

Worship Leadership
Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio
Lector: Rick Ayers

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

Ministry of Service
Head Usher: Kathy Williams
Greeters: Belva & Leo Garman
Acolyte: Jeff Dundore
Children's Sermon: Brian Medkeff-Rose
Nursery:
Flower Delivery: Belva & Leo Garman
Communion Prep: 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
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

January 8, 2012



A Light To All

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 THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

EPIPHANY

January 8, 2012

THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lector

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Organ

*Call To Worship (Responsive)

Minister: We have come following a star.

ALL: WE ARE DRAWN TO ITS LIGHT.

Minister: We have found the light within us and around us.

ALL: LET US SHARE THE LIGHT GIVEN TO US. AMEN.

*THE HYMN NO. 159 "As With Gladness Those of Old"

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Bright and shining God, help us to receive the light You offer that can illumine our darkness and warm the chill of our hearts and spirits. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION:

While it is true that it is cold outside and less light shines over the course of the day, the cold and darkness we experience often has more to do with the situations we find ourselves in and/or have created in our lives. Let us join in the unison Prayer of Confession.

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God we see Your star shining, but we refuse to follow. We lack the courage to begin or continue the journey toward a greater connection with You. Bringing the gifts of our talents and abilities to You, seems too foreign a concept, too hard a task. Please forgive our choice to remain in the dark. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION



Art Williams & Family

Jim Bowers

Paula Boyer

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

Thank you to Jim Boyer & Dave Scott for coordinating the Burning of the Greens, to Brenda Kern and crew for preparing the Pork & Saurkraut Dinner.

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.

THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held in the sanctuary immediately following the Service today. Following the meeting the **Burning of the Greens** will be held out on the parking lot. We will say a prayer, place our written resolutions for the year or things we want to let go of in the fire and end by singing a hymn. We will then move the Fellowship Hall for our **Annual Congregational Dinner**. In addition to enjoying pork, sauerkraut and all the trimmings, the following members of St. Paul’s will be honored. Each of these persons has been a member for at least 50 years!

<u>Member</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Grace Cocklin	March 24, 1929
Phyllis K. Hershey	September 24, 1950
Albert Huebner	November 11, 1956
Betty J. Hyde	November 16, 1951
John Knisely	February 10, 1957
Shirley Knisely	February 10, 1957
Raymond Krouch	April 24, 1955
Mary Louise Miller	March 25, 1945
Ned M. Rupp	April 3, 1955
Rhoda Rupp	April 15, 1962
Carolyn S. Rutherford	October 30, 1955
Margaret Seiler	November 06, 1960
Linda J Shea	March 22, 1959
Susan Thorn	April 15, 1962
Donald L Wood	March 25, 1956

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
“In Memory of Jack Rhoads”

Words of Assurance (Responsive):

Minister: God’s forgiveness remains as steady and as bright as the stars at night, offered across the ages and to all people.

ALL: LET US BOLDLY CHOOSE TO FOLLOW. LET US EMBARK UPON THE JOURNIES GOD HAS LAID OUT FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US. AMEN.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*THE GLORIA PATRI

SING THE CHILDREN 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.**

THE WORD FOR THE YOUNG

SING THE CHILDREN 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 HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 60:1-6

THE PSALTER RESPONSE (sung together) Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
New Century Hymnal Page NO. 667-668

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

THE GOSPEL READING AND MESSAGE Matthew 2:1-12
“Light For The World”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison – Tune:”We Three Kings of Orient Are”)

**O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.**

THE OFFERTORY

Chancel Choir

“I Ponder”

Courtney

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Gracious God, We reach for the boundless riches of Christ, even as we give the tithes and offerings we have pledged. An abundance of things does not satisfy, and the wealth of nations cannot buy peace. Therefore, we join our efforts in the church to make a difference in the world, not through instruments of oppression but through the power of love. Employ our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*THE COMMUNION HYMN NO. 164 “Arise, Your Light Is Come”

THE INVITATION

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God Be With You.

Many: And Also With You.

One: Lift Up Your Hearts.

Many: We Lift Them Up To God.

One: Let Us Give Thanks To God.

Many: It Is Good To Give God Thanks And Praise.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison)

(Debts and Debtors)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

(We will share the elements of Communion by Intinction. Please come forward to receive the bread from the server. You will dip the bread in the cup and consume both elements at once. There are gluten free crackers available. There is both wine and white grape juice available. As you return to your seat, use the time of quietness to offer your prayers of thanksgiving to God. Thank you.)

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Eternal God, You have called Your people from east and west, and north and south, to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank You for Christ’s presence, and for the spiritual food of Christ’s body and blood. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to Your Will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure, that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church, of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

*THE HYMN NO. 157 “Brightest and Best”

*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

*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.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8th-15th

TODAY 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 our 50 + year Members following burning of the greens (FH)
9:00 am Choristers (Rm 5)
9:15 am Sunday School
6:00 pm Youth Fellowship (FH, Kitchen, Rm 7/8)

MON 6:00 pm MASH Guard (FH)
6:30 pm Chair Yoga (Commons)
7:00 pm Bible Study (Parlor)
7:30 pm PPRC Mtg (Rm 7/8)

TUES **1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)**
5:30 pm Tops (Rm 13)
6:00 pm MASH Sewing (Commons)
6:30 pm Yoga (FH)
7:00 pm 150th Anniversary Mtg (Parlor)

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)

SAT Noon-4:30 pm Fellowship Hall & Kitchen in use

SUN **8:15/10:30 am Worship/Blessing of the Prayer Shawls**
9:00 am Choristers (Rm 5)
9:15 am Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 ALTAR FLOWERS is on the bulletin board in the Common area. Please neatly fill in the information as you want it printed in the Worship Bulletin or call your information into the church office. The cost to sponsor altar flowers is \$32.00. Payment should be made no later than the Sunday you are sponsoring the Altar Flowers. Please make your check out to St. Paul's UCC or place the cash in an envelope with your name and altar flowers on it and place in offering plate or drop off in the Church office. Following worship these flowers are taken by volunteers to the ill, shut-in's or to other appropriate places. In this manner, the flowers continue their silent reminder of God's love. Thank you in advance for providing flowers for the Altar of St. Paul's.

If you have hugs to spare, consider sponsoring a child through the Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program, a global children's ministry of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). **THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2012 CHILD SPONSORSHIPS** and the pictures of the children we currently sponsor are on the bulletin board outside of the youth room in the commons. The cost to sponsor a child in 2012 is \$30.00 child per month. Payment should be made no later than the month you are sponsoring the child. Please make your check out to St. Paul's UCC or place the cash in an envelope with your name and child sponsorship on it and place in offering plate or drop off in the Church office. **The children like to receive letters. If you would like to write to the child you sponsor, ask Terry for their address. Thank you in advance for sponsoring a child who has so little.**

Helpers Needed to prepare Communion – What does this entail? We like to pair two people up for each communion. Communion preparer's provide the bread while the wine, juice and gluten free crackers are provided. **On Saturday February 4th starting at 10 AM, we will hold a training session for anyone interested.** Please let Terry Shaner know @ 766-7931, 697-8329 or stpaulstaff@verizon.net if you are interested in helping and if you can attend this training. If this time is not good for you, let us know and we will arrange a time to show you what's involved. We hope to get enough helpers so each person only prepares communion once or twice a year.

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