

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
626 Williams Grove Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
Phone: 717-766-7931

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**AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!**

## The Epistle

is a monthly publication of St. Paul's UCC.

***Comments, suggestions, and submissions are welcome!***

*1/2 (8:30am. & 10:30am.) Communion, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, Sunday School at 9:15 am., Worship at 10:30 am.  
Please wear a mask inside.*

*Live stream services on St. Paul's Facebook Page & YouTube Channel.*

### ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF

Pastor.....The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio  
Pastor/CE & Youth Director..... Allyssa A. Boyer  
Administrative Assistant.....Renee E. Durbin  
Director of Music.....Eric R. Dundore  
Chorister' Director.....Jonneke A. Dundore  
Assistant Music Director.....Mark A Dundore  
Organist.....Sarah A Myers  
Assistant Organist.....Patrice G. Miller  
Audio & Video.....Jeffrey A. Dundore  
Sexton.....Michael W. Hatz  
Consistory President.....Mary E. Runkle  
Pastor Emeritus....The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold  
Ministers.....The Entire Congregation of St. Paul's

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00 ♦ Office email: [stpaulstaff@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulstaff@outlook.com)

Phone: 717-766-7931

Rev. John's email: [revjohnwd@outlook.com](mailto:revjohnwd@outlook.com)

Allyssa's email: [allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)

Eric's email: [ericdundore@outlook.com](mailto:ericdundore@outlook.com)

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsuccmechanicsburg/>

**FROM THE PASTOR**

MAY THE BLESSINGS OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON BE UPON YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR FRIENDS, AND MAY ALL PEOPLE FIND THE HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE THEY LONG FOR.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OTHERS ON GOD'S BEHALF. MAY WE CONTINUE TO SERVE IN THIS WAY THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEAR.

Rev. John

**Congregational Meeting:**

Please plan to attend on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> after worship. Thank you.



Dear St. Paul's UCC Friends,

We love all the letters, cards, and emails following Terry's retirement. The book,

Parish Ministries, Jonne Dundore and Wendi Taylor created and Mary Runkle assembled, will forever be a cherished keepsake. The donation to New Hope Ministries in our names was heartwarming. With all the gift cards and gifts you've bestowed upon us, we're overwhelmed by your generosity and love. Thank you all! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Terry and Gene Shaner

Dear St. Paul's Friends,

Thanks so very much for the kind gifts from the congregation to all our family members. The support and love we feel from the St.

Paul's community are so gratifying. We are blessed to be able to do what we do along with the other members of the choirs/chimes and hope we can continue doing it for a long time to come.

Many Blessings to you for a wonderful 2022,

The Dundore Family

**Thanks to all of your amazing support, the Fall Stewardship Online Auction was a huge success!**

We raised \$1,685 across the 15 items! Of the total raised, \$220 went to the Youth Fellowship program to support their all activities. Thanks to our generous donors for their creative items that motivated our bidders to keep on going : St. Paul's Youth, Art & Kathy Williams, St. Paul's Consistory, The Velez Family, Melissa Cawley, Kim Pirtle, Susie White, Craig Martek, Mary Runkle, Adult II Sunday School Class, Shirley Keith Knox, Martha Keith, Sue & Bill Mullin, Clarence Solt & Eric Dundore. We appreciate everyone who took time to bid! Congratulations and thanks go out to the winners : Tom, Mshar, Cori Reed, Gene Shaner, Fenton Fox, Sara Weiser, Eileen Mshar, Mary Runkle, Dennis Plymette, Bonnie Plymette, Melissa Cawley, Greg & Pat Miller, Terry Shaner, Martha Keith, Susie White. Special thanks to Steve Roush and Renee Durbin for taking on the Time to Signup sheets and auction website. We appreciate Gene Shaner offering his time to pass along the tools and knowledge from previous auctions.



Thanks for another year of tremendous support for New Hope's Christmas Blessings

Express gift

drive! In total we collected 338 pounds of gifts, 14 rolls of gift wrap and over \$200 in gift cards to support the families that rely on New Hope to make Christmas a little merrier this year.



Dear Pastor John and Members of St. Paul's UCC:

Thank you for the checks totaling \$400.00 and the \$190 plus worth of donated gift cards... that have been designated to be used to purchase meaningful Christmas gifts for the residents of Thornwald Home and Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home. Each year we are amazed at the generosity of the UCC members within Penn Central Conference who have responded to God's call to be our partners in mission.

On behalf of the residents and staff, thank you for your thoughtful gift. Helping people, reaching out a helping hand to someone who needs out concern is what UCC Homes is all about. Because of your continued support in this effort, it is what you are about also.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Velez

Dear St. Paul's Congregates:

On behalf of the Thornwald Home residents, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous Christmas gift cards and contributions that we will use for our residents' Christmas gifts this year. Our residents wish to convey their gratitude to all of you.

May all of you have good health and many blessings as we enter into the holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Adele P. Souder  
Activities Director  
Thornwald Home

Dear Church Members,

This letter is to thank you for your donation of \$600 in November... Your faithful support of our program will help ensure meal security for our clients, and we are most grateful for your support.

Sincerely,  
Norma White, on behalf of the Volunteers  
of Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels



Dear Siblings in Christ,  
Thank you for your donation to Christian Churches United... Through HELP Ministries, the

Compassion Action Network, and our Street Outreach Team, you help people struggling with homelessness or a financial crisis. At Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven your assistance provides long-term housing to men who are chronically homeless. Through our Prison Action Ministries, you provide spiritual and emotional support to inmates

at Dauphin County Prison and Work Release Center. Through the work of our Project A.S.K. team, you help ensure kids in tough circumstances in West Shore School District have adequate clothing, school supplies, and other basic needs.

Thank you for journeying with people who are struggling during this pandemic. Thank you for being there for our neighbors in need!

Grace and Peace,  
Steve Schwartz



Dear St. Paul's  
Community,  
Thank you for the  
flowers in recognition of  
many years of  
membership. They were  
appreciated.

Al Huebner

I want to thank St. Paul's for the beautiful  
altar flowers I received last Sunday. Your  
kindness was much appreciated.

Julie Patton

Dear St Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry Team:  
On behalf of the Thornwald Home  
residents, I would like to express our  
sincere gratitude for the beautiful prayer  
shawls created by Lois Ritter and Carolyn  
Rutherford. With these cooler  
temperatures, the residents appreciate  
wearing the shawls and wish to convey  
their gratitude to all of you.

Sincerely,  
Adele P. Souder  
Thornwald Home



**Articles for the February Epistle are due to  
the Church Office by end of the day,  
Wednesday, Jan. 19th.**

**Church Calendar** - The most up to date  
calendar can be found on the Church  
website. Help us keep it current by  
scheduling your meetings & other events at  
the Church thru the Office at  
[stpaulstaff@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulstaff@outlook.com) or 717-766-7931.  
Thank you!







**THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER:** Addie (Stork-Whitson); Kevin & Karen Allison; Alex & Family; Amy & Mike (Fox); Joe Baker (W.Wentz); Barb Bell;

Joann Bender; Mary Bensel; Beverly (Hayden); Bill (Ritter); Bill & Bob (Gabriel); George Bingaman; Mark & Katie Bingaman; Aileen Blanc (Ritter Butz); Barbara Blust; Melba Bomberger; Brian (Shearer); Brian (Riesmeyer); Chuck Bricker (Aumiller); Missy Brouch (Myers/Mihmet); Tina & Chris Bowers; Jenny & Erica Budd (Lingenfelter); Anna & Dale Burns; Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); John Callaghan (Wotring); Tyler Cashman (Bomberger); Sally Chiselko (Martek); Tom Chronister (Chronister); Cindy (Short); Cindy (Rhoads); Alyssa Claar (A. Thompson); Pat Cleland; Mary Clark Coleman (Riesmeyer); John & Sheri Conner (Layne); Rich Cowan; David (Mullin); David (Stork-Whitson); Rita Davidson (Plymette); Hudson Davis (Riesmeyer); Ron Deibert (Aumiller); Dewy (Short); Evelyn Diorio; Ethan Dixon & Family; Jim Dougherty (Ritter); Allen Dreibelbis; Richard Ecks (Plymette); Linda Eichelberger (Chronister); Ellery (Sizemore/Sanders); Harry Felton (Sponsler); Bob & Eve Fenner; Tom Figiel (Weiser); Diane Freeman; Anne French (Ward-Diorio); Ron Gabriel; Lenny Gardner (Shearer); Betty Goodfellow (Ritter); John Goodison (Bomberger); Tina Gordon (Burns); Floyd Gouse; Shirley Grammer; Beverly Graves (Sutton); Harriet & Mark Grimm; Teri & Dave Guelcher; Brenda H. (Stork-Whitson); Dr. Mark Hagenbuch (Bomberger); Jane Hall; Noah Helwig (Trout); Steve & Tom Herrold; Brenda Hoffer (Stork-Whitson); Gloria Hoffman; Joshua Holbrook (Nolan); Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Jay Houser (Haagen); Michele Hughes (Murphy); Lee Jackson & Brian Medkeff-Rose; Jane Leader Janeczek (Aumiller); Janie (Jody Biss); Jeff (G. & P. Miller); Joan (Sizemore); Joe (B. Thompson); Dan & Will Jones; Julia (Fox/Holtzapple); Elaine Kansy (Hoehn); Kara (Sizemore); Cash Keck (Trout); Martha & Gene Keith; Stephen Keith; Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy (Ward-Diorio); Bob Kinkley (Fox); Glenn Kline; Sandy Kline; Katy Kreitzer (LaRue/Short); Audra Kucharick (Aumiller); Jean &

John Layne; Debbie Lever (A. Thompson); Larry Linder (Stork-Whitson/Williams); Lori (Murphy); Luca (Knox); Naomi Losch (Endy); Taran M. (Taylor); Emily MacCarthy; Manny (Sharp); Marie (Murphy); Margueritte (Myers); Martin French Family (Ward-Diorio); Joe Mazzei (Mihmet/Myers); Sean McDonald (Rushong); Stephanie McGonigle (Warfield); Melissa (Ward-Diorio); Ruby Menke (Warfield); Michael (Richey); Michelle & Family (Mihmet); Charles Miller (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); Jessica Miller (Chapman); Linda Miller; Melissa Miller (Bender); Sue & Dayne Miller; Mindee (Ward-Diorio); Tasha Misner (Trout); Steve Mitchell; Ernie Moyer; Randy, Dar & Sarah Murphy; Beth Myers (Richey); Gene & Ruth Ellen Myers (Boyer); Rita N. (Trout); Nicole (Ward-Diorio); Nicole & Family (Westhafer); Bob Nies (A. Thompson); Kelly Otto (A. Thompson); Ryan Onufer & family (Grice); Jim & Mary P. (Rhoads); Pagi (Ward-Diorio); Lynne Patton (Taylor); Don Perry (Ritter); Joy Perry; Bobbi Pfaff (Larue/Short); Dan Pfister & Karen Klinedinst (Chronister); Randy (Bender); Richard Reba (Richenbacher); Robert Reiner (Bender); Carol Rhoads; Rachelle Rhoads; Jo Rice (Rushong); Richard (P. Miller); Nancy & Tom Richey; Sandi Ritter-Butz; Robb Family (Ward-Diorio); Rose & Pat (Short); Franklin, Andrew, Levi Roth; Tom Row (S. Miller); Kit Royer; Rhoda & Ned Rupp; Betsy & Benny Rushong; Sam (Freeman); Tom & Pat Schiffgens; Jane & Tom Scott & Family; Scott & Tracey (Davinroy); Dennis Scouler (Rushong); Corky Short & Candy LaRue; Conner Snow & Family; James Sowell (Sandy Kline); Tom Steel & Family (Shaver-Durham); Barbara Sterner; Dory Szeles (Sterner); April Thomas (Bomberger); Cathy Thomas; Kathy (Wolford Witmer) Toth; Shannon & Phoenix Trout; Edward Thorn; Tracy Thrush Family; Betty Underwood & Family (Richey); Ron Unrsh (S. Miller); Bill Utley (Boyer); Evelyn Warfield; Anthony Warner (Simpson); Suzy Weeks (Richey); Amy Wentz; Leita Wentz; Susie White; Dave Wightman (Trout); Elaine Williams (A. Thompson); Geri Williams (A. Thompson); Lou Ann Williams (Cashman); Ryan Wilson (Bomberger); Chelsey Wirth; Fran Wolford; Mitchell Worley (Jones); Suzanne Worley (Jones); Alexa, Lacey

**Worral & Family** (Ward-Diorio); **Kevin Young** (A. Thompson); **Russell Young** (Rushong)

Continued Prayers for all affected by Covid; all affected by the severe Weather, all Police, for all affected by Racism, all in Afghanistan and all those trying to make the World a better place for all.

**Thanks  
for Your  
Help!**

**Do you have an update to the prayer list? Let us know in the church office.**

### **Sunday Worship Services**

**Along with in-person worship, the Sunday Worship Services will continue to be live streamed on:** St. Paul's UCC Facebook Page at

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsuccmechanicsburg/>

& also St. Paul's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/UCCStPauls/videos>. YouTube of the service will be posted shortly after on St. Paul's home website page at <http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org/>.

## **JANUARY** **Birthdays**

1/01	Sarah Myers	1/19	Bonnie Plymette
	Erika Obrock	1/20	Ryan Miller
1/02	Deborah Cashman		Shirley Grammer
1/03	Don Wood	1/22	Patrice Miller
1/06	Shannon Sweeney		Paula Boyer
1/07	Amanda Endy	1/25	Marshall Bender
	Lori Obrock		Matthew Miller
	Katherine Royer	1/30	Betracy Nye
1/09	Carol Rhoads		David Benschel
1/12	Andrew Hall		Rhoda Rupp
1/16	Diane Richenbacher	1/31	Mason Elliott
	Jeanette Smith		

## **JANUARY** **Anniversaries**

1/01	Brian Medkeff-Rose & Lee Jackson
1/08	Debra & Getachew Kassahun
1/20	Jim & Amy Paulus
1/22	David & Lois Ritter
1/28	Ronald & Donna Chronister

Please visit the church website at <http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org/> to sign up to Acolyte, Usher, Lector, deliver the Altar Flowers, and/or sponsor Altar flowers. You will find the individual signup sheets under the "Serving Others" menu heading.

***Don't have internet? Give the Church Office a call at 717-766-7931 and the office admin will be glad to sign you up!***

### **WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

#### **ACOLYTE**

#### **LECTORS**

1/2	John Layne
1/9	Chris Bowers
1/16	Jim Pirtle
1/23	Kathy Aumiller
1/30	Karin Stork-Whitson

#### **USHERS**

Head Usher: Mary Runkle	
1/2	Steven Roush, Paula Boyer, Wendy Hayden
1/9	Bonnie and Dennis Plymette
1/16	
1/23	
1/30	

## **FLOWER DELIVERY**

1/2 Mary Runkle  
1/9 Darryl and Winnie Wentz  
1/16 Dale Thorpe  
1/23 Kim Pirtle  
1/30 Jonneke Dundore

## **COMMUNION PREPARER**

1/2 Steve Roush & Mary Runkle

## **NURSERY HELPER**

1/2  
1/9 Kim Pirtle and Joan Moyer  
1/16 Jonneke Dundore and Art Williams  
1/23 Erin Anderson  
1/30



**St. Paul's  
Church Office  
will be closed**  
December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Called to  
Care's** January

meeting has been moved from January 16<sup>th</sup>  
to January 23<sup>rd</sup>, following the worship  
service.

**Offering Envelopes for 2022** are in the  
Commons. Don't forget to pick yours up.

**Altar Flower Sponsorship for 2022 is**



**now open.**

It will cost \$34  
to sponsor the  
flowers in 2022.  
You may go on  
the church  
website, under

the heading, "Serving Others" to sign up.

**Arts on the Square:**

**Tom Ward, Fabric Artist.**

January 9<sup>th</sup> - February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Artist  
Reception, Sunday January 9<sup>th</sup>. 12:00-  
1:30pm.

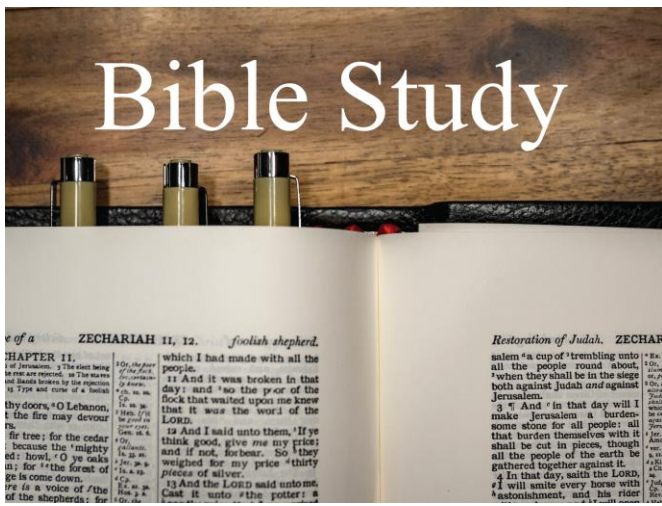
Market Square Presbyterian Church  
2 South Second Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Viewing Hours:

Sundays, before and after 11:00am. Worship  
Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Berg – 6:00 to  
9:00pm.

Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> –10:00am. –12:00pm





## Queer Bible Study

All Bible readings are contextual; readers bring with them their own context (perceptions and experiences gathered from social and cultural situations). But the vast majority of professional Biblical interpretation has come from heterosexual, cisgender people, which means there are LGBTQIA theological riches that remain buried. The Bible is our story, too! This Bible study is open to every person (of any sexual orientation or gender) who is interested in exploring scripture through a Queer lens. We will meet on six Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm in room 7/8. Our schedule is...

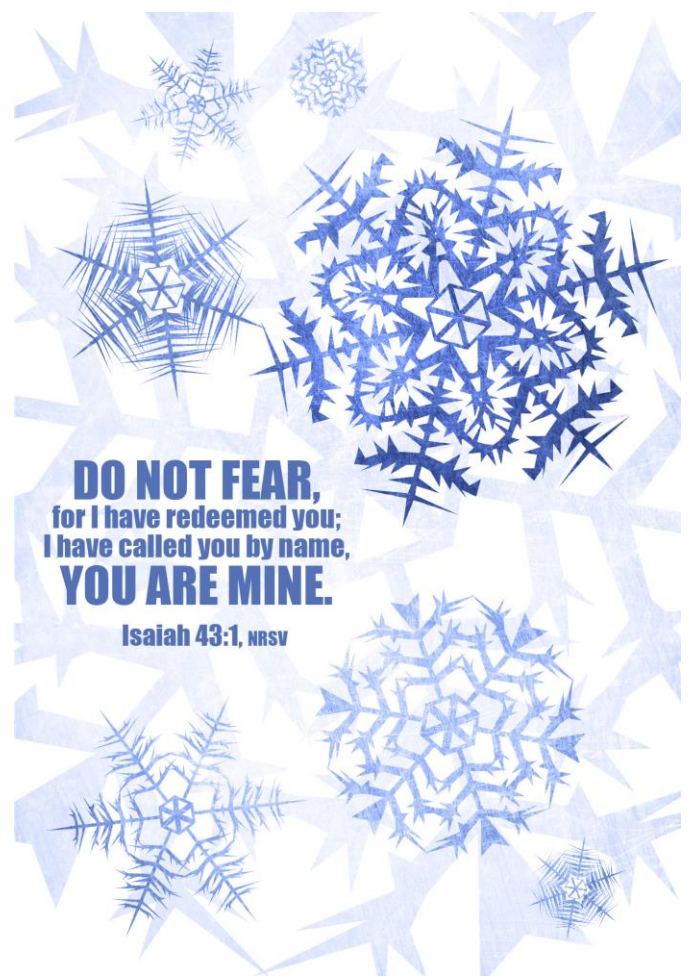
- January 25
- February 1
- February 22
- March 1
- March 22
- March 29

Possible subjects include the stories of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, Ruth and Naomi, the Ethiopian eunuch, St. Paul, Joseph and his rainbow coat, Jesus' Beloved Disciple, and more. If you would like to participate, please let Pastor Allyssa know.



## Ecumenical Food Pantry:

Don't forget the Ecumenical Food Pantry when you give to the church. All donations are appreciated, especially toiletries.







## ANNUAL WINTER SOUP SALE

**Chicken Corn Soup**  
**Gluten-free also available**

**\$8.00 per quart**

*Please make checks payable to Brenda Kern*

Soup will be available for pick up at the church pavilion Saturday, January 23rd from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM

### 3 WAYS TO ORDER!

1. Sign up sheet in the Common area

2. Order on St. Paul's website  
[saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://saintpaulsucc-mech.org),  
under "Events" tab,  
St. Paul's on a Mission.

3. Email Brenda Kern at [bkern59@verizon.net](mailto:bkern59@verizon.net)



**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO MAKING STRIDES  
AGAINST BREAST CANCER!**

**ST. PAUL'S on a mission team  
2021 FUNDRAISING TOTAL  
(BEFORE COOKIE WALK):  
\$5,884 - #7 Team Placement**

## ST. PAUL'S WINTER QUART POT PIE SALE—February 19th

Do you want more legendary St. Paul's Pot Pie this winter (or, perhaps you missed getting some at the Bazaar)? Our Bazaar Kitchen Committee has come to the rescue with a Chicken Pot Pie winter quart sale on **Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**.

The cost is \$10 per quart and **all sales will be by pre-order** which can be done by any of the following convenient methods:

Online @ <http://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/> (early January);

Or by **calling or emailing** Renee at the church office, 717-766-7931 or [stpaulstaff@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulstaff@outlook.com)

**Final date to order: Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**

The committee also needs help making the pot pie with picking chicken (Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> from 8-noon), dough making (Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> from 8-noon) and cooking/throwing dough/filling orders (Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 until 2:00) Please sign up to help if you can—it's a great opportunity to enjoy being with other folks (masked) and each set of hands helps the work go faster! If you have any questions, please contact Dave/Patty Scott (717-737-3139).

You can also help promote the sale by picking up a poster in the common area to take to your local businesses. Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors!

