

The Steeple



CHIPPEWA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2023 / January 2024
Issue 178

We Speak the Word of God...

We Share the Love of Christ....

We Make the Kingdom of God Visible...

What Happened to Christmas?

Christmas sure has gotten bigger, hasn't it? It starts earlier. People have Christmas lights hung and turned on already. Christmas costs more and surely seems to be more important than all the other holidays combined.

I can remember as a child Christmas was just a couple of weeks. I once asked if I could start setting up the train in the basement on December 12, and my family thought I was ridiculous. December 12-way too early. My family only bought our tree on the 22nd or 23rd and did not decorate it until Christmas Eve night.

Now Christmas is everywhere all at once.

Yes, Christmas is big business, and Christmas is overwhelming at times. But it is the one time of year that the world is singing our song. The church's song that is. The one time of year that the church and the world come close.

It gives us a great opportunity to tell our story at every opportunity. Presents—wisemen. Lights—the star. Angels—well, angels. Traveling-Mary and Joseph. Not enough room for everyone—no room in the inn.

Weave the story of the birth of Jesus into your children's Christmas. Tell your grandchildren the story right there in the middle of everything.

Do not wait for a special time or a special book. Tell the story all the time. The world is meeting us halfway this time of year.

And tell the story of Christmas past. The story of your parents and your grandparents. Tell the touching stories and the funny stories. Remember Christmas in this year's Christmas.

We have the best story. Let us tell that story while the world is all about Christmas. Let us tell them what Christmas all is about.

Pastor Allan



Schedule of Events

Dec 2 Christmas Bazaar & Kids' Christmas Town
Dec 2 & 3 Communion Weekend-Advent II
Dec 5 Church Council
Dec 6 UWF Board Meeting
Dec 7 Spaghetti Dinner
Dec 9 & 10 Advent III
Dec 13 UWF Sweets & Tea
Dec 14 Trustees Meeting
Dec 17 Advent IV / Christmas Cantata / Happy Birthday, Jesus, Party

Dec 24 Christmas Services
(See back of this issue)
Dec 25 Christmas Day
(Church/Office/CLC closed)
Dec 26 Church/Office/CLC closed

Jan 1 Church/Office/CLC closed
Jan 10 UWF Board Meeting
Jan 11 Spaghetti Dinner
Jan 19 Friday Fun Night-Winter Wonderland
Jan 23 Book Review Group
Jan 29 Kitchen Cleaning

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Children's Ministry

Chippewa United Methodist Church



Throughout the last few months, our Children's Sunday School students have spent time diving in and learning about who God is. God is our creator, He is kind, faithful, holy, and forgiving. In the crazy season of holidays that is upon us, it is important that we all take time to slow down and remember who God is and His importance in our every day lives, and this holiday season.

During this time of Thanksgiving, the Children's ministry team has much to be thankful for. As we kicked off the busy holiday season, we have held a few fun events and collected lots of donations for our community. We hosted 200 kids for our annual Trunk or Treat event, stuffed 100 pumpkins full of snacks for community group home residents,

collected 101 shoe boxes full of gifts for Operation Christmas child, and received countless donations for our Kids Christmas Town store. All of these projects we have completed, community members we have helped, and kids we have impacted wouldn't be possible without the generosity and support of our church family. We would like to thank you all for your help in all we have done and all we have yet to accomplish.

As we prepare for the new year, the Children's ministry has many great and exciting things planned to help the kids of our congregation and community learn more about who God is and His importance in their lives.

Merry Christmas,
Abby Helmick
Children's Ministry Dir.

Save the date

Sunday, Dec 17th Happy Birthday Jesus Sunday School Party

Sunday, Dec 17th Angel Tree gifts due

Christmas Eve, Children's Choir sings at 7pm service

Friday, January 19th, Friday Night Fun Winter Wonderland

Friday, February 16th, Friday Night Fun Kids In The Kitchen

*100 Pumpkin bags stuffed!
Thank you, Sunday School, for putting
the bags together.*



*Operation
Christmas Child-
101 shoe boxes
filled!*

*Thank you,
church family.*

Angel Tree

We are partnering with the Beaver County Office on Aging again this year for our Angel Tree. Our goal is to provide Christmas presents for all the residents of

two local personal care homes. Each resident will have their own angel on the tree listing items they would like to receive this year. Angels are available in the church and CLC

lobbies. All gifts should be placed in a gift bag and returned to the church with the angel tag attached and placed under the tree by **Wednesday, December 13th**.



January Friday Night Fun: Winter Wonderland

Join us **Friday, January 19th** as we embrace the cold and have some fun for the winter season. We will play some group games, build igloos, make snowflakes,

do a snow science experiment, and finish the night with an indoor snowball fight.

Tickets are \$10 per child. Pre-registration can be completed on the church

website Children's Ministry page starting January 5th. Walk-in registration with cash payment is also available. Invite your friends and come have fun!



February Friday Night Fun: Kids in the Kitchen

Looking to brush up on your culinary skills? Join us **Friday, February 16th** as we cook dinner together and learn some rules of the kitchen. This is a drop-off event the

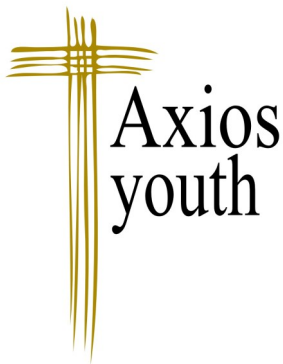
weekend after Valentine's Day. Children will be served dinner at this event. A menu will be available at registration. Tickets are \$15 per child. Pre-registration can be

completed on the church website Children's Ministry page starting February 2nd. Due to dinner being served, please register by **Wednesday, February 13th**.



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Youth Ministry



Hello Church!

Hard to believe that 2023 is ending, and we are rapidly approaching 2024! I have only been in this position for a brief time, but the youth have already made such an enormous difference in my life, and I hope I am doing the same in theirs.

If you have noticed, I decided to start fresh with the youth and change the name of our Ministry. Youth will now be known as "Axios Youth Ministry." Axios is a Greek word meaning "worthy." We all know that God is worthy, but we as followers of Christ are also worthy. No matter what choices we have made or what we have been through, we will always be worthy in the eyes of God. I have also set up

Social Media accounts on Facebook and Instagram. I will be uploading on a regular basis with pictures and updates. We have had some new youth attend, and we gave of our time by helping bag items for the Food Drive. The youth had an amazing time and were extremely helpful. I am truly blessed.

Looking ahead, we have a lot of exciting opportunities coming up that I would like to share with you. We will be having another Spaghetti Dinner, Youth Christmas Party, and the opportunity to attend Winter Jam 2024!! I have some new games and devotions that I am excited to try out, and I am currently working on setting up our

Axios Social Media accounts so the youth, parents, and church can see all the exciting things happening.

With the number of new youths attending, the need for adult volunteers and leaders is needed now more than ever. If you feel led to volunteer your time for a youth night or event, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you!

"To explore God is to seek the greatest adventure."

Blessings,
Stephanie Corless
Youth Ministry Director

scorless
@chippewaumc.org

Axios Youth

Important Dates and Information

December 6th – Spaghetti Dinner Prep (4:30)

December 7th – Spaghetti Dinner (5-7)

December 18th – Youth Christmas Party & Gift Exchange

December 25th – NO YOUTH GROUP

January 1st – NO YOUTH GROUP

January 10th – Spaghetti Dinner Prep (4:30)

January 11th – Spaghetti Dinner (5-7)

January 19th – Winter Jam 2024!!

A Fresh Start in 2024

Who does not want a fresh start? In life, in exercise, in finances, in family relations, and in our faith.

That is what Jesus offers us. Maybe we have forgotten since we accepted Jesus into our life so long ago. Maybe we have grown tired or worn down by the frustrations of the world. The new life that Jesus offers is not just one time but for always.

The way of Jesus is not easy. We are called to pick up our cross and follow him. He walked a hard road through this world and Christ-followers are called to not take the easy way out.

Like starting an exercise program in the new year, we can decide or again decide to follow Jesus. So, what does it mean to “pick up your cross?”



Well, that is different for each of us. And usually, you do not have to look too far. Yes, sometimes we make it harder than it needs to be. You do not have to sell your house

and go into the mission field. God has already placed the people and situations in your life that you need to carry.

Following Jesus is following Jesus right where we are.

To pick up your cross is first to have the eyes of Jesus. What and who would Jesus see if he looked at your life? Who would Jesus have compassion on? Who would Jesus serve, or sit down and eat with? Who would Jesus reach out to heal? Then love those folks. Simple. Fresh eyes equal a fresh start.

Begin praying now for the eyes of Jesus and the strength to pick up your cross!

Pastor Allan

Spaghetti Dinner

December 7th and January 11th

5:00pm—7:00pm

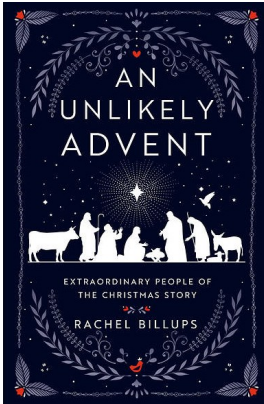
Dine in or take out!

Donations support Youth Ministry

If you would like to help by baking a cake, please contact the church office.



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Advent Bible Study-An Unlikely Advent

Join Pastor Tai for this Advent Study Monday November 27-December 18. You can choose between 11am or 7pm.

This four-week Advent study focuses on the experiences of four sets of

often overlooked characters in the Nativity story.

During this Advent season, Rachel Billups guides readers through the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth

and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas.

20th Annual Christmas Bazaar

**December 2nd from
9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Community Life Center

**118 McMillen Ave.,
Beaver Falls, PA 15010**

**Sponsored by the CUMC
Community Life Center**

Directed by Darcy Straley 724-846-6310 &

Scott Ensworth 724-843-4032

We are very excited to announce we will be having a 2023 CUMC Christmas Bazaar.

This will be the 20th year our church has hosted this event and although it has changed over the years; it remains a wonderful time to enjoy our community with family and friends.

We will be having approximately 80 vendors;

the Café will be run by Papa Duke's, and the Winter Auction which will benefit the Chippewa Meals on Wheels.

We will also have FREE Santa Photos with your pets, children, friends, and family.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this community event.



Kids Christmas Town

**December 2nd from
9:00am—12:00pm**

Join us for a morning of fun and holiday cheer at our Kid's Christmas Town. Activities include free pictures with Santa and

craft projects and a by-donation pancake breakfast. Kids are able to check off all their Christmas shopping at our Santa's Workshop store. Gifts for parents,

grandparents, siblings, pets, and more are available at a low cost for kids to purchase with the help and guidance of our secret shopper assistants.



December 2023 / January 2024

United Women in Faith

Please put these dates on our calendars.

December 2, 9am-3pm Christmas Bazaar at the CLC. UWF- cookie sale. Cookie bakers needed. Bring them Dec.1 between 3pm and 6pm or by 8:15 AM on Dec. 2. Pre-packaged please.

December 13, 1pm-3pm Christmas Program Noah Fenton on the piano in the sanctuary. Tea and sweets in Fellowship Hall following the program. Sign up in the church office or on the church bulletin.

February 10, 2024, 12pm-2pm Valentine's Day tea at the CLC. Foster Love is the program.

February 14, 2024, 12pm-1pm Ash Wednesday and first Lenten Lunch. Helpers and cake bakers needed.

A big thank you goes out to Elaine Winkle and Betty Mattsson-Boze for the October kitchen cleaning. We are still in need of a few more ladies to join the Kitchen Cleaning team. Time commitment 1 or 2 times a year for a couple of hours.

We still have 2 positions open on UWF board for 2024-Program Resources and Member-at-Large. Call Judy Rogers, Home- 724-312-3818 if you are interested in either of these opportunities.



United
Women
in Faith

Book Review Group in 2024

January - Someone Else's Shoes by JoJo Moye

February - The Last Life Boat by Hazel Gaynor

March - Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

April - Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng

The Book Review Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the Wells Room.

We do not meet in December. Feel free to join us anytime. Contact person is Marcia Parkhill.



The Steeple



Thanksgiving Food Bag Ministry 2023



The church family came together in November donating food and supplies for community families in need. The Missions team, Youth Group, and Boy Scouts packed 420 bags of groceries. Together we were able to help 220 people this Thanksgiving.



Mission for December: The Women's Shelter of Beaver County

Since 1976, victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence have found the help and hope they need at the Women's Center of Beaver County. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with a **HELP-LINE** at **(724) 775-**

0131.

Their services are always confidential and provided free of charge. They provide crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, legal and medical advocacy and prevention education.

The Women's Center

advocates for ALL victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault without regard to status, race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical ability or language.



Mission for January: General Mission Outreach

This fund is used to help with a variety of ministries with a one-time gift. Some of the ministries we helped in the past

with this fund are "Meals on Wheels", "The Yellow Ribbon Girls", "Missions Trips", "The Breakfast Ministry", and Bibles for our

preschool. This fund has and will continue to touch the lives of many people, with your help.



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Reminder From the Treasurer



Just a Friendly Reminder: Make sure you have any offerings you want on your 2023 tax statement to the office or made through Tithely by

December 31, 2023. Anything received January 1, 2024 and after will be on your 2024 giving statement. If you are planning to mail your

offering, please have it in the mail by December 15th so it has enough time to get to the office. Thank you for your generosity.

Our Church Family



Baptism

10-29-2023 Baptism Charlotte Layne Linaberry
Parents: Christopher and Elizabeth Linaberry
Godfather: Benjamin Gilarno

Thank you, Thank you



To Sew Many Blessings,

My dad is at Celebration Villa, and I so appreciate the time and thoughtfulness in making the adult bibs. It saves us a lot of laundry. Plus, I love how "manly" patterns were available.

Your thoughtfulness is so appreciated.



Thank you, Helen and Marilyn!

No doubt you have heard about the rummage sale that takes place in our CLC each spring and each fall. This September this event netted the United Women in Faith more than ever before — over \$6,000!

This could have never been accomplished without two things:

1-You, who bring your gently used items and 2— two ladies who organize the event, Helen Fabyanic and Marilyn Balderson. Through their hard work and aided by many others, the event is growing.

A while back UWF recognized their efforts with certificates of recognition which were well-deserved. They are pictured here with UWF President, Judy Rogers, at the time of the presentation of their certificates of appreciation. If you happen to see them, please thank them for their faithfulness and hard work.

School Prayer Ministry from Prayer & Witness

As our schools are now in session, the School Prayer Ministry would ask that we all be in prayer for our schools, all those who are a part of the schools, especially our children. Please be in prayer for all of our teachers, administrative personnel, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, custodians, in

fact, all those who are a part of the students' learning process. Below is a prayer that you can use if you wish:

Almighty one, shield every person that walks through the doors of our schools from violence. According to what the Bible says about us as children of God, we claim positive

self-esteem for every student. By faith, we say that they will get their self-worth from you alone, not from peers or social media and they will count themselves as precious and loved by the Creator. (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2-9; Rom. 5-8)



What's Your Bible I.Q.?

- 1-How did the universe and world get here? (**Gen. 1:1, Col. 1:16-17**)
- 2-What is the Greatest Commandment? (**Matt. 22:37-38**)
- 3-How did sickness and death enter the world? (**Romans 5:12**)
- 4-What is the Second Greatest Commandment? (**Matt: 22:39**)
- 5-Who was the most humble man in the world? (**Num.12:3**)
- 6-What is the beginning of wisdom? (**Psm.111:10**)
- 7-Which Angel appeared to Mary? (**Luke 1:26**)
- 8-Which prophet and cousin of the Lord was beheaded? (**John 14:10**)
- 9-What was Christ's first miracle? (**John 2:11**)
- 10-Where is The New Testament "Hall of Faith?"(**Hebrews 11**)
- 11-Which event caused God to splinter the human language into many tongues? (**Gen.11**)
- 12-Who directed the writing of the Bible? (**2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21**)

Open your
Bible to the
answers.

Enjoy!

From Prayer
& Witness

Save these Dates

- Advent Weekends, November 26, December 3, 10, and 17
- Kids' Christmas Town, December 2
- 20th Annual Christmas Bazaar, December 2
- Spaghetti Dinner, December 7
- Christmas Choir Cantata, December 17
- Happy Birthday, Jesus, Party, December 17
- Angel Tree gifts are due, December 17
- Christmas Eve, December 24 (see services on back of this issue)
- Spaghetti Dinner, January 11
- Friday Night Fun Winter Wonderland , January 19
- Friday Night Fun Kids In The Kitchen, February 16
- Youth Winter Jam, January 19



Christmas & New Year Services

Sunday Morning Worship, December 24th

11:00am in the Sanctuary

(No Saturday, December 23rd service)

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th

2:00pm in the Sanctuary

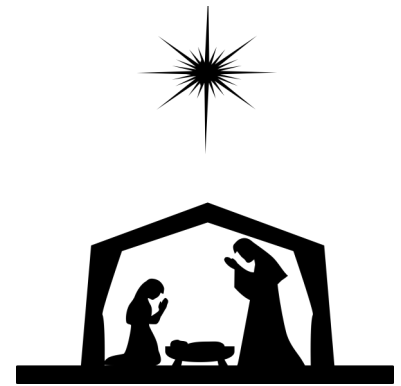
4:00pm Contemporary in the Community Life Center

7:00pm with the Children's Choir in the Sanctuary

9:00pm with Youth Bells in the Sanctuary

11:00pm with the Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary

* All times have candle-lighting and Silent Night *



New Year's Eve Weekend

All regular worship services and times

Pastor Allan Brooks
412.992.7007

Church Office Hours
Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm
724.843.4828
www.chippewaumc.org
info@chippewaumc.org

Pastor Tai Courtemanche
724.799.5699

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