

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Worship Leadership**

Preacher: The Rev. Anna Thompson

Lector: Art Williams

**Ministry of Music**

Organist: Sarah Myers

Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

**Ministry of Service**

Head Usher: Bill Cashman

Ushers: Shirley and Greg Knox  
Bill and Deb Cashman

Greeters: Leann and Tim Davinroy

Acolyte: Katelyn Chamberlain

Flower Delivery: Bruce Perry

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)

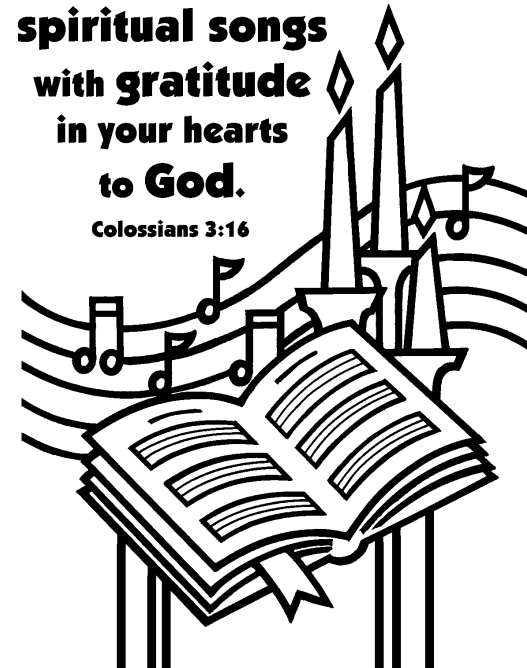
# Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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

December 26, 2010

**...sing psalms,  
hymns and  
spiritual songs  
with gratitude  
in your hearts  
to God.**

**Colossians 3:16**



**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 AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 26, 2010



THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Organ

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Steven Scott

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader : People of God, sing and rejoice!

God has come to us in Jesus the Christ, to reconcile and make new.

People: **God has entered our existence of joy and sorrow,  
taking on human likeness in Jesus, born of Mary.**

Leader: Therefore, we rejoice, praising God and singing:

All: **Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace to those who will the  
good. Christ is born, Alleluia!**

\*CAROLS # 135 “O Come, All You Faithful” (Verses 1&3)

# 144 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Verses 1&2)

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**Our faces are sometimes lined with worry, O God; our days are full of stress  
and struggle. Yet we come today grateful that in the midst of this crowded  
and troubled world, your child was born, lived, and died, full of grace and  
truth. Surprise us with your presence; renew our sense of wonder; and give  
us peace and courage to live as your people in the world. May you be  
glorified in us, as in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

We live as if Christ had never been born. We abuse the privileges that are ours  
as children of God. Let us confess our sin before God.

Bill and Alice Crouse

Julie DeLuca

Jackie Diorio

Pat Eakin

Stacey Fisher

Dave & Jane Hall

Bob Heisler

Phyllis Hershey

Homeless Family

Bob Kayer

Megan Kern

Lonardi Family

Bud Miller

Jean Myers

Virginia O'Connell

Ursula R. Pike

Jack Rhoads

John Scott

Peg and Don Seiler

Leah van Olden

Sue Ward-Diorio

Doris Washam

Woodfill Family

Sue Worley, Jean and Willard Jones and Family

Russ and Grace Young

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  
and All e who lost loved ones this past year.

*Celebrations*

**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**

**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.



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 next Sunday, January 2nd.**

**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.

**THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2011 CHILD SPONSORSHIPS** and the **2011 ALTAR FLOWERS** are on the bulletin boards 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 are available on the table in the common area 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.)**

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**God, you have come to us in Jesus, your true child, in whom you give us power to be your children. Yet, O God, we confess that we turn from your love, fearing the comfort and challenge of being your children. We are your own, yet we refuse you, clinging to the security of familiar ways rather than accepting the new life you offer. We tolerate hatred, violence, and injustice in the world you loved so well that you sent the child Jesus, begotten from your own being. We trust not in ourselves, but in your great compassion. Forgive us, and renew a right spirit within us that we may live as your children and once again praise you; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive)

Leader : Hear the good news, children of God: In Jesus Christ, God forgives and frees us.

People: **We hear the good news and rejoice that we are free to live in the Spirit!**

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*THE GLORIA PATRI

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 148

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:13-23

CAROLS # 148 "What Child Is This"

# 125 "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Verses 1,2&3)

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.**

CAROLS # 128 "In the Bleak Midwinter" (Verses 1&4)

# 133 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

CALL TO OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

Organ "Bethlehem Lullaby" Susanna Keeney

\*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

\*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**Awesome God, when we recount Your gracious deeds and praiseworthy  
acts, we want to imitate them. Because of Your mercy and favor and the  
abundance of Your steadfast love, we are moved to respond. Thank You for  
the gift of life, for all You have entrusted to us, for Your watchful care over  
us, for surrounding us with love when loss and suffering overwhelm us. It is  
when we give with generous hearts that we begin to understand how much  
we have been given. Thank You, God. Amen.**

\*CAROLS # 143 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

# 154 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

\*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

"Tell the Good News"

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 Worship resources are from the Book of Worship(Christmastide), United Church of Christ, 1986. Pages 483-485, 551.

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 26-January 2, 2010

**TODAY 10:30 am Worship Service/Christmas Carol/Hymn Sing**

MON 6:00 pm MASH Color Guard (FH)

7:00 pm Bear Den (Rm 13)

TUES 5:30 pm TOPS(Rm 13)

WED **No Choir Rehearsals**

SAT **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

SUN **10:30 am Worship Service/Pew Communion**

**No Sunday School**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME The Rev. Anna L. Thompson** as our Preacher and Liturgist today. Anna is a ministerial daughter of our congregation and also served St. Paul's as the Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries for a number of years. Presently, she is the Chaplain at the Thornwald and Todd Homes of United Church of Christ Homes. We thank her for her participation in our worship service today.