

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio

Lector: 8:15 Patrice Miller

10:30 Rick Ayers

Ministry of Music

Assistant Organist: Patrice Miller

Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

Ministry of Service

Head Usher: Rick Ayers

10:30 Colleen & Ben Eichman

Christal & Jonathan Nase

Greeters: 8:15 Joan & Ernie Moyer

10:30 The Thomas Family

Acolyte: 8:15 Mike Brown

10:30 Amy MacKinnon

Children's Sermon: Allyssa Boyer

Nursery: Shawna Simpson

Flower Delivery: Karen & Kevin Allison

“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

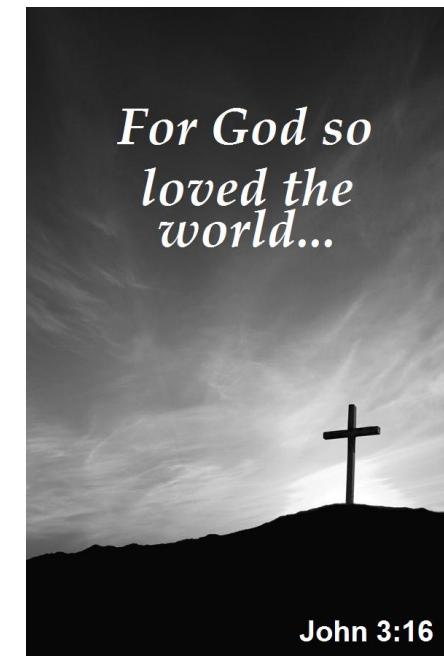
Office email: stpaulstaff@verizon.net

John’s email: revjohnwd@verizon.net

Welcome to St. Paul’s United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 20, 2011



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 IN LENT

MARCH 20, 2011

THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Organ "A Lenten Prelude" Chopin/Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP Choir

*THE HYMN NO. 24 "The God of Abraham Praise"

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Gracious God, be with us as we make our Lenten journeys. Drive us into the wilderness. Give us the strength to honestly reflect upon our lives and to engage in faith practices during this season which will draw us closer to You. Amen.

Lenten Song "Give Me a Clean Heart" Choir

THE CALL TO CONFESSION:

We find it hard to believe God loves us so much God would become human in order to show us how best to live. We find it hard to believe God loves us so much we are all promised new life and eternal life, all of us without exception. We find it hard to believe God wants to save the world, not condemn it. And because it is hard to believe, because we want to believe God acts like human beings who do accept some people and not others, we do not believe God loves us all this much. Let us join in the unison Prayer of Confession.



Chris Cowan
Bill and Alice Crouse
Anne Davison
Instituto Dela Toro
Julie DeLuca
Deets Family
Rev. John, Sue and Family
The Family of Jackie Diorio
Ethan Dixon
Pat Eakin
Dave & Jane Hall
Sandy & Skip Kline
Doug Knox
Cindy Long
Jerry McCartney
Ariel Marshall
Treva Miller
Ursula R. Pike
Carol & Jack Rhoads
Rhoda Rupp
John Scott
Peg & Don Seiler
Donna & Bud Sponsler
Tom Stone
Leah van Olden
Sue Worley, Jean and Willard Jones and Family
Pat Zitzman

All who were affected by the disaster in Japan, All the People in the Middle East struggling for peace; All the people in the military and their families; All who have lost loved ones; All who have lost jobs and their families; All affected by the recent budget cuts and all who are struggling in this current economy.

Celebrations

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 20th – 27th

TODAY 8:15/10:30 am Worship/Blessing of the Prayer Shawls
9:00 am Choristers (Rm 5)
9:15 am Sunday School

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

Tues **1:00 pm** Pollyanna's @ Bonnie Plymette's home
5:30 pm Tops (Rm 13)
6:30 pm Yoga (FH)
EPISTLE DEADLINE

WED **6:00 pm** Hand Chimes (Rm 5)
6:30 pm Youth Choir (Sanctuary)
7:15 pm Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

THUR 6:00 pm Mechanicsburg Learning CTR (FH)
7:00 pm Lenten Book Discussion (Parlor)

FRI Church Office Closed

SUN 8:15/10:30 am Worship
10:30 am Aiden Jude Smith-Hall Baptism
9:00 am Choristers (Rm 5)
9:15 am Sunday School
Noon Called to Care Meeting (I Spy Classroom)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



It is time to order the **Easter Flowers** that will beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The order slips can be found on the table in the Common Area. The cost is \$6.75 for a Lily or \$5.50 for a Tulip or Daffodil. The tulips and daffodils will be in a variety of colors. Please fill in the information on the order form and drop off your completed form and payment (cash or check made payable to St. Paul's UCC) in the offering plate or at the church office. This year we are getting the flowers from Paulus Farm Market. Last Day to Order is Sunday, April 10th. You can start picking up your flowers after the 8:15 or 10:30 service on Easter Sunday.

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Oh Loving God, as we journey through this Holy Season of Lent, we admit our hesitation to walk to Jerusalem and beyond with You. We want to follow Jesus, but we confess our reluctance to face the stress and temptation the journey might hold for us. We confess we want our journeys of faith to be devout but not too daring; comfortable but not too threatening. Forgive us and have mercy on us. In humility, may we offer our lives to others. In love, may we share Your grace with everyone we meet. In hope, may we wait for You all our days, as You come to us in the life and joy of Your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Words of Assurance (Responsive):

Minister: In this place we find God's word, God's way, God's love and God's forgiveness. What more do we need to sustain us as we continue as pilgrims along the Way?

All: **In every wilderness, on every road;
in every moment, in every life;
in every journey, in every heart,
we receive the daily bread we need - God's hope, God's mercy,
and God's joy. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. Amen.**

*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!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – 10:30 SERVICE

SING THE CHILDREN 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.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

SING THE CHILDREN TO THEIR SEATS Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so

Little ones to him belong. They are weak but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me

Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 12:1-7

THE READING OF THE PSALM Psalm 121

THE RESPONSE

One: God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING AND MESSAGE John 3:1-17
"Emphasis on the 'Love' Part"

*THE HYMN NO. 530 "God Our Author and Creator"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)
(Debts and Debtors)

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison) #775

**And God will raise you up on eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.**

THE OFFERTORY

8:15 Youth Choir "Once upon a Tree" Choplin
10:30 Chancel Choir "His Robes for Mine" Habegger

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**Thank You, God, for glimpses of eternity in the daily experiences of Life.
We are grateful for encounters that lift the horizons of our vision. We
rejoice in the teaching and care You have provided to us. Bless now the gifts
we return to You for the programs and outreach of the church. We want to
share our faith with the world. We pray for trustful relationships among all
Your children. We rejoice together in the saving ministry of Jesus that
inspires us to give our best. Amen.**

*THE HYMN NO. 546 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

*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 "An Exultant Alleluia" 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 Dedication is from Taught By Love, by Lavon Bayler, 1998, United Church Press.

The Prayer of Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, www.shawministry.com.

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
The Dundore Family "In honor of Jeff's 16th Birthday"

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/YOUTH ADVISOR----St.

Paul's is currently seeking a creative and committed individual for the part-time positions of Director of Christian Education and Youth Advisor. Ideally, we are seeking one candidate to fill both positions but will consider separate applicants. Experience in Christian Education a plus. Full job descriptions are available on the church's website: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office or Randy Murphy, Chairman of the Search Committee, at 571-4731.

Hartman Center Camper Scholarship Fund - Currently we have a special giving opportunity to enable members of our congregation to attend Hartman Center summer camp programs. Hartman Center is our UCC Penn Central Conference Outdoor Ministries and Retreat Center located 20 miles below State College in Milroy, PA. Throughout the summer, programs are offered for all ages, including Family, Grandparent/Child, and Adult camps, in addition to those geared to Youth. There is something for everyone! *All Penn Central Congregations have been challenged this year to fully scholarship two young people from our community. The hope is to give two young folks who would not get the chance to go to an overnight church camp the opportunity to go.* A special offering to go towards this and also to offsetting the costs of camp will be accepted through April 24th. Specially marked envelopes are available in the pews or simply write Hartman Camp Scholarship in the memo portion of your check made payable to St. Paul's UCC. If you have any questions, please contact Jonneke Dundore, St. Paul's Hartman Center advocate.

Pollyanna's will be meeting 1 pm Tuesday March 22nd at **Bonnie Plymette' home (please note change of location.)** Please remember to bring donations for the food pantry and "Soupleless Soup Sale." Any questions call Bonnie at 697-2938.

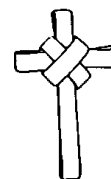
Do you know your hymns?

- The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy
- The Golfer's Hymn.....There's a Green Hill Far Away
- The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on the Promises

UCC Disaster Alert regarding the 2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

One of the largest earthquakes ever recorded hit Japan at 2:46 pm local time on March 11th, triggering a massive 23-foot tsunami. The 9.0 magnitude offshore quake, the largest in Japan's history, was followed by hundreds of aftershocks. Japanese officials say more than 3,300 people have died in the disaster. The death toll is likely to continue climbing given the scale of the devastation; extensive search and rescue efforts are underway.

How You can Help: 1. Pray for the people of Japan, their leaders and emergency and humanitarian aid workers. 2. To assist the emergency relief and rebuilding efforts, you may donate by check payable to "St. Paul's UCC" or cash, be sure and note it is for "Pacific earthquake/tsunami." We will pool the money together and send one check out. 3. If you prefer, you can send your donation directly, check made out to Wider Church Ministries, 700 Prospect Ave, Cleveland, OH 44115 (be sure to mark in the memo portion it is for "Pacific earthquake/tsunami" or you can make your donation online @ www.ucc.org/disaster/japan-earthquake-2011.



PALM CROSS WORKSHOP – Save the Date - Thursday April 14th, 6 PM in the Youth Room. The Rev. Anna Thompson has offered to lead us in making Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday. We hope to get them done in this one evening but if we need to we will meet again on Friday the 15th around 6 to finish them up. *The more help the quicker we will get them done.* If you can't make it by 6 PM, come when you can. Come out, enjoy some fellowship and help make the Palm Crosses that will be handed out on Palm Sunday. Please let Terry in the Church Office know if you will be able to help us.

EASTER BREAKFAST – We are looking for someone to coordinate the Easter Breakfast. What would this entail? Working with the Church Office to put up signup sheets to get donations of breakfast items, getting volunteers for setup and clean up and coordinating the breakfast that will be held 9:15 – 10:15 on Easter Sunday. Easter Breakfast is a fun time for fellowship. Please let Rev. John or Terry in the Church office know if you would like to chair the breakfast this year.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING – Pakistanis are still suffering from 2010 flooding. Imagine trying to find dry food and clothes, dry shelter and medicine. Imagine trying to find a place to sit, to sleep and to rest from the weight of the child you've been carrying for days. This is Pakistan's plight today, nearly a year after the devastating rains of last summer. An incredible 17 million of Pakistan's people have been affected with nearly 2,000 killed by the floods. Entire villages, roads, and bridges have been destroyed. Nearly nine million acres of crops were washed away, and 1.2 million livestock and 6 million livestock and 6 million poultry were downed. The UCC was able to respond to this crisis with Church World Service. One of the gifts of being part of the wider church is that we are able to work with and through partners around the world when disasters strike.

The combined choirs of St. Paul's United Church of Christ and the Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church will assemble to perform *Requiem* by John Rutter on Sunday, April 3, 2011 at 7:00 PM. The performance will be held at Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg, PA. The evening of music will be directed by Eric Dundore, Director of Music at St. Paul's United Church of Christ and accompanied by Organist, Suzanne Klinedinst, Director of Music at Mechanicsburg Presbyterian and six instrumentalists: Harp, Elizabeth Asmus; Flute, Susan Miller; Clarinet, Richard Klinedinst; Stephen Lavender, Cello; and a Timpani and Glockenspiel. A free will offering will be taken and a reception will follow the performance. In addition there will be child care available.

The *Requiem* by John Rutter is one of the favorites of choral groups. Sections of the *Requiem* are based on Psalm 130 and Psalm 23. The music which is written in Latin follows some of the sections of the Roman Catholic Mass – Requiem aeternam (Grant Them Rest Eternal), Pie Jesu (Blessed Jesus), Agnus Dei (Lamb of God), Lux aeterna (Light eternal). Translation of the Latin sections will be included in the bulletin.

The books for the **Lenten Reading group** have arrived for those who ordered one. Please see Rev. John or Terry to pick yours up.

The **Lenten Devotional Books**, "The Jesus Diaries" from the UCC Stillspeaking Writers' Group are in and are really nice. There are still plenty available for purchase at \$7.00. Please see Rev. John or Terry if you would like one.

We invite you to join the 2011 Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast - An Initiative of the New England Regional Environmental Ministries United Church of Christ. On a weekly basis we will post the suggestions on the bulletin board in the commons that we can practice during Lent and hopefully going forward to lessen the impact of Global Warming. Starting on Ash Wednesday, the week's theme was Energy Use. This week's theme: The Vocation of the Church – Engagement; Education; Worship; Faithfulness.

ST. PAUL'S ON A MISSION EASTER EGG SALE: Peanut Butter and Coconut Cream Eggs may be ordered on the signup sheet in the Common. They are available in milk and dark Chocolate and are \$1.00 each. Remember to take orders from friends & neighbors, additional order forms are available for outside orders on the table in the Common. All orders must be placed by March 27th. There is also a signup sheet to help make the eggs. If you would like to make a monetary donation or ingredient donation, please see Brenda Kern.

COOKBOOK: We are in the process of gathering recipes from St. Paul's wonderful cooks. Please submit, up to 3 recipes, to bkern59@verizon.net or drop your recipe(s) in the pot in the Common by **May 1st**. Cookbooks will be ready in the early Fall for purchase.

Check out the sign-up sheets on the bulletin boards in the commons: CHILD SPONSORSHIPS - cost per month to sponsor a child in 2011 will be \$30.00 (there are lots of empty spaces here, please consider signing up to help a child in need); ALTAR FLOWERS - cost per Sunday for altar flowers is \$32.00; FELLOWSHIP TIME; UCC Homes AUCTION- (auction items needed) and sign up to help in the NURSERY.