

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

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Altoona, PA

Reverend Doctor Michelle Bodle
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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

Reverend Doctor Michelle Bodle

From the Pastor's Desk

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Phil 4:6

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Leslie would tell you that I normally have my newsletter article and pieces to her the day after I receive mine in the mail, but this month, I felt the need to hold off writing this article for a bit to try to wrap words around what I would like to say.

Many of you have now heard that I am going to be re-appointed as of July 1st to serve as the State College District Superintendent/ Conference Superintendent. I know that this is unexpected, as we have only been together for three short years. I am still trying to wrap my heart and mind around the unexpectedness as well. However, in the midst of this season here is what I feel that we are being called to as Juniata United Methodist Church.

First, we are called to be in mission and ministry. We have been working on a ministry roll out plan for Fresh Expressions of Church, or new ways to reach people in our community for Christ and that does not stop. We have a long period of transition ahead of us and ministry still happens during that time for we are still the body of Christ, the Church of Jesus Christ here in Altoona.

Second, I feel that we are called to pray. To pray for the Bishop and our District Superintendent, as they along with the cabinet discern who is best suited to continue the good work here at Juniata and to pray for whoever the next pastors to be.

Third, I also would ask your prayers for me - starting this month, I will be onboarding with the cabinet and going to meetings as I continue to serve you as well, which will need to be surrounded by prayer and grace.

Church let us keep on serving the Lord together, knowing that our God is faithful, and the Holy Spirit provides in ways that are beyond our wildest imaginations!

Blessings,
- Pastor Michelle

Upcoming In Worship

- 1/5/25 - "Boy in the Temple" - Luke 2: 41-52
Epiphany Sunday
Holy Communion
Celebration of Church Leadership
- 1/12/25 - "Jesus's Baptism" - Luke 3: 1-22
Baptism of the Lord Sunday
- 1/19/25 - "Sermon at Nazareth" - Luke 4:14-30
Human Relations Sunday
- 1/26/25 - "Fish for People" - Luke 5: 1-11

Why UMC? – Itineracy

The system in The United Methodist Church by which pastors are appointed to their charges by the bishops. The pastors are under obligation to serve where appointed. The present form of the itineracy grew from the practice of Methodist pastors traveling widely throughout the church on circuits. Assigned to service by a bishop, they were not to remain with one particular congregation for any length of time. The vow of Itineracy is taken at ordination as part of a pastor's call.

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

From Pastor Michelle's Bookshelf
Christian Caregiving: A Way of Life
By Kenneth C. Haug
ISBN: 978-0806621234

Kenneth Haug is a pastor and psychologist who has a passion for caregiving. He is probably best known as the founder of Stephen Miniseries, a lay focused caregiving system. Dr. Haug wants each of us to realize that by virtue of our baptism we are called to be caregivers for others. We do so, because of our discipleship journey. However, we do not all feel equally comfortable with offering care - whether it be praying with someone, walking with them through a difficult time, or sharing our faith.

This book is written to help ease some of the discomfort that may exist - starting with the fact that when we offer care, we are not offering a cure. Instead, we are pointing to people to God as the Caregiver. This frees us to offer the love of Christ and to support others as we can. If you have ever been interested in the Biblical concept of caregiving or want a new approach to the care that you offer, this is a wonderful book to read.

Quote to Ponder

"I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least."
— Dorothy Day



Important Dates to Remember

January 4th – Un-decorate the Church @9:30
January 8th - Outreach @6pm
January 12th – Youth Group Greenwood @2-4pm
January 15th - Grief Group @7pm
January 21st – Nurture @6pm
January 22nd - Yoga Chapel Starts @6pm
January 29th - Outreach Presentation @7pm



MUSTARD SEED MINISTRY



ALTOONA FOOD BANK

For the month of January, please donate
Boxed oatmeal packets, pancake mix & syrup
Thank you,
Sherrie Buchanan

For the month of January, please
bring soups and stews.

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



UN-DECORATE THE CHURCH

We are in need of individuals to help in taking down all of the Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 4th at 9:30am. Use the portico entrance please. Tearing down is usually quick and takes less than 2 hours.



Would you join me in thanking those who have faithfully served the church in the following positions who will be coming off of their committees in 2025:

- Marv Bergman - SPRC
- Joe Chestney - Nominations
- Vicki Fasick - Chair, SPRC
- Patty Malone - Nominations
- Ruth Mastos - Endowment
- Ken Robison - Endowment

Also, we welcome the following people to serve on new committees or in new positions:

- Bill Ellick - SPRC
- Becky Ivory - Chair, SPRC
- Ruth Mastos - Nominations
- Cindy Misitano - Endowment
- Debbie Robinson - Nominations
- Carole Taylor - Endowment

Thank you for the many ways that you serve!
- Pastor Michelle



During January, we will be collecting your recycled holiday cards for St. Jude. We will be collecting card fronts only and the cards they are taken from cannot be Disney, American Greeting, or Hallmark.

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

1/11- 6pm

Frame: Here's what I would tell my younger self

1/25- 6pm

Frame: What are you longing for?





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



YOGACHAPEL
The Spirit of Movement and Meditation

Every Wednesday Starting January 22nd @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.



Ministry

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

Jan, 5th Carol Carter
Graystone Bellemeade-Room 214
1929 E. Pleasant Valley Blvd.
Altoona, PA 16602

Jan. 12th Louise Mozi
110 W. 9th Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601

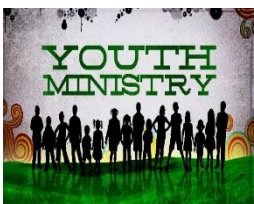
Jan. 19th Kay Caber
213 Byron Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602

Jan. 26th Lois Barr
509 N. 8th Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601

COLLEGE STUDENTS



It is once again time to collect items for our college students for Love Boxes to be sent out in February. We are accepting donations of highlighters, pens, instant coffee, water mixes, tea, hot chocolate packets, fruit snacks, popcorn, and pre-packaged cookies, etc. until February 9th for our college students. We are also in need of donations for postage as this is an unbudgeted expense. If you would like to contribute a financial gift please write "Nurture" on the memo line.



We had 12 youth from 3 different churches for December's combined youth group, where we met at Juniata to make cookies and hear the Christmas story. Our next youth meeting will be on January 12th at 2 pm at Greenwood to make wooden signs. In order to make sure that we have enough supplies, please let Pastor Michelle know if you would like to attend by **January 6th**.



Thank you for all of your thoughts, prayers, and cards - they mean so much to me. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to my church family.

- Diane Hesel

Dear Juniata United Methodist Church Congregation:

I would like to start this new year by congratulating you on all of the ministries you support during each year. I am the Outreach Committee Chair, and I am amazed by everything this small, but mighty congregation does.

In case you are unaware, you support some major ministries!! Our Angel Feet ministry provides sneakers, socks and books to children who otherwise may not have any. These children are ages infant – ninth grade. This is just one amazing ministry we provide. Another is our Mustard Seed Ministry in which families are provided food and sometimes small furnishings such as pillows, pots and pans and even actual furniture at times. Again, the families we serve may not have any food or furnishings without our help. This ministry also provides Thanksgiving and or Christmas dinners to a few families each year.

There are also many other ministries the Outreach Committee is involved in such as the Mountain Lion Backpack ministry where some of our church members volunteer to help the Altoona School District pack food for students for each weekend, so these students have food over the weekend!! We recently started providing Birthday supplies to Blair Hope for families so the foster children in Blair County might be able to celebrate their birthdays.

We are also attempting to help the Juniata Elementary School by supplying them with sweatshirts, sweatpants and under garments in case students have accidents or just do not have these items and need them.

Every June we are involved in Saturate Altoona where we set up a small booth in the Heritage Plaza in downtown Altoona, along with many other churches and religious organizations. Each booth distributes a food item for free to the people who come. Many of these people are homeless and do not have a lot to eat on a regular basis. So, we always give out sloppy joe sandwiches and we always run out early!!

For the past couple years, Outreach has provided Vacation Bible School to some of the children in the Juniata community. We have not had huge numbers, but this past summer, five of the children who participated had never seen the inside of a church before. If you ask me, that's ministry!! One more ministry, (near and dear to my heart), is we deliver Birthday cards to the Maybrook Nursing Facility. On a regular basis, throughout the year, we provide Birthday cards for the residents. We also deliver Christmas cards for them every December. Speaking of December, we also often provide Christmas presents for a few families each year, who otherwise would have none. I would like to start this year by thanking you for supporting these programs in the past and thanking you in advance for everyone you will minister to in 2025!!

Blessings,

Jane Yingling
Outreach Committee Chair

JUMC Christmas Giving Tree for 2024 Update

The final report for the Christmas Giving Tree dedicated to assisting the Juniata Elementary School will be in the February 2025 newsletter. We plan to provide the gifts of clothing to the school the first week of January. Last day to bring items for the Giving Tree is January 5th. Financial donations are also accepted to purchase any needed items. Thank you so much for your support!! Blessings to you all.



January 2025

1 Peter 3:8

"Be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

Children and Youth participating as of December 20, 2024:

Children 2958 and 7210+ pairs provided over time.

We would like to thank the following for their support of the Ministry since November:

We have had some very generous donations from our congregation and outside our doors to continue the work of JUMC Angel Feet Ministry in Blair County. Some have decided to remain anonymous. Be assured every donor has received acknowledgement and a "big" thank you for their generous support.

Angel Feet Stories

In December, one youth in need of sneakers only had cros and no socks. Another child, when fitted with sneakers by her social worker, was surprised she was getting a brand-new pair of sneakers "of her very own." This may have been the first time that she has had a brand-new pair of sneakers in her entire life at 8 years old. She first thought that she was only receiving one pair of socks. We provided her with a pack of socks. She was thrilled.

BILLY Shoes Update

Angel Feet has been able to support those in need of special sneakers called BILLY Shoes mentioned in the October newsletter. These sneakers are specially designed with zippers either close to the top or closer to the bottom of the sneaker for easier positioning of the foot with a brace into the sneaker or a for an extremely wide foot. They use a "universal design" so that the sneakers have an appeal to all. The sneakers are so cute and the children and youth that have picked out their pair of sneakers are pleased with the choices available. The sneakers are ordered and travel from Washington state to our children and youth here in Altoona. We expanded this outreach to provide winter boots from BILLY to assist these children. Please let us know if you would like to know more about the BILLY sneakers or if a child is in need. We would be happy to assist if we can.

Please continue your prayers for our Angel Feet children and families, our volunteers and God's Program in this church.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask, or visit with us at JUMC Angel Feet Ministry. Thank you for your love and prayers.

God's Blessings to you all and Happy New Year 2025!

JANUARY
Birthdays at JUMC



1st Duane Civils
Amanda Krestar
6th Matt Robertson
7th Jaiden DeGennaro
8th Jaime McKee
9th Tom Foose III
Lori Lanzendorfer
Nathan Morgan
Jim Rozier
13th Jim D'Angelo
14th Terri Rhone
16th Jared Gibson
Dave Poole
20th Butch Zavalanski
21st Jeffrey Detwiler
Jonathan Focht
22nd Brande Robison
24th Nancy Robertson
Megan McKee
25th Ian Cox
26th Alexander McCurdy
27th Lorraina McMinn
Kelsie Bumbarger
29th Jean Creighton
30th Jim Heffelfinger
31st Nickea Stalter
Abigail Williams

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



JANUARY 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00am Contemporary Svc 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Svc		<u>Altoona Food Bank</u> Soups and Stews	<u>Mustard Seed</u> Boxed Oatmeal packets, pancake mix and syrup.			
			1 	2 9am – Communion Service-Chapel	3	4 9:30am Church Clean Up
5	6 6:30pm Seeds Study	7 *Cakes Saint Vincent DePaul* 11am Bible Study	8 11am Chair Dancing 5:30pm Prayer Group 6pm-Outreach	9 9am – Communion Service-Chapel	10	11 6pm – 3 Practice Circle
12 2-4pm Youth Group Greenwood	13 No Seeds Study	14 No Bible Study	15 **NEWSLETTER** DUE 11am Chair Dancing 5:30pm Prayer Group	16 No Communion Service-Chapel	17	18
19 2pm-Joyful Noise	20 5:30pm-Trustees 6:30pm Seeds Study	21 11am Bible Study 6pm-Nurture 7pm-Leadership	22 **FOLDERS** 9am 11am Chair Dancing 5:30pm Prayer Group 6:00pm Yoga chapel	23 9am – Communion Service-Chapel	24	25 6pm – 3 Practice Circle
26	27 6:30pm Seeds Study	28	29 6pm-Yoga Chapel 7pm-Outreach Presentation	30 9am-Communion Service-Chapel	31	