

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio

Lector: 8:15 Doug Jacobsen

10:30 Betsy Rushong

Ministry of Music

Assistant Organist: Patrice Miller

Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

Ministry of Service

Head Ushers: Michael Gray

Ushers: 8:15 Consistory

10:30 Consistory

Greeters: 8:15 Betty and Tom Olsen

10:30 Susan and John White

Acolytes: 8:15 Katelyn Chamberlain

10:30 Kevin MacKinnon

Children's Sermon: Deb Cashman

Nursery: Murphy Family

Flower Delivery: Dot and Jim Kinzer

Fellowship Time: Kern Families

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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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

December 6, 2009

Second Sunday in Advent



(Re)Turn To God

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 06, 2009

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

Organ "Pastorale Symphony" Handel

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

*THE HYMN NO. #117 "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

God of Peace, help us to turn to You, return to You so we might know the peace You are offering us and so we might share that peace with others. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION:

We can get caught between believing we are fully focused on God and therefore do not need to turn or return to God, and believing we are so far from God that we could never return. We then ignore the calls for repentance. Let us join in saying 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

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

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

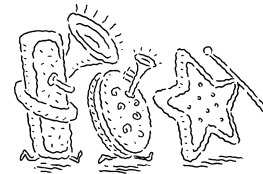
Malachi 3:1-4



A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held **next Sunday, December 13th** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to hold a discussion and vote on the 2010 budget. **Copies of the budget are available for you to take on the table in the common area today. Please pick one up so you have time to review it prior to next week's meeting.**



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.



Cookie Walk

the Choir Robes.

THE POLLYANNAS are having the second annual **COOKIE WALK** in Fellowship Hall **next 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 cookie walk went toward the purchase of

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!

ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS MUSICALE will take place on Sunday, December 20th at the one service at 10:30 am. We will need several non-speaking actors and lots of children to carry the stick puppets and banners. Please see the sign-up chart in the common area. You **MUST** be able to attend the one and only rehearsal from 9:00-12:00 Saturday morning, December 19. All elementary children are invited and encouraged to be part of this enriching and fun activity. Preschool children are also invited, ages three and up, as parents think they are ready and would enjoy participating. Youth not singing in the choir are also needed to help direct! Please see Holly with any questions.

It's December and time for our fourth special United Church of Christ Offering, the **Christmas Fund**. This appeal is from the UCC Pension Boards for their Ministerial Assistance Program (Veterans of the Cross) and the Emergency Fund. These programs provide help to those who dedicated their lives to the ministry of the church in their years of active service; and offers assistance to those who serve the church today. The funds serve those of lower income and in need of financial aid in many ways. Last year this offering raised over 1.5 million dollars and provided assistance to 1600 persons. **St. Paul's Christmas Fund Offering will be collected on Sunday, December 20, 2009.** Like the magi of old, we can honor the Christ child by bringing gifts that can be used to support and honor those who have served and are serving our beloved church.



The **Mitten Tree** is in the Common. Don't forget to bring mittens, gloves and scarves for all ages not only to decorate the tree but to help bring warmth to those in need. Items collected will be taken to New Hope Ministries.

Thursday Evening Advent Discussions will continue to meet the next two Thursday evenings, December 10 and 17, from 7 to 8:30 PM in the parlor. 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



Christmas/Advent OPEN HOUSE

At the Ward-Diorio's. We would like to invite each and every one of you to our home for our second annual Advent/Christmas Open-House on **Saturday December 12 from 2 to 6 PM.** 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 Rev. John or Sue (probably your better avenue) or give us a call at home 249-6239. Our home address for those map questing or GPSing: 4 Jenny Drive, Boiling Springs, PA 17007. (Just in case things look strange, we are off Tanger Road, which runs between Mountain and Petersburg Roads.)



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.

THE 2010 ENVELOPES are on the table in the Common area. Please pick up your box of envelopes and any of those that you can deliver. If you don't see yours, please check with Terry in the church office. Thank you.

RESPONSE (sung in unison) Luke 1:68-79 "Canticle of Zechariah"

New Century Hymnal Page #733

THE RESPONSE

One: God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING AND MESSAGE

Luke 3:1-6

"Tips on Getting Ready"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 Youth Choir "Sing Rejoice, Emmanuel!"

Kochanek

10:30 Chancel Choir "Lo, How a Rose"

arr. Govenor

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

How good You have been to us, gracious God! How meagerly we have responded. You have restored our fortunes when we felt all was lost. You have filled our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. We give thanks, not only with a portion of our income, but also through renewed commitment to righteous living. By Your grace, we share in the work Christ came to accomplish among us. May love abound in and through us. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*THE COMMUNION HYMN NO. 345 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (vs. 1 & 2 only)

THE INVITATION

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God Be With You.

Many: And Also With You.

One: Lift Up Your Hearts.

Many: We Lift Them Up To God.

One: Let Us Give Thanks To God.

Many: It Is Good To Give God Thanks And Praise.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)
(Debts and Debtors)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

(We will share in the Sacrament in our pews this Sunday. Please hold the elements until all have been served and we will eat and then drink together. There will be bread and gluten-free wafers on each plate and wine and white grape juice in each cup holder. All are welcome to participate. Thank you.)

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Eternal God, You have called Your people from east and west, and north and south, to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank You for Christ's presence, and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to Your Will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure, that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church, of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

*THE HYMN NO. 116 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (vs. 1, 6, 7 only)"

*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 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Balcombe

*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 that is located in the red pad on the aisle side of the pew so that others may greet you in the name of the Living Christ. Remember to place a check mark under the communion heading if you partake of communion. 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
Gregory and Patrice Miller "In Honor of children Devon and Ryan Miller and
granddaughter Hayden Elaine Miller"

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 06 – December 13, 2009

TODAY	8:15/10:30 am	Worship Services/Lighting of 2nd Advent Candle/ Pew Communion
	9:00 am	Choristers
	9:15 am	Sunday School
MON	6:00 pm	MASH Color Guard (FH)
TUES	1:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)
	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	Advent Discussion (Parlor)
SAT	9:00 am	FH and Kitchen in use till 9 pm (Garman)
	10:00 am	Cookie Drop-Off Adult SS 2 Room till noon
	2:00 pm	Ward-Diorio Open House
SUN DEC 13th	8:15/10:30 am	Worship Services/Lighting of 3 rd Advent Candle/ Blessing of the Prayer Shawls
	8:15 am	Mackendra Shea Baptism
	9:00 am	Choristers
	9:15 am	Sunday School
		Pollyanna Cookie Walk (FH) after both services
	11:30 pm	Congregational Budget Meeting aft 2 nd Serv
	3:00 pm	Crafts and Cookies (FH and Rm 7/8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POLLYANNAS Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 15th at Mary Louise Miller's at 12:00 noon. Please let Mary Louise know if you will be attending (766-6615).

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH! \$140.59 was made at our Community Night at Hoss's on November 19th. We appreciate and are thankful for your support.

December 06, 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
Bill and Sue Mullin and Family
Peg and Don Seiler
Lisa Skinnell
Clyde Strock
Susan and Natalie
Dave Thomas
Anna Thompson
Family of Ken White
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 all who donated wrapping materials, breakfast items and those who helped at the Public Gift Wrap and Breakfast held in Fellowship Hall on Saturday December 6th.

December 06, 2009



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Lighting of the Second Advent Candle



PEACE

8:15 Reading by Becky, Layne, Rachel, Jordan and Calvin Thompson

10:30 Reading by Terry and Gene Shaner, and Bella, Missy and Scott Gates

SING THE READERS (Both Services) AND THE CHILDREN (10:30 Service Only) TO THE FRONT Advent Hymn (Sung to the tune of Away in the 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.**

THE WORD FOR THE YOUNG (10:30 Service)

(8:15 & 10:30 Service) Everyone: **Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope, where there is sadness, joy; and where there is darkness, light. Grant that we may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, in pardoning that we are pardoned, and in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen!**

SING THE READERS (Both Services) AND THE CHILDREN (10:30 Service only) TO THEIR SEATS Advent Hymn (Sung to the tune of Away in the Manger)

**A candle is burning, a candle of *Peace*;
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;
A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay**

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