

Quentin UCC
Quentin, PA
Rural setting
Established 1970
Approximate weekly attendance: 80

Our Ministry/Outreach team decided to try something new during Advent. Based on the “*The Sparkle Box*” a book, written by Jill Hardie, we invited the congregation to get involved by getting back to a true Christmas of giving back.

The idea behind the *Sparkle Box* is to do a good deed and then write it on a piece of paper and place in said box. On Christmas morning, you open the box and share with family members. Our team took the idea one step further. In addition to the small sparkle box, we asked the congregation to take a larger box and make donations to our home-grown ministries, for example:

- Skein of yarn for our prayer shawl ministry
- A food item for JOY Food Pantry
- Donation to our Children of Compassion
- Donation to our local fire company
- Donation through Lebanon County Christian Ministries (LCCM) for the homeless shelter, or an item of clothing for Jubilee Ministries

The event started with a kick-off covered dish BREAKFAST. (It was a hit!) The book was shared with those attending and a bulletin insert was provided to those who were unable to attend. Participants were given a large box, and were encouraged to wrap, fill and return to worship prior to Christmas Sunday, at which time they would be dedicated and distributed. They were also given a small box wrapped in sparkle paper to write down their good deeds through Advent. On Christmas Eve, the filled boxes started to arrive and by Christmas morning, the sanctuary was filled with the spirit of Christmas, generated by a small Sparkle Box!

The love of Christ was declared through this and we were glad to be a part of this inspiring project that grew from three people coming together with ideas to a spirit that ignited the congregation!

