Worship Leadership
Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio
Lector: 8:15 Ruth Wrightstone
10:30 Lois Ritter

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

Ministry of Service
Head Usher: Dave Scott
Ushers: 8:15 Betty & Tom Olsen
10:30 Christal & Jonathan Nase
Chris & Dave Grice
Greeter: 8:15 Connie Sutton & Jim Boyer
10:30 Pam & Allan Mackinnon
Acolyte: 8:15 Kevin Rudisill
10:30 Becca Ward-Diorio
Children's Sermon: Choristers
Nursery: The Murphy Family
Flower Delivery: Merikay & Don Wood
Fellowship Time: Plymette's

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."

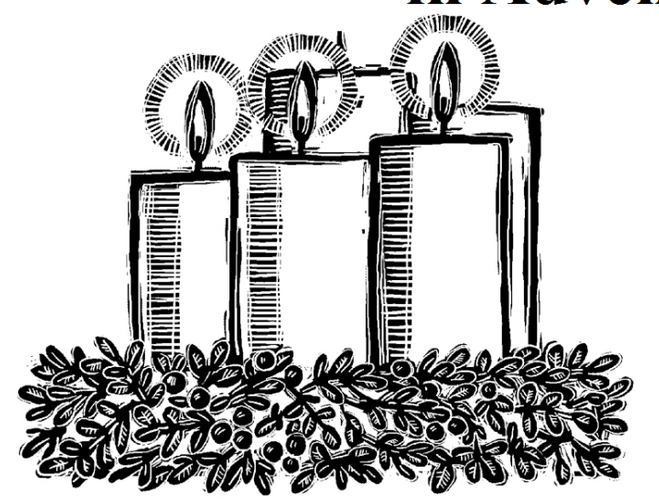
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717/766-7931
Website: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org
Office email: stpaulstaff@verizon.net
John's email: revjohnwd@verizon.net

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

December 11, 2011

Third Sunday in Advent



GOD'S JOY

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 11, 2011

THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Lector

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES
THE ORGAN PRELUDE AND ADVENT PROCESSIONAL

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

JOY

Advent Wreath Candle lighting: 8:15- The Chronister's; 10:30-The Eichman's
(Responsive Reading and Scripture Passage)

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
One: This season of preparation is half done, and today we light the third candle of our wreath. It is pink to remind us that there is so much about which we should rejoice.

All: In the midst of all the parties and merriment, we are a people seeking true joy in the arms of the One who comes to bring it. Even as night continues to lengthen, we sense the coming of light that will brighten our days, so we listen for the Word in the words of the prophet.

One: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 61, verses 1 to 4; 8 to 11.

Our Love & Prayers Go Out To...

Jim Bowers
Pat Cleland
Cleason Cromer
Bill and Alice Crouse
Family of Clem Domarecki
Richard Gray
Betty Grove
Clay Henry
Betty Hyde
Mobeen Khan
Steven Keith
Jack Mellinger
Pat Miller
Sue Miller & Family
Shelby, Tammy Mullin & Family
Jean Myers
Al Perrault
Kelly & Thomas Rice and Family
Jere Rutherford
Judy Saurer
Joyce Sealover
Peg Seiler & Family
Pete & Linda Shea
Bud & Donna Sponsler
Jack Steltzer
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

Thanks go out to Patty & Dave Scott, Sue Ward-Diorio, Allyssa Boyer, Jim Boyer, Jonne Dundore, Brenda Kern, Amy Paulus, Mary Runkle and Dar Murphy for the Advent Program and Luncheon last Sunday. Thanks to all who donated gifts to Sarah Todd and Thornwald UCC homes for Christmas and to Donna Sponsler for delivering them.

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 Liturgy of Light (our Advent Wreath Candlelighting Liturgy) was written by The Rev. Michael Piazza, Dean and National Pastor of the Cathedral of Hope UCC, Dallas, Texas, 2008, Local Church Ministries, Worship and Education Ministry Team, UCC.
The Prayer of Dedication is from Led By Love, by Lavon Bayler, 1996, United Church Press.
The Prayer of Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, www.shawlministry.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
Allyssa & Jim Boyer "In Honor of Aunt Ann's Birthday"

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 11 – December 18, 2011

TODAY	**8:15&10:30 am Worship Services/Blessing of the Prayer Shawls**
	9:00 am Choristers
	9:15 am Sunday School
	Pollyanna's Cookie Walk after both services (FH)
	Noon Budget Meeting (Sanctuary)
	6:00 pm Youth Fellowship (FH/Kitchen/Rm 7/8)
MON	6:00 pm MASH Indoor Guard (FH)
	6:30 pm Chair Yoga (commons)
	7:00 pm Bible Study (Parlor)
TUES	5:30 pm TOPS (Rm 13)
	6:30 pm Yoga (FH)
	7:00 pm Consistory (Rm 7/8)
WED	**6:00 pm Hand chimes(Rm 5)**
	6:30 pm Youth Choir (Sanctuary)
	7:15 pm Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
THUR	**7:00 pm Advent Study Group (Parlor)**
	EPISTLE DEADLINE
FRI	7:00 pm Pack 190 Meeting (FH)
SAT	**9:00 am Musicale Rehearsal**
SUN	**9:00 am Sunday School Christmas Program (FH)**
	10:30 am Worship/Christmas Musicale /
	Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering

All: We rejoice in the Anointed One who came and who comes. With joy-filled hearts, we join the energy of our life to the life whose birth we anticipate. With Christ, we, too, will bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

One: For us, God has replaced our mourning with the oil of gladness, so we light this third candle and name it Joy.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN # 115 "The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore"

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)
God of the oppressed, brokenhearted and lowly, help us to know Your presence and promise when we find ourselves in these situations, and help us to be bearers of Your presence and promise to others as they find themselves captive to personal and cultural oppression. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION:
We search for joy in things and celebrations. While we may be temporarily happy, we have not increased God's joy, nor the joy of others whom God often has communicated particular concern about. Our preparations are for moments, while God is hoping we will be trying to prepare for changed lifetimes. Let us join in the unison Prayer of Confession.

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)
God, we confess we often confuse what we want with what You want. Your hopes and dreams include all people, especially those who are hurting. Your joy comes in seeing specific needs met and the overall world becoming more caring toward all people. We often have failed to bring You joy in this way. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Minister: God forgives our confusion, our exclusionary self-interest and our failures. God's love for us continues unabated.
ALL: Let us recognize what brings God joy and offer ourselves in Service to those hopes. 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 CHORISTERS TO THE FRONT O Come, Little Children

O come, little children, come one and come all,
O come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall,
And see what our God in heaven above,
Has sent to us all on this earth with God's love.

CHORISTERS "Sing and Rejoice With Heart and Voice" Clemens

SING THE CHORISTERS TO THEIR SEATS Children, go where I send you

Children, go where I send you.
How shall I send you?
I will send you one by one.
One is the tiny baby,
Born, born oh, born in Bethlehem.

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 1:46-55

THE RESPONSE
One: God is still speaking.
All: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE "God's Joy"

*The Hymn NO.119 "My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

The Prayers of the People and The LORD's Prayer (Unison) (Debts and Debtors)

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)
Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us; grant us Your true liberty.

THE OFFERTORY

8:15	Chancel Choir	"The Yearning"	Courtney
10:30	Youth Choir	"Prepare"	Pote

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)
In our unworthiness, O God, may we yet bring worthy gifts to honor the Messiah. May the brokenhearted be led to enriching new celebrations. May the lowly among us come to know their true worth as persons chosen by You to do great things. By Your mercy, may the hungry be fed not only with bread but also with opportunities to feed others. We give ourselves as Your servants, for no gift is complete without personal commitment. Thank You, God, for expecting great things of us. Our spirits rejoice in the coming of our Savior. Amen.

HYMN NO. 609 "Now Is the Time Approaching"

*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.

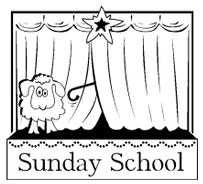
*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE
Organ "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" Franklin Ritter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The generous gifts of the U.C.C. congregations and individuals to the **Christmas Fund** enabled the Pension Boards Ministerial Assistance program to provide some form of assistance to approximately 1,600 persons over the past year in the form of monthly pension supplementation, "Thank You" Christmas annuitant checks, heath premium supplementation, and emergency grants to low income clergy families and lay employees.

College Care Package update: 16 college care packages filled with Candy, Popcorn, Fresh Baked Cookies, crackers and other goodies were sent out on 12/6. Thank you for the many donations of treats and postage money! There were more than 10 youth who baked cookies, assembled boxes and packaged the goodies. We had a great time and most of the cookies and goodies made it into the boxes. (Some of the nice warm cookies needed to be tested for quality control purposes, of course). Thanks!!



Christmas Program

The Sunday School classes would like to invite you to come and join in the holiday fun of the **Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18 from 9:00-10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**. We'll sing songs, get creative with crafts, play a game, and hear an inspired retelling of the Christmas story from a different point of view. **All are invited!**

After the Sunday School Christmas program, we hope you will join us in the Sanctuary for our one worship service @ 10:30 for **The Christmas Musicale Program – "Handel's Messiah Part 1"** featuring the Youth & Chancel Choirs with soloists and orchestra.

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 in the commons today and next Sunday December 18th.

Notecards are also available for purchase. One set for $7.00 or two for $12.00.

The POLLYANNA'S will be having their annual Christmas luncheon on Tuesday December 20th at 12 noon. Mary Louise Miller will be hosting. Any questions, call Mary Louise at 766-6615.

On Wednesday, December 28th, folks of St. Paul's choirs, congregation and friends will be making our annual trip to share the music of the Christmas Season with the residents at both Thornwald Home and The Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home. If you would like to car pool, we will be leaving from St. Paul's at 9:45 or you can meet us at Thornwald to sing with the residents at the 10:30 service, then have lunch somewhere in Carlisle and then travel to Sarah Todd for the 2:00 service. These times include a short meditation, lots of carols and then segue into the beloved secular songs of the Christmas season (including the always requested Rudolf and The Twelve Days of Christmas!). The residents of both communities look forward to this special time of music, memories and joy. Everyone is welcome to join us. So we can have an idea on how many will be joining us for this event, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the commons. Questions, please see Eric Dundore or Anna Thompson.

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 1st.**

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.**

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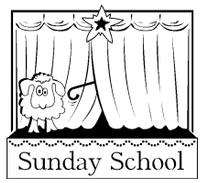

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