

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

December 12, 2010

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio

Lector: 8:15 Mike Gray

10:30 Colleen Eichman

Ministry of Music

Organist: Sarah Myers

Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

Ministry of Service

Head Usher: Bill Cashman

Ushers: 8:15 Merikay and Don Wood

10:30 Kathy and Art Williams

Bonnie and Dennis Plymette

Greeters: 8:15 Patty and Dave Scott

10:30 Brenda and Tim Kern

Acolyte: 10:30 Kevin Rudisill

Children's Sermon: Choristers

Nursery: Grice Family

Flower Delivery: Bruce Perry

Fellowship Time: Bonnie and Dennis Plymette

"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

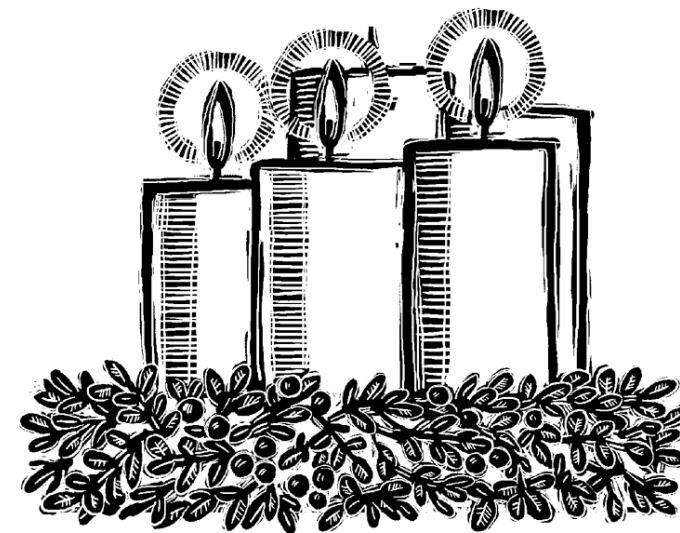
717/766-7931

Website: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office email: stpaulstaff@verizon.net

John's email: revjohnwd@verizon.net

Third Sunday in Advent



REAL JOY

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 12, 2010

THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Organ "Lo! How A Rose" Randolph Johnston

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

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

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Loving God, be with us as we seek to receive the joy You share with us. Help us to understand what makes You joyful. May we be caught up in that joy and offer ourselves to the task of sharing it with the world. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION:

We can confuse what makes us temporarily happy with what truly brings us joy. We can be led to believe that what we possess is more important than what we share. We can forget that God's dream is for all creation to experience peace and joy in the here and now, not just a select few. 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

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.**



Barbara Bell
Kathy, Cassidy Carlis & Family
Bill and Alice Crouse
Julie DeLuca
Kathleen Dubois
Pat Eakin
Dave & Jane Hall
Bob Heisler
Phyllis Hershey
Jaryd and Family
Megan Kern
Glenn Kline
Bud Miller
Jean Myers
Ursula R. Pike
Jack Rhoads
Emily Rieger
Joyce Sealover
Peg and Don Seiler
Leah van Olden
Judy Ward

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

The new members who are joining today at the second service; Rick Holtzapple, Sam Kiner, Tim Kiner, Elaine Daly & Chris Royer and our Thanks to their sponsors; Shirley Keith Knox, Linda Alburger, Ralph Kiner Jr. and Connie & Herb Sutton.

*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 "Come Thou Almighty King"

Lani 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 Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, www.shawlministry.com.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God"

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 12 – December 19, 2010

TODAY 8:15&10:30 am 3rd Sunday of Advent/Worship/ Blessing of Prayer Shawls/ New Members Received @ 10:30 Service

9:00 am Choristers (Rm 5)

9:15 am Sunday School

Pollyanna's Cookie Walk after both Services (FH)

Noon Budget Meeting (Sanctuary)

6:00 pm 7th-12th Youth Fellowship @ Bergstresser Home

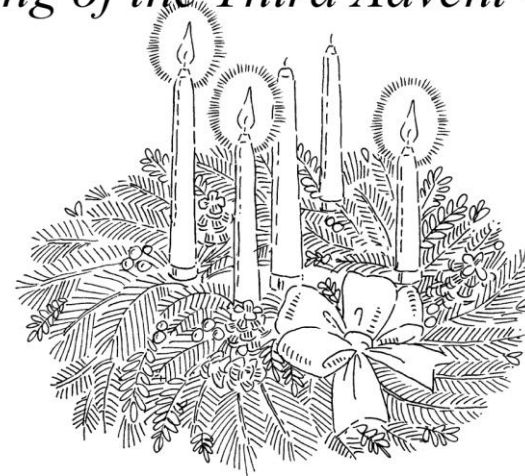
*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*THE GLORIA PATRI

Prayer of Blessing (Unison):

May God's grace be upon these shawls...warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing. May these mantles be safe havens... sacred places of security and well-being...sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the ones who receive these shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Blessed Be!

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle



JOY

8:15 Reading by Merikay and Don Wood

10:30 Reading by Amanda and Scott Endy & Sydnie Lau

SING THE READERS (Both Services) AND THE CHORISTERS (10:30 Service Only) TO THE FRONT 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.**

CHORISTERS (10:30 Service) "Light One Candle"

Sleeth

ADVENT MEDITATION AND CANDLE LIGHTING

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

Everyone: **Thank you, God, for the gift of joy. Help us to recognize the moments of joy in our lives, and to live joyfully so that others may be filled with the joy that comes from knowing Jesus Christ. Amen!**

SING THE READERS (Both Services) AND THE CHORISTERS (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 Joy;
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
As Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (10:30 Service)
**RICK HOLTZAPPLE, SAM KINER, TIM KINER,
ELAINE DALY AND CHRIS ROYER**

ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

CONGREGATIONALS ASSENT (Unison)

We, as members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, 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. Amen.

PRAYER

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-11

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 146:5-10

THE RESPONSE

One: God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE AND MESSAGE

“What Makes Us Joyful; And God?”

Isaiah 35:1-10

*THE HYMN NO. 119 “My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

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 Organ

“From Heaven Above To Earth I Come”

Martin Luther

10:30 Hand Chimes

“Christmas Joy”

Helman

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Majestic God, thank You for inviting us to share the blessings You pour out on us. We want to extend the healing ministry of Jesus who gave sight to those who were blind and new insight to some who only pretended to see. Use our resources to heal attitudes as well as bodies, to bring wholeness, not just cures. Help us to address the inequities of the earth that leave so many without food or shelter or hope. Lead us into Your realm in the midst of our daily living. Amen.

*THE HYMN NO. 109 “With Joy Draw Water”

Updated Church Directory – are available on the table in the Commons for pick up today. If you signed up for the Pictorial Directory, there is a flap on the back cover of your directory for you insert a copy of the full Church Directory. The Pictorial Directory will be mailed to your home.

This year the Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held at 4 PM and 10:45 PM. Both Services will include readings, Christmas Carols, hymns and the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Youth Choir will sing at the 4 PM Service and Chancel Choir will sing at the 10:45 Service.



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICES

At the 10:45 pm service, Patrice Miller and Sarah Myers will be providing prelude music beginning at 10:15 pm. Plan now to come early and enjoy both the beautiful music and feel the holiday spirit in our Sanctuary decorated so nicely by the decorating

committee led by Jonne Dundore.



If you ordered Poinsettias, you may start to pick them up after the 4:00 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 26th 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 26th, please let Terry in the Church Office know and we will hold it for you.

ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL will take place on Sunday, December 19th 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 on the table in the common area. You **MUST** be able to attend the one and only rehearsal from 9:00-12:00 Saturday morning, December 18. 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 Jonne or Eric with any questions.

MON	6:00 pm PFLAG Dinner (FH & Kitchen) 7:00 pm Bear Den (Rm 13) 7:00 pm Bible Study Group (Parlor)
TUES	5:30 pm TOPS (Rm 13) 6:30 pm Yoga (FH)
WED	5:45 pm MLC Christmas Party (FH & Kitchen) 6:00 pm Hand chimes (Rm 5) 6:30 pm Youth Choir (Sanctuary) 7:15 pm Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
THUR	5:45 pm Daisy Troop (Rm 13) 6:00 pm MASH Sewing (FH) 7:00 pm Advent Study (Parlor)
FRI	Church Office Closed 7:00 pm Pack Meeting (FH & Kitchen)
SAT	9:00 am Cantata Practice (Sanctuary) Noon FH & Kitchen in Use (Grice)
SUN	10:30 am Worship/4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Cantata 9:15 am Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pollyanna Cookie Walk – Check out all the goodies that are available for sale today in Fellowship Hall after the two services. This year's profits are going toward phase two of the roof repair. The Pollyanna's wishes to thank everyone who donated cookies for this sale.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held **today** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to hold a discussion and vote on the 2011 budget. **Copies of the budget are on the table in the common area, if you have not picked up one, please do so and hope to see you at the meeting.**

THE 2011 Offering Envelopes or Coupons (if you give via bill payer and indicated you desire them) are on the table in the Common area. If you don't see yours, please check with Terry in the church office. Thank you.

The Christmas Fund – Reflect upon the ways in which your life has been touched by a retired pastor, former youth leader, a Christian Education director, a church secretary, or a minister of music. The Christmas Fund honors their ministries in a way that will help them and others like them in these difficult times. A gift to this offering expresses our gratitude and offers help, healing, and hope in times of need for retired and active clergy and lay employees of our church. The fund provides monthly pension supplementation and quarterly health premium supplementation to low income retired church workers, and emergency grants to clergy families and lay employees in present need. Christmas “Thank You” gift checks are given to hundreds of annuitants administered by the Pension Boards. **The annual Christmas Fund offering will be collected next Sunday, December 19, 2010.** Please consider giving a generous amount to this offering.

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 today, 12/12/10.** If you have any questions, please email Martha Brown at vbrown5325@aol.com. We hope to see you there!

ADVENT BOOKLETS – the Advent Booklet “Take Back the Season” is available to anyone who wants one on the table in the commons (\$2.00 donation accepted for the book.) It is not too late to join in on the Advent Discussion that will be held in the Parlor this Thursday evening, December 16th from 7 to 8:30 pm.

Pollyanna’s – will be meeting Noon on Tuesday, December 21st at Mary Louise Miller’s home for a covered dish luncheon. **Please bring a dish to share.** Any questions, call Mary Louise at 766-6615.

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. Please sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the common area so we have an idea on the # to plan for.

Looking for donations of 9 x 13 sheet cakes for the Congregational Dinner. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the common area if you are willing to bring a cake.

THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2011 CHILD SPONSORSHIPS (on the bulletin board in the hall outside of the Church Office door) and the **2011 ALTAR FLOWERS** (on the bulletin board in the Commons.) **If you signed up to sponsor a child and or Altar Flowers in 2010 and have not paid yet, please be sure to get your money into the church office before the end of the year.**

Don’t forget our Note Cards are still available for purchase. Each set of 12 cards is \$10.00. Note cards will be available on the table in the common area during Sunday worship or see Terry in the Church Office. **Payment can be made either by check (payable to St. Paul’s UCC) or cash and placed in the offering plate or dropped off in the secretary mailbox in the church office (please indicate it is for Note Cards.)**



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. **Deadline to drop off is Sunday, January 2nd.**

CONTRIBUTIONS for the year 2010 must be in the church office by **December 31, 2010.** If you have any questions on your 2010 contributions, please see Terry in the Church Office. **Monies received after the start of 2011 will be booked as a 2011 contribution**

Christmas Gifts for New Hope Families - there are still a few gift tags left for pick up on the bulletin board in the commons. All gifts must be dropped off in the Commons no later than this Thursday the 16th so New Hope has time to distribute prior to Christmas. Thank you for your support of those in need!

Please see the bulletin board in the Commons for more details on a **Model Train Display** open to the public at Faith UCC, 1120 Drexel Hills Boulevard, New Cumberland.