

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Worship Leadership**

Preacher: The Rev. Anna Thompson

Lector: Patty Scott

**Ministry of Music**

Organist: Sarah Myers

Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

**Ministry of Service**

Head Usher: Dave Scott

Ushers: Patty & Dave Scott  
Sue & Dayne Miller

Greeter: Mary Louise Miller

Acolyte:

**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**

**Web: [saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://saintpaulsucc-mech.org)**

**Office email: [stpaulstaff@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulstaff@verizon.net)**

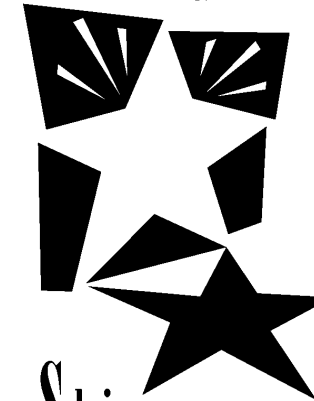
**John’s email: [revjohnwd@verizon.net](mailto:revjohnwd@verizon.net)**

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

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

December 25, 2011

The LIGHT



Shines in the  
darkness  
& the darkness  
did not  
overcome it

John 1:5

**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

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2011

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lector

THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Organ

"Christmas Carol Medley"

Robert J. Hughes

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader : People of God, sing and rejoice!

God has come to us in Jesus the Christ, to reconcile and make new.

People: **God has entered our existence of joy and sorrow,  
taking on human likeness in Jesus, born of Mary.**

Leader: Therefore, we rejoice, praising God and singing:

All: **Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace to those who will the  
good. Christ is born, Alleluia!**

\*CAROLS # 129 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

# 139 "The First Nowell" (Verses 1&2)

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**Our faces are sometimes lined with worry, O God; our days are full of stress  
and struggle. Yet we come today grateful that in the midst of this crowded  
and troubled world, your child was born, lived, and died, full of grace and  
truth. Surprise us with your presence; renew our sense of wonder; and give  
us peace and courage to live as your people in the world. May you be  
glorified in us, as in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

We live as if Christ had never been born. We abuse the privileges that are ours  
as children of God. Let us confess our sin before God.



Jim Bowers

Pat Cleland

Cleason Cromer

Bill and Alice Crouse

Richard Gray

Betty Grove

Bob Henry

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

Jere Rutherford

Sandy

Joyce Sealover

Peg Seiler & Family

Robin Setcavage

Pete & Linda Shea

Gracie Simpson

Bud & Donna Sponsler

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**

**CONTRIBUTIONS** for the year 2011 must be in the church office by this **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**

**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. Please sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the common area so we have an idea on the # to plan for.



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 next Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**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** and the **2012 ALTAR FLOWERS** are on the bulletin boards in the Commons.



This 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. 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.

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**God, you have come to us in Jesus, your true child, in whom you give us power to be your children. Yet, O God, we confess that we turn from your love, fearing the comfort and challenge of being your children. We are your own, yet we refuse you, clinging to the security of familiar ways rather than accepting the new life you offer. We tolerate hatred, violence, and injustice in the world you loved so well that you sent the child Jesus, begotten from your own being. We trust not in ourselves, but in your great compassion. Forgive us, and renew a right spirit within us that we may live as your children and once again praise you; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive)

Leader : Hear the good news, children of God: In Jesus Christ, God forgives and frees us.

People: **We hear the good news and rejoice that we are free to live in the Spirit!**

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*THE GLORIA PATRI

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 98

THE GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-14

CAROLS # 124 "Away in the Manger"

# 126 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (Verses 1 & 2)

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

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

**Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;  
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.**

CAROLS # 128 "In the Bleak Midwinter" (Verses 1&4)

# 133 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Verses 1,2 & 4)

CALL TO OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

Organ

"Bethlehem Lullaby"

Susanna Keeney

\*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

\*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**Thank You, God, for the Word that came to live among us, bringing life and a vision of glory. Thank You for Your steadfast love and faithfulness even when we have not listened or responded to Your will. May this offering represent our growing awareness of the larger vision to which You call us. We dedicate these tokens toward sharing the light of this season among the principalities and powers that seek to wrest the world from Your hands. Draw our hearts to follow our treasure into the work You want us to do. Amen.**

\*CAROLS # 143 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

# 154 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

\*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

"Celebrate Christmas"

Robert J. Hughes

\*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 Worship resources are from the Book of Worship(Christmastide), United Church of Christ, 1986. Pages 483-485, 551.

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.

### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of December 25-January 1, 2012

**TODAY 9:00 am Worship Service/Christmas Carol/Hymn Sing**

Fellowship Hall & Kitchen in Use

MON

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**No Chair Yoga tonight**

TUES

5:30 pm

TOPS(Rm 13)

**No Yoga tonight**

WED

Caroling at Thornwald and Sarah Todd

**No Choir Rehearsals**

SUN

**10:30 am**

**Worship Service**

**No Sunday School**

**Happy New Year**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME The Rev. Anna L. Thompson** as our Preacher and Liturgist today. Anna is a ministerial daughter of our congregation and also served St. Paul's as the Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries for a number of years. Presently, she is the Chaplain at the Thornwald and Sarah Todd Homes of United Church of Christ Homes. We thank her for her participation in our worship service today.