

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Worship Leadership**  
Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio

**Ministry of Music**  
Organist: Sarah Myers  
Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

**Ministry of Service**  
Head Usher: Bill Cashman  
Ushers: Christal Pike-Nase & Jonathan Nase  
Paula & Allyssa Boyer  
Greeters: Dave Ritter & Dennis Plymette  
Acolyte: Amy MacKinnon  
Flower Delivery: Betsy Rushong  
Fellowship Time: Choirs

*“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

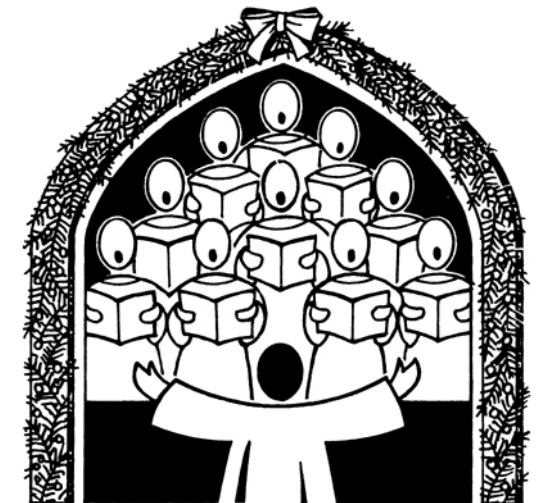
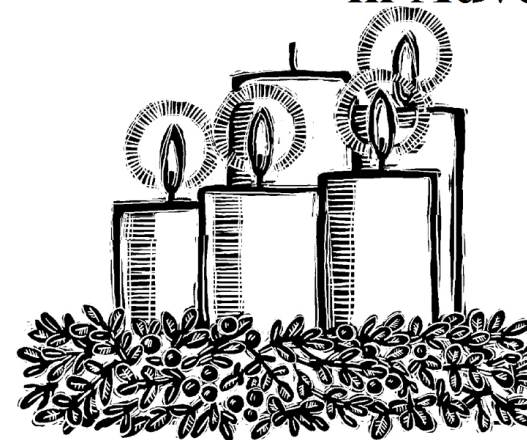
Web: [saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://saintpaulsucc-mech.org)  
Office email: [stpaulstaff@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulstaff@verizon.net)  
John's email: [revjohnwd@verizon.net](mailto:revjohnwd@verizon.net)

# Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

December 19, 2010

## Fourth Sunday in Advent



We **LOVE** the

*Christmas Cantata*

**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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2010

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Organ "Angels We Have Heard On High" Henry Balcombe

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Call and Response) From Luke 1

\*THE HYMN NO. 131 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**Loving God, You came to us as the infant Jesus so we might believe that You have been, are and will always be with us. Emmanuel, we give You thanks. Amen.**

THE CALL TO CONFESSION:

God Is With Us, but we do not always choose to receive the hope, peace, joy and love God continues to share with us and the ways God continues to try and guide 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.**



Barbara Bell

Kathy, Cassidy Carlis & Family

Bill and Alice Crouse

Julie DeLuca

Pat Eakin

Dave & Jane Hall

Bob Heisler

Phyllis Hershey

Megan Kern

Glenn Kline

Bud Miller

Jean Myers

Ursula R. Pike

Jack Rhoads

John Scott

Joyce Sealover

Peg and Don Seiler

Leah van Olden

Russ and Grace Young

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

Many thanks to all who had any hand in making our down-home Christmas Cantata come to life during this season. We are so grateful to all our regular choir members and those who joined us just for this event, the instrumentalists (and most especially Sarah Myers), the puppeteers and to Eric and Jonne Dundore for making sure everything got done well!

Thanks go out to everyone who purchased gifts for the families being supported by New Hope and to Kathy Aumiller & Shirley Keith Knox for coordinating.

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of December 19-26, 2010**

**TODAY 9:15 am Sunday School**  
**10:30 am Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Musicale / Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering**

**MON Epistle Deadline**  
6:00 pm MASH Color Guard (FH)  
6:00 pm Wolf Den (Rm 7/8)  
7:00 pm **Worship Committee Meeting (Parlor)**

**TUES Noon Pollyanna's @ Mary Louise Miller's home**  
5:30 pm TOPS(Rm 13)  
6:30 pm **YOGA (FH)**  
7:00 pm **Consistory (Rm 7/8)**  
7:00 pm MLC Board Meeting (Rm 13)

**WED No Choir Rehearsal**

**FRI 4:00&10:45 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Services / Pew Communion**  
**Church Office Closed**

**SAT MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**SUN DEC 26 10:30 am Worship Service/Christmas Carol/Hymn Sing**  
**No Sunday School**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE 2011 Offering Envelopes** are on the table in the Common area. If you don't see yours, please check with Terry in the church office. Thank you.

**Updated Church Directory** – are available on the table in the Commons for pick up today. **Pictorial Directory** - if you had your picture taken for the Pictorial Directory and have not gotten yours yet, please stop by the table in the commons on your way out to get yours. We do have some extra copies of the Pictorial Directory available for sale at a price of \$10.00 each.

**Pollyanna's** – will be meeting Noon on Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**  
**\*THE GLORIA PATRI**

*Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle*



**LOVE**

Reading by Becky, Tim, Ava and Rachel Drazba

**SING THE READERS TO THE FRONT** - 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.**

**ADVENT MEDITATION AND CANDLE LIGHTING**

**UNISON RESPONSE:**

Everyone: **God, thank You for loving us, and for sending us Jesus to teach us about Your love. Help us to remember that Your love will never come to an end. Strengthen us to love others as You love us. Amen.**

**SING THE READERS TO THEIR SEATS** - Advent Hymn (Sung to the tune of Away in the Manger)

**A candle is burning, a candle of Love;  
A candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth;  
For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.**

## THE RESPONSE

One: God is still speaking.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18-25

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

Organ "The Snow Lay on the Ground"

Robert J. Hughes

## \*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

## \*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**Loving God, we would not weary You with empty words or with routine tips  
of obligation. You have granted us life with such abundant possibilities that  
we can never do enough to express our gratitude. You have honored us by  
calling us saints and apostles. Therefore we offer ourselves and our  
abundance in the confidence that You will continue to provide for us in  
whatever circumstances we face. Use us as ministers of Your grace. Amen.**

## \*THE HYMN NO. 138(vs.1-2, 5-6) "Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good"

### **"I Hear the Prophet Callin'"**

The Christmas Story from Prophecy to Fulfillment by Pepper Choplin

1. Listen to the Story – Choir
2. I Hear the Prophet Callin' – Soloist and Choir
3. The People Who Walk in Darkness – Choir
4. I Hear a Mother Singin' – Soloist
5. Rockin' Slow and Even – Choir
6. There in the Same Country – Choir
7. I Hear the Shepherds Callin' – Soloist
8. Go Tell It on the Mountain – Choir and Soloist

9. I See the Star of Glory – Soloist

10. A Star Rising in the East – Choir

11. I Hear the People Singin' – Soloist and Choir

12. Joy to the World – Choir and Congregation

*(The congregation should sing verses 1 and 3 with the choir)*

**1. Joy to the World! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing.**

*(Choir sings verse 2)*

**3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations  
prove The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love.**

\*Hymn #129 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

## \*Benediction

Soloist – Gordon Kaslusky

Narrator – Patty Scott

Instrumentalists – Kevin Neidig, Julia Hoffmann, Helen Walsh, Mitchell  
Stowman, Zoe Wray, Sarah Gregory, Catherine Kaslusky, James Weaver,  
Chelsey Wirth and Sarah Myers.

THE POSTLUDE "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" James Denton

\*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.

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

## ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
David and Jane Hall "In Honor of Andrew's graduation today  
from Millersville University, *summa cum laude*."

## Family Who is Homeless

For the last two weeks we have been helping to support a family who are homeless. There is a mother, father and 18 month old boy. So far we have paid for their stay in a very inexpensive hotel, provided some Giant Gift Cards and some food. I have also been counseling them as to the help they can receive in the Harrisburg and Carlisle areas. For various reasons, I believe they may not get into any Shelters around here. I would like to continue to support them in similar ways through Christmas, giving them a chance to make some alternative plans. We have been using funds from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund which is becoming depleted. If you would like to help, any extra contributions to that fund would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Rev. John



Christmas Eve  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICES

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.

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.

Today we are collecting our contributions to the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund of the UCC Pensions Boards' Ministerial Assistance Program. The mission of this fund is to provide assistance dollars in situations of critical need, while preserving the dignity of those who are receiving the aid. During this year (2010) some form of Ministerial Assistance is being distributed to approximately 1600 persons through the generous gifts of UCC congregations and individual gifts. For more information check the following websites: [www.pbucc.org](http://www.pbucc.org) or [www.christmasfund.org](http://www.christmasfund.org). Your contribution is greatly needed. **We will continue to take contributions for the Christmas Fund through December 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**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**



**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.)**



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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup>, please let Terry in the Church Office know and we will hold it for you.

**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.



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.**

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For the last two weeks we have been helping to support a family who are homeless. There is a mother, father and 18 month old boy. So far we have paid for their stay in a very inexpensive hotel, provided some Giant Gift Cards and some food. I have also been counseling them as to the help they can receive in the Harrisburg and Carlisle areas. For various reasons, I believe they may not get into any Shelters around here. I would like to continue to support them in similar ways through Christmas, giving them a chance to make some alternative plans. We have been using funds from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund which is becoming depleted. If you would like to help, any extra contributions to that fund would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Rev. John



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