

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio

Lector: 8:15 Mike Gray
10:30 Melba Bomberger

Ministry of Music

Assistant Organist: Patrice Miller
Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

Ministry of Service

Head Ushers: Randy Murphy
Ushers: 8:15 Carolyn and Jere Rutherford
10:30 Susan Williams and Darene Murphy
James and Kim Pirtle

Greeters 8:15 Connie and Herb Sutton
10:30 Carol and Jack Rhoads

Acolyte: 8:15 Jeff Dundore
10:30 Audrey Runkle

Children's Sermon: 10:30 Rev. John

Nursery:

Flower Delivery: The Eichman Family

Fellowship Time: Jack and Carol Rhoads/Eric and Shannon Trout

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

626 Williams Grove Road

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

717/766-7931

Web: saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office email: stpaulstaff@verizon.net

John's email: revjohnwd@verizon.net

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 20, 2009



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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES
THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Organ

“Arioso”

Handel/James

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Call and Response) From Psalm 56

*THE HYMN NO. 315 “O Word of God Incarnate”

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Speaking and teaching God, we come seeking Your guidance and wisdom. Please continue to communicate with us in the many ways, and through the many people You use. Help us to realize we can ask questions, when we do not understand. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Particularly as adults, we often carry around the mistaken assumption that we should know all things and be able to understand, immediately, anything that is said to us. Asking questions is seen as some kind of weakness or admittance of failure on our part. Perhaps we have been chastised in the past for getting something wrong or asking “stupid” questions. We refuse to believe God desires for us to ask all our questions, so indeed we might learn what God is seeking to teach us. 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.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*THE GLORIA PATRI

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 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.

SUN 27th 8:15/10:30am **Worship Services/Blessing of Prayer Shawls**
New Members/Affirmation of Ministries @ 10:30
9:00 am Choristers
9:15 am Sunday School
12:00 pm Called To Care meeting after 10:30 service (Parlor)
6:00 pm Youth Fellowship (FH & Rm 7/8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship Campaign Kickoff Party and Silent Auction

By now you should have received your invitation to the dinner at Allenberry on October 23. This party will be so much more fun if you are there too. Reservations can be made by sending your RSVP along with a check to Jane Hall, or you can place it in the church office or even in the offering plate.

Our silent auction has been more successful each year. Last year there was friendly, yet competitive, bidding on several items, which ultimately led to some people making new friendships. Our auction also raised \$2100 toward the 2009 budget. We are hoping to equal or surpass that amount this year. Your donations to the silent auction may be left in the church office or contact Jane Hall.

The Neighbors in Need Offering helps make another world possible. It needs your support! The Neighbors in Need offering which we will receive on October 4, 2009, supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Some of the 2008 grants from the national Justice and Witness Ministries went to the Erase the Hate Campaign in Toledo, Ohio; The Urban Mission Experience/St. Louis, Missouri; Institute for Peace Studies in Billings, Montana and New York City's Poverty Initiative. Check the Bulletin inserts for information on these grants.

Help Support Hartman Center! See Jonne Dundore if you are interested in a ticket for the Quilt Drawing to be held at the Fall Festival, October 17th at Hartman Center. Only 400 tickets are available for this drawing at a donation of \$5.00 each. 1st prize is a Hand Made Quilt (80x95 inches) and 2nd prize is a Queen size Quilt. See poster in the Common area for pictures of the Quilts. You need not be present to win.

PARABLES OF JESUS – if you missed last Saturday's opening session at the Lancaster Theological Seminary and would like to hear it. Please go to their Continuing Education web site at: www.livingtheadventure.org click 'Adult Education' then click 'Fall 2009 Adult Series'. You will see the track on that page to begin listening.

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

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism



Presentation of the Water
 Baptismal Address

Gathering of Witnesses
 Questions for the Candidates' Parents

Congregational Assent: (unison)

We, as members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ and the Church Universal, hear your promises with joy and gladly welcome you as sisters and brothers in Christ into the family of faith. We covenant with you to share in the hopes, labors and joys of the Christian life, supported by God's love through this congregation.

We will weep with you when you weep, rejoice with you in your rejoicing, and encourage your growth in the new life Christ gives. These things we promise in the name and spirit of Jesus, our Savior.

Prayer of Blessing
 Prayer for the Baptized

Act of Baptism
 Procession

Let us offer a special welcome on his Baptism Day to Ian Alixander Nalepka and his Parents Kimberli and Jonathan Nalepka.

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 EPISTLE READING

James 3:13-4:3

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 54

THE RESPONSE

One: God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING AND MESSAGE

Mark 9:30-37

“Afraid To Ask Questions?”

*THE HYMN NO. 325 “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

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

(Debts and Debtors)

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 Chancel Choir

“O, Kind Jesus”

Hunter

10:30 Youth Choir

“My Friend”

Pethel

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

We who have spent much on our own pleasures, are pleased to share that others may obtain the necessities of body and spirit. Thank You, God, for this opportunity to support the ministry and mission of our congregation. May there be a harvest of righteousness among us, shown in the peaceful handling of disputes, in mutual love and support, and in courageous outreach to people near and far who need the help we can give. Bless each gift and giver. Amen.

*THE HYMN NO. 456 “More Love to You, O Christ”

*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 “Celebrate Life”

Smith

*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, 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Dundore Family “In Memory of Eric Van Olden”

Bob Heisler “Happy Birthday Mike Lucas”

Bob Heisler “In Memory of Mother and Father”

Bob Heisler “In Memory of Sister Mrs. Margaret Himes”

PRAYER CONCERNS: Dory Milletics, Kevin Allison

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of September 20 – September 27, 2009

TODAY 8:15 & 10:30 am Worship Services/Baptism @ 10:30 Service

9:00 am Choristers

9:15 am Sunday School

9:15 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (FH)

2:00 pm Fellowship & Kitchen in use till 5 pm.

6:00 pm Youth Fellowship (Rm 7/8 & FH)

Mon **Epistle Deadline**

TUES **11:30 pm** Pollyanna’s meet at Snappers Restaurant

5:30 pm TOPS (Rm 6)

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

6:30 pm Youth Choir (S)

7:15 pm Chancel Choir (S)

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 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. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the common area if you would like to donate a baked good for the Fall Festival. If you would like 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 orders for the fleece vest after both services. **Today is the last day to order a vest.** The vests are embroidered with the **St. Paul's on a Mission** logo and 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 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**

INVITATION TO THE INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR REVEREND VALERIA SCHMIDT – please see poster on the Bulletin Board in the Common area for more details on this event that will be held at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in McConnellsburg on Sunday September 27th at 3:00 PM.

NEW HOPE MINSTRIES URGENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS – with the 30% increase in the food orders that New Hope has been called upon to provide, here 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).

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SIGN UP NOW TO HELP AT THE 2009 FALL BAZAAR, FRIDAY OCT 2ND.

There is a job for everyone and **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 the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Common.

Check out the Display Case in the Common area on your way out today. Some of the items that will be sold at the Fall Festival are in the case. **Attn: Church Members! Stop by on Thursday October 1st while we are setting up for a preview of our craft items.** We're usually here until 7 pm. Some of the items will be available for purchase at that time.

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.

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.

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!

Our Thanks go out to Joann Paulus and her helpers for the wonderful picnic food enjoyed by many on Rally Sunday last weekend.



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