

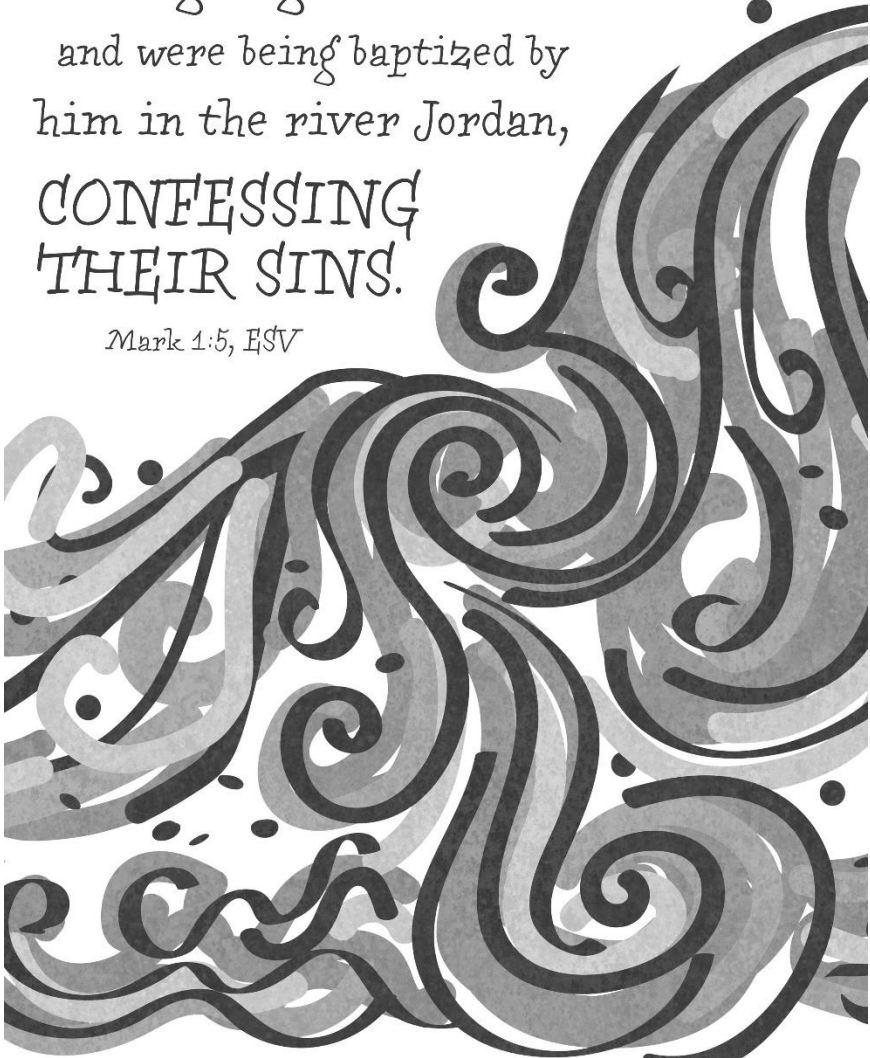
Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road,
Stroudsburg, PA

Celebrating the Baptism of Our Lord

January 14, 2024

And all...
were going out to [John]
and were being baptized by
him in the river Jordan,
**CONFESSING
THEIR SINS.**

Mark 1:5, ESV



Welcome to Christ Hamilton! Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. This service is also available anytime on Facebook or our website along with a bulletin at www.chrighthamilton.org. Please share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please know that all are welcome at Christ Hamilton! Life is difficult enough and shouldn't be when you come to church. Regardless of how you got here, we are glad you did. **All are welcome here.** If you are a visitor please feel free to take the welcome folder home with you. We invite you to fill out the card found inside and place it in the plate at the time of the offering. No financial gift is needed – just the card. We consider it your gift to us.

The service: *Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.*

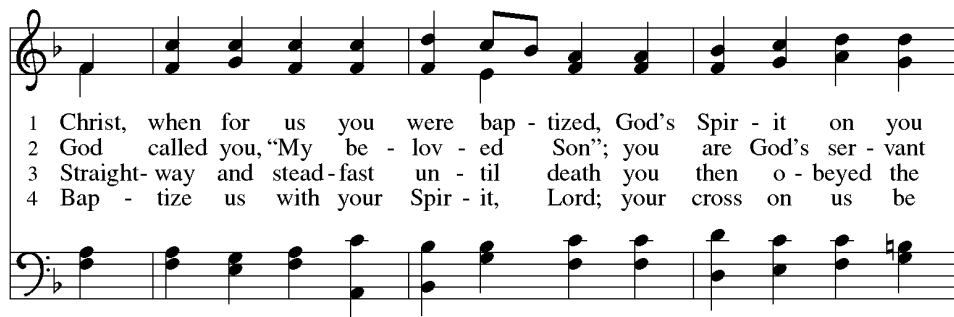
Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Ellen Marvin, by John Marvin.

PRELUDE

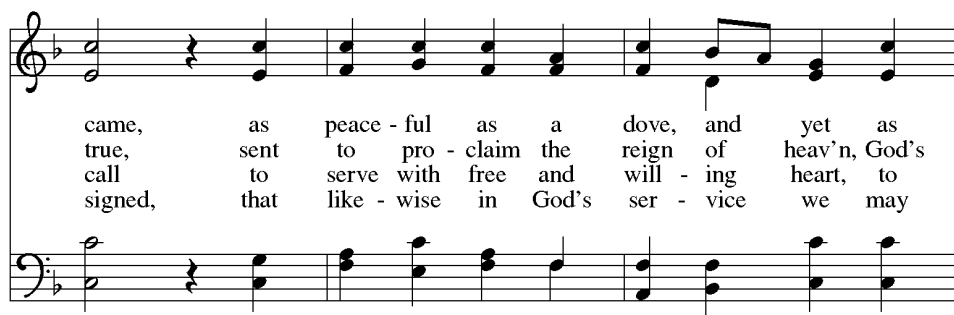
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.

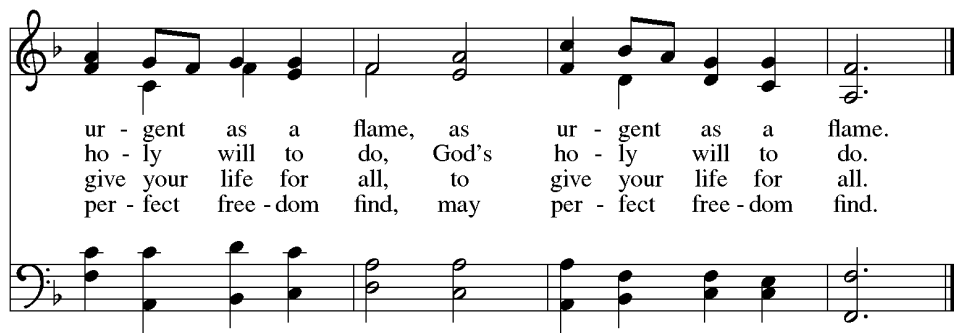
Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight-way and stead-fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561

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GREETING

Minister: The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world! God be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



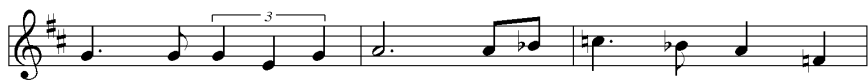
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



PRAYER

Minister: Let us pray. . . Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

READING

GENESIS 1:1-5

Reader: A reading from Genesis, the 1st chapter:

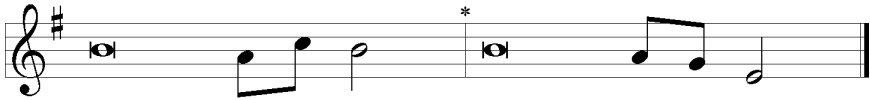
¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Sung responsively.

PSALM

Psalm 29



Cantor: Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.

**All: Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due God’s name;
worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

Cantor: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of | glory
thunders;
the Lord is upon the | mighty waters.

**All: The voice of the Lord is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a | voice of splendor.**

Cantor: The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

**All: The Lord makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

Cantor: The voice | of the Lord
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

**All: The voice of the Lord | shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**

Cantor: The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the | forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord all are | crying, “Glory!”

**All: The Lord sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

Cantor: O Lord, give strength | to your people;
give them, O Lord, the bless- | ings of peace

READING

ACTS 19:1-7

Reader: A reading from Acts, the 19th chapter.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Reader: The word of the Lord.**All: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation



GOSPEL

Mark 1:4-11

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

Don Paynter

Please stand.

Wade in the Water

Refrain

All



Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,



wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader

All



- 1 See that host all dressed in white,
- 2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the
- 3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
- 4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,



wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.
 looks like the band that . . Mo - ses led.
 the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.
 just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All

Refrain



God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

NICENE CREED

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS

Assisting Minister: Let us pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,

All: Receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,

All: Receive our prayer.

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,

All: Receive our prayer.

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering especially those we raise to you now from our hearts and from our lips God of grace,

All: Receive our prayer.

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace,

All: Receive our prayer.

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace,

All: Receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

The peace is shared with one another.

PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

God Breathed

Please stand.

OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards



☐ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . Merciful God,

All: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Minister: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Minister: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of
 sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Minister: Let us pray together with confidence in the words our Savior gave us.

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

Communion

*We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Ushers will bring the prepackaged wafer and grape juice to you. **Please open the packet – but do not take the wafer or juice until the pastor has indicated** in order that we might commune together. We commune together **after** singing *How Great Thou Art*.*

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

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Pacific City OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved.

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Minister: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . Almighty God, you provide the
true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his
body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we
may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and
forever.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

Minister: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

All: Amen

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders

Minister:	Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
Assisting Minister	Bonnie Claycomb
Reader:	Deb Porter
Organist:	Beth McElroy
Greeters:	Bonnie & Roger Wrazien, Bill Smyth
Videographer:	Steve Metzgar and Anson Cassidy

Prayer at the Rail - Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer in front of the stage after the service for any concerns.

Please Remember in Prayer: Sandy, Jim, Bertha, Gloria, Jackie and Dumitru. **If you, or someone you know has been hospitalized or needs a pastoral visit please let the office know 570-992-4085.**

Homebound List—If you know of someone who needs to be added to our homebound list please have them, or a family member call the office.

Days Off: Please respect the Pastor and Office Administrator days off, which are Friday and Saturday. Please contact via email on these days.

Bulletin Deadlines: The deadline for information being added to the bulletin is Wednesday noon. Bulletins are printed by 10 a.m. THURSDAY mornings. The office is CLOSED on Friday and Saturday.

Vision Team – will be hosting food and conversation immediately following the service.

Music Planning – will be held follow the service next Sunday in the music room. All who would like to help plan our hymns for the next two months are welcome to join us.

Community Meal our next community meal will be held next Sunday, **January 21st**. Baked ziti, salad, bread and homemade desserts are on the menu. The sit-down portion of the meal will be served from 4:30pm-5:30pm. At 5:45pm take-out meals will be served to your car, **first come, first serve** from the front of the main Lighthouse entrance.

Next month's meal will be hosted by the youth, they will be serving pancakes and sausage on February 18th from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. there will be NO TAKE-OUT.

New Members: If you are visiting Christ Hamilton for the first time please pick up one of our welcome packets in the basket on the table outside of the kitchen area. We ask that you please fill out the contact card in the packet and place it in the basket. **If you are interested in joining Christ Hamilton please contact the church office 570-992-4085 or chulcsts@gmail.com.** Pastor Steve will be holding new member classes soon.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on February 4th after the 9am service in the Lighthouse. Please bring a pot-luck dish to share. Copies of the annual report will be available next Sunday (1/21). Envelopes and 2024 Directories are available in the lobby of the Lighthouse.

Finance committee members will be hosting a meeting for all who are interested in the financials of the church in room A to discuss any questions you may have about the 2024 budget. A copy of the budget will be available in the annual report.

Thank You Christ Hamilton

“On behalf of the Monroe County Bar Foundation, I would like to share the admiration of your work and your diligent efforts to improve the community around us...We know that your organization goes above and beyond the call of duty. You can be assured that your efforts are greatly appreciated not only by us but by the members of the community you serve.”—MCBF, Lori Ann Siegle

The MCBF made a very generous contribution to our community meal ministry.

“We at the Monroe County Area Agency on Aging wish to express our gratitude to everyone at Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church for the gifts extended to senior citizens in Monroe County. Your generosity is always appreciated by us as well as by those who would not have otherwise received presents this year...Your kindness has brightened the holidays for many of those we serve. We are so fortunate to have your continued support.”

—Mary Clair Megargle, MCAAA Administrator

“On behalf of our Board of Directors, volunteers and clients; I would like to thank you for your participation in the Angel Tree Program at Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Network. Your generosity put smiles on the faces of many children in the West End of Monroe County. Christmas would not have been the same without your support.”

“I would like to thank you for the \$541 in donations to PVEN. We have seen an increase in clients over the last four months.”

—Colleen Walsh, PVEN Director



We are offering 2 classes for 4 & 5 year olds! We have a Monday through Friday class 9am till noon with enrichment till 2pm on Wed and Fri.

We also have a 3 day class m-w-f 9am till noon with enrichment option till 2pm Wednesday and Friday.

Along with these classes, we have a Tues Thurs 9am till noon 3 year old class and 2 options for mommy & me. Ark 2 is growing!

Current Ark 2 families and Christ Hamilton members can enroll NOW!

The community can enroll Feb. 1st so stop by and pick up an application so you can enroll before Feb. 1st. Our 5-day program is very popular, so I would not wait to enroll if that is the class you want. 570 992-4950 ark2reg@ptd.net



**Please join us on January 28th for a
CHULC staff hosted coffee hour!**

**We want to thank all of our volunteers
for all the time and service they provided
for the church and its members
throughout 2023.**