



# Celebrate St. Paul's!



135 years of service

133 Church St. P.O. Box 177 Bowmansville, Pa. 17507 717-445-6256  
www.stpaulsucchurch.org Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Volume 18, Number 2  
February 2022

## What's Inside?

**Beyond Candy  
Hearts and Roses**

**Hope-Filled Hearts**

**President's Message**

**Next Communion**

**People's Pantry  
Needs**



## ***"WHO DO YOU LOVE?"***

By now we all know that there are different types of love. They are sometimes described as: Philia (brotherly love); Eros (romantic love); Storge (family/such as love for our children); and Agape (unconditional/the highest level of love).

The Beatles once sang "All you need is Love!". Well, if they were only singing about "romantic love", then the answer is....."no it isn't!".

Romantic Love is fabulous of course...I'm all for it. But ALL forms of love are both commanded of us and necessary to sustain healthy life.

In his book "The Four Loves", C.S. Lewis provides a metaphor of a human gardener who works the soil and plants the seed. Important. Even loving! But there is an expectation of something in return from the soil.

And then, God's grace comes down in the rain and the sunshine, without which all of the gardener's efforts would simply fall short. Agape Love. Selfless. Committed to the well-being of others without thought of personal gain.

We celebrate all forms of love this month (and always!). So....who do you love? Whoever comes to mind, whether it's one person or many.....send them a text or float a prayer up to them, right now!

Love,  
Phil

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these, is love." St. Paul

### Mission Statement

We, the congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, who have accepted the gift of love and salvation through Jesus Christ, strive to take this message into the world through our prayers, words and deeds. We invite all people to accept these gifts with us.

## ***Beyond Candy Hearts and Roses***

The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love — and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, “Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”



Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine’s Day is as good a reminder as any.

## ***Hope-Filled Hearts***

When Bowen Hammitt was born with essentially half a heart, the odds were stacked against him. But after three surgeries and numerous setbacks, Bowen is now an active 11-year-old who raises awareness about congenital heart disease. He’s also a budding Christian musician, following in the footsteps of his dad, Matt (formerly with Sanctus Real). The Hammitts use Bowen’s story to offer hope amid adversity — “a message the world really needs right now.” The documentary *Bowen’s*



***Bowen Hammitt with Dad Matt***

*Heart* features this tagline: “Is it worth giving your heart to something that can break it?” Absolutely, say his loved ones, who describe Bowen and his life as incredible blessings from God.

For Matt Hammitt, Proverbs 13:12 is now a favorite Bible verse. “Hope deferred makes the heart sick,” it reads, “but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life” (NIV).

## Looking Ahead

February 14 Valentine's Day  
February 21 President's Day  
February 27 Transfiguration/Communion

March 2 Ash Wednesday  
March 6 1st Sunday in Lent  
March 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins  
March 17 St. Patrick's Day  
March 27 OGHs Offering

## Consistory Update

First off, I want to acknowledge the great job Dee and Phil do visiting our homebound members. Phil tries every month to see our members, or at the very least call everyone. I feel this is very important and it's great that Phil and Dee have brought this back to St. Paul's. Beside visiting the members, Phil is very busy helping our church. On January 6<sup>th</sup>, he started a new seminary class, still has monthly meetings with Ken Evitts, and Gerri and Phil attend various ministerium and association meetings.

Thanks to Sharon our old tables have been removed and donated to a group in Lancaster. We did keep 3 tables for St. Paul's use.

On Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul's held its first choir practice, something that has been missing for several years. We all hope Anna has the same success that Whoopi Goldberg did in Sister Act.

Our website is up and running and really looks great. If anyone wants something posted on the website, please go through Phil or Dee. We will also be re-vamping our Facebook account with updated information.

Due to the continued problems with covid, Kieran will be spraying again inside the church, once a week on a Monday.



One final sad/happy note. Irina will be leaving St. Paul's. She will be greatly missed. Irina and Anna came through for St. Paul's when we needed help, after losing Sam. She will always be welcome at St. Paul's. But, we are very happy for Irina, that she is going to another church with the new job of Musical Director. I hope the new church realizes how lucky they have become in acquiring such talent as Irina. Take care and we love you at St. Paul's.

*Tim Lutz*  
Consistory President



**Communion** will be available during worship on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on attending and share in this special service.



**Chairs:** We are still looking into purchasing kitchen chairs to match the tables in the fellowship hall. If you would like to make a donation towards this purchase you may place your contributions in the offering plates marked for chairs. Thank you.



The next consistory meeting is scheduled for  
**Wednesday, February 2 at 7:00 pm**

**Prayer Concerns:** We will be updating our prayer list monthly by starting a new list at the beginning of every month. Please continue to review the list and if there are any updates during the month please contact Phil Shober or Dee Sprecher. We also have prayer request cards located in the parlor room and in the pews upstairs for your convenience. You can fill out the request and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate.



As you continue your own prayers and concerns outside of the sanctuary this week, please remember the concerns we have raised as a community.

**Our list of prayer concerns from January**

Brian, Carrie, Gretchen, Hazel, Jill & her family, Linda, Linette's family, Liz, Lori, Mike, Pete, Renee, Ron's sister, Ron, Sanford, Tucker, Wyatt, the Hertzog family, the Kurtz family, and the Youndt family.

Suggested Prayer... "Most gracious and loving God, we lift up our list of prayer concerns this day and every day that all who are listed might know and feel your presence with them in their time of need. God, continue in your support for all of our friends and family listed and those who are forever in our hearts so that they might feel you with them each day, Amen."



If you would like to ask for prayers for someone please contact Kieran Connelly. Below is a list of the individuals on our Prayer Team that will pray for you throughout the week.

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Kieran Connelly | 717-471-5018          |
| Lynda Cooper    |                       |
| Gretchen Martin |                       |
| Gerri Shober    | Nancy Caffrey-Schafer |
| Steve Renninger | Chris Storms          |
| Phil Shober     | Donna Ozga            |

**Caring for Our Members**

Please remember our members and friends in your prayers. Many in retirement villages and their homes are unable to attend church due to the pandemic and other health concerns.

**Mary Tamerius**  
 Faithful Living  
 2015 N. Reading Road  
 Room 156  
 Denver, Pa. 17517

**Alta Hoshour**  
 Manor Care  
 100 Abbeyville Rd  
 Room# Fulton 009A  
 Lancaster, Pa 17603  
 717-553-7242



**Jane Storms**  
 118 Raybil Drive  
 Narvon, Pa. 17555

**Linda Summers**  
 101 South 2nd Street  
 Denver, Pa 17517

**Bill & Grace Sprecher**  
 Fairmount Homes  
 2312 Wheat Ridge Drive  
 Ephrata, Pa. 17522

**Harold Good**  
 Garden Spot Village  
 433 S Kinzer Ave  
 Apt. 117GW  
 New Holland, Pa. 17557

**Pastoral Visits or Emergencies**

If anyone is in need of pastoral assistance please contact Phil Shober anytime via text or call 610-780-3915 or email philipshober@gmail.com. You can also call the church office at 717-445-6256 or email the church secretary at dee@stpaulsuccchurch.org.



# The People's Pantry

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

The current needs at our local food bank are:

**Laundry detergent**

**Juice**

**Jelly**

With the cold weather here there is always a need for some items to help keep us warm. We are collecting donations for the Grace House ladies to help fulfill those needs. Below is a list of suggestions:

**Winter scarves and gloves**

**Hot Chocolate KCups**

**Tissues**

Any donations can be placed on the table in the parlor room.

Thank you.



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

### February

- 3 Jacob Cooper
- 5 Gerri Shober
- 6 Larry Klaassen
- 7 Kaitlyn Sprecher
- 11 Lynda Cooper
- 16 Mary Tamerius
- 19 Dee Sprecher
- 28 Phil Shober



## Happy Birthday!

## Anniversaries



Grace & Bill Sprecher - 64 years on February 1

## Bible Quiz



In the book of Revelation, who or what is “prepared as a bride, adorned for her husband”?

- A. The church
- B. The Spirit
- C. Mary Magdalene
- D. The new Jerusalem



## Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for December 2021:

### Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$87,482.88
+ Receipts	13,494.53
- Disbursements	12,866.09
- Transfers	0
Ending Balance	\$88,111.32

A copy of this information can also be found at the mailboxes in the slot marked financial reports.

**December's offering only total was \$10,240.48.**

## Financial Report



## *Faith's Role in Love*

In *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27, ESV).

But we can't love that way without faith, Walsh writes. “I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then all I need to love him with is my mind. We're called to love him with more.” That “more,” she explains, involves these paradoxes: “We love with all our heart, even when it's broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand.”

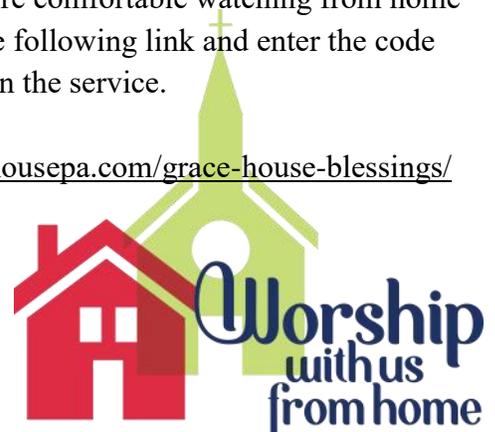
Even if God's purposes and plans don't make sense here on earth, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon: “When we cannot trace [God's] hand, we must trust his heart.”



While we are currently holding worship services in person following the CDC guidelines, we also continue to stream our services online.

If you are more comfortable watching from home please use the following link and enter the code 225210 to join the service.

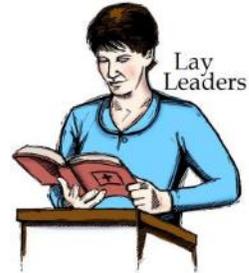
<https://gracehousepa.com/grace-house-blessings/>



The following individuals are responsible for counting the offering after worship;

- February 6 Tim & Pat Lutz
- February 13 Gerri Shober & Barry Gehman
- February 20 Charlie & Chris Storms
- February 27 Sharon Blechschmidt & Lynda Cooper

# Monthly Volunteers



February 6 Cheryl Borja  
 February 13 Dee Sprecher  
 February 20 Gerri Shober  
 February 27 Mary Renninger \*\*

February 6 Grace House  
 February 13 Barry Gehman  
 February 20 Mary Renninger  
 February 27 Sharon Blechschmidt

March 6 Sara Renninger  
 March 13 Cheryl Borja  
 March 20 Dee Sprecher  
 March 27 Gerri Shober

March 6 Grace House  
 March 13 Kieran Connelly  
 March 20 Lynda Cooper  
 March 27 Charlie Storms

\*\* Indicates communion



February 6 Pat Lutz  
 February 13 Clint Cooper  
 February 20 Brian Martin  
 February 27 Chris Storms

February 6 Lynda Cooper  
 February 13 Gretchen Martin  
 February 20 Naomi Martin  
 February 27 Gerri Shober

March 6 Grace Smith  
 March 13 Gretchen Martin  
 March 20 Sara Renninger  
 March 27 Cheryl Borja

March 6 Barry Gehman  
 March 13 Grace Smith  
 March 20 Naomi Martin  
 March 27 Gretchen Martin

## Sponsors



February 6	open
February 13	open
February 20	open
February 27	open

March 6	open
March 13	open
March 20	open
March 27	open



February 6	open
February 13	open
February 20	open
February 27	open

March 6	open
March 13	open
March 20	open
March 27	open

## Flower and Bulletin Sponsor Sheet

The flower and bulletin charts for 2022 are posted. If you would like to sponsor a week please sign your name on the chart for any Sunday you wish. Please fill out the appropriate form and see that Dee gets your dedication information at least one week prior to it going in the bulletin. The cost for the flowers is **\$30.00**. We will place silk flowers in the sanctuary and place your dedication information in the bulletin. If you wish to purchase real flowers you may still do so on your own. The cost of the bulletins is **\$10.00** each week. Payments can be given to Dee Sprecher. Thank you in advance for your support.

## St Paul's UCC Celebrate

A publication of St. Paul's UCC  
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St Paul's UCC *Celebrate* is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about the community and its people.

Deadline for article submissions: The third Sunday of each month.



# FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Piano Lessons 6-7 pm <b>Consistory 7:00</b>	3 Piano lessons 5:30-6 pm	4 Piano lessons 8:00-10:00 am	5
6 Grace House Worship 10:30	7	8	9 Piano Lessons 6-7 pm <b>Ladies/Mens Bible Study 7pm</b>	10 Piano lessons 5:30-6 pm	11 Piano lessons 8:00-10:00 am	12
13 Worship 10:30	14 Valentines Day	15	16 Piano Lessons 6-7 pm	17 Piano lessons 5:30-6 pm <b>Choir 7:30</b>	18 Piano lessons 8:00-10:00 am	19
20 Worship 10:30 Newsletter Due	21 Presidents Day	22	23 Piano Lessons 6-7 pm	24 Piano lessons 5:30-6 pm	25 Piano lessons 8:00-10:00 am	26
27 Worship 10:30 Communion	28 Book Club 7:00					