



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 3
March 2022

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Lenten Luncheons



"DAY AND NIGHT"

We all know that you can perfectly poach an egg during the course of a world famous "Three Minute Sermon".....that is an indisputable fact! BUT, is it really true that you can stand a raw egg on its end on the date of the Spring Equinox? Well, you'll have to wait 'till Sunday March 20th to try that out.

But what is the "Equinox" (other than the official first day of Spring)?

That is the day of the year when daytime and nighttime are....you guessed it....almost exactly equal.

And it's interesting that daytime begins at the exact moment when any part of the sun appears above the horizon.....just one peek of the sun, by definition, ends the dark of night! And daytime does not end until the absolute last part of the sun disappears below the horizon.

What an amazing gift from God! And a beautiful visual and lesson for us all!

I recently quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in church:

"Darkness can not drive out darkness; only light can do that."

As we approach the warmth and beauty of Spring, let us together focus on these words of our Lord Jesus:

"let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven". (Matthew 5:16)

I'm very glad we can all do that together. Happy Spring!

Love,
Phil

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it"
(John 1:5)



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.

Outreach MINISTRY

We continue to reach out locally and worldwide to help support Christian ministries spread the word of God and help so many in need of some of the basic necessities to survive.

Liberia Update: We continue to support our friends in Liberia complete a place to worship. They recently had a setback due to the floor collapsing and the altar falling through. St. Paul's sent a donation of \$400.00 to help with the repairs. Take a look at the pics we received from Pastor Daniel at the progress they have made.



OGHS: We are preparing for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Our theme for 2022 is Love Remains, based on 1 Corinthians 13.

In the theme scripture, the Apostle Paul helped newly converted Christians at Corinth embrace the virtue of love. Love is an active decision to think of others before self; to work on behalf of others; and to care for other with acts of kindness and advocacy. Paul taught that community is less about “me” and more about “us.”

This offering is received the Fourth Sunday of Lent and supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response. St. Paul's will participate in this offering on Sunday, March 27. You may use the special envelopes provided in your mailboxes and pews for your convenience.

Thank you for your generous gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Your gifts allow us to put love into action, ensuring that Love Remains.



Looking Ahead

March 2	Ash Wednesday Service
March 3	Lenten Luncheons begin @ St. John's
March 6	1st Sunday in Lent
March 13	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 27	OGHS Offering
April 10	Palm Sunday
April 17	Easter Sunday/Communion
April 30	Small Church Vitality Workshop

Consistory Update

I want to start off by sadly saying goodbye to our super talented pianist, Irina. She will be missed, but we really understand her decision and wish her nothing but success and happiness in the future. St. Paul's gave Irina a signed thank you card plus a \$100 Visa card. Hopefully Irina will find time for a visit to St. Paul's in the future.



We want to thank Phil for acquiring two new pianists to take the place of Irina. Dana, who is our french horn player, will play the piano every second Sunday. Dana is a very accomplished piano player and I am sure we will love her talent. Phil also has acquired a second piano player, that he has known for many years. Her name is Kathi Moyer. Please welcome both to our family at St. Paul's.



A decision was made to cancel our Lenten breakfasts this year. We are thinking about having a breakfast later in the year on the first Sunday of some month, so we can invite the Grace House ladies. We also will not have the beach party at St. Paul's this year.

I just want to inform everyone about some of the things that are in progress at St. Paul's. First, Barry and I are getting quotes to hopefully upgrade our

ladies restroom to be ADA approved. This will take some time, as every contractor is super busy and booked out until late fall. But, we should be able to acquire quotes fairly quick and see what it will take to get the job done.



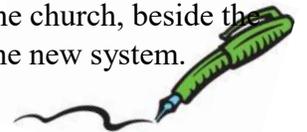
Barry met with Dee and myself and did a complete walkthrough to see what needs to be repaired right now, and reviewed all ongoing duties of a trustee. Barry is doing a good job, but might need help from time to time over the year as he is our only trustee.

Pat and I completed the annual church audit on Thursday, February 17th with the help of Dee. All the books are in order.

I am meeting with several pest control companies to get some prices to help control spiders, mice, etc.. Money was placed in the budget this year to pay for this service. I will make sure that whatever spray or control is used will be safe for the environment and not kill our flowers.

We are also upgrading the church camera and sound for our zoom service. This will include installing a new camera on the back wall, which will give us a wide angle view of our service. This includes a much better sound system than the one we have at present. Thanks to the help of Steve, we also have acquired a console, that will be installed in the back of the church, beside the lift, that will help control the new system.

Tim Lutz
Consistory President



The next consistory meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, March 1 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 February

Alta, Anna & Cliff, Betty, Bob, Cat & Mark, Craig, Harper, Jim, Joshua, Kallie, Ken & Ruth Ann, Kristen, Lanny & Pat, Linda, Mary, Pete, Sue & Les, and Pastor Daniel and the new church in Liberia.

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

In February the food bank was able to serve 29 families. Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

The current needs at our local food bank are:

Laundry detergent unscented
Individual Applesauce Cups
Canned Pineapples
Cereal

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

March

22 Renee Frederick
26 Barry Gehman



Happy Birthday!

Anniversaries



Steve & Mary Renninger– 45 years on March 12

Pete & Naomi Martin - 42 years on March 29

Bible Quiz



All four Gospels tell of a woman anointing Jesus. Details vary; clearly, she isn't the same person in all accounts. In John, who is she?

- A. Jesus' mother, Mary
- B. Mary Magdalene
- C. Mary of Bethany (sister of Martha and Lazarus)
- D. None of the above



Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for January 2022:

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$88,111.32
+ Receipts	8,026.40
- Disbursements	6,132.07
- Transfers	0
Ending Balance	\$90,005.65

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

January's offering only total was \$5,560.00.

Financial Report



Ash Wednesday will be held on March 2nd at 7pm. Pastor Phil will be out of town so Lynda Cooper has graciously agreed to lead us. Zooming will also be available.



Lenten Luncheons:



The churches of the Terre Hill and Bowmansville communities are once again sponsoring a lunch and speaker on Thursdays during the Lenten season beginning on March 3.

All lunches are held at St. John's Center UCC 432 Reading Rd., East Earl. They begin promptly at NOON and conclude by 1:00 PM.

Each meal will feature a soup, sandwich & dessert. A free will offering will be taken each week to be divided between the Terre Hill Skate Park and Blue Ball Release Time.

Please take a look at the schedule posted on the bulletin board to see the church that will be providing the meal and speaker each week.



OFFERING COUNTERS

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

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

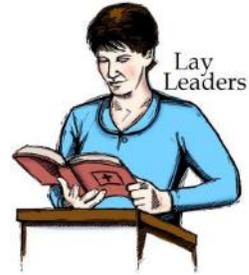
Online Worship: While we are currently holding worship services in person following the CDC guidelines, we also continue to stream our services online.

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/>



Monthly Volunteers



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

April 3 Mary Renninger
 April 10 Sara Renninger
 April 17 Cheryl Borja **
 April 24 Dee Sprecher

April 3 Grace House
 April 10 Tim Lutz
 April 17 Gerri Shober
 April 24 Grace Smith

** Indicates communion



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

April 3 Nancy Connelly
 April 10 Mary Renninger
 April 17 Sara Renninger
 April 24 Charlie Storms

April 3 Gerri Shober
 April 10 Grace Smith
 April 17 Lynda Cooper
 April 24 Barry Gehman

Sponsors



March 6	open
March 13	open
March 20	Ron Frederick
March 27	open
April 3	open
April 10	open
April 17	open
April 24	open



March 6	open
March 13	open
March 20	open
March 27	open
April 3	open
April 10	open
April 17	open
April 24	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

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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.



MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Consistory 7:00	2 Ash Wednesday 7pm	3 Lenten Luncheons @ St Johns noon Piano lessons 5:30-6 pm	4 World Day of Prayer Piano lessons 8:00-10:00 am	5
6 Grace House Worship 10:30	7	8	9 Piano Lessons 6-7 pm Ladies/Mens Bible Study 7pm	10 Lenten Luncheons @ St Johns noon Piano lessons 5:30-6 pm	11 Piano lessons 8:00-10:00 am	12
13 Worship 10:30 Daylight Savings time begins	14	15	16 Piano Lessons 6-7 pm	17 Lenten Luncheons @ St Johns noon Piano lessons 5:30-6 pm Choir 7:30 	18 Piano lessons 8:00-10:00 am	19
20 Worship 10:30 Newsletter Due	21	22	23 Piano Lessons 6-7 pm	24 Lenten Luncheons @ St Johns noon Piano lessons 5:30-6 pm	25 Piano lessons 8:00-10:00 am	26
27 Worship 10:30 OGHS Offering	28 Book Club 7:00	29	30 Piano Lessons 6-7 pm	31 Lenten Luncheons @ St Johns noon Piano lessons 5:30-6 pm		