

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio

Lector: 10:30 Amy Paulus

Ministry of Music

Organist: Sarah Myers

Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

Ministry of Service

Head Ushers: Randy Murphy

Ushers: 10:30 Brenda and Tim Kern
Christine and David Grice

Greeters 10:30 Joan and Jim Quick

Acolyte: 10:30 Erin Moyer

Children's Sermon: 10:30 Deb Cashman

Nursery: The Eichman Family

Flower Delivery: Darryl and Winnie Wentz

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 13, 2009



"To become my followers let
them deny themselves and
take up their Cross" Mark 8:34

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Organ

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

Chesterton

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Call and Response) From Psalm 116

*THE HYMN NO. 198 “Lift High the Cross”

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Holy God, help us to continue to contemplate who Jesus is for us, as individuals and as a congregation. Help us remain open as You continue to speak to us, helping us see who we are called to be and what it is we are called to do, even, and most especially, as that might surprise us. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

The first disciples and we disciples today, have a hard time figuring out who Jesus really is. He did not act like the Messiah was expected to act. He did not act like the disciples wanted him to act. They and we want to put Jesus in some kind of box so we can predict what he might do; so we can receive certain benefits based on our behaviors that we ascribe to Jesus' desires for us, even when he has called us to act and live differently. The disciples then and today try to make Jesus into the person they want, rather than seeking to allow ourselves to be made into the people God wants us to be. 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.

Important corrections...

Children's Sabbath Fair

Sunday October 18, 2009

**One 9:30 worship service followed by
Special activities and social time in
Fellowship Hall**

HOME AND CHURCH SAFETY/EMERGENCY PREPARATION

Various community organizations will be here to educate us in fire safety and emergency management, including a fire suppression demo after the 10:30 worship service. Learn how to keep your family and church family safe in an emergency!

Special poster contest!! The theme is “Home and Church Family Safety: How to take care of your home and church family”. Deadline is Sunday October 4.

A POSTER CONTEST WILL BE HELD to coincide with our observance of Children's Sabbath. The theme this year is “Create Change for Children Today: Bring Hope for a Better Tomorrow.” Our focus will be on home and church safety and emergency preparation. Along with the presence of a few community organizations to educate us in fire safety and emergency management, we also encourage youth from ages 3 to 18 to design posters for the occasion. The theme for the poster is “Home and Church Family Safety: How to Take Care of Your Home and Church Family.” The posters are due in the church office by Sunday October 4 so they can be put on display the following Sunday and voted on by the congregation. Be creative and colorful! Any questions? Please contact Jonneke Dundore at 766-2601 or jonnekev@aol.com.

AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRIES

Church School Staff

Linda Alburger
Leann Davinroy
Eric Dundore
Chris Grice
Doug Jacobsen
Rhonda Jacobsen
Shirley Keith Knox

Valerie Lill
Dayne Miller
Joan Moyer
Dar Murphy
Amy Paulus
Jim Pirtle
Kim Pirtle

Joan Quick
Mary Runkle
Patty Scott
Eric Trout
Shannon Trout
Sue Ward-Diorio
Ruth Wrightstone

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FALL GALA, OCTOBER 23 - The invitations have been sent! Be sure to respond, along with your payment, to Jane Hall by October 16th. It will be a really special evening if you are there. For parents who are in need of babysitting that evening, please note that Jonathan and Christal Nase are planning on offering a movie and popcorn night for all children up to 12 years of age in St. Paul's Fellowship Hall with a pre-registration. Stewardship campaign donations and adult and youth volunteers are **most welcome**. Rides to Allenberry will also be available by contacting the church office. Further details about this wonderful stewardship event at Allenberry and the babysitting service will be in the October Epistle

A Search Committee has been formed at St. Paul's for the purpose of filling the positions of **Director of Christian Education and Youth Advisor**. We are seeking a creative and committed individual to fill these part-time positions. Ideally, we are seeking one candidate to fill both positions, but will consider separate applicants. Experience in Christian Education a plus. Full job descriptions are available on our website at www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org. Please direct resume and/or questions to stpaulsucc@gmail.com or contact Randy Murphy, Chairperson of the Search Committee at 717-571-4731.



Thanks to Our
Volunteers!

Ours Thanks go out to Dave Scott for the many hours he spent constructing an entire drainage system to assist with the rain water that runs from our parking lot onto a neighbor's property located beside the Church staff parking spaces. Dave spent many days through rain (lots of rain) and shine on this project.

Dear friends, to all of you at St. Paul's: Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. In God's care, Betty Hyde.



Thank You
Notes

I want to thank Rev. John, members of Called to Care and all the members of St. Paul's Church for their great attentiveness while I was in the hospital and convalescing at home. The cards, flowers, food, transportation, and visits from many of you were greatly appreciated. It made my journey back to health so much easier and much more pleasant. Thank you again. St. Paul's is a blessing. Ruth Wrightstone.

*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.**

Affirmation of Ministries of Our Sunday School Teachers

The Litany of Commitment

One: Sisters and brothers, you have been called by God to fulfill the responsibilities of the teaching ministry. Will you commit yourselves by giving enough time to fulfill this ministry?

Many: We will, with the help of God.

One: Do you understand that by responding to God's call to this ministry you are becoming agents of the work of this church and of the realm of God?

Many: We do understand.

One: Will you share your love, peace and Christian joy with everyone so people may see in you the life of the Christ?

Many: We will, with the help of God.

One: God has called these people to a special ministry in the church. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve. You have heard the promises they have made. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

All: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus the Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, pray for you and assist you that together we may be a faithful church.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 50:4-9b

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 116: 1-9

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

THE RESPONSE

One: God is still speaking.
All: **Thanks be to God!**

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.

THE GOSPEL READING AND MESSAGE

Mark 8:27-38

“Who Is This Jesus?”

References:

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

The Prayer of Dedication is from Taught 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.

*THE HYMN NO. 204 “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)
(Debts and Debtors)

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Tom and Betty Olsen “In Memory of Loved Ones”
Bob Heisler “In Memory of Brother; James K. Heisler”

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.**

PRAYER CONCERNS: Anna Thompson; Kevin Allison

THE OFFERTORY

10:30 Chancel Choir “Only Jesus”

Williams

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of September 13 – September 20, 2009

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

We offer the treasures of this world as a way of recalling all of us to a right relationship with You, O God, the source of all wisdom and truth. Your design for life is more to be desired than the finest gold. To learn from You and to serve You is our highest joy. May our offerings and our daily lives communicate this message. Amen.

*THE HYMN NO. 584 “I Am the Light of 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 “God of Our Fathers”

Mansfield

Mon

TODAY	10:30 am	Worship Services/Affirmation of Ministries
	12:00 pm	Rally Day/Church Picnic (Pavilion)
	6:30 pm	Director of Christian Ed/Youth Mtg (Parlor)
Mon		Terry (Church Office) on Vacation
	6:30 pm	Pack 190 Tiger Den (FH)
	7:00 pm	Bible Study @Donna & Ron Chronister(Chg of place)
TUES	5:30 pm	TOPS
	7:00 pm	Consistory (Rm 7/8)
	7:00 pm	Pack 190 Bear Den (FH)
	7:00 pm	MLC Board Mtg (Rm 13)
WED	6:00 pm	Hand Chime Choir (Rm. 5)
	6:15 pm	Stewardship Mtg (Rm 7/8)
	6:30 pm	Youth Choir (S)
	7:15 pm	Chancel Choir (S)
THUR	4:00 pm	St. Paul’s on a Mission Soup Making (Kitchen)
SUN 20 th	8:15/10:30am	Worship Services/Ian Nalepka Baptism @ 10:30 Serv.
	9:00 am	Choristers
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)
	2:00 pm	Fellowship & Kitchen in use till 5 pm.
	6:00 pm	Youth Fellowship (FH & Rm 7/8)
		Epistle Deadline

The Mechanicsburg Meals on Wheels (MOW) is having a fund raiser at the Mechanicsburg Hoss' Steak and Sea house on **Monday September 14th & Tuesday September 15th**. Hoss will give MOW 20% of your receipt back to MOW. You must give a card to your server. I have laid cards on the table in the common area that has the conference poster and the box of second quarter giving statements. The Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a golfing outing and some of those proceeds will be given to MOW. That information is also on the same table. Thank you in advance for your support, Joanne Miller.

NEW HOPE MINSTRIES URGENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS – with the 30% increase in the food orders New Hope has been called upon to provide, this is a list of the most urgent food items that are needed at this time - Applesauce, Pears, Flour, Sugar, Cooking Oil, Salad Dressing, Mayo, Ketchup, Mustard, Coffee, Creamer, Fruit, Fruit Juice, Laundry and Dish Soap, Diapers (Medium and Large) and Potatoes (both canned or fresh).

ST. PAUL'S ON A MISSION CALENDAR OF EVENTS!!! We will be holding a fundraiser at Hoss's in Mechanicsburg, Tuesday, September 29th. Hoss's will give our mission 20% of the proceeds from participating patrons that day. You need a Hoss's card to present when you pay your bill, in order for our mission to get the 20%. We will be handing out the **FREE** cards after services today, September 13th, 20th and 27th in the Common. **The cards can be used for lunch or dinner!** **St. Paul's on a Mission** will be participating in the Fall Festival at Willow Mill Park again this year. The date is October 3rd, 10am-3pm. We will be selling our, now famous, Chicken Corn Soup and baked goods. Keep this date open so you will be able to help with this event. **We will be making the soup this coming Thursday, September 10th, starting at 4:00.** If you would like to help make the soup or if you would prefer to make a monetary donation to help defer the cost of making the soup, let Brenda Kern know, 796-0939. **St. Paul's on a Mission** is registered online for the **2009 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk** to be held October 17th. Go to: makingstrides.acsevents.org/Harrisburg to register, or see Brenda Kern for a registration form. We are taking fleece vest orders after both services on September 13th and 20th. The vests are embroidered with the **St. Paul's on a Mission** logo. The cost is \$35. If you are unable to participate in any of the events and would like to make a donation, you may do so starting September 13th after services in the Common!

PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE UCC NEWSLETTER – Starting in October the Penn Central News is being discontinued on a monthly basis and changing to a quarterly newsletter "Penn Central Connection." If you would like to sign-up to get PCC News via email, go to their website: <http://www.pccucc.org> and click on the blue box "Join our e-mail mailing list" to sign-up. If you are already signed up, you will need to update your preferences to get the quarterly newsletter.

PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE WOMEN'S RETREAT – October 9-11, 2009 at Hartman Center. The Leader is the Rev. Susan D'heedene. Registration forms are on the table in the Common area and posted on the bulletin board. **Deadline to register is September 30th**

SIGN UP NOW TO HELP AT THE 2009 FALL BAZAAR, FRIDAY OCT 2ND. There is a job for everyone. **We need lots of help to make this event successful.** Any questions, please contact Jean Mogel (697-1088) or the Church Office (766-7931). If you can help in the Dining Room, please see sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Common.

Need something to do while watching TV, waiting for the kids at soccer practice--**the Calico Shoppe is in need of a few people willing to do some hand sewing** (seam finishing and /or embroidery) to complete items for the bazaar. **Your help will be greatly appreciated. Please volunteer by calling Susan Thorn 737-0672.**

Please help us get the word out about the Bazaar! FLYERS are on the table in the common area; stop by on your way out and pick up some to distribute. Ask your local stores and businesses if you can put one up on their bulletin board or windows! It helps a lot.

PARABLES OF JESUS INTRODUCTORY LECTURE - If you were unable to attend the Introductory Lecture by Greg Carey on Saturday September 11th, the Lancaster Seminary is pleased to announce that they will have a video cast of the lecture available by September 18th at a "members only" site. More information about this site will be available shortly.

Pollyannas - "Pay Your Own Way" annual luncheon will be held on Tuesday September 22, 11:30 am at Snappers in Mechanicsburg. Please RSVP Mary Louise Miller (766-6615) if you are attending. This is open to all women of the Church who are interest in joining Pollyannas.



RELIEF TRIPS

Upcoming Disaster Relief Trips - Two more disaster relief trips have been scheduled by Rick Clay from the Myerstown UCC. The first is to New Orleans departing October 17, 2009 and will run for up to two weeks or until scheduled work is completed. Staying for the first week only is also an option. The second trip will be to Florida in February 2010. Exact dates are not yet final. Additional details are available from Ron Flory. If you would like to be part of this effort but can't make the trip, financial contributions are always welcome to cover the cost of travel, food and lodging and/or the purchase of gift cards for building materials.