

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Worship Leadership**

Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio  
Lector: 8:15 Tom Stone  
10:30 Kevin Allison

**Ministry of Music**

Assistant Organist: Patrice Miller  
Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

**Ministry of Service**

Head Ushers: Rick Ayers  
Ushers: 8:15 Tom and Cynthia Stone  
10:30 Richard and Cynthia Bensel  
Dave and Chris Grice  
Greeters: 8:15 Don and Merikay Wood  
10:30 Tim Kern & Dave Ritter  
Acolyte: 8:15  
10:30 Matt Paulus  
Children's Sermon: 10:30 Patty Scott  
Nursery: The Drazba Family  
Flower Delivery: Don and Donna Sponsler  
Fellowship Time: The Scott Family

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
626 Williams Grove Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
717/766-7931

Web: [saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://saintpaulsucc-mech.org)  
Office email: [stpaulstaff@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulstaff@verizon.net)  
John's email: [revjohnwd@verizon.net](mailto:revjohnwd@verizon.net)

# Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

March 22, 2009

*For God so loved  
the world that God gave  
God's only Son.*



*John 3:16, NRSV*

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

No Matter Who You Are, or Where You Are on Life's Journey You are Welcome Here!

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SERVICE OF WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 22, 2009

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Organ "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" Livingston

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Call and Response) From Ephesians

\*THE HYMN NO. 86 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**Loving God, be with us as we seek to fulfill Your call that we bring life in all its abundance to all people. Help us to better perceive Your desire for the world to experience more love and less judgment. Help us to see such a change begins with us. Amen.**

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

When we think in terms of judgment, God's judgment, we usually believe that we will receive a positive verdict from God while those who think differently from ourselves will receive a negative one. We look forward to that day when all will be made "right" and we will be shown to be right, and those who disagree with us, wrong. God seems far less interested in such times of judgment and much more concerned about offering hope for a better, more loving world in which judging others takes a back seat to loving others. Let us join in the unison Prayer of Confession.

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to You. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of Your Name. Amen.**

THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive)

Minister: God receives our apologies and repentance, and has assured us that our sins are forgiven.

**All: Let us receive and pursue the new lives, which Jesus showed were possible for all of us. Amen.**

**SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE:**

Ever wish you could talk out loud about race and racism rather than just pretending it's not an issue in our community? Or maybe you've never thought about race much, or even at all. The Penn Central Conference and the greater United Church of Christ is encouraging congregations to participate in Sacred Conversations on Race in 2009. During the month of March, St. Paul's members will have the opportunity to engage in a four session conversation on our feelings, emotions, and actions around race and racism. Rev. John and Kathy Williams will facilitate these sessions. It is not too late to attend the last session on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30 PM, to explore issues of racism, discrimination, and inequality. If you are interested, or would like more information, contact Rev. John at the church office or Kathy Williams at 766-0532. This is one opportunity we can take to respond to those voices who say: "If you choose, you can heal me." Let us seek to bring the welcome, the equality, the compassion and love that God has entrusted to us to share, to those the world has pushed to the outer margins. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Common Area. Thank you.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONS:** The UCC sends out Daily Devotionals via email. They are quite good. Anyone who would like can sign up for them. You can receive them at home or work or both. They are a wonderful lift for each day, inspirational, challenging, thought provoking and faith building. They will be putting out special Daily Devotionals for Lent. If you would like to sign up to receive them, please use the following link. Check off the Daily Devotionals section. You are welcome to check off any and all of the other e-offerings as well. They are quite good. Any questions, please see, call or email Pastor John. Thanks. P.S. We will be trying to paste this on our Website ([www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org)) as well so you could try going there to access the link. [http://act.ucc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=UCC\\_Signup](http://act.ucc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=UCC_Signup)

**PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE IS BLESSED** to be having a visit from the **CHURCH LEADERSHIP OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN THE RHINELAND** over Palm Sunday Weekend. This includes the President of the Denomination and his wife; the Vice-President of the Denomination; the Head of the Ecumenical Department and Church journalists. You are invited to share in this important event by attending a banquet at First Reformed United Church of Christ, 40 E. Orange St, Lancaster on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. There will be a chance to talk with our ecumenical partners and entertainment will be provided by the Harrisburg Association Brass Choir. The cost of the banquet is \$11 per person to be paid to First Reformed. Please call Tiffany at First Reformed at 717-397-5149 with your reservation no later than March 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please call Rev. Joseph Hedden, chair of our German Partnership team directly at 717-273-422.

**ST PAUL'S RABBITS** - There is a rumor going around that our Mr. and Mrs. Bunny are expecting "A Little One." Hopefully their little addition will arrive between now and Easter. Keep watching!!

If you were searching for God's treasure, you'd find it in people. Every person, in every nation on earth, is treasured by God! Yet for many people, Life can be searingly tough. **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** joins our hearts with God's by providing decisive aid when disaster strikes and by helping refugees rebuild their lives. Your gift strengthens struggling communities with basics like education, health care, tools, seeds and wells. When we care for God's treasured children, we ourselves are transformed. We see more clearly what matters most in life and are inspired to live courageously. Our hopes rise as we realize new life is possible. Working with international partners, the United Church of Christ provides sources of clean water and food, education and health care, micro-credit loans, emergency relief, advocacy and resettlement for refugees. In addition we work to help people just like you to prepare for disasters before they arise, and to rebuild following the devastating effects of disasters.

**GOD IS STILL SPEAKING THROUGH YOUR GIFTS TO ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING!**

**PRAYER SHAWLS** – If you are in need of a prayer shawl, please see Reverend John, Terry in the Church Office, Martha Keith or another member of the Prayer Shawl group.

**PRAYER SHAWL THANK YOU** – Les and I wish to thank our Church family for the prayers enclosed with the prayer shawl. It will help bring us comfort and sustain us throughout the day. We pray that God will bless you as much as you have blessed us. Les Gerber and Elaine McCracken.

**PALM CROSS WORKSHOP** will be held on Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 PM in the Youth Rm. We will be making the Palms that will be handed out to everyone on Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or will be able to help, please contact Gail Parthree at 432-3370 or call the church office at 766-7931.

**NOTE FROM NEW HOPE MINISTRIES** - In this challenging economic time, New Hope Ministries is seeing an increase in the families coming for help. This is the perfect time of year to make a renewed commitment to New Hope Ministries – you will not be alone in that support. Every donation (cash and food) that New Hope Ministries receives through April 30<sup>th</sup> will be eligible for a proportionate share of a \$1 Million Challenge Grant offered through The Feinstein Foundation. In addition, local businesses are multiplying your gift through challenge gifts of their own. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*THE GLORIA PATRI

10:30 SERVICE

SING THE CHILDREN TO THE FRONT

Jesus Loves the Little Children

**Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world  
Red and yellow, black and white  
They are precious in his sight  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

THE WORD FOR THE YOUNG

SING THE CHILDREN TO THEIR SEATS

Jesus Loves Me

**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so  
Little ones to him belong. They are weak but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me  
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING (page 139)

Numbers 21:4-9

THE READING OF THE PSALM (page 559)

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

THE RESPONSE

One: God is still speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING AND MESSAGE

John 3:14-21

“Trying to Save the World”

\*THE HYMN NO. 223 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.**

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (Unison)

**Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

THE OFFERTORY

8:15 Organ  
10:30 Chancel Choir

“There Is A Green Hill Far Away”  
“Eternal Life”

Warriner  
Courtney

\*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

\*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**For life-sustaining gifts that we so often take for granted—for shelter, food, and meaningful tasks to do; for Your steadfast love that awakens us and raises us from our sinful ways; for Your word that guides and heals us—we give You thanks, gracious God. As we invest a part of all You entrust to us to further the ministries of the church, may we show to others the immeasurable riches of Your grace in Jesus Christ. Make this church a beacon of hope for the world. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN NO. 208 “God Loved The World”

\*THE BIDDING TO MISSION

\*THE WORLD PEACE PRAYER

One: Lead us, O God.

**All: Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.  
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.**

\*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

“Marche Funebre”

Beethoven

\*Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.

We welcome warmly all who are visiting with us. Please register your attendance on the Friendship Form so that others may greet you in the name of the Living Christ. The person at the end of the pew should place the finished sheet in the offering plate.

References:

The Prayer of Confession is from A New Zealand Prayer Book, The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, 1997, Harper, San Francisco.

The Prayer of Dedication is from Led By Love, by Lavon Bayler, 1996, United Church Press.

“The World Peace Prayer” is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism, and is also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine Sisters.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Jim and Gail Siemons  
In Celebration of 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Rhoda Rupp and her back; Maime Alfono (Paula Boyer’s mother); Shirley Harmon (friend of Melba & Herb Bomberger) and Lucy Goodrich (sister of Betsey Rushong).

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of March 22-28, 2009

**TODAY 8:15/10:30 am Worship Services/One Great Hour of Sharing  
Special Mission Offering**

**9:00 am Choristers**

**9:15 am Sunday School**

**Last Date to sign-up for Easter Flowers**

**EPISTLE Deadline**

MON 6:30 pm Color Guard (FH)

**7:00 pm Bible Study (Anna Thompson’s)**

TUES 1:00 pm Pollyanna’s (Bonnie Plymette’s)

5:30 pm TOPS

WED 6:00 pm Hand Chime Choir (Rm. 5)

**6:30 pm Youth Choir (S)**

**7:15 pm Chancel Choir (S)**

THU 7:00 pm Sacred Conversations on Race

FRI 6:00 pm Girl Scouts (FH)

SAT 9:00 am L.A.S. Liturgical Dance Workshop

SUN Mar 29 8:15/10:30 am Worship Services

**10:30 Service – Liturgical Dance Presentation**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE EASTER FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEET** is on the bulletin board in the Common Area. You will have the choice of ordering an Easter Lily (\$ 7.25) or a six bulb Tulip (\$ 6.25). They will be placed in the Chancel area on Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. **Last date to sign-up is Sunday, March 22** with payments due by April 5<sup>th</sup>. Checks should be made out to St. Paul’s United Church of Christ with a notation that the payment is for a lily or tulip. If you have any questions, please call Kay Coldren at 697-1927.

**ST. PAUL’S ON A MISSION PEANUT BUTTER EGG SALE!** A sign-up sheet to order and to help with the Egg making is posted on the Bulletin Board. Eggs are a \$ 1.00 each or 13 for \$ 12.00. The Eggs will be ready for pick-up Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds go to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. Any questions, please call Brenda Kern at 796-0939.

**ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT** will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. All children 12 and under are invited to attend. It will be held rain or shine. Bring a friend! If you have any questions, please call Joan Moyer at 766-3325 or email at [joanmoyer@msn.com](mailto:joanmoyer@msn.com).

**POLLYANNAS** will hold their meeting on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at Bonnie Plymette's house instead of Rhoda Rupp's. Any questions, call Bonnie at 697-2938.

**THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2009 ALTAR FLOWERS** is on the bulletin board in the Common. Please neatly fill in the information as you want it in the Worship Bulletin. The price for the altar flowers is \$32.00.

**THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2009 CHILD SPONSORSHIPS** is on the bulletin board outside the Church Office door. The cost for a child is \$29.00. There are still spots open so please fill them in so each child is sponsored for the entire year.

**LITURGTICAL DANCE SEMINAR** - As the final program of the Lenten Arts Series produced by St. Paul's UCC and Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, a Liturgical Dance Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 28 at St. Paul's in Mechanicsburg. Presented by Kathryn Sparks, this workshop is for all ages, genders, and ability levels. It will run from 9 AM - 3PM. The schedule is as follows:

- 9:00-9:15 Gather
- 9:15-10:00 Educational event on dance and its contribution to the church
- 10:00-10:30 Questions
- 10:30-11:00 Break
- 11:00-12:00 Beginner dance class/warm up working with scriptures or anthem - beginning our piece for the next day
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch (provided)
- 1:00-2:45 Putting it all together - rehearsal for worship in sanctuary
- 2:45-3:00 Closing

Participants may choose to come to just the morning session or stay the whole day and be part of a group to dance in worship the next day. There will be a fairly simple piece learned which would be created in consultation with a pastor and the music director. On Sunday morning, March 29, Ms. Sparks will be at Mechanicsburg Presbyterian for the 8:15 service and the MPC participants from the Saturday workshop will be a part of their worship service. At 10:30 AM she will come to St. Paul's and the same presentation will take place with the workshop participants of St. Paul's. Come join us for this opportunity to praise God in yet another way! Contact the offices at St. Paul's (766-2601) or Mechanicsburg Presbyterian (697-0351) to sign up.

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**THE ADULT II SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** has decided to spearhead a number of projects around the region. One way we want to show support for the stranger in our midst is by putting together **Welcome Kits for the Refugee Resettlement Program at Church World Services in Lancaster**. You may have already seen tags in the Commons, which designate items to be packed into the Welcome Kits for refugees who are resettling to Central Pennsylvania. These kits contain items like soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, band-aids and more. The class is planning to package 50 Welcome Toiletry Kits this spring. Please consider helping us by taking the picture of one (1) item, two (2) items or more from the display and bringing it to the church by **April 1<sup>st</sup>**. The items will then be packaged (wrapped in a towel), and delivered to Church World Services in Lancaster later in April. Sunday School classes or families may decide to take an entire kit and divide it up among the members or may decide to take all of one item. Let us know if you know where to get certain items at a bulk discount. Be creative in your spirit of donation! Thank you for your help with this project. Questions on the project can be addressed to Kathy Aumiller at 580-6292.

**REBUILDING TOGETHER – ST. PAUL’S TEAM.** Looking for a hands-on mission project in the Harrisburg area? Consider volunteering for National Rebuilding Day through the local affiliate, Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg. RTGH’s goal is to provide a warm, safe and dry environment for low income homeowners. Typical work includes repairing and/or installing railings, smoke alarms, steps, gutters, handicapped ramps, etc. Volunteers should be comfortable using tools but major plumbing and electrical work is done by licensed volunteers. This year’s work day is **Saturday, April 25, 2009**. Ron Flory has agreed to “Captain” a team of volunteer’s. Can we make it an all St. Paul’s Team? Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the common area. Any questions please see Ron Flory.

**UPCOMING DATES TO SAVE IN APRIL:**

Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday – 8:15/10:30 am services.

Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday – 6:30 pm service with communion (pew).

Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday.

Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt at St. Paul’s.

Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup> – Easter – 6:00 am sunrise service @ Simpson Park Pavilion.

8:15/10:30 am services with communion (pew).

Breakfast in FH between 8:15 and 10:30 services.

Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> – Blessing of the Bikes – outside after the 10:30 am service.

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