

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: 717/766-7931

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AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

The Epistle

is a monthly publication of St. Paul's UCC.

Comments, suggestions, and submissions are welcome!

Worship Services 8:00 & 10:30 AM on 12/02, 12/09 & 12/16, Sunday School at 9:15 AM

Childcare available at 10:30 service on these Sundays

12/13 7 PM Blue Christmas Service, 12/23 – Christmas Musicale at 10:30 am.

12/24 - Christmas Eve Services at 4 PM & 11 PM, 12/30 – One Worship Service at 9 AM.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF

Pastor The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio
Pastor/ CE & Youth Dir.....Allyssa A. Boyer
Director of MusicEric R. Dundore
Choristers' DirectorJonneke A. Dundore
Hand Chimes' DirectorMark A. Dundore
OrganistSarah A. Myers
Assistant OrganistPatrice G. Miller
SextonMichael W. Hatz
Consistory PresidentArt Williams
Pastor Emeritus.....The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold
Ministers.....The Entire Congregation of St. Paul's



St. Paul's Online Giving

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00 ♦ Office email: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

Phone: 717/766-7931

Rev. John email: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

Eric's email: ericdundore@outlook.com

Web Address: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

FROM THE PASTOR

“I may struggle with personal gratitude. You may wrestle with giving thanks. A quick glance at the news, however, demonstrates that we are failing at communal thanksgiving. We are anxious and angry, because we are haunted by nightmares of scarcity, dystopian fears that someone else is taking everything, that there is never enough, and we will never get what we think we deserve. In wealthy societies that fear is, in many ways, stoked by real economic inequality and political injustice, resulting in cravings for things we think will fill us, fix us, or make us forget our doubts and pain. This leads to all sorts of addictive behaviors with drugs, sex, alcohol, money, shopping, food, hoarding and violence. Our fears and disappointments mount, merging with those of our neighbors, and become the seedbed for politics of protection, limits, and rage. This is not a vision of a community of gratitude.”

Diana Butler Bass: page XVIII of the Prologue of Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks, 2018, HarperOne.

This quote is from our Advent Reading book. The author, Diana Butler Bass, makes the point early on in her book, based on research and public surveys, that as a society we know we should express gratitude, and we try and do that personally, but we are not nearly as attuned to communal gratitude. We much less regularly participate in words and actions that demonstrate gratitude for what others have given us in a larger communal sense, or offer our thanks to the wider community via specific acts of giving. If anything, we focus more on what we perceive people are taking from us. Thus, what has come to be known as the “gratitude gap.”

In the season of Advent, as we prepare for God’s great gift of the Incarnation, of God coming to us in the person of Jesus, it is important for us to look at this gratitude gap. We can feel personally grateful for what God has done for us, as individuals and as family

units. But do we feel grateful for what God has done for all of humanity? Are we willing to express our gratitude to God by showing gratitude for all of creation and all people, and working to uphold all God has given? Has everything in our lives become so business oriented that we view everything as a transaction? If someone gives me something, I say thanks and give them something of equal value back. The transaction is then complete. However, God’s interactions with us are far from business transactions. God gives extravagantly, without expectation of equal return. God gives to the whole of humanity and creation without singling out one individual or group, hoping that such giving will serve as a model for humanity, a model we will try and follow.

Gratitude for the gifts our communal interactions produce is rare in these days. When life becomes a never-ending series of business transactions in which we become primarily interested in what benefits each of us as individuals then what benefits the whole, the common good, is lost. In the past we have found some balance between individualism and communal concern. Individualism by far holds sway now and we are feeling the negative impacts of that in all aspects of our lives. It does not have to be that way.

If we hold on to hope that the world can be different, that our interactions can be different, then we give ourselves the chance to see how people are giving without the expectation of receiving back, giving to the wider good. We see how we, as St. Paul’s UCC, both give in this way and receive gifts in this way. We can be moved by this, shaped by this. We talk about this in Advent groups. We recognize this is how God created us to be and live. We hope and look with anticipation to see what else might happen.

And God quietly came into the world as a vulnerable and dependent infant. The wider community cared for this baby and family. This child grew and gave of himself, to one and all he met. He showed us how it could be done. This Advent, this Christmas we look for how God will come to us again, helping us to live in

this way as well. It is how the world is transformed.

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, Rev. John

Treasurer's Report – October 2018 - YTD income October 2018 was \$354,897.15 total expenses \$290,128.43 leaving a positive balance of \$ 64,768.72 at this point in time. Please note as previously stated, the income includes \$52,522.26 from the Estate of Ruth Wrightstone. A complete set of the minutes from the last Consistory meeting can be found on the bulletin board in the commons.



At the Ward-Diorio's

We would like to invite each and every one of you to our home for our eleventh annual Advent/Christmas Open-House on Saturday December 8th from 2 to 6 PM. Young people are invited and there will be a place for them to play inside and/or out (depending on the weather—the pool is closed though). There will be food and drink and lots of good cheer.

Giving to others helps us to remember the great gift of the Christ Child we are preparing to celebrate on Christmas Day. In that spirit, we are hoping you might be willing to bring a non-perishable food item or other useful product. People's needs are great again this year, and the people in Boiling Springs are served by Project Share in Carlisle. I know they have been running into some serious shortages. It would please us to no end to be able to deliver donations to them during Advent.

If you have any questions, please see myself or Sue or give us a call at home (717) 249-6239. Our home address is: 4 Jenny Drive, Boiling Springs, PA 17007-9533. (Just in case things look strange, we are off Tanger Road, which runs between Mountain and Petersburg Roads.)

I know some people provided rides to other Congregation members last year. That was wonderful! If you would like to come but do not have a way to get to our house, please let me know. If you are coming and know of someone who might have a hard time driving, ask if they

would like a ride. We really enjoy seeing each and every one who would like to come.

Dear Members of St. Paul's:

In this issue of the Epistle, you will find an Advent Envelope. We would appreciate if you would consider giving something extra in those envelopes. This helps us in particular cover unexpected expenses.

St. Paul's has again done a remarkable job keeping current paying our bills and benevolences. We set a goal of paying our larger benevolences quarterly, which we have done. We have sent in all our other benevolences. This is all thanks to your generosity.

Unexpected things do happen. We recently discovered the need to repair part of our heating system again (and we needed to do it quickly or our wonderful choir, organist and director would freeze in the back room). We have identified the need for more handheld and/or hand free microphones. There are more outreach opportunities we would like to support. You get the idea, we never have a shortage of things we would like to do but we work hard to stay within our budget. Your extra gifts help a great deal.

We thank you for your support throughout the year. We really appreciate it.

Thank you, Fenton Fox, Treasurer and Rev. John Ward-Diorio

Prayer Concerns – St. Paul's has a prayer group. You may join it if you would like. If you have a prayer concern that you want shared or would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please email Terry, stpaulstaff@outlook.com, in the Church office. We have a short list on our weekly worship bulletin but due to space, we do need to move the names from that list monthly, to the list in the monthly newsletter. Both are prayed on by our prayer chain. Please make sure that you get approval from outside people prior to putting on the prayer chain. If you would like a prayer concern to be kept confidential, you can email directly to Rev. John, revjohnwd@outlook.com, and he will keep it in his silent prayers. Please review the following list to make sure that any names you have on should still be there. Thank you.



THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER:

Jim Adams (Mullin); **Adrienne; Aimee** (Mitchell); **Kevin Allison;** **Alvis** (Smith); **Kris Amtower; Larry Anderson** (Runkle); **Wendy Anderson** (A. Thompson); **Anthonie & Family** (Trout); **Kim & Chris Antonucci** (Grice); **Donald Beaver** (Keith); **Joann Bender; Jack Benoist** (Ritter); **Rev. Dr. Susan Bertolette** (A. Thompson); **Bill** (P. Miller); **Bill, Bob & Nancy** (Gabriel); **George Bingaman; Geoffrey Biringner** (Velez); **Nadine Boyer; Chris & Tina Bowers; Forrest Brackbill; Joan Brenizer** (Rhoads); **Brett** (Sizemore); **Brian** (Shearer); **Adriana Brice & Family** (Smith); **Missy Brouch** (Myers/Mihmet); **Debby Browning** (S. Miller); **Anna Burns; Nancy Cabrera** (Runkle); **Marge Campbell** (Sharp); **Candace** (Stine); **Carl** (Bender); **Carol** (Riesmeyer); **Judy Carlson** (P. Miller); **Caroline** (Rhoads); **Ana Carr** (Rushong); **Jamie Cecil** (Wirth); **Eddie Chandler** (Aumiller); **Chase & Family** (P. Miller); **Kirt Chronister; Alanna Clark** (Ritter); **Pat Cleland; Frankie Coluntuna** (Eichman); **Mary Lou Dallam** (Stone); **Rita Davidson** (Plymette); **Deb & Ned; Ethan Dixon & Family; Jack Donne** (Mitchell); **Jim Dougherty** (Ritter); **Sue Dove; Grace Drager; Allen Dreibelbis; Dixon & Peg Earley** (Rushong); **Eddie** (Kern); **Linda Eichelberger** (Chronster); **Elaysia** (Nalepka); **Karen Erway** (Rushong); **Lydia Farrell; Bob & Eve Fenner; Tom Figiel** (Weiser); **Jane Fleming** (Knox); **Richard Fogel** (Sponsler); **The Fowler Family** (Runkle); **Anne French** (Ward-Diorio); **Ron Gabriel; Lenny Gardner** (Shearer); **Paulette Garrison** (Bender); **Gary** (A. Thompson); **George** (Gabriel); **George** (B. Thompson); **Joyce Gerstenlauer** (Dundore); **Peggy Gilbert** (Sizemore); **Gina & Family** (Sharp); **Gloria** (Davinroy); **Harold Good** (Bomberger); **Betty Goodfellow** (Ritter); **Shirley Grammer; Tim Groller & Family** (Mullin); **Jennifer Grove** (Ward-Diorio); **Jane Hall; Ed Haller** (Keith); **Bill Hanna** (Shea); **Gavin Harris** (Cowan); **Mike Hatz; Mandi Hannah** (Hoehn); **Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold; Phyllis Hershey; Leslie Hocker** (Brown); **Joshua Holbrook** (Nolan); **Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Jay Houser** (Haagen); **Chuck Hurley** (Fox); **Jake, Rhonda & Kate Jacobsen; Jamie** (Dundore); **Jane** (Ritter); **Jenny, Eric & Erica** (Lingenfelter); **Jonathan & Karen** (Wirth); **Lily Jordan** (Mullin); **Juliette** (P. Miller); **Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy** (Ward-Diorio); **Kim** (S. Kline); **Jeff & Lyle King; Dot Kinzer; Sandy Kline; Rich Kline; Shirley & John Knisely; Roger Krebs** (P. Miller); **Randy Krepps; Jean & John Layne; Bonnie Lengle** (B. Thompson); **Lenks Family** (Carson/Foukes); **Linda** (Bingaman); **Naomi Losch** (Endy); **Colin Loy** (White); **Kelly Lynch** (Wirth); **Irene Macconnell-Davinroy; Cook Mann** (Davinroy); **Sean McDonald** (Rushong); **Mary** (Rhoads); **Linda Meola** (Roush); **Michel & Family** (Fox/Holtzapple); **Adriana Miller; Alvin Miller** (L. Miller); **Charles Miller** (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); **Mary Louise Miller; Lee & Connie Miller** (Dundore); **Linda Miller; Melissa Miller** (Bender); **Roxanne & Steve Morgan**

(Dundore); **Wendy Mowery** (Aumiller); **Tammy Mullen & Family** (Allison); **Tommy Mullin; Jennifer Mothersbaugh** (Trout); **Patricia Nalepka** (Jon Nalepka); **Nathan** (Herrold); **Stephen O'Driscoll & Family** (Rushong); **Oliver & Family** (Velez); **Gordon Olsen; David Ordonia** (Myers); **Richard Palazzo** (Weiser); **Lynne & Judy Patton** (Taylor); **Jim Pilsner** (Rhoads); **Nancy Prucha** (Hoehn); **Marion Quinlan** (Ward-Diorio); **Randy** (Bender); **Richard Reba** (Richenbacher); **Reed & Ziegler Families; Robert Reiner** (Bender); **Amy Rhoads; Jo Rice** (Rushong); **Joyce Rice** (Eichman); **Mike Riesmeyer; Paul Ringenbach** (Wirth); **Robert** (Sack); **Lisha Robertson & Family; Adam Rohrbaugh** (Bender); **Rosemary** (Simpson); **Bill Ross** (Mullin); **Jerry Roventini & Family** (Boyer); **Marian Royer; Benny Rushong; Sam** (Freeman); **Irv Sanders; Sarah & Tom** (Guelcher); **Tom Schiffgens; Rev. Glenn Schultz; Dennis Scouler** (Rushong); **Family & Friends of Arlene Sealover; Joyce Sealover** (Sutton); **Erin Shane** (Thorpe); **Maya Shapiro** (R. Thompson); **Rafe Shearer** (P. Miller); **Bill Siemon** (Warfield); **Mike Siemons** (Wood); **Andy Sislo** (Aumiller); **Conner Snow & Family; Jacob Snyder** (Wentz); **James Sowell** (Sandy Kline); **Clarence Steck; Barbara Sterner; Joanne Stine & Family; Sue** (Sizemore); **Briana Thomas; Cathy Thomas; Jeannette Thorpe; Austin Tichenor** (Gladwin); **Tina** (Lois Ritter); **Doug Townsen** (S. Miller); **Tracy** (Guelcher); **Craig Triplett** (Boyer); **Joshua Trout** (Eckman); **Flo Turner** (B. Thompson); **George Tutino** (Boyer); **Tom Tuttle** (Trout); **Bill Utley** (Boyer); **Tom Van Hall & Family** (Sutton); **Roger VanLoan** (Ritter); **Skooter VanKirk** (Wightman); **David Weisal** (Sponsler); **Debbie & John West** (Boyer); **Ceci Viti** (Warfield); **Vicki** (Sizemore); **Anthony Warner** (Simpson); **John West** (Boyer); **John White; Rev. Jeff Whitman** (Velez); **Dave Wightman** (Trout); **Peg Wightman; Elaine Williams** (A. Thompson); **Rose Marie H. Williams** (Stone); **Shirley Wilson** (Bomberger); **Fran Wolford; Beth & Steve Woods** (Riesmeyer); **Alexa, Lacey Worrall & Family** (Ward-Diorio); **Jacqueline Young** (Wentz); **Kevin Young** (A. Thompson); **Ron & Nancy Young** (Seizemore); **Aimee Yowell** (Eichman); **John Zink** (Thorpe) & *all affected by the flooding in the Carolina's.*



12/02 8:00 am Chancel Choir
10:30 am Youth Choir
12/09 8:00 am Youth Choir
10:30 am Chancel Choir
12/16 10:30 am Hand Chimes
12/23 10:30 am Christmas Musicale - All 3
Choirs, Hand Chimes at Offertory
12/24 4:00 pm Youth Choir
11:00 pm Chancel Choir



Please visit the church website to sign up for Acolyte, Flower Delivery, Greeter, Lectors, Nursery and Usher Duties. You will find the individual signup sheets under the "Serving Others" menu heading. Thank you. While there if you want to sign up for fellowship time – please do!

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

GREETERS

- 12/02 8:00 Martha Keith, Steven Roush
10:30 Cawley Family
- 12/09 8:00 Joann & Marshall Bender
10:30
- 12/16 8:00 Jean & Will Jones
10:30 Patrice Miller, Susan Gabriel
- 12/23 10:30 Tim Davinroy
- 12/24 4:00
11:00
- 12/30 9:00 Jonneke Dundore

LECTORS

- 12/02 8:00 Kathy Williams
10:30 Dennis Plymette
- 12/09 8:00 Vonny Eckman
10:30 Paula Boyer
- 12/16 8:00 Anna Thompson
10:30 Deb Cashman
- 12/30 9:00 Shirley Keith Knox

USHERS

Head Usher: Art Williams

COMMUNION PREP

- 12/02 Intinction – Dar Murphy, Sarah Murphy

FLOWER DELIVERY

- 12/02 Cathy & Brandon Thomas
- 12/09 Merikay & Don Wood
- 12/16 Dale Thorpe
- 12/23 Susie & John White
- 12/30 Martha & Gene Keith

ACOLYTES

- 12/02 8:00
10:30 Grace Simpson
- 12/09 8:00 Evan June Pineo
10:30
- 12/16 8:00
10:30
- 12/23 10:30 Maddisen Sweeney
- 12/24 4:00 Grace Simpson
11:00 Zach Davinroy
- 12/30 9:00

NURSERY

- 12/02 Jonneke Dundore, Martha Keith
- 12/09 Becky Thompson, Cori Reed
- 12/16 Sue Ward-Diorio, Cori Reed



- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Doris Albrecht | 14 Roland Parthree |
| Raymond Krouch | Sandi Ritter-Butz |
| Rylie Wentz | 15 Thomas Amtower |
| 02 Devon Miller | 16 Jean Jones |
| John White | 17 Vic Brown |
| 05 George Bingaman | Gloria McPherson |
| Lindsay McCorkel | 18 Maddie Simpson |
| 06 Jasmyn Brackbil | 19 Evelyn Warfield |
| 07 Pat Cleland | 21 Dale Thorpe |
| 09 Jerry Foulke | 22 Tania Pineo |
| 11 Ann Boyer | 23 Kevin Laughery |
| 12 Donna Chronister | 26 James Haas |
| Willard Jones | Gene Shaner |
| Shane Morell | Merikay Wood |
| 13 Dale Burns | 27 Kateri Grice |
| | 29 Kristin Kayer |



- 02 Sue and Bill Mullin
- 05 JoAnn and Marshall Bender
- 06 Sam and Tim Kiner
- 11 Jill and Dave Morell
- 18 Diane and Alan Richenbacher
- 19 Judith and David Clovsky
- 22 Jean and Willard Jones
- 24 Joanne and Lawrence Schmick
- 25 Barbara and Jacob Blust
- 27 Melba and Herb Bomberger
- 27 Gloria and Richard Hoffman
- 27 Susan and John White
- 30 Kim and Jim Pirtle
- 30 Martha Spong & Kathryn Johnston
- 31 Rhoda and Ned Rupp
- 31 Christine and Tim Chandler

Hello Friends of the Central PA Food Bank!

We have room for volunteers on the following days:

**Pack Food for our Partner Agencies –
Bring Your Family**

Monday, December 3, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Tuesday, December 11, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Thursday, December 20, 9:00 am – Noon

Join other supporters by volunteering in our warehouse and packing food for our partner agencies, Backpack and MilitaryShare programs. To register, you can just email me back at swarddiorio@centralpafoodbank.org or call me at 717-547-6264.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting the Food Bank! Sue Ward-Diorio



Mitten Tree - Bring in mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for all ages not only to decorate the tree but to help bring warmth to those in need. Items collected will be distributed to those in need. **Deadline to drop off is Friday January 4th.**



Each year the United Church of Christ provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank you checks.

Many of these annuitants have worked their entire lives for the church. The church is an institution that cares for its people as these former pastors have cared for their congregations. Now it's time for them to be cared for in their hour of need.

In 2017, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled

- Small pension supplementation for 424 retired clergy, lay employees, and surviving spouses/partners, totaling \$1,513,602.
- Health benefits supplementation for 210 retired clergy, lay employees, and surviving spouses/partners, totaling \$492,863.
- Emergency grants for 384 servants of the church totaling \$136,012.
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 477 retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses, totaling \$228,300.

Donations for this offering will be accepted thru Sunday December 23rd. Please indicate on your check or envelope that you are donating to "The Christmas Fund." Please consider a gift to this special offering this holiday season.



Christmas Eve Service Volunteers Needed - As in years past, we will have luminaries lining the driveway on Christmas Eve. We will need volunteers for both services (4:00pm and 11:00pm). Please contact Terry Shaner @ stpaulstaff@outlook.com if you and your family are interested in helping this year.



ADVENT BOOK STUDY — Mondays thru December 17th. We will be reading and reflecting on "Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks" by Diana Butler Bass. To participate, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons and indicate if you wish us to order the book for you. Books are \$21.60 each. There will be two sessions offered each Monday: an afternoon session (1:00-2:30 pm) and an evening session (7:30-9:00 pm). We hope you can join us!



December 1st - 8 AM -
Decorating the Sanctuary and Church for Advent and Christmas. Let Jonne Dundore

know if you can help, 766-2601 or Jonnekev@aol.com.



Sunday December 2nd
8:00/10:30 AM Worship/Holy Communion by Intinction/Lighting of the First

Advent Candle.



Family Advent Workshop – Sunday, December 2, 9:15-10:15 am. Bring your whole family to Fellowship Hall

where everyone can create a host of Advent and Christmas-themed crafts! We will have stations for Advent Wreaths, making Holiday cards for our shut-ins, Rice Wreaths, Christmas Countdown, Photo Booth, Alternative Christmas Heifer Project, prepping our Luminaries for Christmas Eve, and we will have Fellowship time too. There will not be any Sunday school class this day, so we hope that you and your family will choose to come celebrate Advent with our church family instead - Everyone is Invited! Put this on your calendar now - We hope you will join us.



December 8th 11 am – 5 pm

Drop off your cookie donations for cookie walk in Youth Room (7/8) or early Sunday morning in the Kitchen.



Saturday Dec. 8th 2 to 6 pm
Advent /Christmas Open House at the Ward-Diorio's.



Sunday December 9th-8:00/10:30 am Worship Services /Lighting of the second Advent Candle. Sunday School at 9:15 am.



Sunday December 9th - St. Paul's Annual Cookie Walk. Plan to purchase and enjoy some of the best cookies and confections

provided by St. Paul's bakers! This year the Cookie Walk is again sponsored by our youth and St. Paul's on a Mission. The proceeds will be split between the Youth Fund and Making Strides for Breast Cancer. *Donations of cookies, Christmas candies, etc. are needed for this event to ensure the continued success of this event!* Drop your cookie donations packaged to sell for \$1 (unless otherwise indicated) off at the Church, Saturday December 8th, between 11 am to 5 pm on the table in the Youth Room (7/8) or Sunday morning December 9th in the Kitchen. Please see Jonneke Dundore or Mary Runkle with any questions.



A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday December 9th following the 10:30 a.m.

worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to hold a discussion and vote on the 2019 budget. Please plan now to attend.



THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

- will meet at 1 PM Tuesday December 11th in the Parlor. The Prayer Shawls will be blessed at both worship services on Sunday December 16th.



Thursday December 13th- 7:00 pm - Blue Christmas Service in the Sanctuary.

Are you not feeling all Holly Jolly this Advent? Do you wonder if everyone is joyful this time of year except you? If this is how you are experiencing Advent, you are not alone. For many people, this time of year is very hard. Some are facing their first Christmas without a loved one, while others continue to grieve those loved ones not here for this holiday that focuses so much on family. Some people have unpleasant memories of Advent or Christmas,

tied to abuse, neglect or rejection, made all the worse by expectations everyone should be happy. Illnesses, job losses or fears, or loneliness are magnified. The increased time of darkness causes some of us loss of energy and focus. There are numerous reasons people feel down during Advent.

Our Blue Christmas Service is intended to help folks know they are not alone in feeling blue or down. We acknowledge together there are good reasons not to feel joyful all this season. We read, we listen, we pray, we sit in silence together. We come together to offer our support to each other and remind ourselves that God is also with us in times of despair, perhaps trying even harder to get us to recognize God's presence.

Please come experience this Service, whether you are blue or desire to support those who are feeling blue.

Take care. Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, Rev. John



Sunday December 16th, 8:00 / 10:30 am Worship Services/Blessing of the Prayer Shawls – Lighting of the third Advent Candle. Sunday School

at 9:15 am.

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tues, Dec 18 at Brothers Family Restaurant on Gettysburg Pk. Please call Bonnie Plymette, 697-2938, if you are planning to attend.



Youth & Young Adults, don't be a scrooge, come Christmas Caroling! **We will leave St. Paul's at 5:30 pm on Fri., Dec**

21st. Bring comfortable shoes, warm clothes, and a joyful spirit. After caroling we'll gather at the Keith's home for our "warm-up party." A perennial favorite Youth Fellowship event, please help us to carry on this magical tradition! Sign-up on the sheet in the commons. Questions? Email allyssaboyer@outlook.com Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la!



Sunday December 23rd – One Worship Service this day at 10:30 am – Christmas Musicale - All choirs participating -Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle (no Sunday School.) ***This is a popular service – be sure and come early!***



December 24th - 4:00 pm & 11:00 pm - Candle Light Christmas Eve Services of Readings, Hymns and Carols, Lighting the Christ Candle



If you ordered Poinsettias, you may start to pick them up after the 4:00 or 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Services. We again ask that you pick up your poinsettia - if you are unable to pick up Christmas Eve, we will hold them for you till December 30th. Thank you for purchasing the flowers that will help beautify the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve.



Sunday December 30th – One Worship Service at 9:00 am - Service of Carols (no Sunday School)

St. Paul's Yoga Club Holiday Break: We will not have Yoga classes on Monday, Dec. 24th, Tuesday, Dec. 25th, Monday, Dec. 31st and Tuesday, Jan. 1st. Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a joyous New Year!! - Becky Thompson

Sanctuary Cleaning Up, Saturday January 5th 8 am – Come out and help us take the decorations down in the Sanctuary. Let Jonne Dundore know if you can help, 766-2601 or Jonnekev@aol.com.



Sunday January 6th 8:00/10:30 am Worship Services / Holy Communion via Pew and the Burning of the Greens after the 10:30 service. Sunday School @

9:15 am.



ANNUAL DINNER - January 13th 9:15 am Sunday School, **10:30 am** One Worship service this day followed by the Annual

Congregational Meeting. After the meeting, we hope you will join us in Fellowship Hall for the **Annual Congregational Dinner of Pork & Sauerkraut**. Plan to stay and enjoy a wonderful meal and fellowship. **We will be honoring our members with 50 or more years and our new members who have joined since last year at this dinner.** To help cover the cost of the meal, there will be a charge of \$3.00 for ages 5 – 12 and \$7.00 for ages 13 & up. Ages 4 and under are free. Watch for sign-up sheet on the bulletin board coming soon!



Dear Members & Friends of St. Paul's congregation, I want to express my deep appreciation for the many prayers, kind wishes, cards, flowers and visits during my hospitalization and surgeries. It is so good to know that you are surrounded by the love of Christ, as expressed in so many wonderful ways by you. I am now at home recuperating, and, hopefully on the road for full restoration of my leg. I am in good medical care and have complete confidence in their attention to me. Again, thank you, and God bless you. Sincerely, in Christ, *Tom Herrold*

Thank you for the daisy and carnation flowers delivered by Patti Scott in mid-November. Love, prayers, and care from church family members are wonderful and mean so much. While I have an initial diagnosis, I have more medical tests to get through in December and beyond. Your continued prayers are greatly appreciated. Love to you all, *Linda Miller*

I would like to thank Pastor John, Called to Care, the Pollyanna's, and congregation for your expressions of sympathy at the death of my Mother, Arlene Sealover. You were so faithful with visits, cards, and floral arrangements, which brightened her days. She was blessed with a good, long life and we are

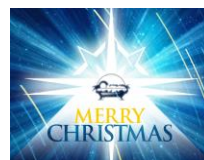
at peace knowing that she is at peace. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. -- *Connie Sutton and family*

New Hope News – Heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated to New Hope's Thanksgiving baskets. Once again, St. Paul's members have been extremely generous! 381 lbs. of Thanksgiving food items were delivered to New Hope, including three turkeys, two \$25.00 Giant gift cards & \$10.00 in cash. Thank you for helping families in our community have a blessed Thanksgiving.

2018 St. Paul's Community Garden Haul – Total Garden Produce = 1,078 pounds, Total misc. donations (Kellogg's leftovers & Produce donated out of individuals gardens) = 364.50 pounds for a grand TOTAL of 1,442.50!! Way to go and thanks to Brenda Kern, Eric Dundore and their many helpers!

The Stewardship Committee would like to announce a successful conclusion to our silent auction this year, with a grand total of \$2,256.00 being raised. We wish to thank all those who donated a wonderful diversity of items, and for those who bid on the items. The funds that are raised from the auction each year go to the church's greatest needs. Thanks to everyone for your generosity.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the year 2018 must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2018. **If you signed up to sponsor a Child or Altar Flowers in 2018, please make sure this is in by the end of the year too.** Questions on your 2018 contributions can be directed to Terry in the Church Office. **Monies received after the start of 2019 will be booked for 2019**



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From the Staff & Consistory of St. Paul's