

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

November 28, 2010

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio

Lector: 8:15 Ruth Wrightstone

10:30 Allyssa Boyer

Ministry of Music

Organist: Sarah Myers

Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

Ministry of Service

Head Usher: Rick Ayers

Ushers: 8:15 Jake and Kate Jacobsen

10:30 Colleen & Ben Eichman

Kim & Jim Pirtle

Greeters: 8:15 Winnie & Darryl Wentz

10:30 Joan and Jim Quick

Acolyte: 10:30 Erin Moyer

Children's Sermon: Rev. John

Nursery:

Flower Delivery: Rhoda Rupp

Fellowship Time: Dundore Family

“St. Paul's UCC aims to be a fully accessible congregation. Folks having an issue related to accessibility in the church building or a church program should contact the church office or contact a head usher on Sunday mornings.”

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

626 Williams Grove Road

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

717/766-7931

Website: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office email: stpaulstaff@verizon.net

John's email: revjohnwd@verizon.net

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 28, 2010

THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Organ "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" Edward Broughton

CALL TO WORSHIP (Call and Response): From Luke 1

*THE HYMN NO. 116 (vs.1, 2, 5, 6) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Gracious God, help us to accept the hope You offer to us. Help us to sense the light in the darkness, the door that is opening and the healing that is arriving. May we prepare ourselves to receive Your hope. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION:

We can get into places in which it feels like things will never change for us. The weight of our struggles blocks our vision of what could be. Hope feels impossible. We forget that God has promised never to abandon us and continues to come to us, quite often in quiet and surprising ways. 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.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

1



Cindy Bensel
Bill and Alice Crouse
Julie DeLuca
Pat Eakin
Bethany Grubbs
Dave & Jane Hall
Bob Heisler
Phyllis Hershey
Mary Hunter
Hunter and Family
Joe
Corine Kayer
Megan Kern
Jean Myers
Jeff Nye
Joy Perry
Ursula R. Pike
Jack Rhoads
Joyce Sealover
Peg and Don Seiler
Eric Trout
Leah van Olden
Sue Worley, Jean and Willard Jones and Family

All the People affected by the Earthquakes; All the People and the Environment affected by the oil spill in the Gulf Coast, 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

Members of our 7th-12th grade Youth Group who slept out Thanksgiving Eve with Youth from other local Churches to benefit New Hope.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Patti Watson "In Honor of our 30th Wedding Anniversary & Pete's Birthday"

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF November 28 – December 5, 2010

TODAY 8:15&10:30 am Worship Services/1st Sunday of Advent
9:00 am Choristers
9:15 am Sunday School
9:15 am Young Adult Breakfast (Dir of Christian Ed Office)
Noon Called to Care Meeting (I Spy Youth Classroom)
5:30 pm YF Grade 7 – 12 Cookie Baking (Kitchen & FH)

TUES 5:30 pm TOPS (Rm 13)
6:30 pm Yoga (FH)

WED **6:00 pm** Hand chimes(Rm 5)
6:30 pm Youth Choir (Sanctuary)
7:15 pm Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
7:00 pm Webelos 1 (FH)

THUR 6:00 pm MASH Sewing (FH)
7:00 pm Pack Committee Meeting (Rm 7/8)
7:00 pm Advent Study (Parlor)

FRI Church Office Closed

SAT 7:00 am MLC (FH and Kitchen)

SUN **8:15&10:30 am** Worship Services/2nd Sunday of Advent/Pew
Communion
9:00 am Choristers
9:15 am Sunday School
9:15 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (FH)
Noon Disaster Readiness Meeting (Parlor)
Noon Gift Wrapping Event (FH & Kitchen)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Weather was beautiful for our second leaf raking day last Saturday the 20th.
Our Thanks go out to: Mike Aumiller, Pat Eakin, Amanda & Scott Endy, Floyd Gouse, Jennifer, Mike, Luke & Lindsay McCorkel, Dave Scott and Don & Merikay Wood. It was a Great turn out and we raked up a lot of leaves. Thanks to all, Don Wood

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 First Advent Candle



HOPE

8:15 Reading by Elaine McCracken, Susan and Matt St. John

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

SING THE READERS (Both Services) AND THE CHILDREN (10:30 Service Only) 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 (10:30 Service)

ADVENT MEDITATION AND CANDLE LIGHTING

UNISON RESPONSE(8:15 & 10:30 Service):

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 READERS (Both Services) AND THE CHILDREN (10:30 Service Only) TO THEIR SEATS 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.**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 2:1-5

THE READING OF THE PSALM Psalm 122

THE RESPONSE

One: God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING AND MESSAGE

“Trying To Get Ready” Matthew 24:36-44

*THE HYMN NO. 107 “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

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 “Prepare the Way of the Lord” Newbury
10:30 Youth Choir “People Look East” Phillips

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Thank You, God, for the privilege of sharing Your bounty with those in need. Thank You for prospering our work and witness. We seek to walk in Your light and follow the pathways where You lead. We want to share the good news of salvation through these gifts and by the way we live. May all Your people be made ready for Christ’s coming. Amen.

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

*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

Organ “Psalm XX (Homage to Benedetto Marcello)” Gordon Young

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:

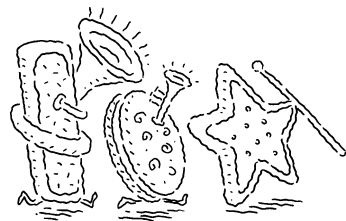
The Prayer of Confession is from A New Zealand Prayer Book, The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, 1997, HarperSan Francisco.

The Prayer of Dedication is from Taught By Love, by Lavon Bayler, 1998, 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.

Mark your calendar for **St. Paul's 2nd Annual Gift Wrapping event...Sunday, December 5th**, following the 10:30 service in Fellowship Hall. Bring your gifts to be wrapped by "semi-professional" wrappers. While your gifts are being wrapped enjoy a snack, fellowship time and sounds of the season. This event will be open to our community. Invite friends and family to worship with us on the 5th and stay to have their gifts wrapped. This event is free, but monetary donations will be gladly accepted and will be given to our church. **There is a sign-up sheet for helpers and food donations on the bulletin board in the commons.** Please join us for a great holiday experience!

ADVENT DISCUSSIONS - One and all are invited to three Advent Discussions at St. Paul's UCC. We will meet in the Parlor on Thursday evenings, December 2, 9 and 16 (and the 23rd if the group desires), from 7 to 8:30 PM. We will be discussing the booklet "Take Back the Season". There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the commons. 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. The booklet is available to anyone who would like one, even if you cannot come to the Discussions. Please see me for a copy of the booklet (\$2.00 donation accepted for the book). I hope to see you there. Peace, John



Cookie Walk

THE POLLYANNAS are having the third annual **COOKIE WALK** in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 12th after both services. **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 "I Spy Youth Classroom" on Saturday morning December 11th. **The money raised at this year's cookie walk will go towards the cost of repairing of the roof.**

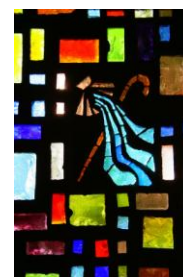
HERSHEY BEARS HOCKEY GAME- Everyone is welcome to join the Youth at a Hershey Bears Hockey game on Saturday, 1/15/11 at 7 PM. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Commons. Please sign up and pay for your tickets by Sunday, 12/12/10. If you have any questions, please email Martha Brown at ybrown5325@aol.com. We hope to see you there!

2011 Pledge Card and Time & Talent Sheets - The Stewardship Committee is asking if you have not already turned in your forms, to please do so today. There are blank forms on the table in the Commons.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on **December 12th** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to hold a discussion and vote on the 2011 budget. Please plan now to attend.



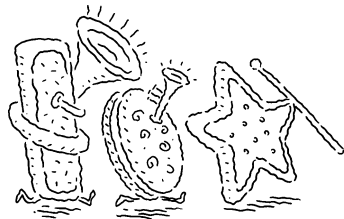
MARK YOUR CALENDARS for St. Paul's Annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner on Sunday, January 16, 2011. There will be one worship service on this day at 10:30, followed by the annual meeting and then a delicious pork and sauerkraut dinner in FH. Plan to stay and enjoy a wonderful meal and fellowship. **Please sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the common area so we have an idea on the # to plan for.**



We have Note cards for sale, just in time for the holiday season. Twelve note cards showcase the beauty of the 12 stained glass windows in our church sanctuary. The back of each card includes the name and the meaning of each window. **Get cards for holiday giving or brighten someone's day with a photo of our beautiful church.** Each set of 12 cards is \$10.00. The note cards will be available on the table in the common area during Sunday worship or see Terry in the Church Office during the week. **Payment for note cards picked up on Sunday can be made either by check (payable to St. Paul's UCC) or cash and can be put in the offering plate or dropped off in the secretary mailbox in the church office (please make sure you put note cards on it).**

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