

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio

Lector: Dennis Plymette

Ministry of Music

Assistant Organist: Patrice Miller

Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

Ministry of Service

Head Usher: Kathy Williams

Ushers: Art & Kathy Williams

Greeters: Cathy & Brandon Thomas

Acolyte:

Children's Message: Allyssa Boyer

Flower Delivery: Terry & Gene Shaner

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

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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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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

January 1, 2012



Jesus Presented in the Temple

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

JANUARY 1, 2012

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lector

THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Organ "Sheep May Safely Graze"

J.S. Bach

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

One: Sometimes despite all our preparations,

All: We are disappointed.

One: Sometimes we wait a long time,

All: And our hopes are not fulfilled.

One: Sometimes God shows up,

All: And we actually notice. Amen

*THE HYMN NO. 144 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

"When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart." Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

We enjoy the celebration and the gifts of the holiday but not necessarily the work of Christmas. Let us join in the unison Prayer of Confession.

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious God, we enjoy receiving gifts and we even enjoy giving them on occasion. When it comes to the giving of ourselves, we are much more hesitant and much less joyful. We forget to offer our thanks to You, through the work of our lives. Amen.



Jim Bowers

Ed Charles

Pat Cleland

Bill and Alice Crouse

Richard Gray

Betty Grove

Bob Henry

Sharon Hutton & the Family & Friends of Cleason Cromer

Betty Hyde

Joanne Ingerson

Mobeen Khan

Steven Keith

Zachary Lazerus

Jerry McCartney

Jack Mellinger

Pat Miller

Shelby, Tammy Mullin & Family

Jean Myers

Rhoads Family

Kelly & Thomas Rice and Family

Sandy

Joyce Sealover

Peg Seiler & Family

Pete & Linda Shea

Gracie Simpson

Bud & Donna Sponsler

Phoenix, Shannon & Eric Trout and the Miller Family

Leah van Olden

John White

Sue Worley, Jean and Willard Jones and Family

Lucas Wissinger

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

SUN 9:00 am Choristers (Rm 5)

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am One Worship Service/Intinction Communion

- Annual Meeting following Worship (Sanctuary)
- Burning of the Greens following (Parking Lot)
- Pork & Sauerkraut dinner/Recognition of 50 + year members following burning of the greens (FH)

6:00 pm Youth Fellowship (FH, Kitchen, Rm 7/8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for St. Paul's Annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner next Sunday, January 8, 2012. There will be one worship service with communion by intinction this day starting at 10:30, followed by the annual meeting, the Epiphany burning of the greens and then a delicious pork and sauerkraut dinner in FH. We will be honoring our members with 50 or more years at this dinner. To help offset the cost of the dinner there will be a charge of \$6.00 for those ages 13 and up and \$3.00 for ages 5 through 12. Please sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the common area so we have an idea on the # to plan for.

Reminder, if you signed up to donate a cake for the dinner, please drop your cake off in the Kitchen that morning.

THE 2012 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

THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2012 CHILD SPONSORSHIPS is on the bulletin board in the commons outside the Youth Room. The cost to sponsor a child in 2012 is \$30.00 a month. If you wish to write to a child you are sponsoring, please see Terry in the church Office to get the address.

THE SIGN-UP SHEET TO SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS IN 2012 is on the main bulletin board in the commons. Cost to sponsor Altar Flowers for a week in 2012 is \$32.00.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive)

Minister: God forgives us; forgives our hesitation and refusals.

ALL: Let us truly show our gratitude through the work of our lives. Amen.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*THE GLORIA PATRI

Children's Message

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.

CHILDREN'S 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

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 148

The Response

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING AND MESSAGE

Luke 2:22-40

"Finely Attuned"

*THE HYMM NO. 148 "What Child Is This?"

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 "Go Tell It On The Mountain" Manz

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

With joyous praise, we return to You a portion of all You have given to us. May our giving exceed the demands of the law. You have invited us to sacrifices befitting our blessings. You have asked us to care for those less privileged. What we offer in these moments is a beginning. We will ponder again Your amazing grace in granting us life, in offering the child Jesus to bring us back to You, and in giving us the name "Christian." Praise be to You, O God. Amen.

*THE HYMN NO. 77 "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

*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 "Julilate Deo" Handel

*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 Invocation is a poem of Howard Thurman's entitled "The Work of Christmas."

The Prayer of Dedication is from Led By Love, by Lavon Bayler, 1996, 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.

The white rosebud on the altar is placed there in loving memory of Cleason Cromer who died Sunday evening, December 25th. Please keep Cleason's daughter Sharon Hutton and his entire family and friends in your prayers.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of January 1, 2012 – January 8, 2012

TODAY	10:30 am	Worship Service Happy New Year
MON	6:30 pm	Chair Yoga (FH) 6:30 pm Bear Den (Rm 7/8) Church Office Closed
TUES	Noon	Ecumenical Food Pantry 5:30 pm TOPS(Rm 13) 6:00 pm MASH Sewing (Commons) 6:30 pm Yoga (FH)
WED	6:00 pm	Hand chimes(Rm 5) 6:30 pm Youth Choir (Sanctuary) 7:15 pm Chancel Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00 pm Webelos 2 (FH)
THUR	6:00 pm	MASH Sewing (Commons) 6:30 pm Daisy Troop (FH) 6:30 pm CE Meeting (Parlor) 7:00 pm Pack Committee Meeting (Rm 7/8)
FRI		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED