

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

November 20, 2011

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio

Lector: 8:15 Mary Runkle

10:30 Dennis Plymette

Ministry of Music

Assistant Organist: Patrice Miller

Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

Ministry of Service

Head Usher: Tina Bowers-Paris

Greeter: 8:15 Joan & Ernie Moyer

10:30 Amanda & Scott Endy

Acolyte: 8:15

10:30 Kevin MacKinnon

Children's Sermon: Amy Paulus

Nursery: Cassidy Westbrook

Flower Delivery: Chris & Dave Grice

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Herrold

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

“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



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

REIGN OF CHRIST

November 20, 2011

THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lector

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Organ "Thanks Be to God"

Scott

CALL TO WORSHIP Choral Introits: 8:15: Youth Choir; 10:30: Chancel Choir

*THE HYMN NO. 422 "Come, O Thankful People, Come"

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Jesus, our LORD and guide, help us to remember You are in all people. Help us to recognize Your presence particularly in those most in need, as You have always sought to offer all You can to them. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION:

When we hear the title LORD, we often think of someone who is over and above everyone else. While this could describe Jesus, we believe he chooses rather to be with everyone else. Yet we do not treat everyone, particularly those most vulnerable amongst us, as if Jesus values them, is within them. 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



Jim Bowers

Cleason Cromer

Bill and Alice Crouse

Pat Dundore

Floyd Gouse Jr.

Richard Gray

Melissa Havens

Bob Heisler

Clay Henry

Phyllis Hershey

Betty Hyde

Bill and Tammy Ingraham and Family

Jonathan Jehley

Family of Lance Keckler

Steven Keith

Susan Kinzer

Adrienne Miller

Pat Miller

Jean Myers

Penbrook UCC

Jere Rutherford

Judy Saurer

Joyce Sealover

Peg & Don Seiler & Family

Pete & Linda Shea

Tom Stone

Phoenix, Shannon & Eric Trout and the Miller Family

Leah van Olden

Sue Worley, Jean and Willard Jones and Family

All affected by the weather, All those in the Middle East struggling for peace; All in military and their families; All who have lost loved ones and All affected by lost jobs & the economy.

Celebrations

WED No Choir Rehearsals
**7:00 pm Mechanicsburg Interfaith Thanksgiving Service @
 First Church of God**

THUR **Thanksgiving Day – Church Office Closed**

FRI **Church Office Closed**

SAT **Christmas Decorating - Sanctuary**

SUN **8:15/10:30 Worship/1st Sunday of Advent**
9:00 am Choristers (Rm 5)
9:15 am Sunday School
9:15 am Young Adult Breakfast
6:00 pm Youth Fellowship (FH,Kitchen, Rm 7/8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2012 Pledge Card and Time & Talent Sheets – Thank you to everyone who turned in your financial pledge and time and talent sheets this last week. For those of you who have not, we implore you to bring or mail them in ASAP. Consistory would like to use as many actual revenue numbers as possible in the preparation of the 2012 budget. Our aim is to have a proposed budget to you on December 4th. Handing in your completed pledge card would greatly help that process. Thank you. There are blank forms on the table in the Commons.

FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION----Sunday, December 4th; 12:00 – 2:00

The Council for Christian Education invites you to make plans now to attend the Family Advent Celebration on **Sunday, December 4th** following the 10:30 service. We will share a light lunch as part of Fellowship Hour and there will be crafts/projects for all ages to help us prepare for the Advent/Christmas seasons for our homes and for our church. If your family does not currently have an Advent Wreath, you will have the opportunity to make one. Gift cards for Heifer Project will also be available for purchase at this event. Everyone is Invited---Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions or would like to help with the event, please contact Patty Scott, 737-3139.

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

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.

THE WORD FOR THE YOUNG

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 Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

THE READING OF THE PSALM Psalm 100

THE RESPONSE

One: God is still speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING AND MESSAGE

“When Did We See You?”

Matthew 25: 31-46

*THE HYMN NO. Hymn #537 “Christian Rise and Act Your Creed”

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 Youth Choir

“Give Thanks”

Wilson

10:30 Chancel Choir

“Grateful Songs of Praise”

Martin

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**God of steadfast love, receive these expressions of our thanks for the
glorious inheritance entrusted to us. We hereby enlist ourselves and our
resources toward the realization of Your eternal purpose for all humanity.
May this congregation become more and more a source of hope for each of
us and for all we meet. Amen.**

*THE HYMN NO. 43 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*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

“We Plow the Fields”

Prentiss

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 that is located in the red pad on the aisle side of the pew 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 by
Terry & Gene Shaner “In Honor of their 36th Wedding Anniversary”

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF November 20th – 27th

TODAY 8:15/10:30 Worship/Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

9:00 am Choristers (Rm 5)

9:15 am Sunday School

MON 6:30 pm Chair Yoga (Commons)

6:30 pm Bear Den (FH)

7:00 pm Worship Committee Mtg (Parlor)

TUES 5:30 pm Tops (Rm 13)

6:30 pm Yoga (FH)



Need a way to take the beauty of our church home or want to share it with others? 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. **These beautiful sets of 12 cards each are now sale priced at \$7.00 each or 2 for \$12.00.** 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).



MARK YOUR CALENDARS for St. Paul's Annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner on Sunday, January 8, 2012. 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. To help cover the cost of the meal, there will be a charge of \$3.00 for ages 5 – 12 and \$6.00 for ages 13 & up. Ages 4 and under are free. **Please sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the common area so we have a count on the # to plan for.**

Looking for donations of 9 x 13 sheet cakes for the Congregational Dinner on Sunday January 8th. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the common area if you are willing to bring a cake.

JUST IN TIME FOR HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING! ST. PAUL'S COOKBOOK "SHARING OUR BEST" is available for purchase. This 200+ recipe cookbook has recipes from past cookbooks as well as new recipes. The cost is only \$10.00. Half the proceeds go to our church and the other half to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. The cookbooks will be available for purchase after both services in the common today.



Mechanicsburg Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service – this coming Wednesday, November 23th @ 7 PM - The Mechanicsburg Ministerium will once again sponsor an Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service that all members of the community are invited to attend. The Service will be held at the *First Church of God Community Center, 201 East Green Street, in downtown Mechanicsburg, hosted by the First Church of God, Mechanicsburg.* Representatives from various congregations and synagogues will be participating. The Choir from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, all forty plus of them will sing, as well as the Messiah Village Singing Men. All those present get to sing two Thanksgiving Hymns. Also The Bell Choir from First United Methodist Church will play. We will be receiving donations of non-perishable food and goods. A Free-Will Monetary Offering will also be received. New Hope Ministries will be given both of these offerings. A time of fellowship will follow the Service with light snacks. This is a wonderful opportunity to Worship with our friends and neighbors.

Check out the Christmas Tree on the wall in the commons. The ornaments on the tree represent gift requests for **New Hope's "Christmas Blessing Express"** that benefit area families in need this Christmas Season. Take one or as many ornaments as you would like to purchase items for and return them **unwrapped to the designated box in the commons by Wednesday, Nov. 30th**. We hope that you will again open your hearts during the Holidays and support this worthwhile program which helps deserving families. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Kathy Aumiller (580-6292) or Shirley Keith Knox (697-6946).

The Serrv Chocolate Advent Calendars are in - cost is \$10.00 each, cash or check made payable to St. Paul's UCC. Any profit helps fund our Christian Education programs. Signup on the sheet on the bulletin board in the commons and see Terry or Rev. John to get yours. If they sell out, we will attempt to get more but cannot guarantee it.



Look in the common area for the designated box to put **Christmas Gifts for the residents of Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home and Thornwald Home.** *Please remember that gifts are to be new.* Donations of money will be used for gifts for the residents. **Please make your checks payable to "UCC Homes"** and be sure to indicate (1) that your check is intended as a Christmas gift for a resident(s), and (2) the UCC Homes' facility where the gift is to go. Check out your Nov. Epistle for gift suggestions or pick up one of the lists on the table beside the box in the commons. Thank you for your support of this ministry. **Please drop off your gifts in the box no later than next Sunday November 27th.**



Attention all recent high school or college grads, or current college students! Come to the 3rd annual Young Adult Breakfast next Sunday, November 27th at 9:15 AM! Enjoy a light breakfast and catch up with your friends at St Paul's while you are in town for Thanksgiving! If you are the parent of a young adult, please invite your young person to the breakfast, and sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons to donate a breakfast item. If you have any questions, please contact Martha Brown at ybrown5325@aol.com. Hope to see you there!



It's almost time for **College Care Packages to be prepared by our Youth Group.** The Youth will be baking hundreds of cookies on **Monday evening December 5th** starting at 6 PM in the Kitchen and shipping them off in time for finals. If anyone would like to donate any items from the list below, you may place them in the box I have marked College Care Packages in the youth room by November 27th. Items like mini candy bars, granola bars, rice krispie treats, microwave popcorn, hot cocoa mixes are all great to send. **Monetary donations** can also be made if anyone wishes to "Sponsor a Box" to help us out with the shipping of packages (note it is for College Care Boxes.) **Please contact Kim Pirtle jpirtle@verizon.net or 796-1647 with your students address or if you have any questions.** Thank You!

POLLYANNA'S will meet at 1 PM this coming Tuesday November 22nd at the home of Donna Chronister. Please remember your food pantry donations. Any questions, call Donna at 766-2656.

The **St. Paul's HANDCHIME CHOIR** is looking for a few more ringers! Rehearsals are Wednesday nights from 6 to 6:30. All are welcome; no prior musical experience is needed...only a willingness to learn and have fun! If interested, contact Mark Dundore at 717-460-8345 or DundoreMusik@aol.com.



A big thank you for all who helped on the Leaf clean-up day this past Saturday November 12th: Kathy and Mike Aumiller, Floyd Gouse, Dave Scott, Ernie Moyer, Sarah Myers, Kathy and Art Williams and Merikay & Don Wood.

Our next leaf raking day will be **Saturday December 10th, starting at 10 AM (weather permitting.)** Bring your favorite rake and if you have a tarp, bring that too. Thanks in advance for your help!



A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on **December 11th** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to hold a discussion and vote on the 2012 budget. Please plan now to attend.



THE POLLYANNAS will be having their 4th annual **COOKIE WALK** in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 11th after both services. In the past the proceeds have gone towards the purchase of the new choir robes, bell tables and the roof fund. We invite everyone to participate by either baking cookies or purchasing them. This is a fun way to support your Church. Please pack your cookies in baggies priced to sell at \$1.00 per bag and drop off in classroom 11/12 on Saturday morning, December 10th. Thank You.