednesday Service
with the imposition of ashes
Wednesday, February 18, 2026

7p

Mountain Lion BACKPACK PROGRAM



The item of the month for February is Chicken Noodle

Soup. 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



ALTOONA FOOD BANK

In February, the Food Bank is accepting donations of cans of beef stew and boxes of cold cereal.

Thank you, Doug Buchanan.

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



Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6



Angel Feet Ministry assisted the AAHS Homeless social worker with helping to brighten Christmas giving for 5 children. One child only asked to have a pair of shoes. Friends of Angel Feet helped to brighten this child's Christmas with sneakers, socks and books as well as a few extra items of a stuffed dog and toys appropriate for his age and needs. We also assisted a family of 5 due to a fire that totally consumed everything they owned. One pair of sneakers provided to one of the children, the little boy, he said, “Mom, these are just like the ones I lost in the fire.” We want to thank the bravery of the firemen who had to enter the home to save each member of the family as the fire happened while the family members were sleeping.

Current Angel Feet Stats: 3142 participant children and 7681+ sneakers provided.

An Angel Feet Session is planned for January 17th. Volunteers for this session are Jane Yingling, Sandy Michael and Vicky Schmidt along with Bill Ellick and Michelle Zitsch. Updates will be reflected in the March Newsletter.

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

- ♥ AAHS Class of 1966 Donation
- ♥ Donations in memory of Patty Knorr – Swope Family and an anonymous donor
- ♥ Many thanks to Laura Inlow for providing infant items, diapers, toys, and books from West Side United Methodist Church in Clearfield
- ♥ WISE Women of Blair County Grant
- ♥ Request for presentation from the Altoona Kiwanis
- ♥ Prayers and support of the ministry by the Congregation and Community
- ♥ Donations of sneakers and by an anonymous donor.

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.

Sharing the Love of Jesus one pair of sneakers at a time. ♥
Dee Martin-Spallone



THE WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP will meet on Thursday, February 5th at 1:00PM. We hope you can join us!

As well, we will be holding a bake sale on Sunday, February 15th at both the 9am and 11am services.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*Bring [your children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- Ephesians 6:4b*



We have been blessed with children who long to hear the Good News of Jesus, and it is our duty to teach them the love and mercy of God. Consider joining our Sunday school teaching staff. Lessons are provided, and with more people, we can build a rotation schedule that shares the load and offers partnership in this important ministry. Please see Pastor Denise for more information.



Have you heard the Holy Spirit calling you to turn to Scripture? Join our Tuesday morning Bible study at 11a each week beginning February 3rd for an 8-week journey through the New Testament in an easy-reading format that explores what God wants to speak to our hearts.

All who have experienced the loss of a loved one are welcome to participate in our monthly meetings where we support one another as we learn to live in the new reality of abundant life without those who have meant so much to us. Our regular meetings are held at 7p on the third Wednesday of the month at the church.



STAFF UPDATES



We're excited to announce a new member to the Juniata UMC staff! **Steven Decker**, a member who attends the 11a service, has been hired as our new **Treasurer!**

We thank Teri Lion for her many years of service in this role and appreciate her help in making this transition as smooth as possible.

Please bear with us as Steven learns the ropes!

We are still seeking to hire an **administrative assistant** to help organize the chaos and to keep the lines of communication open as our beloved Leslie Gibson looks to enjoy retirement. Please contact Pastor Denise for more information about the role.





NURTURE MINISTRY

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

Feb. 1st	Lois Barr 509 N. 8th Avenue Altoona, PA 16601	Feb. 15th	Richard D. Robertson Maybrook Hills D-1 Room 114 301 Valley View Blvd. Altoona, PA 16602
Feb. 8th	Darlene Rose Concordia at Villa St. Joseph Room 2216 1030 W. State Street Baden, PA 15005	Feb. 22nd	Jake Schaffer 11 Federal Street Brookville, PA 15825



1 st	Ashley Caldwell	12 th	Courtney Carter
2 nd	Sandy Beck	13 th	Trevor Robinson
	Ralph Filer	16 th	Cooper D'Angelo
	Rylee McCurdy		Dave Powell
3 rd	Dave McConnell		Oliver Sexauer
	Cheyenne Rhone	18 th	Teri Lion
4 th	Donna Peterman	19 th	Jamie Grace
7 th	Wayne Gallagher	21 st	Steven Decker
8 th	Dena Hartman	25 th	Bob L. Taylor
9 th	Josh Hursh	26 th	Julie (Ivory) Boring
10 th	Kym Hambelton		

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



Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? - Isaiah 43:18-19a

God calls us not to return to the past, but to make a way forward. But this is not the work of just a few, but ALL of us.

Do you have an idea for building God's kingdom here at Juniata? Has God laid on your heart a hope for inviting people to hear God's word, for sharing God's GOOD NEWS, for building up disciples, or for serving others to God's glory?

Share your ideas with Pastor Denise, and let's build a future where the light of Christ shines bright here in our community!



February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9am Contemporary Svc 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Svc		ALTOONA FOOD BANK Cans of Beef Stew & Boxes of Cold Cereal				
1	2 5:30pm Prayer Group 6:30pm Seeds Study	3 11am Bible Study	4 11am Chair Dancing	5 5:30pm Backpacks 6:30pm Choir @Wehnwood	6	7
8	9 5:30pm Prayer Group 6:30pm Seeds Study	10 *Cakes Saint Vincent DePaul* 11am Bible Study	11 11am Chair Dancing 5:30pm Backpacks **Please note day change	12 6:30pm Choir @Wehnwood	13	14 
15	16 5:30pm Prayer Group 6:30pm Seeds Study	17 11am Bible Study	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 11am Chair Dancing 7pm Ash Wednesday Srv	19 5:30pm Backpacks 6:30pm Choir @Wehnwood	20	21
22	23 5:30pm Prayer Group 6:30pm Seeds Study	24 9a FOLDERS 11am Bible Study	25 11am Chair Dancing	26 5:30pm Backpacks 6:30pm Choir @Wehnwood	27	28

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

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Altoona, PA

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



2026

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