

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio

Lector: 8:15 Craig Martek

10:30 Joan Quick

Ministry of Music

Organist: Sarah Myers

Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

Ministry of Service

Head Ushers: Dennis Plymette

Ushers: 8:15 Patty and Dave Scott

10:30 Joan and Ernie Moyer

Chris and Dave Grice

Greeters: 8:15 Bill Mullin and Marshall Bender

10:30 Victoria and Martin Velez

Acolyte: 8:15

10:30 Ally Moyer

Children's Sermon: Rev. John

Nursery:

Flower Delivery: Terry and Gene Shaner

Fellowship Time: Dundore Family

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

November 29, 2009

First Sunday in Advent



Prepare and Hope for
God's Surprises

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2009

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES
THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
Organ "With Grace and Mercy Clad"

Hayden

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Call and Response) From "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

*THE HYMN NO. 104 "We Hail You God's Anointed"

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Gracious God, may Your Spirit stir our spirits to hope. Help us to ready ourselves for Your presence coming into the world in new and surprising ways. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION:

We do not like to wait for anything these days. We do not like to prepare in advance for what might be coming, especially if surprises may be in store. Yet God asks us to do both of these things during Advent. 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)

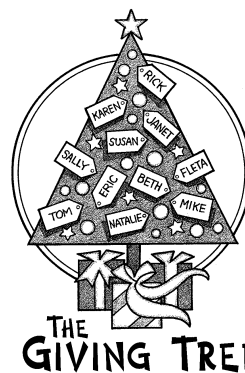
Minister: God receives our apologies and repentance, and has assured us that our sins are forgiven.

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

Christmas Gift Wrapping and Breakfast - OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY - Saturday, December 5th, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Let us take away the hassle of wrapping your Christmas presents. Bring your Christmas presents and have us wrap them for you while you enjoy a free light breakfast. St. Paul's is opening its doors to the community for this event, so be sure to invite your friends, too. This event will be advertised at New Hope Ministries and on the WHTM website. **We need donations of gift wrap, bows, gift tags, scotch tape and breakfast items. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the common area for breakfast food donations and helpers...young and old alike are needed.** If you have any questions, you can contact Chris Grice at 432-7917.

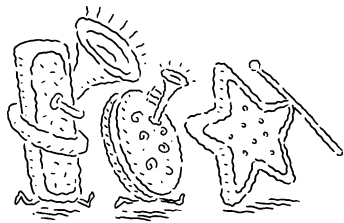


Looking for a way to spread your holiday cheer? The Adult II SS Class and Council for Extended Ministries are asking for your support of our annual project in support of New Hope Ministries. St. Paul's will be providing Christmas gifts and dinner for 25 persons who will not receive Christmas Gifts without our help. **Please see the bulletin board in the common area for the ornaments with individuals' names on them and a gift they have requested (through New Hope).** Each person will have between 2 and 3 gifts they have requested. **You can join with another family to purchase an individual's requested gift or gift(s).** **There are a couple of ornaments still open.** In addition, a master list of the individuals will be hung near the ornaments in order to keep track of

who in our congregation is supplying which gift. When you take an ornament, please make sure you sign your name beside that individual on the master sheet. **The wrapped gifts must be returned to the church no later than Sunday, December 6th, with a tag securely attached to it.** The tag should have the family #, first name and age of the individual who the gift is for. Your support of this project will enable us to provide a wonderful Christmas to some deserving families this holiday season.



If you ordered Poinsettias, you may start to pick them up after the 7:30 or 10:45 Christmas Eve Services. If you have not paid for your poinsettia (\$6.25 each), please place your payment, in the offering plate or drop off at the Church Office, make sure you mark Poinsettia on the envelope. Thank you for purchasing the flowers that will help beautify the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Poinsettia's that are not picked up by Sunday afternoon December 27th will be delivered to the residents at Sarah Todd and Thornwald nursing homes. If you want your poinsettia and cannot pick it up prior to the afternoon of December 27th, please let Terry in the Church Office know and we will hold it for you.



Cookie Walk

cookie walk went toward the purchase of the Choir Robes.

THE POLLYANNAS are having the second annual **COOKIE WALK** in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 13th after both services. **This year the Pollyanna's are asking members of the congregation to help with the baking of cookies for this event.** Please pack your cookies in baggies priced to sell at \$1.00 per bag and drop off in the Adult 2 Sunday School room on Saturday December 12th, 10 am to noon. The money raised at last year's

Crafts and Cookies - If you enjoy arts and crafts (and cookies!); please plan to join us to work on creating puppets and banners for the Christmas cantata. We will be crafting from **3:00-5:00 on Sunday, December 13 in the Fellowship Hall**. Everyone third grade and older invited! **Items Needed** Plastic jars: We need clean plastic jars for making our stick puppets. The kind we're looking for are about 8" tall and 3-4" diameter, with a wide top. Jars used for creamers or fiber powders would be great. Please leave at the church office for Holly. Quilts: We'd like to borrow quilts to use for decorating for the Christmas cantata. We're especially looking for a white and gold quilt and quilts with star designs. If you would be willing to lend your quilt for a short time, please bring to Holly by December 13. We will be using them for the service on December 20. Many thanks!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS for St. Paul's Annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner on Sunday, January 17, 2010. There will be one worship service on this day at 10:30, followed by the annual meeting and then a delicious pork and sauerkraut dinner in FH. Plan to stay and enjoy a wonderful meal and fellowship. Please see signup sheet on the bulletin board in the common area.

ADVENT CALENDARS: We still have a few of the Advent Calendars from SERV. They are \$10.00 and inside each day/door is a verse or two of the Birth story and a delicious Fair Trade piece of chocolate. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Common, please see Rev. John if you would like one.

Bring a quality of life to others and to yourself by becoming a PinnacleHealth Hospice Volunteer! See the Bulletin Board in the Common Area for more information on how you can sign-up.

LIGHTING OF THE HOPE ADVENT CANDLE (Please see Insert—Both Services)

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Job 33:14-18

THE READING OF THE PSALM Psalm 25:1-10

THE RESPONSE

One: God is still speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING AND MESSAGE Luke 21:25-36
"Getting Ready"

*THE HYMN NO. 122 "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

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 "Lo, How a Rose"

arr. Govenor

10:30 Youth Choir "Sing Rejoice, Emmanuel!"

Kochanek

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Thank You, God, for this family of faith, which enriches our lives and enables us to share. Thank You for making us aware that some faint with fear and others dwell in hopelessness. We are grateful that you show us ways to lift the burdens of our sisters and brothers. May our offerings further this ministry among us and beyond our community. Amen.

*THE HYMN NO. 102 "O How Shall I Receive You"

*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 Fantasia on “Forest Green” Broughton

*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 Gathered by Love, by Lavon Bayler, 1994, 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
Pete and Patti Watson “In Honor of our 29th Anniversary and Pete’s Birthday”

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF November 29 – December 6, 2009

TODAY	8:15/10:30 am	Worship Services/Lighting of 1st Advent Candle
	9:00 am	Choristers
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Breakfast for College age Students (FH & Kitchen)
	6:00 pm	Youth Fellowship Cookie Baking (Kitchen/FH/Rm 7/8)
TUES	12:00 pm	Ecumenical Food Pantry
	5:30 pm	TOPS (Rm 13)
	7:00 pm	Bear Den (FH)
WED	6:00 pm	Hand Chime Choir (Rm. 5)
	6:30 pm	Youth Choir (S)
	7:15 pm	Chancel Choir (S)

THUR	7:00 pm	Pack Committee Meeting (Rm 7/8)
	7:00 pm	Advent Discussion (Parlor)
SAT	8:00 am	Public Christmas Breakfast & Wrapping (FH/Kitchen)
SUN DEC 6th	8:15/10:30 am	Worship Services/Communion (Pew)/ Lighting of 2nd Advent Candle
	9:00 am	Choristers
	9:15 am	Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Finance Committee is working on the budget. Unfortunately we are still waiting for quite a few pledges. Therefore the budget will not be available to the congregation until Sunday December 6 at both services and at the church that week. This must be voted on at the congregational meeting on December 13 so please pick up a copy so that you are familiar with the details. Kevin Allison, President of Consistory.

ADVENT DISCUSSIONS - One and all are invited to three Advent Discussions at St. Paul’s UCC. We will meet on Thursday evenings, December 3, 10 and 17, from 7 to 8:30 PM. We will be discussing Jesus’ birth stories as found in the Gospels. We often take the stories for granted, thinking we clearly understand their meaning. We may well be surprised by what we find and what we do not. We will also take time to talk about, think about what various parts of these stories might symbolize. Unfortunately, we are so busy during this time of year that we have not had (or taken) the opportunity to dive more deeply into these rich accounts. You are invited to come to as many as you can. Missing a week will not hinder your ability to take part in the discussion. We will take the time to light candles on an Advent Wreath, offer some prayers, listen to some music and in general prepare together for the coming of the Christ Child. I hope to see you there. Peace, John

Save the dates: Saturday December 12th - 2 pm to 6 pm Christmas/Advent Open House at the Ward Diorio’s. **Sunday December 13th** - Plan now to attend the Budget Meeting after the second service.



CONTRIBUTIONS for the year 2009 must be in the church office by December 31, 2009. Monies received after the start of 2010 will be booked as a 2010 contribution.

November 29, 2009



Kevin Allison
Tyler Derr
John and Jackie Diorio
Scott Eichman
Bob Kayer
Steven Keith
Les Gerber and Elaine McCracken
Clyde and Treva Miller
Dayne and Sue Miller
Dory Milletics
Steve Mitchell
Peg and Don Seiler
Lisa Skinnell
Clyde Strock
Susan and Natalie

All the people in the Middle East struggling for peace
All the people in the military and their families
All the people who have lost jobs and their families

Celebrations

Thanks to Jonne Dundore, Holly Yeuell, Linda Alburger, Katelyn Chamberlain, Leann Davinroy, Carol and Jack Rhoads, Patty, Dave & Julie Scott, Amy Paulus, Mary Runkle and others who made the Advent Workshop and Alternative Holiday Market so much fun. Thanks to Jonne Dundore for organizing her own "Transition" party (though she didn't know she was doing that), Patty Scott for her phone calls, Amy Paulus for her cake, Shirley Keith Knox and the Adult Sunday School II class for providing refreshments. We got to say a brief thank you to Jonne for her years of service as Christian Education Director (since March of 2002) and her dedication to the young people and adults of this congregation.
Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be Advent Candle Lighters.

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Lighting of the First Advent Candle



HOPE

8:15 Reading by Jonne, Eric, Mark, Greg and Jeff Dundore
10:30 Reading by Deb, Bill, Lauren and Rachael Cashman

SING THE CHILDREN TO THE FRONT (10:30 Service) 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 (10:30 Service)

(8:15 & 10:30 Service) Everyone: **We continue to hope in God's promise the Christ will come again to fill our lives and the life of the world with love and joy and peace. Thank you, God, for the light of hope. As we prepare for Christ's coming, help us to share our hope with others.**

SING THE CHILDREN/FAMILY LIGHTING THE CANDLE TO THEIR SEATS

(8:15 & 10:30 Service) Sung Response: (To the tune of "Away In A Manger")
**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;
A candle of Hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heav'n's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.**

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