

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**COLEMAN CHAPEL'S CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE on Dec. 21 at 1980 Furnace Hills Pike, Lititz, PA 17543 at 7pm.** Families will worship together in this service of carols and a retelling of the Christmas story. Reservations are required. Contact the church at (717) 626-6933 for more information.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at Faith UMC at 7pm (or 5pm at Oregon Community UMC if that suits your schedule better).** Families will worship together in this service of carols and a retelling of the Christmas story. We will also share in Communion. There will be refreshments in the fellowship hall after the service.

**OREGON COMMUNITY UMC ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL at 8 AM in the Fellowship Hall.**

**YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS, 5-7PM** for 5th-12th graders. Each week there is dinner, games & a lesson. All students are invited. **Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway if you are willing to provide a meal.** ***YOUTH WILL GO TO GRETNA GLEN on Sun., Jan. 18, meeting at Faith UMC at 3:30PM and return by 7PM. No Meeting on Dec. 21 or 28—Happy Holidays.***

**OUR GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP** meets **every Monday at 5PM** for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one and could use support and tools for dealing with all of the emotions and struggles that come from grief. **We are currently focusing on “Surviving the Holidays” through Dec. 22 and will then take off Dec. 29 and restart Jan. 5.** Contact Pastor Jason for more info and go here to register: <http://bit.ly/3MeeZax>

**EVENING BIBLE STUDY WITH KATHY “Meet Yourself in the Psalms” 6PM-7:30PM on Tuesdays at Faith UMC.** We will read through Psalms and explore how to pray more holistically.

**PASTOR’S MORNING BIBLE STUDY at 10AM on Wednesdays at Faith UMC in the Adult Classroom.** ***We are on break Dec. 24 & 31 due to the holidays.***

**THREADS OF FAITH** is for those who like to knit, sew, crochet or quilt. Join us from **10am - Noon at Faith UMC the first Saturday of each month inc. Come January 3 at 9AM.**

**CHURCH CLEANING/WORKDAYS: 2nd Saturdays Next: Dec. 13 from 9-11AM**

**CHURCH COUNCIL: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of ODD numbered months Next: *Stay tuned for new date***

**THE CHURCH & SOCIETY TEAM** engages in improving our community by standing up against injustice. ***Next meeting: Jan. 15 at 5PM (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays).*** Contact Renee for more info. **Join us by Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82735304374?pwd=eDBSZHRCZVphSnh2TENDZ0xrdG0vQT09>.** **THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE & BAIL REFORM TEAM** meets at Noon every other Wed. ***Next meeting: Jan 7 at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82483314676?pwd=K2ZtZGQ0LzBOelVlVXQwUk5LR2VFQT09>.***

**SALEM’S LITTLE FREE PANTRY:** You can donate at Faith UMC. Anyone in need can come anytime to get groceries from this outdoor pantry located on the porch at Salem Lutheran, 26 Owl Hill Rd, Lititz.

**LONG MEMORIAL FREE GROCERIES** for those in need every week through their **Friday Night Food Ministry at 6pm.** You can drive up and receive groceries to help support you through the week.

**GRAB ‘N GO COMMUNITY MEAL** for those in need at Zion Lutheran Church in East Petersburg every Monday. Faith UMC provides sixty meals quarterly. **Our next date is Jan. 12.** Contact Carol to help.

**IN NEED OF HELP?** Contact Pastor Jason, dial **2-1-1** or visit [www.211.org](http://www.211.org) to reach the **United Way Call Center** for social services. The Crisis Intervention Lifeline is (717) 394-2631 or **dial 9-8-8.**

## Welcome to Oregon Community United Methodist Church



**Address:** 1214 Creek Road, Lititz, PA 17543

**Church Phone:** (717) 656-7198

**Website:** [OregonCommunityUMC.us](http://OregonCommunityUMC.us)

**Facebook:** Oregon Community UMC

**Pastor:** The Rev. Jason Perkowski

[jbperkowski@gmail.com](mailto:jbperkowski@gmail.com) or (717) 333-9238

Mission of Oregon Community United Methodist Church:  
**“Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation  
of our community and the world.”**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP in Sanctuary at 9:00 AM at Oregon Community UMC  
BROADCAST ONLINE at 10:30 AM from Faith UMC on Facebook  
& church websites under *Online Worship*.**

**OFFICE HOURS:** Pastor Jason is generally available Sundays and Mon-Thurs from about 10-5pm—but has various meetings throughout the week. Call to make an appointment. He spends time with family from Friday through Sunday morning. *If there is an emergency, please leave a detailed message.*



# Oregon Community United Methodist Church

December 21, 2025 at 9:00 AM – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Love

**WELCOME:** In this season of Advent we look heavenward for the second coming when Jesus will restore and revive all of creation and we will see God in full glory! May the Holy Spirit transform us in this time of expectation and fill each of us with joy as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus and his return. You are welcome to engage with us and our loving God in this sacred space no matter who you are; from where you have come; what experiences, struggles or gifts you bring; or the questions, doubts & beliefs you carry. We are so glad you are here!

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS** **Pastor Jason**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: LOVE** **Ralph Stone**

Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary’s womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God’s love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.  
**With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world’s judgment.**  
We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

*Light all four candles of the Advent wreath*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** **Pastor Jason & God’s People**

Beloved, God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit’s guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions. **We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.** Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real—realer than real—to ignore. **We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.** For generations, God has sent signs of God’s coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter. **We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.** Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.  
**Come! Let us worship as we listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits. Amen!**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2025*

**\*HYMN** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* **UMH #220**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** **Isaiah 7:10-16** **Bob Jolly**  
*This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!*

**\*HYMN** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* **UMH #230**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** **Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19** **Bob Jolly**  
*This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!*

**THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER** **UMH #895**

**\*HYMN** *To a Maid Engaged to Joseph* **UMH #215**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** **Romans 1:1-7** **Tim Patschke**  
*This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!*

**OUR OFFERINGS: OF PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS** **Pastor Jason**

**\*DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* **UMH #95**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** **Matthew 1:18-25** **Bob Jolly**

*This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God!*

**SERMON** *Signs and Faithfulness* **Bob Jolly**

**\*HYMN** *Shine, Jesus, Shine* **TFWS #2173**

**\*BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH** **Pastor Jason**

*\* You are invited to stand in body or in Spirit*

**Pianist:** Jody Wiker **Pastor:** The Rev. Jason Perkowski **Ministers:** The People of God  
**Liturgists:** **December 7** Mike Shifflet; **14** Ralph Stone; **21** Bob Jolly; **28** Dot Lange  
**Advent Candles:** **Dec. 21** Ralph Stone & Jody Wiker **24** Candice & Gary Crosby

**BIRTHDAYS:** **December 7** Paula Shifflet; **19** Sharon Garner; **27** Annabelle Fritsch; **30** Ralph Stone

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Denny Mateer healing from surgery; Dean & Val Cooper, health; those who are grieving; anxiety and stress; unity & love; Jackie Black; Shifflet’s neighbor Bob; Katie at CHOP; Nat (friend of Wikers), cancer; Joanne (Jackie’s sister), scleroderma; Bobbi Ann Stone, healing; Vince Habel, heart & kidney; Shirley Baker & Cheryl Cooper, healing; & all battling cancer and disease. **PRAISES:** God’s faithful love and grace; those healing from illnesses. **PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD:** Those affected by violence and hate; food & housing insecurity; mental health; senior citizens; addictions; deportation and immigration policies; the unemployed; Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi; DS Freymoyer & EPAUMC Staff; Laity and Clergy; wisdom for elected leaders; President Trump and VP Vance; people suffering from environmental disasters; NarSarah Clinic in Sierra Leone; Udobo School in Durban, South Africa; Christ Home for Children; Blackfeet UM Parish; the people of Israel, Palestine, the Middle East, Ukraine & Russia; veterans & military service members; police & medical personnel; the sick & caregivers; peace; abused persons & abusers; incarcerated persons and prison staff; schools; foster families; etc.

**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERINGS WILL BE SPLIT BETWEEN 1) THE UDOBO PRE-SCHOOL:** in Durban, South Africa at Christmas for food, educational supplies, & teaching staff. Visit <http://UdoboSchool.com> for details. **2) BLACKFEET UMC PARISH** in Montana, supporting ministries and training programs to support the Blackfeet Nation. **3) THE CHRIST HOME FOR CHILDREN** in Paradise, PA that provides a home for children and teens in crisis. Checks can be made out to *Oregon Community UMC* with **“Christmas Eve Offering” in the memo. Gifts will be shared between all 3 ministries.** All gifts in the Christmas offering envelopes, placed in the Teddy Bear, and unmarked gifts in the Christmas Eve offering plate will go directly to these ministries.

**Shine, Jesus, Shine (TFWS #2173 / by Graham Kendrick)**

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining;  
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us, set us free by the truth You now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

**Refrain:** Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory, blaze ,Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire;  
flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy, send forth your word, Lord and let there be light.

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence from the shadows into your radiance;  
by the blood I may enter your brightness, search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me. *(Refrain)*

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;  
ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me. *(Refrain)*