

**Worship Leadership**  
Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio  
Announcements: Terry Shaner

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

**Ministry of Service**  
Head Usher: Dave Scott  
Ushers: Mike Aumiller, Tim Kern  
Joan & Ernie Moyer  
Greeters: Bonnie & Dennis Plymette  
Acolyte: Lily Ward-Diorio  
Flower Delivery: Dayne & Sue Miller

**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

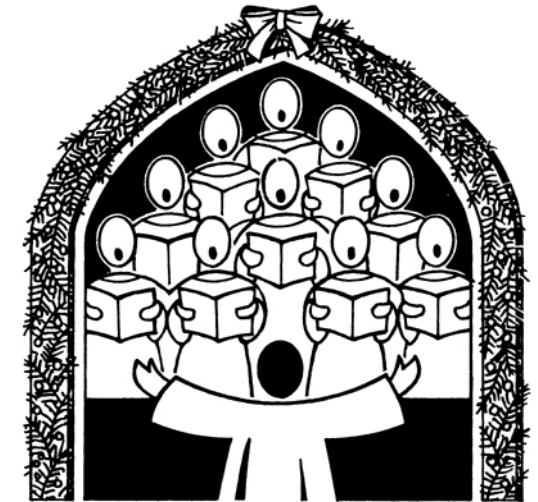
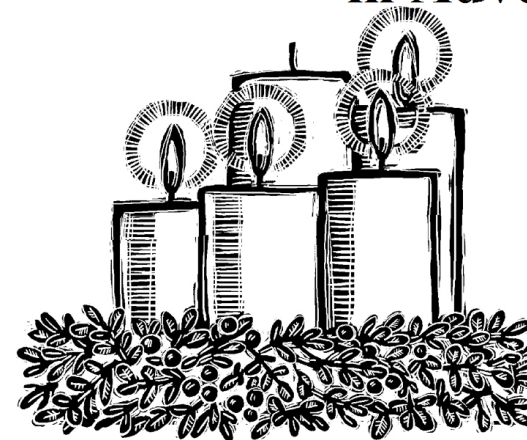
Website: [www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org)  
Office email: [stpaulstaff@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulstaff@verizon.net)  
John’s email: [revjohnwd@verizon.net](mailto:revjohnwd@verizon.net)

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

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

December 18, 2011

## Fourth Sunday in Advent



**LOVE**

*Handel’s Messiah-Part 1*

**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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2011

THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lector

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE ORGAN PRELUDE AND ADVENT PROCESSIONAL

*Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle*



**LOVE**

Advent Wreath Candle lighting: The Boyer's  
(Responsive Reading and Scripture Passage)

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

One: Love's memory is long. As we come to the last Sunday of Advent, we recall the many times we have been here before with still so much to do and so much love left unexpressed. The Hebrew Bible lesson today recalls a promise to King David, which the church has often understood to be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. Love's promise is often kept in unexpected ways.

**All: God's love endures forever. In a world where even evergreens turn dry and brittle, God's love is the one reality on which we can rely. Today we prepare for the greatest expression of that love, as we listen once more for the Word in the words.**

One: A reading from the Second Book of Samuel, Chapter 7, verses 1 to 11; 16.



Jim Bowers  
Pat Cleland  
Cleason Cromer  
Bill and Alice Crouse  
Richard Gray  
Betty Grove  
Clay Henry  
Betty Hyde  
Mobeen Khan  
Steven Keith  
Jerry McCartney  
Jack Mellinger  
Pat Miller  
Shelby, Tammy Mullin & Family  
Jean Myers  
Al Perrault  
Rhoads Family  
Kelly & Thomas Rice and Family  
Jere Rutherford  
Sandy  
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  
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**

Thanks go out Sue Mullin and Betsy Rushong for making and delivering Christmas arrangements to some of our members on our prayer list. Thanks also to Bill Mullin who also helped with the delivery.

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 18 – December 25, 2011**

**TODAY 10:30 am** Worship Service/Christmas Musicales/Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering.  
**9:00 am** Sunday School Program (FH)

**MON** 6:00 pm MASH Indoor Guard (FH)  
**6:30 pm** Chair Yoga (commons)  
**6:59 pm** Worship Committee (Anna Thompson's Home)

**TUES** Noon Pollyanna's at Mary Louise Miller's home.  
5:30 pm TOPS (Rm 13)  
**6:30 pm** Yoga (FH)  
7:00 pm MLC Board Meeting (Rm 13)

**WED** No Choir Rehearsals tonight

**THUR** **7:00 pm** Advent Study Group (Parlor)

**FRI** Church Office Closed  
**6:00 pm** Youth Fellowship Caroling

**SAT** **4:00/10:45 PM** Christmas Eve Services with Pew Communion

**SUN** **9:00 am** One Worship Service Christmas Carol and Hymn Sing  
10:30 am Fellowship Hall & Kitchen in Use

**Mon** Church Office Closed

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Your generous gift to the **Christmas Fund** will enhance the purpose of this special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. Assistance will be provided to those in situations of critical need while preserving the dignity of those who receive the aid. The vital ministries of Pension and Health premium supplementation, emergency grants and Christmas gifts to low income active and retired clergy and lay employees have made a difference in the lives of many people. **We will continue to take contributions for the Christmas Fund through December 25<sup>th</sup>.**

The **2012 Offering Envelopes** are on the table in the commons. If you don't see yours, please check with Terry in the Church office.

**All: God's love endures forever. Through acts as simple and common as the birth of a baby, God transforms the world, and God's promises are kept. It is that expression of faithful love we anticipate and celebrate this day. It is that promise that brings light to our deepest night.**

One: So, as we light the fourth candle in eager anticipation of God's greatest promise fulfilled, what else can we do but name this candle Love?

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 145 "Once in Royal David's City"

\*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**As the Angel Gabriel once spoke to Mary and she listened, God please speak to us and help us to hear Your Promise. You came into the world in Jesus; help us to receive You and to share You with the world today. Amen.**

THE CALL TO CONFESSION:

God would not, could not possibly be born in us; or so we believe. Let us join in the unison Prayer of Confession.

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**We confess that Mary's faith and choice seems beyond our capabilities. We ignore her surprise at being chosen and that she was a "regular" person, just like us. We refuse God's call to us. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Minister: God forgives our uncertainty, our disbelief and our refusals. God has not given up trying to be born in each of us.

**ALL: Let us open ourselves to the mysterious and powerful ways God is seeking to come into our lives again this year. Amen.**

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*THE GLORIA PATRI

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38





**Saturday Evening, December 24<sup>th</sup>** - the Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held at 4:00 PM and 10:45 PM. Both Services will include readings, Christmas Carols, hymns and the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Choristers will sing at the 4 PM Service and Chancel Choir will sing at the 10:45 Service.

**Christmas Eve  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICES**

At the 10:45 pm service, Sarah Myers and Merikay Wood will be providing prelude music beginning at 10:15 pm. Plan now to come early and enjoy both the beautiful music and feel the holiday spirit in our Sanctuary decorated so nicely by the decorating committee.

**Christmas Day, Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>** – One Worship Service at 9 AM – Christmas Carol and Hymn Sing (no Sunday School.)

**Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012** – One Worship Service starting at 10:30am (no Communion or Sunday School).

**Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012** – Sunday School returns starting at 9:15 am. We will have one Worship Service this day starting at 10:30am with Intinction Communion. Following the worship service the annual meeting will be held in the Sanctuary. Then we hope you will join us for a delicious pork and sauerkraut dinner in Fellowship Hall. Plan to stay and enjoy a wonderful meal and time of fellowship where we will be honoring our 50 year members. 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.**

**Thank You to all who participated in today's Musicale!** We are incredibly grateful to our Guest Soloists and Instrumentalists, our Chancel Choir, Sarah Myers and to Eric Dundore for all the hard work that went into offering this challenging and beautiful piece of music.

**Thanks go out to** Floyd Gouse, Pat Eakin, Bill Mullin, Dave Scott & Don Wood for picking up branches and the cleaning of the shed during the property work day on Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pollyanna's Cookie Walk** was a huge success with a profit of \$676.00. We want to thank all who participated in this effort. We will be making a donation to the Church with 50 % to be used to replace some worn Sunday School tables and the other 50% to be applied against the cost of adding additional handicapped parking spaces.

**The POLLYANNA'S** annual Christmas luncheon will be held this coming Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. Mary Louise Miller will be hosting. Any questions, call Mary Louise at 766-6615.



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. The Mitten Tree can be found in the Commons. **Deadline to drop off is Sunday, January 1st.**

**The Local Food Banks** need our help. The need for their services has increased 40 % this year. Donations of non perishable items can be dropped off in the designated area in the commons for both New Hope Ministries (shopping cart) and the Ecumenical Food Pantry (shelving unit in the corner.) Thank you for helping others in need.

**YOGA CLASS SCHEDULE FOR NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS** – Chair Yoga will be held on Monday December 19<sup>th</sup> and Vinyasa Flow will be held on Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please note on your calendar, we are taking a break for the Christmas Holiday. There will be no Chair Yoga Class on Monday December 26<sup>th</sup> or Vinyasa Flow Class on Tuesday December 27<sup>th</sup>. Chair Yoga will return on Monday January 2<sup>nd</sup> and Vinyasa Flow on Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**O Come All Ye Faithful...to Youth Fellowship Christmas Caroling!** All youth are invited as we spread the Christmas spirit on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Also invited: adult volunteers who are willing to drive. All singing abilities are welcome. Just bring warm clothes and a joyful spirit. Afterward, warm up with hotdogs, s'mores, and hot cocoa at the Keith family's house. If you'd like to join us, please contact Allyssa Boyer.

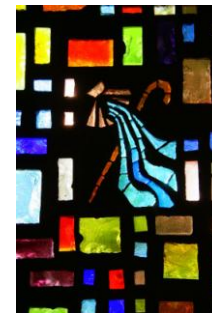


On Wednesday, December 28th, folks of St. Paul's choirs, congregation and friends will be making our annual trip to share the music of the Christmas Season with the residents at both Thornwald Home and The Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home. If you would like to car pool, we will be leaving from St. Paul's 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.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** for the year 2011 must be in the church office by **Friday December 30, 2011**. If you have any questions on your 2011 contributions, please see Terry in the Church Office. **Monies received after the start of 2012 will be booked as a 2012 contribution.**

**TV ADVERTISING** - St. Paul's has collaborated with a few other United Church of Christ Churches this Christmas Season on TV advertising. Some of the dates and times the ad will be run are: Friday, Dec 22 - ABC News Nightline (11:30-12midnight), Saturday, Dec 24 - ABC 27 News Saturday Morning (9am-10am) & on Christmas Day, Dec 25 - Disney Parks Holiday Parade (12noon-2pm).

**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 or see Terry in the Church Office to get yours.



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 sets 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.



If you ordered Poinsettias, you may start to pick them up after the 4:00 or 10:45 Christmas Eve Services. Thank you for purchasing the flowers that will help beautify the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Poinsettia's that are not picked up will be delivered to the residents at Sarah Todd and Thornwald nursing homes. If you want your poinsettia and cannot pick it up Christmas weekend, please let Terry in the Church Office know and we will hold it for you. **We will be wrapping the pots of the Poinsettias with cellophane paper and arranging them in the Sanctuary on Thursday December 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 4 PM.** If you would like to help with this effort, please let Terry in the Church Office know.