



Celebrate St. Paul's!



136 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 12
December 2022

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“THE TRUE LIGHT”

December is a bit of a dichotomy---isn't it?

On the one hand, it's so cold! And so dark! We'll experience the darkest day of the year on December 21st...the Winter Solstice.

And yet, somehow, the month is overwhelmingly bright and joyful.....and absolutely FULL of light!!

Our beautiful country church will be decorated with lights; our homes will be decorated with lights; our trees, and streets, and windows---all filled with lights!!

And even nature responds with its own display: late in the evening, on December 14th, with the moon softly illuminating the sky, the Geminid Meteor Shower will begin to produce as many as 120 visible meteors per hour, throughout the night.

Why is there so much light, in all this darkness??

We all know the answer! Because we are celebrating the arrival of the Light of the World....the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

And Heaven and nature sing!

Merry Christmas, everyone! Have a wonderful month.

Phil

“the true light that gives light to everyone, was coming into the world!” John 1:9



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.

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT ST PAUL'S!

Christmas Services

A special candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held at 7pm at St. Paul's. This celebration will include communion, scripture readings and carols. Everyone is welcome to stay afterwards in the fellowship hall for tea and light refreshments.

On Christmas Day we will follow our normal schedule with worship at 10:30am to celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth.

If you are gathering with family and friends invite them to come along on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day; we would love to have them!



The Upside-Down of Christmas

Theologian Halford Luccock once saw a shopper “who looked like an animated Christmas tree with packages dangling from every limb.” When he retrieved some dropped bags, she grumbled that Christmas “turns everything upside down.” Luccock replied, “That is just what it was made for!”

He explained: “Christmas is a story about a baby, and that is a baby’s chief business, turning things upside down. ... A baby in a family divides time into two eras, just as Christmas does. There is B.C., which means ‘before child,’ and A.D., which means ‘after deluge.’”

When God became flesh, the lowly, last, least and lost were exalted, added Luccock. As a result, “the locked-up treasures of kindness and sympathy come from the inside of the heart, where they are often kept imprisoned, to the outside of actual expression in deed and word.” The Christ-child “enables all [people] to get at the best treasures of their lives and offer them for use.”



Looking Ahead

December 1	Elf Dinner show
December 17	Xmas Caroling
December 18	Xmas Fund Offering
December 24	Xmas Eve Service Tea
December 25	Christmas
December 31	New Year's Eve
January 1	New Year's Day
January 6	Epiphany
January 21	Bingo

Consistory News

I can't believe fall is almost over and we are into the Holiday season. For St. Paul's, this means a new church year. I want to welcome our 2 new consistory members, Steve and Grace. Steve will become our new trustee, while Barry moves to deacon. Grace will replace Gerri as elder. I also want to thank Gerri and Sharon for their service on consistory this past year.

We have a busy season ahead. The Arts and Craft Show is on November 19th. I really want to thank Grace for organizing this event. This is a great idea and hopefully, the first of many shows in the years ahead.

We have our annual Congregational Meeting on November 20th, where we will approve the 2023 budget and approve our new consistory members.

We also have our annual Hanging of the Greens on November 27th.



A new church directory will be out in the near future. If anyone wants to submit a new photo they must be received in the church office by November 20th. I want to thank Dee for all of her help in putting that together.



We are having electric installed to our church sign and are having spot lights installed. We will have one outlet installed near the sign and one more outlet near the front door. This was done due to the fact that our present solar lights aren't bright enough and are not lit all the time after a cloudy day.

Finally, I want to once again thank Phil for the great musical talent he finds for us. On Sunday, October 30th, we had the pleasure of hearing Emily sing and she was wonderful.

I hope everyone has a great Holiday season. Just remember, we are celebrating the birth of Jesus.....not Santa Claus.

Tim Lutz
Consistory President



Christmas Caroling is scheduled for Saturday, December 17th. We will meet at St. Paul's at 6pm to board a trailer to take us around the neighborhood singing carols. Please dress appropriately. Cookies and hot chocolate will be available afterwards. If you would like to go along please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board.

Join Us for
Caroling

The Christmas Fund Offering is a special UCC collection to help support active and retired clergy and lay employees with emergency grants, small annuities and health premiums. This special collection will be December 18th; envelopes will be provided in the pews and your mailboxes. Thank you.

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 November

Bob, Don & Lucy, Hannah, Kathi, Marty, Nellie, Randy, Renee, Susan, Jill & her family, Gretchen & her family, the Summers family, the Hershey family, the Strangarity family, everyone suffering from RSV and all those taking care of the sick.

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	Jane Hoshour
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
Ephrata Manor
99 Bethany Rd
Room# 123A
Ephrata, Pa 17522
717-738-7697

Betty Musser
566 Springville Rd
Apt 106
New Holland, Pa. 17557

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 at 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

Below is a list of the current need requested for the food bank in Terre Hill.

- Toilet Paper**
- Laundry Detergent (unscented)**
- Pasta Sides**
- Children's Books**

With fall approaching, below is a list of things the Grace House ladies could use.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Crew socks | KCups |
| Gloves | Toilet paper |
| Lip Balm | Tissues |
| | Paper towels |



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

Thank you for your continued support .

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

December

- 4 Bill Sprecher
- 6 Megan Hennigan
- 6 Natalie Shober
- 7 Jared Smith
- 15 Jill Shober Hilt
- 21 Chase Burkholder
- 24 Marco Shober



Happy Birthday!

Anniversaries

None this month



Bible Quiz



Complete this Bible verse: "The (1) _____ (2) _____ in the (3) _____, and the (3) _____ has not overcome it."

- A. (1) Word; (2) speaks; (3) silence
- B. (1) light; (2) shines; (3) darkness
- C. (1) kingdom of God; (2) reigns; (3) world
- D. (1) Spirit of God; (2) shines; (3) world
- E. None of the above



Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for October 2022:

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$62,332.29
+ Receipts	8,415.80
- Disbursements	7,172.93
- Transfers	0
Ending Balance	\$63,575.16

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

October's offering only total was \$6,185.00.

Financial Report



“Elf”

Dinner & Show

If you purchased tickets for the show “Elf” at

Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre just a reminder dinner starts at 5:30pm and showtime is at 7:30pm.

Anyone who still needs to pay for their tickets can make checks payable to St. Paul's church and place them in the church office or give to Dee Sprecher.

We look forward to seeing everyone there on December 1st!



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

December 4	Tim & Pat Lutz
December 11	Gerri Shoher & Barry Gehman
December 18	Charlie & Chris Storms
December 24	Tim & Pat Lutz
December 25	Sharon Blechschmidt & Lynda Cooper

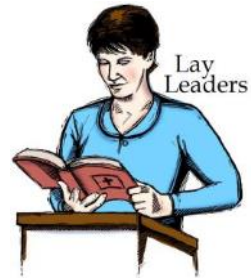
Online Worship: We are holding worship services in person and streaming LIVE on YouTube.

If you would like to watch our service live on YouTube please click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMUzTE3jCqaDyG2WlUzaX9w/live>



Monthly Volunteers



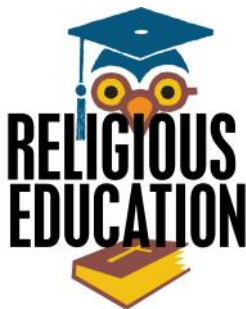
December 4 Sara Renninger
 December 11 Gerri Shober
 December 18 Mary Renninger
 December 24 Dee Sprecher **
 December 25 Cheryl Borja

December 4 Grace House Blessings
 December 11 Charlie Storms
 December 18 Tim Lutz
 December 25 Gerri Shober

January 1 Sara Renninger
 January 8 Gerri Shober
 January 15 Mary Renninger
 January 22 Dee Sprecher
 January 29 Cheryl Borja

January 1 Grace House Blessings
 January 8 Grace Shober Smith
 January 15 Barry Gehman
 January 22 Mary Renninger
 January 29 Sharon Blechschmidt

** Indicates communion



December 4 GHB Sunday-no class
 December 11 Cheryl Borja
 December 18 Kathleen Roscioli
 December 25 Barry Gehman

December 4 Gretchen Martin
 December 11 Megan Hennigan
 December 18 Naomi Martin
 December 25 open

January 1 GHB Sunday-no class
 January 8 Gerri Shober
 January 15 Cheryl Borja
 January 22 Kathleen Roscioli
 January 29 Barry Gehman

January 1 Lynda Cooper
 January 8 Megan Hennigan
 January 15 Gretchen Martin
 January 22 Naomi Martin
 January 29 Grace Shober Smith

Sponsors



December 4	open
December 11	open
December 18	open
December 24	open
December 25	open
January 1	open
January 8	open
January 15	open
January 22	open
January 29	open



December 4	Cindy Hoffer
December 11	Brian Martin
December 18	Naomi Martin
December 24	Chris Storms
December 25	Troy Cooper
January 1	Gerri Shober
January 8	Kieran Connelly
January 15	Dee Sprecher
January 22	Larry Klaassen
January 29	Judy Enck

Volunteer Opportunities



We are always looking for help with the many volunteer opportunities listed on page 7 and 8 of your newsletter.

If you are interested in helping with any of these please see Phil or Dee and we would be happy to include you on the list.

Not sure what's all involved, just talk with us or one of the volunteers listed.

Thank you to everyone for volunteering; we couldn't do it all without you!

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.



DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Elf @ Dutch Apple	2 Piano lessons 8:30-10:00 am	3
4 GHB Worship 10:30 Consistory 11:30	5	6 Piano lessons 5:30-7:30 pm	7	8	9 Piano lessons 8:30-10:00 am	10 Fellowship Hall Reserved
11 Worship 10:30	12	13 Piano lessons 5:30-7:30 pm	14 Mens & Ladies Bible Study 7pm	15 Choir 7:00	16 Piano lessons 8:30-10:00 am	17 Xmas Caroling 6pm
18 Worship 10:30 Xmas Fund Offering Fellowship Hall Reserved	19	20 Piano lessons 5:30-7:30 pm	21 First Day of Winter	22	23 Piano lessons 8:30-10:00 am	24 Xmas Eve Worship 7pm Tea
25 Christmas Worship 10:30	26 Book Club 6:30	27 Piano lessons 5:30-7:30 pm	28	29	30 Piano lessons 8:30-10:00 am	31 New Year's Eve